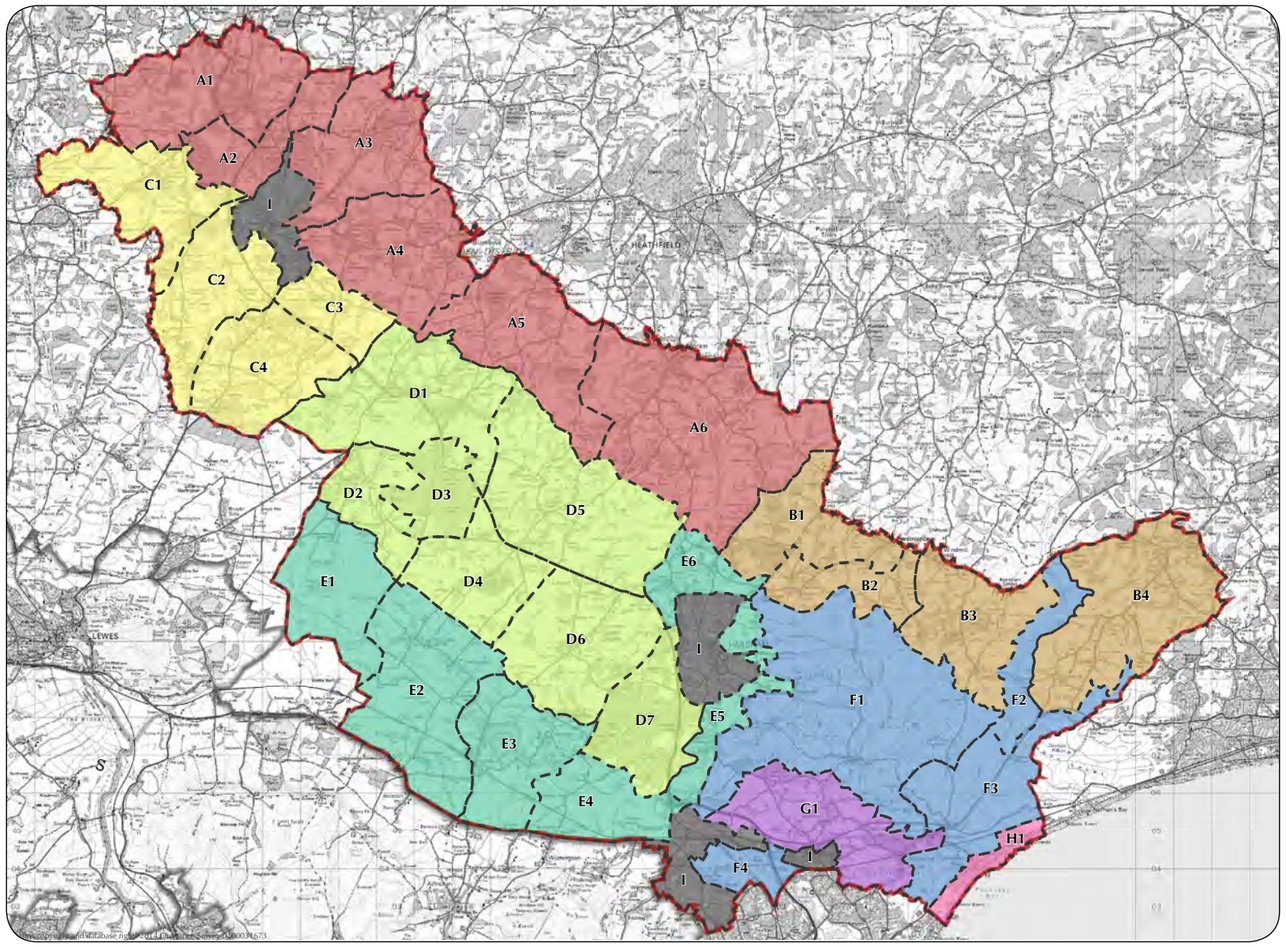
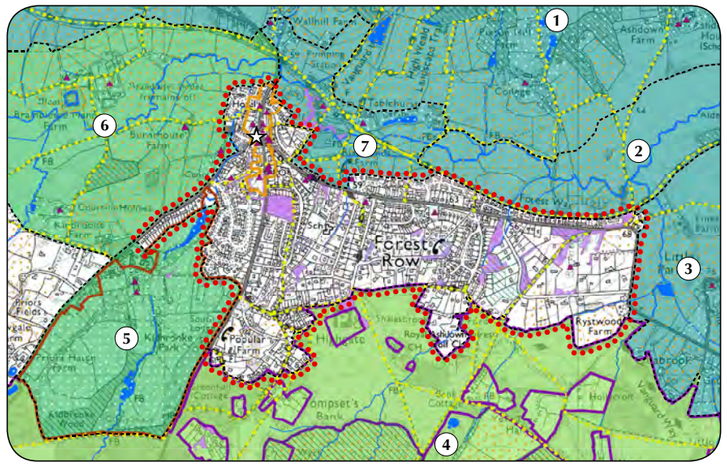
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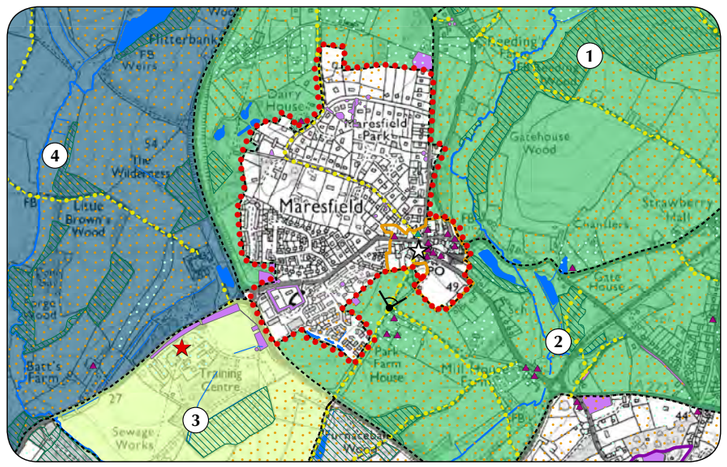
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Wealden District Council

Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment







November 2014

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Wealden District Council

Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment

Approved [redacted]
Dominic Watkins

Position Director

Date 11 November 2014

Revision FINAL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

European Landscape Convention

1.1.1 The UK Government signed the European Landscape Convention[1] on the 24 February 2006. The Convention aims to encourage public authorities within member states to adopt exemplary and long lasting policies and measures for the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, both outstanding and ordinary, that determine the quality of people's living environment.

1.1.2 The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as:

'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'

1.1.3 The term landscape is typically synonymous with the countryside; however, landscape is everywhere and may comprise rural landscapes, urban landscapes or townscapes, urban fringe landscapes, coastal landscapes or seascapes, etc.

1.1.4 The European Landscape Convention defines 'landscape character' as:

'*a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape.*'

National Planning Policy Framework

1.1.5 Previous national planning policy (PPS1, PPS7 and PPS22) required that the preparation of Local Development Frameworks (now Local Plans) be informed by an assessment of landscape character. These policies shifted the emphasis away from locally defined landscape designations (unless they could be adequately justified) towards recognition that criteria-based policies should be capable of providing sufficient protection for locally important landscape character.

1.1.6 The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) retains the requirement to take account of landscape with paragraph 109 stating that:

'The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by…protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils'.

1.1.7 Paragraph 113 goes on to state that:

'Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged.'

1.1.8 Finally, Paragraph 170 in the NPPF re-affirms the need for landscape character assessments by stating that:

'Where appropriate, landscape character assessments should also be prepared, integrated with assessment of historic landscape character, and for areas where there are major expansion options assessments of landscape sensitivity.'

Wealden District Local Plan

1.1.9 In September 2007, Wealden District Council (WDC) commissioned the Landscape Section of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment & Development Option Evaluation Study[2] to inform the preparation of the Wealden District Local Development Framework Core Strategy. The ESCC study identified the indicative capacity of landscapes around the District's five market towns, in potential areas for new settlement options and around selected villages to accommodate development, and made recommendations on preferred development locations.

1.1.10 The Core Strategy, adopted in February 2013, provides for 4,685 net additional dwellings to provide a total of 9,440 new homes across the District over the period of 2006-2027[3]. The majority of these new homes will be provided within, or a s extensions to, the urban areas of Wealden's five market towns. Growth has also been allocated to a number of villages within the District. In addition, the Core Strategy's Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies the strategic infrastructure required to support growth over the plan period.

1.1.11 The Strategic Sites Local Plan takes forward the development allocated by the Core Strategy within eleven Strategic Development Area's, which are within or adjoin the five market towns in the District.

1.1.12 The Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan will contain the general development management policies for the District, together with specific site allocations and policies for the development identified within the villages in the Core Strategy (Policy WCS6).

[1] The European Landscape Convention opened for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000. Jim Knight, Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity announced the UK signing of the European Landscape Convention on 24 February 2006.

[2] Wealden District Local Development Framework: Landscape Character Assessment & Development Option Evaluation Study (February 2009, The Landscape Section of East Sussex County Council for Wealden District Council)

[3] These figures do not include completions on windfall sites.

1.1.13 In May 2014, the Council commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to prepare a Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment to inform the preparation of the Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives

1.2.1 The main purpose of the study is to contribute to the evidence base underpinning decisions on how best development should be accommodated within the District for the period to 2027. The study will assist the Council in identifying broad locations for accommodating development site allocations in the Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan. Principally, the study aims to provide a tool for defining areas in which to allocate development assigned to the settlements identified in Policy WCS6 of the Wealden Core Strategy. It will also be used to inform the development of polices on landscape management and protection in the Local Plan.

1.2.2 In addition, the study will provide a tool for decision making in the development management process and help guide landscape management decisions.

1.2.3 The key objectives of the study are to:

1) Assess the character, sensitivity and value of the District's landscapes outside of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the South Downs National Park.

2) Evaluate the capacity of the District's landscapes outside of the High Weald AONB and the South Downs National Park to accommodate renewable energy development (solar farms and wind turbines).

3) Assess the character, sensitivity and value of landscapes around selected settlements within the District.

4) Evaluate the capacity of landscapes around the settlements identified in Policy WCS6 of the Wealden Core Strategy to accommodate residential and commercial development (as listed in **Appendix 1**).

5) Evaluate the contribution of landscape settings around settlements with existing or potential Conservation Areas to the historic character of the settlements (as listed in **Appendix 1**).

1.3 Structure of the Report

1.3.1 The structure of the report is as follows:

- **Section 2.0** sets out the assessment methodology used by the study.
- **Section 3.0** provides an overview of the landscape character context for the study.
- **Section 4.0** presents the assessment of the High Weald Landscape (excluding the AONB) and the landscape setting of the selected settlements in this area and within the AONB.
- **Section 5.0** presents the assessment of the Low Weald Landscape and the landscape setting of the selected settlements in this area.
- **Section 6.0** presents the assessment of the Pevensey Levels Landscape and the landscape setting of the selected settlements in this area
- **Section 7.0** presents the evaluation of the capacity of the District's landscapes outside of the AONB and National Park to accommodate renewable energy development.

1.3.2 Supporting information, including a glossary of the terms used in the study, can be found in the **Appendices**.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

2.1.1 Landscape Character Assessment is a tool that allows landscape character to be understood, explained and described in a transparent and objective way. It does this by identifying the variations in physical, natural and cultural attributes, and experiential characteristics, that makes one area of landscape distinctive from another at a range of spatial scales. Landscape Character Assessment also recognises how landscapes have changed over time, and acknowledges the influence of human activities on the landscapes.

2.1.2 The general approach to the study is in accordance with the established principles of 'Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland'[4]. In respect to making judgments about landscape sensitivity and capacity, the study's approach has been informed by Topic Paper 6[5] taking into account current best practice and CBA's experience from other similar studies.

2.1.3 The Guidance promotes the benefits of involving stakeholders who are representative of communities of interest and communities of place in the preparation of Landscape Character Assessment studies. In line with the requirements of the brief, no stakeholder consultation has been undertaken by CBA as part of the assessment process.

2.1.4 An important principle of good practice in Landscape Character Assessment is that studies should make a clear distinction between:-

- **Landscape Characterisation** – the relatively value-free process of identifying, classifying and describing areas of distinctive character; and

- **Landscape Evaluation** – the more subjective process of making judgements, which may use one or a combination of approaches, depending on the purpose of the exercise.

2.1.5 In line with the objectives of the Brief, the study was undertaken at two different scales of assessment appropriate to the purpose of the exercises:

- The assessment of the District's landscapes outside of the High Weald AONB and the South Downs National Park was undertaken at a scale of 1:25,000.

- The settlement setting assessments were undertaken at a scale of 1:10,000 to provide a finer grain of detail for each of the relevant study areas.

2.1.6 The landscape characterisation and evaluation methodologies used for each of the scales of assessment are detailed below.

[4] Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
[5] Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland: Topic Paper 6 – Techniques and Criteria for Judging Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).

2.2 1:25,000 Landscape Characterisation

Study Area

2.2.1 The study area for the assessment of the District's landscapes outside of the High Weald AONB and the South Downs National Park is shown on **Figure 2.1.**

Desk-Based Studies

2.2.2 The initial stage of the Landscape Character Assessment process involved desk-based studies to bring together existing information about the landscape within the study area.

2.2.3 A series of physical, historic and natural landscape attribute map overlays were prepared using available datasets, including:

- Aerial photography (land cover)
- OS 1:25,000 maps (topography, drainage, settlement patterns, woodland, field patterns, etc)
- Historic Landscape Character data
- Designated historic assets (scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, etc)
- Ancient Woodland data
- Designated wildlife sites and nature reserves

2.2.4 The landscape within the study area was systematically divided into discrete and relatively homogenous tracts of land at a scale of 1:25,000 to identify physical, historic and natural landscape elements that occur in repeating patterns. The boundaries of these landscape units were tested and validated by field survey work, and provided a basis for defining a preliminary landscape classification.

2.2.5 This stage also involved research to identify and review the main physical, historic and natural components of the landscape that have influenced the shape and use of the landscape within the study area. This research drew on a variety of documents, maps and digital data that helped to describe the physical geography and cultural history of the study area.

2.2.6 The landscape character context and classification hierarchy for the District was reviewed, described and mapped, which included consideration of the following:

- National Character Areas information.
- East Sussex County Landscape Character Assessment.
- Landscape Character Assessments within adjacent areas (such as the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment etc).

Field Surveys

2.2.7 Field survey work was undertaken during May, June and July 2014 by a team of experienced surveyors to validate the draft landscape classifications defined by the desk-based analysis, the boundaries of which were refined where appropriate to reflect conditions on the ground.

2.2.8 Structured survey forms were completed from 2/3 viewpoints within each Local Landscape Character Area to record the assessor's observations in relation to landform, landcover/landscape elements and aesthetic (perceptual) factors, and note how these contribute to defining the key characteristics of the landscape.

2.2.9 The field survey forms (which include photographs) were used to inform the character descriptions. The field survey forms are included as **Appendix 3**.

Landscape Classification

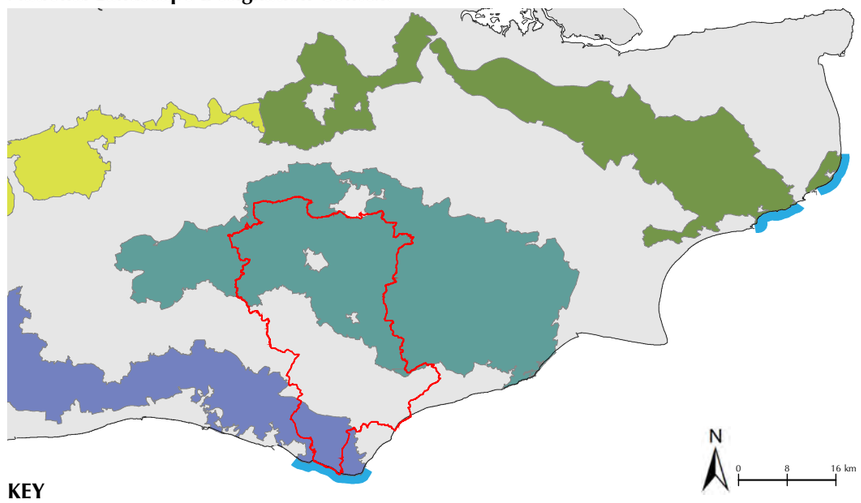
2.2.10 The findings of the desk-based studies and field survey work were used to confirm the landscape classification map for the study area. The map defines 'Local Landscape Character Types' and 'Local Landscape Character Areas', which are defined as follows:

- **Local Landscape Character Types** are distinct types of landscape within the study area that exhibit a relatively homogenous pattern of physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, historical evolution and land use. They are *generic* in nature and may reoccur in different parts of the study area, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of landscape characteristics.

- **Local Landscape Character Areas** are discrete geographical areas of distinctive character within a Local Landscape Character Type. They are *unique* areas that comprise a particular pattern of physical and cultural characteristics that combine to create a distinctive sense of place, even though they may share some generic landscape characteristics with other areas encompassing the same Local Landscape Character Type.

2.2.11 The boundaries of the confirmed Local Landscape Character Types and Local Landscape Character Areas were mapped within a GIS over OS mapping, and the polygons digitised to an accuracy of 1:25,000. The Local Landscape Character Areas are 'nested' within the relevant Local Landscape Character Types to give a hierarchical classification that sits within the County Landscape Character Areas and National Character Areas.

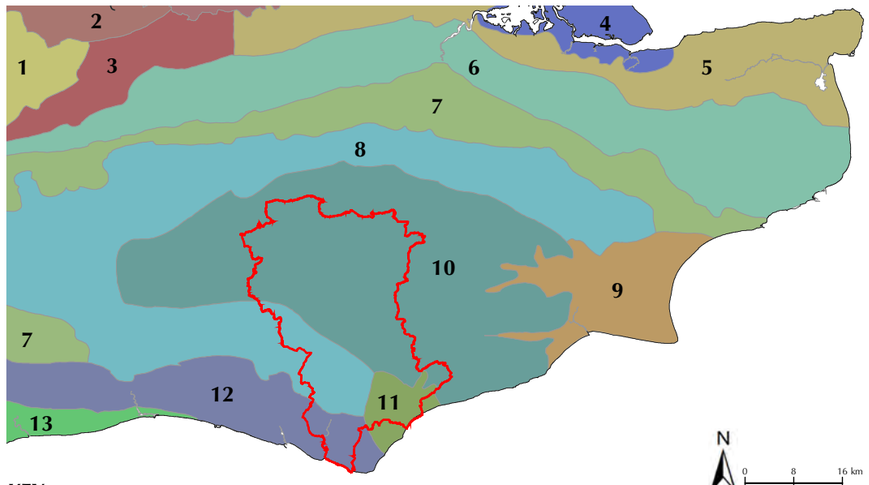
National Landscape Designation Context



KEY

- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Heritage Coast
- Wealden District

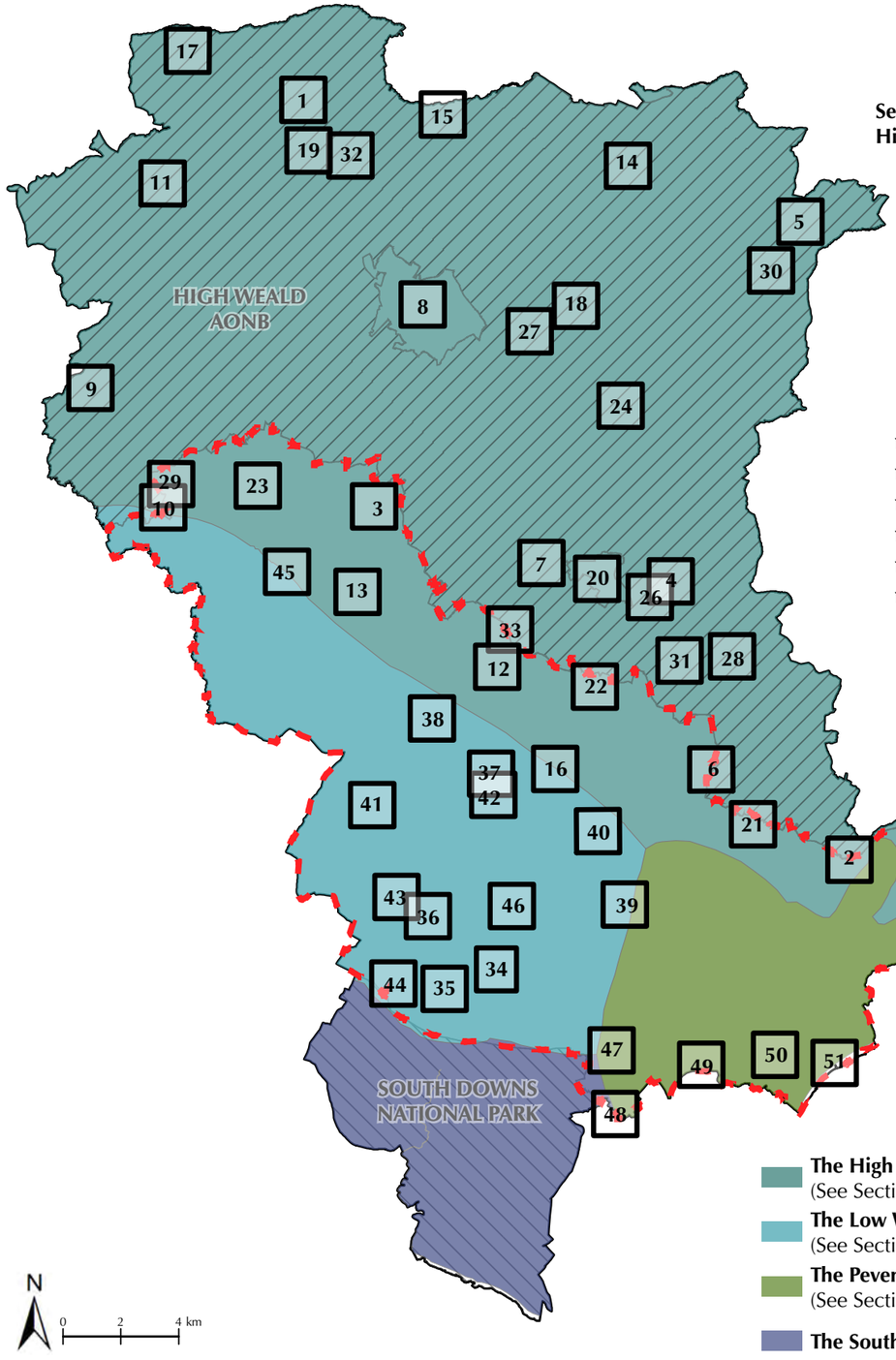
National Character Area Context



KEY

- 1 Thames Basin Heaths
- 2 Thames Valley
- 3 Thames Basin Lowlands
- 4 Greater Thames Estuary
- 5 North Kent Plain
- 6 North Downs
- 7 Wealden Greensand
- 8 Low Weald
- 9 Romney Marshes
- 10 High Weald
- 11 Pevensey Levels
- 12 South Downs
- 13 South Coast Plain
- Wealden District

Study Areas



KEY

- 1:25,000 Landscape Character Assessment Study Area

1:10,000 Settlement Setting Assessments:

Settlements within the High Weald Landscape:

1. Bolebroke
2. Boreham Street
3. Buxted
4. Cade Street
5. Cousley Wood
6. Cowbeech
7. Cross-in-hand
8. Crowborough
9. Danehill
10. Fletching
11. Forest Row
12. Foxhunt Green
13. Framfield
14. Frant
15. Groombridge
16. Gun Hill
17. Hammerwood
18. Catts Hill
19. Hartfield
20. Heathfield
21. Herstmonceux
22. Horam
23. Maresfield
24. Mayfield
25. Ninfield
26. Old Heathfield
27. Rotherfield
28. Rushlake Green
29. Splaynes Green
30. Wadhurst
31. Warbleton
32. Withyham
33. Waldron

Settlements within the Low Weald Landscape:

34. Arlington
35. Berwick Station
36. Chalvington
37. Chiddingly
38. East Hoathly
39. Hailsham
40. Hellingly
41. Laughton
42. Muddles Green
43. Ripe
44. Selmeston
45. Uckfield
46. Upper Dicker

Settlements within the Pevensey Levels Landscape:

47. Polegate
48. Willingdon
49. Stone Cross
50. Pevensey & Westham
51. Pevensey Bay

- **The High Weald Landscape** (See Section 4.0)
- **The Low Weald Landscape** (See Section 5.0)
- **The Pevensey Levels Landscape** (See Section 6.0)
- **The South Downs Landscape**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 2.1
STUDY AREAS & LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

Character Descriptions

2.2.12 The findings of the desk-based studies and field survey work were used to inform character descriptions for each defined Local Landscape Character Type. In each case, the character description information is provided under the following headings:

- Location and Boundaries
- Key Characteristics
- Physical Landscape Character
- Historic Landscape Character

2.2.13 A concise description of the character of each constituent Local Landscape Character Area within the Local Landscape Character Type is also provided.

2.3 1:10,000 Settlement Setting Characterisation

Study Area

2.3.1 The settlements included in the settlement setting assessments are as listed in **Appendix 1** and shown on **Figure 2.1.** The study area for the market town assessments are based on an approximately 1km square area with an approximately 0.5km square area used for the villages.

Desk-Based Studies

2.3.2 Before embarking on field survey work, preparatory desk-based studies were undertaken for each settlement to bring together and analyse available information about the landscape within the study areas. For each settlement, the desk-based studies involved the following tasks:

- Where relevant, a review of the character assessment information for settlements covered by the Wealden Landscape Character Assessment & Development Option Evaluation Study[6].

- Where relevant, a review of the Local Landscape Character Types and Local Landscape Character Areas around each settlement from the Landscape Character Assessment at the 1:25,000 contextual scale and review of the inherent landscape and visual sensitivities for each Landscape Character Area.

- Analysis of the historic landscape character data[7] to provide an overview of different types /ages of historic fields, field boundaries and woodland, and other historic uses such as coppicing and the iron industry, which survive and are still visible as remnant historic features within the current landscape.

- Identification of conservation designations.

- Definition of preliminary Landscape Setting Areas, based on analysis of local variations in landscape character around the settlements.

2.3.3 Landscape Setting Areas are discrete geographical areas of distinctive character defined at 1:10,000 scale that provide the landscape setting for a settlement. They are unique areas that comprise a particular pattern of physical and cultural characteristics that combine to create a distinctive sense of place. Where Landscape Setting Areas lie within the 1:25,000 assessment study area, they generally 'nest' within the classification of Local Landscape Character Areas.

[6] Wealden District Local Development Framework: Landscape Character Assessment & Development Option Evaluation Study (February 2009, The Landscape Section of East Sussex County Council for Wealden District Council)
[7] Data provided by East Sussex County Council from the East Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

Field Surveys

2.3.4 For each settlement, observations in the field were undertaken involving the following tasks:

- Refining the boundaries of the preliminary Landscape Setting Areas.

- Identifying and recording positive and negative landscape features and characteristics (including significant views into and out of the settlement).

- Recording and analysis of information to inform the evaluation of the landscape within each Landscape Setting Area.

Character Descriptions

2.3.5 The findings of the desk-based studies and field survey work were used to inform character descriptions for the landscape setting of each settlement. In each case, the character description information is provided under the following headings:

- **Settlement Profile**
- **Landscape Character** – provides (i) signposts to the relevant County Landscape Character Areas (see **Figure 3.1**) and, where applicable, the relevant Local Landscape Character Areas (see **Figures 2.1** and **3.2**) - or a brief overview description of the landscape surrounding the settlement that provides the landscape context for the respective settlement; (ii) a summary overview of the landscape setting's key features and distinctive characteristics; and (iii) identifies the distinctive characteristics of each Landscape Setting Area.

Assessment Plans

2.3.6 For each settlement, the character descriptions are supported by an assessment plan showing the following information:

- Landscape Setting Areas
- Landscape Features and Characteristics
- Conservation Designations

2.3.7 A glossary for the plan's key is provided in **Appendix 2**. It should be noted that a standard key is used on the settlement maps for consistency. Not all landscape features and conservation designations on the key are necessarily found within each study area, and therefore specific items may not be mapped in some cases. Datasets provided have been used in their unaltered state, and therefore mapped data may extend beyond the areas described within the text (for example, the Historic Landscape Characterisation data used to define Remnant Historic Landscapes may extend to within the defined 'urban areas' of the settlements which is outside of the Landscape Setting Areas).

2.4 Landscape Evaluation

2.4.1 In line with the objectives of the Brief, the following landscape evaluation methodology has been developed that applies to both scales of assessment. The landscape evaluation considers the following:

- The inherent **landscape sensitivity** of a Local Landscape Character Type, Local Landscape Character Area or Landscape Setting Area to change.
- The **landscape value** of a Local Landscape Character Type, Local Landscape Character Area or Landscape Setting Area.
- The indicative **landscape capacity** of a Local Landscape Character Type, Local Landscape Character Area or Landscape Setting Area to accommodate a particular type of development
- The contribution of a Landscape Setting Area to a **settlement's landscape setting**

Landscape Sensitivity

2.4.2 Landscape sensitivity is a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape resource (in terms of both its character as a whole and the individual elements contributing to character); and the visual sensitivity of the landscape, assessed in terms of a combination of factors such as views, visibility, the number and nature of people perceiving the landscape (visual receptors). For the purposes of this study, the term 'overall landscape sensitivity' is used to refer primarily to the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, irrespective of the type of change or development that may be under consideration.

2.4.3 Drawing on the information and analysis from the desk-based studies and field surveys, the overall landscape sensitivity of an area is evaluated on the basis of combining judgements about the landscape's strength of place and visibility.

2.4.4 The landscape's **strength of place** is evaluated in terms of its distinctiveness and continuity/time depth in accordance with **Matrix 2.1**.

Matrix 2.1: Strength of Place

Distinctiveness	Recent	Historic	Ancient
Unique/Rare	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong
Distinct	Weak	Moderate	Strong
Indistinct	Very Weak	Weak	Moderate
	Continuity/Time Depth		

2.4.5 'Distinctiveness' refers to the presence of positive features of a place which contribute to its special character and strength of place. For the purposes of this assessment, the following definitions apply with regards to the distinctiveness criteria for evaluating a landscape's strength of place in **Matrix 2.1**:

- **Indistinct**: Landscapes with limited positive features or characteristics.
- **Distinct**: Landscapes with notable positive features or characteristics that make a moderate contribution to its special character and strength of place.
- **Unique/Rare**: Landscapes with very distinctive positive features or characteristics that make a substantial contribution to its special character and strength of place.

2.4.6 'Continuity/time depth' refers to the historic dimension of the landscape and how old the landscape is in terms of its surviving features. For the purposes of this assessment, the following definitions apply with regards to the continuity/time depth criteria for evaluating a landscape's strength of place in **Matrix 2.1**:

- **Recent:** Landscapes predominantly dating from 1800 to present day (Source: Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation, August 2010)
- **Historic:** Remnant Historic Landscapes predominantly dating from 1600 to 1800 (Source: Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation, August 2010)

- **Ancient:** Remnant Historic Landscapes predominantly pre-dating 1600, as indicated by presence of Ancient Woodland, and Historic Landscape Character 'interpretation of character' listed below (Source: Natural England, May 2014; Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation, August 2010) :
  - Aggregate assart[8]
  - Cohesive assart
  - Consolidated strips
  - Co axial fields
  - Brooks innings
  - Strip fields
  - Irregular piecemeal enclosure
  - Regular piecemeal enclosure
  - Assart wood
  - Medieval deer park
  - Medieval enclosure
  - Ancient hill fort
  - Ancient fort
  - Prehistoric Earthworks

2.4.7 Further information and interpretation about the above terms can be found in Volume II of the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (August 2010).

2.4.8 The inherent **visibility** of the landscape (ie. the degree of opportunities for extensive views) is evaluated in terms of the relative dominance of landform/topography and the degree of tree cover in accordance with **Matrix 2.2**.

Matrix 2.2: Visibility

Landform	**Dominant**	Moderate	High	Very High
	Apparent	Low	Moderate	High
	Insignificant	Very Low	Low	Moderate
		Enclosed	**Intermittent**	**Open**
		Tree Cover		

2.4.9 'Landform' refers to the topography or physical shape of the landscape. For the purposes of this assessment, the following definitions apply with regards to the landform criteria for evaluating a landscape's visibility in **Matrix 2.2**:

- **Insignificant:** Landscapes with limited topographical variation, predominantly low-lying landforms.
- **Apparent:** Landscapes with a mixture of topographical features, predominantly gently undulating ridges and valleys.
- **Dominant:** Landscapes with dominant topographical features, predominantly strongly undulating ridges and valleys.

2.4.10 'Tree Cover' refers to the patterns of woodland, hedgerow trees and field trees in the landscape. For the purposes of this assessment, the following definitions apply with regards to the tree cover criteria for evaluating a landscape's visibility in **Matrix 2.2**:

- **Enclosed:** Landscapes with a high level of tree cover, characterised by limited opportunities for extensive views.
- **Intermittent:** Landscapes with a moderate intermittent level of tree cover, characterised by more opportunities for extensive views.
- **Open:** Landscapes with limited tree cover, characterised by widespread opportunities for extensive views.

[8] Assart - an area of land that has had trees and undergrowth removed and the ground broken up in preparation for cultivation (http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/assart)

2.4.11 The **overall landscape sensitivity** of an area is evaluated on the basis of combining judgments about the landscape's strength of place and its inherent visibility in accordance with **Matrix 2.3**.

Matrix 2.3: Overall Landscape Sensitivity

Strength of Place						
	Very Strong	Moderate	Moderate	High	Very High	Very High
	Strong	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Very High
	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
	Weak	Very Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	Very Weak	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Low	Low
		Very Low	**Low**	**Moderate**	**High**	**Very High**
		Visibility				

2.4.12 For the purposes of this assessment, the overall landscape sensitivity categories are as defined in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Overall Landscape Sensitivity Definitions

Overall Landscape Sensitivity Category	Definition
Very Low	The landscape is assessed as having a lack of distinctiveness and continuity/time depth (the landscape is of recent origin with few features of historic interest), and it may also have very limited visibility due to dominant landforms and a high level of tree cover.
Low	The landscape is assessed as having few distinctive features and characteristics that provide continuity/time depth, and typically has limited visibility due to apparent landforms and intermittent tree cover.
Moderate	The landscape is assessed as having some distinctive features and characteristics that provide continuity/time depth, and typically has moderate visibility due to apparent/insignificant landforms and intermittent/open tree cover.
High	The landscape is assessed as having some unique/rare characteristics that are distinctive and provide continuity/time depth, and typically has high visibility due to limited topographical variation and tree cover.
Very High	The landscape is assessed as having many unique/rare characteristics that are very distinctive and provide considerable continuity/time depth (the landscape is of ancient origin with many features of historic interest), and it may also have very high visibility due to very limited topographical variation and tree cover.

Landscape Value

2.4.13 Landscape value is concerned with the relative value that is attached to different landscapes. In a policy context the usual basis for recognising certain highly valued landscapes is through the application of a local or national landscape designation. A landscape may also be valued by different communities of interest for many different reasons without any formal designation, recognising, for example, perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness; special cultural associations; the influence and presence of other conservation interests; or the existence of a consensus about importance, either nationally or locally.

2.4.14 For the purposes of this study, landscape value is assessed on the basis of the following criteria recommended by current best practice guidance[9]:

- **Landscape condition**: the physical state of the landscape, and its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.
- **Scenic quality**: the way in which landscapes appeal primarily to the visual senses.
- **Rarity**: the presence or absence of unique/rare features and elements in the landscape.
- **Representativeness**: whether the landscape contains a particular character, and/or features and elements, which are judged to be worthy of representing (such as pockets of ancient remnant woodland or an intricate network of hedgerows for example).
- **Conservation values**: the presence of features of particular wildlife, geological, archaeological, historic/cultural conservation interest and value (as recognised by established designation systems) that add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
- **Sense of wildness/tranquillity**: the existence of relatively remote areas in the landscape which provide a sense of wildness or tranquillity. Such areas are typically characterised by low levels of disturbance, an absence of detracting elements (such as built development, industry, traffic, noise, movement, the presence of people and artificial lighting) and the presence of positive landscape features (such as the naturalness of the landscape, presence and visibility of rivers and sea and the visibility of woodland).
- **Associations**: the cultural associations of the landscape with particular people, artists, writers or other media, or events in history.

[9] Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland: Chapter 7 – Making judgements based on landscape character.

2.4.15 Drawing on the information and analysis from the desk-based studies and field surveys, the landscape value of an area is evaluated on the basis of the categories set out in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: Landscape Value Categories

Landscape Value Category	Definition/Criteria	Typical Examples/Features
Very High	• Very many and/or extensive important features of conservation value • Very strong landscape condition due to very unified landscape pattern and few visual detractors • Very prominent culturally important landmarks provide orientation/very strong strength of place • Very many rare landscape features/characteristics contribute to a very strong strength of place • Very strong sense of wildness/tranquillity • Very strong cultural associations with prominent people/important events	• World Heritage Site, National Park, AONB or key elements/features within them • Areas of exceptional remoteness • Relatively most tranquil areas • Wildlife areas of international or national value • Providing setting for internationally buildings or cultural features
High	• Many and/or extensive important features of conservation value • Strong landscape condition due to unified landscape pattern and limited visual detractors • Prominent culturally important landmarks provide orientation/strong strength of place • Many rare landscape features/characteristics contribute to a strong strength of place • Strong sense of wildness/tranquillity • Strong cultural associations with prominent people/important events	• National Park, AONB, Areas of Great Landscape Value (or similar designation) or key elements/features within them • Areas of remote countryside • Wildlife areas of national value • Providing setting for Listed Buildings or nationally important cultural features
Moderate	• Some important features of conservation value • Moderate landscape condition due to relatively coherent landscape pattern and some visual detractors • Culturally important landmarks present but not prominent • Some rare landscape features/characteristics contribute to a strength of place • Limited sense of wildness/tranquillity • Limited cultural associations with prominent people/important events	• Generally undesignated but value expressed through local cultural associations or through demonstrable use • Potential areas of remote countryside • Wildlife areas of local value • Providing setting for locally valued buildings or cultural features
Low	• Limited important features of conservation value • Poor landscape condition due to incoherent landscape pattern and many visual detractors • No culturally important landmarks present • Few rare landscape features/characteristics • No sense of wildness/tranquillity • No cultural associations with prominent people/important events	• Certain individual landscape elements or features may be worthy of conservation and landscape would benefit from restoration or enhancement • No areas of remote countryside • Relatively least tranquil areas

Landscape Capacity

2.4.16 Landscape capacity refers to the ability of a landscape to accommodate change or development without significant adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity reflects the inherent sensitivity of the landscape resource and its visual sensitivity, and the value attached to the landscape or to specific elements. For the purposes of this study, the term 'indicative landscape capacity' is used to refer to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate a specific type and nature of change or development within defined parameters.

2.4.17 Evaluation of a landscape's capacity to accommodate development is a complex issue and is not a scientific absolute. The evaluation of landscape capacity is based on the assessor's professional judgement about the sensitivity and value of the Landscape Setting Area considered as a whole.

2.4.18 The capacity evaluation for each landscape unit does not necessarily assume that this capacity applies consistently across the entire landscape unit. For example, it is possible for a certain amount/scale of development, where carefully sited, well-designed and with suitable landscaping mitigation, to be accommodated in a landscape unit assessed as having an overall low or moderate capacity. Conversely, in a landscape unit assessed as having an overall high capacity to accommodate most scales of development, it is possible for the capacity to be reduced in parts of the landscape unit due to site-specific constraints (for example, as shown on the relevant settlement assessment map in the case of Landscape Setting Areas). This is reflected in the landscape capacity evaluation methodology set out below.

2.4.19 The settlements for which the capacity of their surrounding landscapes to accommodate residential and commercial development has been evaluated are those settlements identified in Policy WCS6 of the Wealden Core Strategy (as listed in **Appendix 1**).

2.4.20 In addition, the capacity of the District's landscapes outside of the High Weald AONB and the South Downs National Park to accommodate renewable energy development (solar farms and wind turbines) has also been evaluated (see **Section 7.0**).

2.4.21 The indicative capacity of a landscape to accommodate development (taking into account the scope for mitigation) is evaluated based on combining judgments about its **landscape sensitivity** with judgments about its **landscape value** as set out in **Matrix 2.4**.

Matrix 2.4 : Indicative Landscape Capacity

Landscape Sensitivity					
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	High	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	Very High	Very Low	Low	Low	Low
		Very High	**High**	**Moderate**	**Low**
		Landscape Value			

2.4.22 For the purposes of this assessment, the indicative landscape capacity categories are as defined in **Table 2.3**.

Table 2.3: Indicative Landscape Capacity Definitions

Indicative Landscape Capacity Category	Definition
Very Low	The landscape is assessed as having very high landscape sensitivity and very high landscape value. Very limited potential to accommodate any scale of new development as this is highly likely to erode the positive key features and characteristics of the landscape, which are desirable to safeguard in line with relevant national/local planning policy objectives.
Low	The landscape is assessed as having high landscape sensitivity and high landscape value. Large or medium-scale new development is likely to erode the positive key features and characteristics of the landscape which are desirable to safeguard in line with relevant national/local planning policy objectives. Taking into account site-specific constraints, there may be potential to accommodate some small-scale development in specific locations within the landscape with lower landscape sensitivity, subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation.
Moderate	The landscape is assessed as having very low to moderate landscape sensitivity and high landscape value, or moderate to high landscape sensitivity and low to moderate landscape value. Subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation, medium and small-scale new development could potentially be accommodated without eroding positive key features and characteristics which are desirable to safeguard. Taking into account site-specific constraints, there may also be potential to accommodate some large-scale new development in specific locations with lower landscape sensitivity, subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation.
High	The landscape is assessed as having low to very low landscape sensitivity and low to moderate landscape value. Subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation, large, medium and small-scale new development could potentially be accommodated within the landscape without eroding positive key features and characteristics which are desirable to safeguard.
Very High	The landscape is assessed as having very low landscape sensitivity and very low landscape value. Subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation, large, medium and small-scale new development could potentially be accommodated without eroding positive key features and characteristics which are desirable to safeguard.

2.4.23 In order to assess the suitability of a landscape to accommodate development in line with the objectives of the Brief, it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions about the nature of potential development types under consideration. For the purposes of this assessment, the development scenarios defined in **Table 2.4** are assumed, based on the following general considerations:

- The nature/scale of existing and potential development types within the District (and/or County where relevant).
- In respect of renewable energy development specifically, current technology characteristics and likely commercial viability in relation to generation capacity.

Table 2.4: Indicative Development Scales Definitions

Indicative Development Scale	Definition
Large	**Housing development:** over 50 residential dwellings comprising detached, semi-detached or terraced buildings, up to two storeys in height, with plot/street layouts and densities in line with current policy requirements. **Employment development:** large scale commercial buildings with substantial footprints, generally up to 10-12m in height, and including parking/service areas. **Services/community development**: large scale buildings with substantial footprints, up to three storeys in height, including large parking/service areas. **Renewable energy development:** clusters of 3 or more commercial 2.3MW wind turbines, generally up to 100m to blade tip; and large-scale commercial solar farm installations (2-3m high solar panels on sites generally over 30ha).
Medium	**Housing development:** 11 to 50 residential dwellings comprising detached, semi-detached or terraced buildings, up to two storeys in height, with plot/street layouts and densities in line with current policy requirements. **Employment development:** medium-scale commercial buildings, generally up to 10-12m in height, including modest parking/service areas. **Services/community development:** medium scale buildings, up to two storeys in height, including modest parking/service areas. **Renewable energy development:** single commercial 2MW wind turbine, generally up to 100m to blade tip; and medium-scale commercial solar farm installations (2-3m high solar panels on sites generally between 10 to 30ha).
Small	**Housing development**: 10 or less residential dwellings comprising detached, semi-detached or terraced buildings, up to two storeys in height, with plot/street layouts and densities in line with current policy requirements. **Employment development:** small commercial buildings, generally up to 10-12m in height, including small parking/service areas. **Services/community development:** small buildings, of one storey in height, including small parking/service areas. **Renewable energy development:** small-scale 1kW-6kW domestic/off-grid wind turbines, generally 6-12m to blade tip; and small-scale commercial solar farm installations (2-3m high solar panels on sites generally 10ha or less).

2.4.24 The potential to mitigate adverse effects of change in a particular landscape will depend on the factors that determine its landscape and visual sensitivity. For the purposes of this assessment, landscapes evaluated as having some capacity to accommodate a particular type of development are considered to have potential for mitigation based on the following siting, design and landscaping mitigation principles:

- New development siting, design and landscaping responds to the landscape features, characteristics and special qualities that give the landscape its unique sense of place and local distinctiveness.

- New development avoids adverse impacts on the setting of culturally important landmarks, remnant historic landscapes and significant views.

- The use of appropriate building and hard/soft landscaping materials that are complementary to local vernacular design.

- Use of materials with appropriate finishes and colours that help to blend new buildings and structures into the surrounding landscape.

- New planting of woodland and tree belts (using native species to reinforce local distinctiveness) designed to create a strong sense of enclosure (where appropriate), frame views, provide screening and soften impact of built development, that links with existing vegetation to create a cohesive landscape framework to help integrate new development into the landscape.

- Existing structure planting, including shelter belts, woodland and hedgerows, is retained and augmented by new structure planting to provide screening for new development (including reinforcement of landscape buffers along sensitive urban edges and to soften hard urban edges where appropriate), and appropriately managed to provide a strong and enduring backdrop to frame views.

- Multi-functional green networks are created as planting, open space and recreational corridors.

- Where opportunities exist, the improvement and restoration of degraded landscape at a local scale.

Landscape Contribution to Settlement Setting

2.4.25 'Settlement Setting' refers to the surroundings in which a settlement is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships between the settlement and the adjacent landscape. The settlements for which the contributions of their landscape settings have been evaluated are those settlements with existing or potential Conservation Areas (as listed in **Appendix 1**).

2.4.26 Drawing on the information and analysis from the desk-based studies and field surveys, the contribution that the character of each Landscape Setting Area makes towards the setting of the settlement is evaluated in line with the criteria set out in **Table 2.5**.

Table 2.5: Landscape Contribution to Settlement Setting Criteria

Level of Contribution	Definition
Major Contribution	The Landscape Setting Area has a very strong strength of place due to its distinctiveness and long continuity/time depth (presence of remnant ancient landscapes that are unique/rare features of special historic interest), and very high inter-visibility and strong functional associations with the historic core of the settlement.
Moderate Contribution	The Landscape Setting Area has a moderate strength of place due to its distinctiveness and moderate continuity/time depth (presence of remnant historic landscapes that are distinctive features of some historic interest), and moderate inter-visibility and some functional associations with the historic core of the settlement.
Limited Contribution	The Landscape Setting Area has a limited strength of place due to its lack of distinctiveness and continuity/time depth (landscapes that are of more recent origin with few features of historic interest), and limited inter-visibility and weak functional associations with the historic core of the settlement.

3.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

3.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

3.1 General

3.1.1 This Section provides an overview of the landscape character context for the study.

3.2 National Landscape Designations

3.2.1 As shown on **Figure 2.1**, approximately two-thirds of Wealden District is designated as a nationally protected landscape.

3.2.2 The northern part of the District falls within the High Weald AONB, whilst part of the South Downs National Park extends into the southern part of the District.

3.2.3 The coastline of the South Downs National Park between Eastbourne and Seaford is also designated as a Heritage Coast.

3.3 National Character Areas

3.3.1 From a regional landscape perspective, Wealden District is covered by four National Character Areas as shown on **Figure 2.1**. The National Character Areas are defined by Natural England[10].

3.3.2 The following National Character Areas provide the landscape context for the assessments undertaken by this study:

- The High Weald National Character Area extends across the northern part of the District.
- The Low Weald National Character Area extends through the middle part of the District.
- The Pevensey Levels National Character Area extends into the south-eastern part of the District.

3.3.3 The South Downs National Character Area also extends into the southern part of the District.

3.4 County Landscape Character Areas

3.4.1 The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment[11] identifies 40 broadly defined Landscape Character Areas in the County.

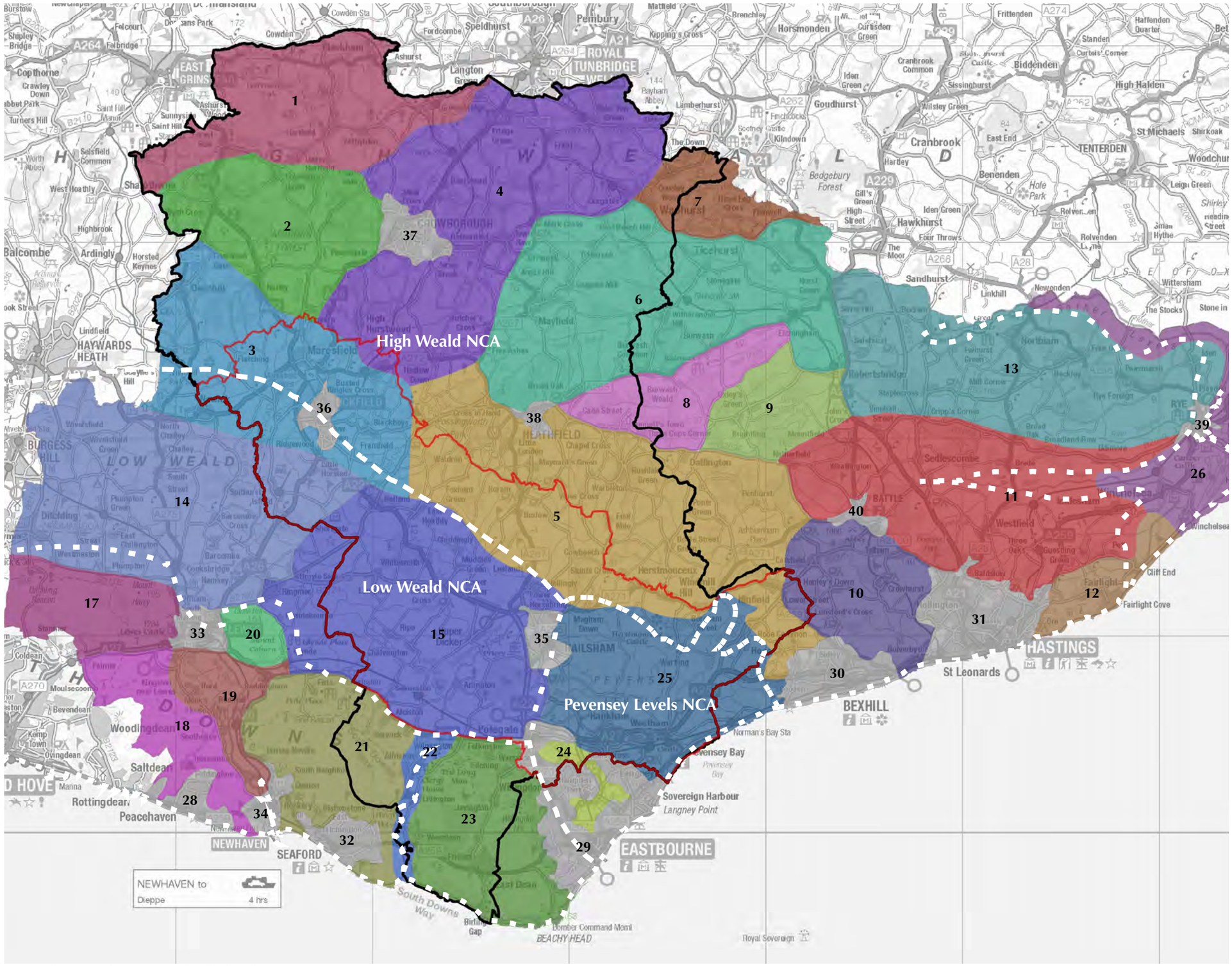
3.4.2 The County Landscape Character Areas that fall within Wealden District are shown on **Figure 3.1**.

3.4.3 The following County Landscape Character Areas (whole or in part) provide the landscape context for the assessments undertaken by this study:

- 1. Upper Medway Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 2. Ashdown Forest County Landscape Character Area
- 3. Upper Ouse Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 4. Central High Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 5. South Slopes of High Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 6. Upper Rother Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 7. Bewl Water Area County Landscape Character Area
- 8. Dudwell Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 10. Combe Haven Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 14. Western Low Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 15. Eastern Low Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 24. Eastbourne Levels County Landscape Character Area
- 25. Pevensey Levels County Landscape Character Area
- 35. Hailsham County Landscape Character Area
- 36. Uckfield County Landscape Character Area
- 37. Crowborough County Landscape Character Area
- 38. Heathfield County Landscape Character Area

[10] Natural England. National Character Areas – defining England's natural boundaries. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/

[11] East Sussex County Council (2010). The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment. http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/download.htm



KEY

County Landscape Character Areas:

1 Upper Medway Valley
2 Ashdown Forest
3 Upper Ouse Valley
4 Central High Weald
5 South Slopes of High Weald
6 Upper Rother Valley
7 Bewl Water Area
8 Dudwell Valley
9 Darwell Valley
10 Combe Haven Valley
11 Brede Valley
12 High Wealden Coast
13 Lower Rother Valley
14 Western Low Weald
15 Eastern Low Weald
17 Ditchling - Mount Harry Downs
18 Falmer Telscombe Downs
19 Lower Ouse Valley
20 Lewes Downs
21 Firle Bishopstone Downs
22 Lower Cuckmere Valley
23 Wilmington Downs
24 Eastbourne Levels
25 Pevensey Levels
26 Rye Winchelsea Area
28 Saltdean - Peacehaven
29 Eastbourne
30 Bexhill
31 Hastings
32 Seaford
33 Lewes
34 Newhaven
35 Hailsham
36 Uckfield
37 Crowborough
38 Heathfield
39 Rye
40 Battle

Wealden District

1:25,000 Landscape Character Assessment Study Area

National Character Area Boundary

N

0 4 8 km

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WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 3.1
COUNTY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS IN WEALDEN DISTRICT

October 2014

3.5 Local Landscape Character Types and Character Areas

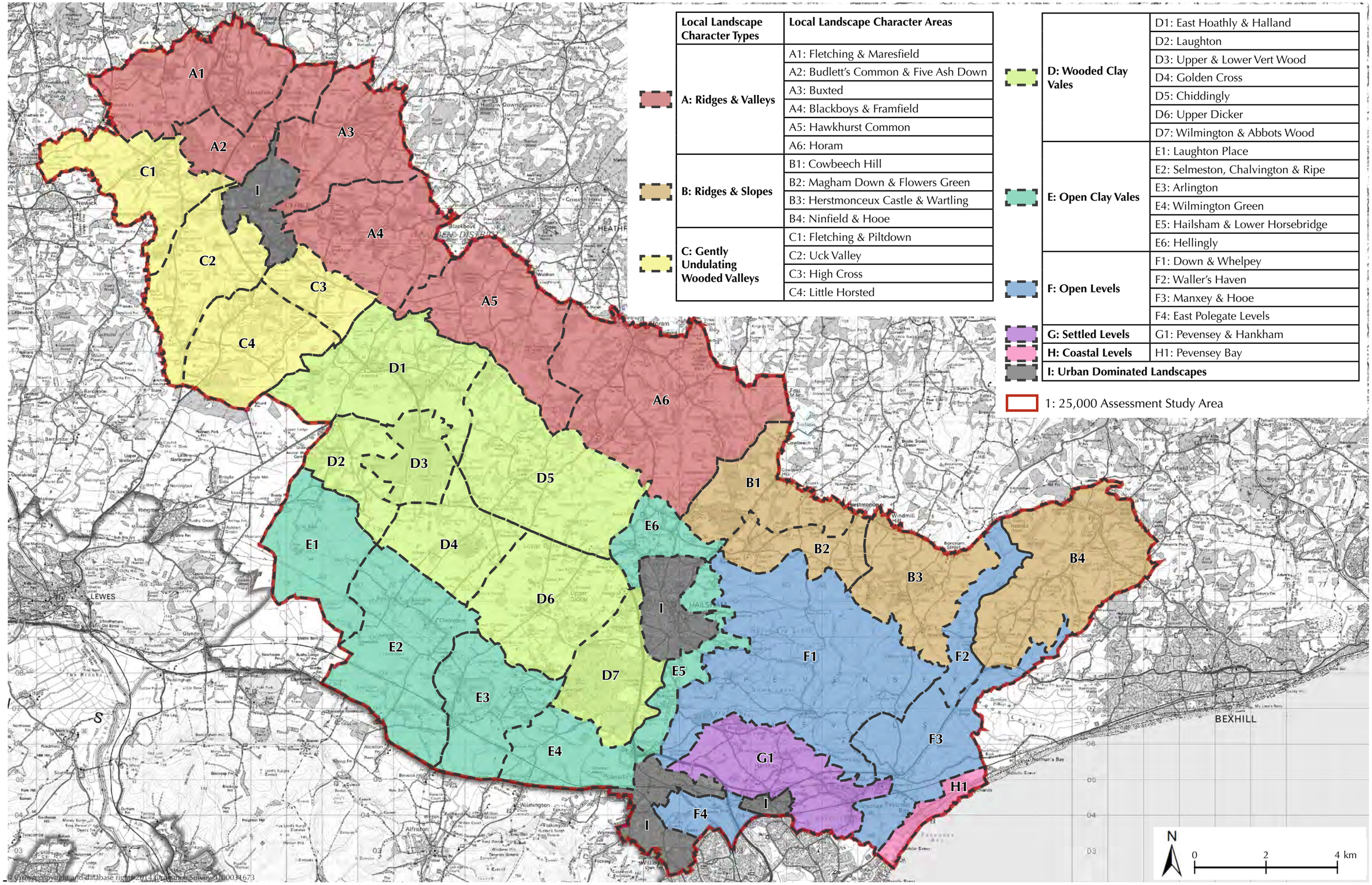
3.5.1 The Local Landscape Character Types and constituent Local Landscape Character Areas identified by this study (see Section 2.2 for details) within the District's landscapes outside of the High Weald AONB and the South Downs National Park are shown on **Figure 3.2**. The Local and County landscape classification within this study area is set out in **Table 3.1** below in relation to the respective National Character Areas.

Table 3.1: Local & County Landscape Classification and National Character Areas

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES	LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS	COUNTY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS	NATIONAL CHARACTER AREAS
A: Ridges and Valleys	• A1: Fletching and Maresfield • A2: Budlett's Common and Five Ash Down • A3: Buxted • A4: Blackboys and Framfield • A5: Hawkhurst Common • A6: Horam	• 3. Upper Ouse Valley • 4. Central High Weald • 5. South Slopes of High Weald	**122: HIGH WEALD**
B: Ridges and Slopes	• B1: Cowbeech Hill • B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green • B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling • B4: Ninfield and Hooe	• 5. South Slopes of High Weald • 10. Combe Haven Valley • 25. Pevensey Levels	
C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys	• C1: Fletching and Piltdown • C2: Uck Valley • C3: High Cross • C4: Little Horsted	• 3. Upper Ouse Valley • 14. Western Low Weald	**121: LOW WEALD**
D: Wooded Clay Vales	• D1: East Hoathly and Halland • D2: Laughton • D3: Upper and Lower Vert Wood • D4: Golden Cross • D5: Chiddingly • D6: Upper Dicker • D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood	• 15. Eastern Low Weald	
E: Open Clay Vales	• E1: Laughton Place • E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe • E3: Arlington • E4: Wilmington Green • E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge • E6: Hellingly		
F: Open Levels	• F1: Down and Whelpey • F2: Waller's Haven • F3: Manxey and Hooe • F4: East Polegate Levels	• 25. Pevensey Levels	**124: PEVENSEY LEVELS**
G: Settled Levels	• G1: Pevensey and Hankham	• 24. Eastbourne Levels • 25. Pevensey Levels	
H: Coastal Levels	• H1: Pevensey Bay	• 25. Pevensey Levels	
I: Urban Dominated Landscapes	N/A	• 35. Hailsham • 36. Uckfield	N/A

3.5.2 It should be noted that the Local Landscape Character Type I (Urban Dominated Landscapes) are not described in the assessment, and are only shown on **Figure 3.2** for context.

3.5.3 In order to provide an understanding of the landscape context for the study areas, the report sets out the findings of the assessments within the framework provided by the above landscape classification.



Local Landscape Character Types	Local Landscape Character Areas
A: Ridges & Valleys	A1: Fletching & Maresfield
	A2: Budlett's Common & Five Ash Down
	A3: Buxted
	A4: Blackboys & Framfield
	A5: Hawkhurst Common
	A6: Horam
B: Ridges & Slopes	B1: Cowbeech Hill
	B2: Magham Down & Flowers Green
	B3: Herstmonceux Castle & Wartling
	B4: Ninfield & Hooe
C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys	C1: Fletching & Piltdown
	C2: Uck Valley
	C3: High Cross
	C4: Little Horsted
D: Wooded Clay Vales	D1: East Hoathly & Halland
	D2: Laughton
	D3: Upper & Lower Vert Wood
	D4: Golden Cross
	D5: Chiddingly
	D6: Upper Dicker
	D7: Wilmington & Abbots Wood
E: Open Clay Vales	E1: Laughton Place
	E2: Selmeston, Chalvington & Ripe
	E3: Arlington
	E4: Wilmington Green
	E5: Hailsham & Lower Horsebridge
	E6: Hellingly
F: Open Levels	F1: Down & Whelpey
	F2: Waller's Haven
	F3: Manxey & Hooe
	F4: East Polegate Levels
G: Settled Levels	G1: Pevensey & Hankham
H: Coastal Levels	H1: Pevensey Bay
I: Urban Dominated Landscapes	

1: 25,000 Assessment Study Area

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FIGURE 3.2
LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES & CHARACTER AREAS

October 2014
11119501_Section 2 and 3 figs.indd

4.0 THE HIGH WEALD LANDSCAPE

4.0 THE HIGH WEALD LANDSCAPE

4.1 General

4.1.1 Within the landscape character context set out in **Section 3.0**, this Section presents the assessment of the High Weald Landscape (excluding the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the landscape setting of the selected settlements in this area and within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The assessment includes:

- A summary overview of the High Weald National Character Area and its constituent County Landscape Character Areas.
- Assessment of the character, sensitivity and value of each Local Landscape Character Type identified within the High Weald Landscape (excluding the AONB), including description of each Type's constituent Local Landscape Character Areas, in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.0**.
- Assessment of the Landscape Settings for each of the selected settlements within the High Weald Landscape/AONB in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.0**.

4.2 The High Weald National Character Area

4.2.1 The extent of the High Weald National Character Area in respect of Wealden District is shown on **Figure 2.1**. A full description of the National Character Area as a whole is available from the Natural England website[12]. A summary overview of the High Weald National Character Area within the District is provided below.

Summary

4.2.2 The High Weald is an area of ancient countryside and one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 78 per cent of the National Character Area, reflecting the outstanding natural and scenic beauty of the landscape.

4.2.3 From a distance the appearance of the High Weald is one of a densely wooded landscape, although closer inspection reveals a patchwork of irregularly shaped fields and woods forming both open and enclosed landscapes along rolling ridges and within valleys. Along the ridge top roads briefly glimpsed extensive views open up, stretching away over rolling ridges, punctuated by church spires far into the horizon, providing a contrast to the intimacy of the lush green valleys. Everything in the High Weald landscape is of human scale and its rich detail is best explored on foot, cycle or horseback along the myriad of interconnecting paths and tracks.

4.2.4 Sandstone, exposed as outcrops or along the wooded ghylls, provides a nationally rare habitat and supports a rich community of ferns, bryophytes and lichens. The moist microclimate in these sites is vulnerable to climate change. The drained landscape of the eastern High Weald river valleys is the result of a thousand years of modifications and exhibits few of the features associated with healthy natural river valleys. It is grazed by high numbers of sheep. Upriver the ghyll streams and upper reaches function better but remain vulnerable to pollution from agriculture and domestic waste water treatment.

4.2.5 The ancient routeway network in the High Weald is substantially intact but the archaeology associated with it, such as multiple ditches and banks, is vulnerable to physical damage and the ancient, laid coppice stools edging many sunken routeways present a challenge for highway maintenance. Flower-rich grassland persists along road verges and what was common land represents a substantial refuge for populations of rare species, but both are vulnerable to insensitive management.

4.2.6 The distinctive pattern of dispersed historic settlement survives although the character of farmsteads has changed with the widespread conversion of traditional farm buildings to dwellings and the associated disappearance of agriculture and industry from farmsteads. The changing character of the farmsteads and surrounding landscape through gentrification ultimately also leads to a changing character of wildlife in terms of the assemblage of species present. Within the forested ridges and ancient countryside, remnant hammer ponds associated with the once vibrant medieval iron industry, constitute significant local features. Hammer ponds were created by damming streams to provide a controlled flow of water to power the bellows or 'hammers' of the forges. There are a number of reservoirs that have a distinctive branching or winding character as a result of their creation from small Wealden river valleys.

4.2.7 Woodland is extensive, covering 26 per cent of the area in a wide range of small wooded pits, linear ghyll woodland, farm woods and much larger wooded estates. Most of the woodland is ancient with carpets of bluebells and wood anemone in spring. Many of the woods were managed in the past as coppice with standard trees. The drier sandy soils were found suitable for pine plantations, which persist within a patchwork of lowland heath and birch woodland. Wild flower meadows are now rare but the medieval pattern of small fields with sinuous edges surrounded by thick hedgerows and shaws (the narrow remains of woodlands cleared to form fields) survives and many fields retain some permanent or semi-improved grassland, which in turn supports common invertebrates and small mammals. Local initiatives have increased the area of restored and newly created species-rich grassland but the decline of grazing threatens their long-term management. Buzzards and sparrow hawks are sighted frequently, but the loss of field barns and conversion of farmstead buildings have led to a decline in once-common barn owls.

[12] Natural England (2013) National Character Area Profile 122: High Weald http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/high_weald.aspx

4.2.8 The mosaic of small hedged fields and sunken lanes, together with the wooded relief and comparative inaccessibility, provides a sense of remoteness which is rare within lowland English landscapes.

Key Characteristics

4.2.9 The key characteristics of the High Weald National Character Area as a whole are:

- *A faulted landform of clays, sand and soft sandstones with outcrops of fissured sandrock and ridges running east–west, deeply incised and intersected with numerous ghyll streams forming the headwaters of a number of the major rivers – the Rother, Brede and Ouse – which flow in broad valleys.*
- *High density of extraction pits, quarries and ponds, in part a consequence of diverse geology and highly variable soils over short distances.*
- *A dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and scattered farmsteads and medieval ridge top villages founded on trade and non-agricultural rural industries, with a dominance of timber- framed buildings with steep roofs often hipped or half-hipped, and an extremely high survival rate of farm buildings dating from the 17th century or earlier.*
- *Ancient routeways in the form of ridge top roads and a dense system of radiating droveways, often narrow, deeply sunken and edged with trees and wild flower-rich verges and boundary banks. Church towers and spires on the ridges are an important local landmark. There is a dense network of small, narrow and winding lanes, often sunken and enclosed by high hedgerows or woodland strips. The area includes several large towns such as Crowborough, Battle and Heathfield and is closely bordered by others such as Crawley, East Grinstead, Hastings and Horsham.*
- *An intimate, hidden and small-scale landscape with glimpses of far-reaching views, giving a sense of remoteness and tranquillity yet concealing the highest density of timber-framed buildings anywhere in Europe amidst lanes and paths.*
- *Strong feeling of remoteness due to very rural, wooded character. A great extent of interconnected ancient woods, steep-sided ghyll woodlands, wooded heaths and shaws in generally small holdings with extensive archaeology and evidence of long-term management.*
- *Extensive broadleaved woodland cover with a very high proportion of ancient woodland with high forest, small woods and shaws, plus steep valleys with ghyll woodland.*
- *Small and medium-sized irregularly shaped fields enclosed by a network of hedgerows and wooded shaws, predominantly of medieval origin and managed historically as a mosaic of small agricultural holdings typically used for livestock grazing.*
- *A predominantly grassland agricultural landscape grazed mainly with sheep and some cattle.*
- *There is a strong influence of the Wealden iron industry which started in Roman times, until coke fuel replaced wood and charcoal. There are features such as a notably high number of small hammer ponds surviving today.*
- *Ashdown Forest, in contrast to the more intimate green woods and pastures elsewhere, is a high, rolling and open heathland lying on the sandstone ridges to the west of the area.*
- *An essentially medieval landscape reflected in the patterns of settlement, fields and woodland.*
- *High-quality vernacular architecture with distinct local variation using local materials. Horsham Slate is used on mainly timber structures and timber-framed barns are a particularly notable Wealden characteristic feature of the High Weald.*

4.3 County Landscape Character Areas

4.3.1 The relevant County Landscape Character Areas within Wealden District (whole or in part) that fall within the High Weald National Character Area are included below (see **Figure 3.1**), taken from the East Sussex County Landscape Assessment[13]:

Upper Medway Valley (1)

Summary

1.1.1 This area covers the Medway Valley from Weir Wood Reservoir to Groombridge in the east. The broad flat river valley is overlooked by gentle spurs emphasised by fine mature woods. Unusually the attractive villages of the area lie in the valley. The unity of the area is strengthened by the tree-fringed winding river and by the Forest Way Country Park. The area benefits from its proximity to the heathland of Ashdown Forest.

Key Characteristics

- *Gentle spurs and slopes overlooking broad, open valley.*
- *Spectacular views from spurs.*
- *Small, relatively natural winding river with scattered alder and willow.*
- *Rich, varied pattern of woods, trees and hedges on slopes; over 15% woodland cover.*
- *Settlements tend to be in the valleys, which is unusual for the High Weald. Villages are often individually distinctive.*
- *Buildings typically of stone and white weatherboarding. Rich and varied traditional building materials and styles.*
- *Affluent, gentrified farms and country houses.*

Ashdown Forest (2)

Summary

1.1.2 Ashdown forest is a heart shaped area lying between Crowborough, Forest Row and Maresfield on the more northerly of the two major ridges in the AONB. It is the largest area of lowland heath in the SE and therefore is of significant nature conservation and scenic value. Ashdown Forest lies on the highest point of the High Weald. It is visually prominent and affords great views in and out of the area. This is a place of great richness and diversity with a unique history and status. The great open sweeps of brown and purple heathland stand out in stark contrast to the surrounding green luxuriance of the rest of the High Weald.

Key Characteristics

- *Broad, exposed open heathland ridges.*
- *Outstanding views from higher ridges.*
- *Landmark pine clumps with 'Winnie the Pooh' association.*

[13] East Sussex County Council (2010). The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment. http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/download.htm

- *Extensive woodland (42.5% wooded); predominantly oak-birch woodland, with fine oak and beech woodland on the fringes.*
- *Shady, secluded ghyll streams with hammer ponds.*
- *Large country houses, some associated with significant designed landscapes and parkland.*
- *Indications of human activity of significant archaeological importance.*
- *Remoteness*

Upper Ouse Valley (3)

Summary

4.3.2 *This is a gently sloping country of low ridges and wider valleys covered by an intricate pattern of streams and woods. It lies between Wivelsfield Green and Buxted, and includes the valley system of the River Ouse, Longford Stream and the River Uck.*

Key Characteristics

- *Small, winding, alder-lined rivers and streams.*
- *Predominantly gentle undulating terrain with broad valleys, but more pronounced relief near northern edge.*
- *Abundant tree cover, with 17.5% woodland and a strong structure of woods, trees, hedges and shaws.*
- *Some remote, secluded, unspoiled valleys.*
- *Significant designed landscapes, parks and gardens.*
- *Village groups dominated by churches.*
- *Numerous large ponds.*
- *Rock outcrops and incised roadways.*
- *Farmhouses and large farmsteads.*
- *Rich variety of traditional local building materials.*

Central High Weald (4)

Summary

4.3.3 *The Central High Weald lies south of Tunbridge Wells and east of Crowborough. These urban areas exert a strong influence on the neighbouring countryside. It is a landscape of high ground with outstanding views from the ridge tops, across the heart of the High Weald.*

Key Characteristics

- *Bold, broad ridges, often crowned by villages and churches.*
- *Narrow deep, often wooded ghyll valleys.*
- *Rolling, heavily-wooded landscape with 30% woodland.*
- *Large woodland blocks with chestnut coppice and substantial coniferous plantations; also pine, birch and beech.*
- *Close network of winding, sunken and hedge-bounded lanes with cottages and farms giving well-settled feel.*
- *Some remote areas, mainly in valleys and larger woods.*
- *Occasional 'surprise' views over rolling landscape to the Downs.*
- *Significant historic designed landscapes.*
- *Significant areas of heathland*

South Slopes of High Weald (5)

Summary

4.3.4 *This is an intricate, small scale landscape with a strong pattern of hedgerows, falling southward from the Heathfield to Battle ridge towards the Low Weald and Pevensey Levels. This landscape of gentle valleys and slopes affords good views of the Downs.*

Key Characteristics

- *High Weald landscape at its most intricate; a very detailed landscape.*
- *Deeply dissected into innumerable north-south ridges, valleys and ghylls.*
- *Streams drain mainly into River Cuckmere or Pevensey Levels waterway systems.*
- *Close network of ghyll woodland, small woods, shaws and hedges; 15% woodland. An abundance of hornbeam ('horebeech').*
- *Close network of winding lanes with scattered farms, cottages and linear settlements, often on ridges.*
- *Varied villages, most with remote rural character and on ridges.*
- *Secluded, often shady valleys with remote feel.*
- *Substantial remote areas in the east.*
- *Parkland and designed landscapes.*
- *Numerous hammer ponds and other iron industry relics.*
- *Chestnut post and rail fencing is characteristic of this area.*

Upper Rother Valley (6)

Summary

4.3.5 *The broad valley of the River Rother dominates the landscape and is overlooked by bold ridges and spurs with ghylls and shaws. These landscape features are dramatised by woodland cover. The area runs from Mayfield in the west, up to Wadhurst in the north and across to Hurst Green in the east. The South is bounded by the ridgetop Burwash road and its villages*

Key Characteristics

- *The upper half of the largest valley system in the High Weald.*
- *Flat-floored main valley broadening eastwards.*
- *Relatively open valley floor with small, winding, partly tree-lined river.*
- *Rolling, richly wooded landscape centred on main valley.*
- *Rother regularly floods turning the whole valley bottom into a huge sheet of water.*
- *Strong pattern of ghyll woods as well as many larger woods.*
- *Substantial remote countryside and areas of exceptional remoteness.*
- *Settlements and main roads mainly along ridges on edges of the area.*
- *Villages have great character and variety often with Landmark churches.*
- *Fine views across valley.*
- *Iron industry relics hidden in woods.*
- *'Picturesque' farms and cottages.*
- *Designed landscapes and parkland.*

Bewl Water Area (7)

Summary

4.3.6 *This small area is bounded in the north by the Kent Border and runs West-East from Wadhurst to Flimwell. It is dominated by the flooded Bewl river that forms a large branching reservoir which is surprisingly well hidden from the surrounding countryside, and overlooked by well wooded slopes.*

Key Characteristics

- *Large branching reservoir, overlooked by wooded spurs, is focus of area.*
- *Wooded or hedge-patterned slopes with some parkland.*
- *Chestnut coppice.*
- *Secluded, small wooded ghylls above reservoir 'branches'.*
- *Winding, hedge-bounded lanes.*
- *Orchards and hopfields.*
- *Ridge-top villages and churches on periphery of area.*

Dudwell Valley (8)

Summary

4.3.7 *This narrow, deep valley is bounded in the north by the ridgetop A265 and the Burwash villages, and contained by the Dallington ridge in the south. The valley is overlooked by high ridges and spurs richly patterned with woods, shaws and small fields. The whole area is peaceful and secluded.*

Key Characteristics

- *The valley is a tributary for the main Rother Valley.*
- *West of Brightling the valley is narrow and deep, and is overlooked by spurs patterned with woods shaws and small fields.*
- *East of Brightling it becomes broader and shallower and is dominated by the village of Burwash*
- *Winding, tree-lined stream.*
- *Feature buildings in the landscape and attractive cottages.*
- *Burwash has a predominance of red tiled buildings.*

Combe Haven Valley (10)

Summary

4.3.8 *This landscape is a series of small, winding High Wealden valleys converging to form a tract of levels which curve east and south to almost reach the sea at Glyne Gap, between Hastings and Bexhill. This pleasant rolling, well wooded countryside affords excellent views of the sea and coastal towns, which have a strong influence on the area.*

Key Characteristics

- *Area is enclosed by the Battle ridge to the north-east.*
- *Focal open, flat, winding valley floor with wetland.*
- *Intricate terrain of small, winding valleys and ridges around levels, with abundant woods and ghylls. Extensive areas of ancient woodland.*
- *Contrast between open valley floor and slopes.*

Pevensey Levels (25)

Summary

4.3.9 *Grazing marsh and reeds are completely dominant in this large, flat, open landscape. This is a landscape characterised by reed fringed drainage channels with scattered thorns and willows. Away from the roads there is a distinct remoteness amongst the big skies and cries of wetland birds.*

Key Characteristics

- *Reed-fringed winding channels in open wetland pasture.*
- *Scattered straggly willow and thorn along channels.*
- *Islands (eyes) of slightly higher ground - Horse Eye, North Eye*
- *Main channels engineered.*
- *Isolated farms and cottages.*
- *Winding lanes cross the levels.*
- *Coastline with shingle banks and groynes.*
- *Coastal development*

4.4 Local Landscape Character Type A: Ridges and Valleys

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

4.4.1 The Ridges and Valleys LLCT (A) is situated in the central part of Wealden District, to the north of Uckfield and Hailsham. It stretches broadly between Splayne's Green to the west and Cowbeech to the east (the latter being just outside the boundary of this LLCT). To the north, this LLCT abuts the southern boundary of the High Weald AONB. To the south, it meets the northern wooded valleys and clay vales of the Low Weald (LLCT C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys and D: Wooded Clay Vales). Sheffield Park lies immediately to the west of this LLCT.

Key Characteristics

- **Topography**: A series of narrow, incised northeast-southwest oriented river valleys which dissect the surrounding landscape of rolling fields and valley side woodlands. Overall, the topography comprises a ridge and valley landscape pattern, with the stream corridors gently meandering through their adjacent valleys.
- **Settlement Pattern:** Small to medium-sized linear villages mainly located on higher ridges of land between the valleys.
- **Views and Visibility:** Views from settlements and higher land into and across the valleys is often limited by abundant small blocks and linear swathes of woodland which line the valley sides. These patches of woodland also provide a strong sense of visual containment from locations along the valley floor.
- **Communications:** The landscape is crossed by an interconnected network of minor rural roads which tend to follow the valley floors or ridges, connecting ridge-top settlements.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** Within much of this LLCT, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity; however this is less apparent in close proximity to the large town of Uckfield, which abuts its south-western edge.

Physical Landscape Character

4.4.2 This landscape of ridges and steep sided valleys includes the highest land within the Study Area, divided by watercourses and scattered water bodies. These include the River Uck and the upper waters of the River Cuckmere, which bisect the study area, running north to south. This LLCT is predominantly rural, with small settlements and scattered farms. Settlements, including some larger villages, are primarily found on the ridges and slopes, leaving the valley floors mostly free from settlement. Field pattern is varied, with a mix of small pastoral fields divided by hedges and shaws; and larger, arable fields. The landscape in this part of Wealden District is well treed, including a number of large blocks and belts of woodland, as well as tree lined ghylls.

Historic Landscape Character

4.4.3 The Ridges and Valleys LLCT forms part of the High Weald's ancient countryside, which is one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. The dispersed settlement pattern and small-medium sized irregular shaped fields, enclosed by a network of hedgerows and wooded shaws, are predominantly of medieval origin. Blocks of Ancient Woodland, scattered throughout, reinforce the historic character of this LLCT and wider High Weald area. An integrated traditional system of forestry and farming as well as the medieval practice of transhumance[14] helped shape the character of the landscape, playing a key role in the transformation of a largely uninhabited landscape into the settled landscape which can be seen today. Some of the roads and public rights of way which transect the ridges and valleys form part of the network of historic droveways which connect the Downs and the Weald. These are a visible legacy of the past seasonal movement of animals and people into the woodlands. Cohesive and aggregate assarts dominate the bottom two thirds of the LLCT – created from the medieval practice of cultivating small parcels of land, known as 'assarting'. Regular piece meal enclosures and modern field amalgamations are also fairly dominant, distributed across the type.

4.4.4 Charcoal hearths, pits and/or ponds relating to the iron industry can be found in some of the Ancient Woodland blocks reflecting the wider area's once busy industrial past. Buxted Park, a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden, was first recorded at Buxted, along with its associated manor house, in 1299. Both the house and grounds have been altered over time, with the current house (home to the Buxted Park Country House Hotel) likely to have been constructed during the 18th century.

[14] Transhumance can be defined as the seasonal movement of people and animals between the settlements of the borders of the Weald and its interior.

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

4.4.5 Overall, the Ridges and Valleys LLCT is assessed as having Very High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be very strong as a result of the distinctly recognisable pattern of narrow, incised valleys which cut through the surrounding landscape, resulting in a pattern of ridge-top settlements. There is strong historic continuity as a result of the pattern of ancient fields and woodland, dating from the Medieval period. Overall visibility is considered to be high within this LLCT. Whilst the strongly recognisable pattern of ridges and valleys dominate the landscape, the high frequency of woodlands results in an intermittent sense of visual enclosure.

Criteria	**Evaluation**
Strength of Place	Very Strong
Visibility	High
Landscape Sensitivity	**Very High**

Landscape Value

4.4.6 The Ridges and Valleys LLCT is considered to have Very High Landscape Value. There is very strong visual unity throughout as a result of the recognisable pattern of ridges and valleys, which contribute to a strong local strength of place. There is strong historic continuity, with numerous patches of Ancient Woodland along the valley sides, and a general absence of detracting features. In addition, there is strong sense of wildness and tranquillity overall.

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

A1: Fletching and Maresfield

4.4.7 Situated in the north-western corner of Wealden District, this LLCA encompasses a patchwork of small to medium scale rolling arable and pastoral fields, which are interspersed with medium sized woodlands (including High Wood and Spring Wood), providing a sense of enclosure. There are numerous smaller patches of woodland, amongst the smaller fields. The western edge of this LLCA overlooks the large designed landscape of Sheffield Park, and glimpsed views westwards towards woodland within the Park contribute to recognisable sense of place. The central part of the area is crossed by a narrow north-south orientated stream corridor which runs adjacent to the main A22 road corridor. Busy traffic along this road corridor, detracts from the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity within this part of the LLCA. The large nucleated village of Maresfield dominates the eastern part of the LLCA, with its historic core centred on the church. Long distance views across the LLCA are limited by the numerous patches of woodland and rolling topography, however views to Maresfield church can be gained from fields in close proximity to the edge of the village.

A2: Budlett's Common and Five Ash Down

4.4.8 The south-western part of this LLCA is dominated by large areas of woodland (including Park Wood and Thirty Acre Wood), which provide a strong sense of enclosure. The strongly undulating topography of the LLCA, as a result of a narrow stream corridor which cuts through the area, dominates landscape pattern. The south-eastern edge of the area abuts the large town of Uckfield. Views to the edge of the town are generally limited by woodland at the settlement edge. However glimpsed views are characteristic in places. The main A26 road corridor runs north-south across the area, introducing a source of noise and movement and reducing overall sense of tranquillity. In the north of the area, the small linear settlement of Five Ash Down is a key feature. The village is situated on a ridge of higher land, which facilitates views across adjacent fields. Woodland is a key feature of this area, however, outside the patches of woodland, fields tend to be lined with mature hedgerows.

A3: Buxted

4.4.9 Situated to the northeast of the large town of Uckfield (and abutting its eastern and north-eastern edges), this LLCA encompasses the narrow valley of the River Uck and the linear village of Buxted. Buxted is situated on a higher ridge of land on the eastern valley side and overlooks the river valley. Views into the valley are limited by blocks of mature woodland and mature hedgerows at field boundaries. The mainline railway from London to Uckfield runs north-south across the area (with a busy station at Buxted) and introduces a source of noise and movement, reducing the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity. On the eastern valley side, to the south of Buxted, the landscape pattern comprises an intricate patchwork of small scale fields, interspersed with numerous small woodlands which provide an intermittent sense of enclosure. The western half of the LLCA is dominated by the valley of the River Uck, with its gently meandering stream and streamside woodlands. The river runs through the large landscaped historic parkland of Buxted Park. The parkland, with its designed landscape planting and the historic manor house (which is now Buxted Park hotel), impart a formal landscape character within this area. At the western edge of Buxted Park, views to the eastern edge of Uckfield (at Manor Park) are limited by a large area of woodland (Views Wood). Further south, however, open views to the edge of Uckfield can be gained from the rural roads and network of footpaths within the southern part of the valley.

A4: Blackboys and Framfield

4.4.10 The Blackboys and Framfield LLCA encompass an undulating patchwork of small-scale pastoral fields, which are interspersed with frequent patches of woodland. Numerous small stream corridors cross the landscape within the bottom of the valleys. Long distance views across the valleys from the valley sides are

characteristic, with intermittently wooded skylines contributing to recognisable sense of place. This is an intimate, small-scale and predominantly rural landscape which is crossed by a network of interconnecting, often sunken, rural lanes. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of the area. The small woodlands and tree lined lanes provide an intermittent sense of enclosure. The two, small linear villages of Framfield and Blackboys, situated on ridges of higher land, facilitate long distance views across the adjacent undulating valleys. An interconnected network of footpaths crosses the area, providing access to the ridges and valleys.

A5: Hawkhurst Common

4.4.11 This predominantly rural LLCA encompasses a pattern of small scale, predominantly pastoral fields, which are interspersed with large areas of woodland, providing a strong sense of enclosure in places. A number of rural road corridors traverse the landscape, which are lined with mature trees and hedgerows. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout. Numerous narrow stream corridors permeate the fields, with associated small ponds. These streams feed the larger river corridors outside the area. Views are often dominated by treed horizons and the settlement pattern is limited to small farmsteads. This is a small-scale, intimate, predominantly rural landscape.

A6: Horam

4.4.12 This LLCA encompasses an intricate patchwork of woodlands and stream corridors, which are also lined in places by woodland. The undulating landform, coupled with the intermittent woodland patches, results in a strong sense of enclosure within much of the landscape. The network of rural lanes is lined with mature trees and hedgerows and there is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout much of the area. In the north of the area, views to the small nucleated village of Horam contribute to recognisable sense of place. To the south of Horam, the settlement pattern comprises a series of farmsteads, which tend to be located alongside the rural road corridors. The field pattern is small scale, and many of the fields are ancient. The upper course of the Cuckmere River valley runs through the eastern part of this area, with a patchwork of small-scale fields lining the river corridor.

4.5 Local Landscape Character Type B: Ridges and Slopes

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

4.5.1 The Ridges and Slopes LLCT (B) is situated in the south-eastern part of Wealden District, to the north-east of Hailsham. It stretches broadly between Cowbeech to the west and Ninfield to the east but is split approximately in the middle by a narrow strip of Open Levels (LLCT F). To the north, the Ridges and Slopes abut the boundary of the High Weald AONB. To the west, they are adjacent to the High Weald's Ridges and Valleys (LLCT A), whilst to the south they overlook the Open Levels (LLCT F).

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** A small-scale landscape of predominantly pastoral fields, which forms the southern slopes of the High Weald (which is situated immediately to the north of the area). The topography slopes from north to south, with the landscape falling away towards the lower Open Levels LLCT (F) to the south.
- **Settlement Pattern:** comprises a series of linear villages which are situated on an east-west orientated ridge at the northern edge of the LLCT. In addition, there are a number of small hamlets and farmsteads dotted throughout the landscape.
- **Views and Visibility:** Panoramic, open views southwards across the Levels are characteristic of the southern part of this LLCT, contributing to recognisable sense of place. Views northwards from the landscape and settlements along the ridge, comprise a foreground of small scale fields and woodlands which form part of the High Weald AONB. Patches of small to medium-sized woodlands provide an intermittent sense of enclosure within this predominantly rural landscape.
- **Communications:** The landscape is crossed by a network of rural, sometimes sunken lanes, which are lined with mature trees and hedgerows.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout most of the landscape;

Physical Landscape Character

4.5.2 This gently sloping landscape has a number of blocks of woodland, particularly on its lower slopes. The ridges are predominantly free from large woodland blocks, though still well-treed, with hedges and shaws as the predominant field boundaries. The ridges are settled, with villages in a chain along the main ridge. Some scattered, smaller settlements are found across the slopes, which fall away in a south-westerly direction. The falling land is incised by a number of wooded ghylls. This local landscape type is present in two separate parts of the study area, which are bisected by the Waller's Haven River and an associated area of Open Levels (LLCT F) landscape. The rural landscape between the woodland blocks is primarily farmed, with a mixture of arable and grazing land uses.

Historic Landscape Character

4.5.3 The Ridges and Slopes LLCT (B) forms part of the High Weald's ancient countryside, one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. The dispersed settlement pattern and small-medium sized irregular shaped fields, enclosed by a network of hedgerows and wooded shaws, are predominantly of medieval origin. Early settlements, such as Herstmonceux and Ninfield, were built on the higher, drier ridge tops, which formed important lines of communication. An integrated traditional system of forestry and farming as well as the medieval practice of transhumance[15] helped shape the character of the landscape, playing a key role in the transformation of a largely uninhabited landscape into the settled landscape which can be seen today.

4.5.4 Visible remnants of the past include blocks of Ancient Woodland and droveways (the latter today taking the form of roads and/or public rights of way). Herstmonceux Castle and Place, a large Grade II* Registered Park and Garden lies south of Herstmonceux. The origin of the park is unrecorded but it would appear that it was in existence by the 12th century[16]. Charcoal hearths, pits and/or ponds relating to the iron industry can be found in some of the Ancient Woodland blocks, reflecting the wider area's once busy industrial past. As is true of many Wealden villages, Ninfield was involved in the iron industry and today still contains a set of iron stocks. Standard Hill, believed to be the place where William the Conqueror placed his flag after the Battle of Hastings, lies to the west of Ninfield village.

4.5.5 Medium-large sized regular piece meal enclosures dominate this LLCT. Cohesive and aggregate assarts are mainly located in the outer eastern and western parts of the landscape. Medium-large-sized modern field amalgamations are scattered across the Ridges and Slopes LLCT, reflecting modern agricultural needs.

[15] Transhumance can be defined as the seasonal movement of people and animals between the settlements of the borders of the Weald and its interior.
[16] English Heritage (1987). National List Entry for Herstmonceux Castle and Place. http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000231 (accessed 05/2014)

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

4.5.6 Overall, the Ridges and Slopes LLCT is assessed as having High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of the distinct pattern of sloping pastoral fields and ridge-top settlements. There is strong historic continuity within this predominantly ancient landscape, which has a number of key historic landmark features, including Herstmonceux Castle. Overall visibility is considered to be high as a result of the dominant sloping landform and intermittent sense of enclosure, resulting from the patches of mature woodland.

Criteria	**Evaluation**
Strength of Place	Strong
Visibility	High
Landscape Sensitivity	**High**

Landscape Value

4.5.7 The Ridges and Slopes LLCT is considered to have Very High Landscape Value. There is a strong strength of place as a result of panoramic open views southwards across the Open Levels LLCT and strong historic continuity throughout. There are many valuable landscape and historic landscape features, including woodland, mature hedgerows, stream corridors and historic buildings. There is also a strong sense of wildness and tranquillity throughout this predominantly rural landscape, which has few detracting features.

Local Landscape Character Areas

B1: Cowbeech Hill

4.5.8 This LLCA is dominated by large areas of woodland, including Park Wood and Nobody's Wood, which provide a strong sense of enclosure. This is a strongly rural landscape, with few human influences, other than a couple of farmsteads and one east-west running minor road. Several small ponds are dotted within the landscape and views westwards across the upper reaches of the Cuckmere Valley contribute to recognisable sense of place. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.

B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green

4.5.9 This rural LLCA has a strong landscape pattern of small scale, predominantly pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees. Panoramic, open views southwards across the lower Open Levels LLCT, with its network of flat, drained fields, contribute to recognisable sense of place. Within the centre of the LLCA, there is a strong sense of enclosure as a result of the hedgerows and small patches of woodland. The landscape is crossed by several interconnecting rural road corridors, several of which have ecologically diverse verges. Despite this, there is a very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area. The small linear hamlet of Magham Down has a strong vernacular of red tiled/white painted houses. From the eastern edge of the area, glimpsed views eastwards towards woodland associated with Herstmonceux Castle contribute to recognisable sense of place.

B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling

4.5.10 This LLCA is dominated by Herstmonceux Castle and its associated woodland, which is a key historic feature and visitor attraction. The Castle is generally hidden in views from surrounding rural road corridors as a result of the high hedges and mature trees which provide a strong sense of enclosure. In close proximity to the Castle, Herstmonceux Observatory is a key landscape feature, which is visible within several long distance views across the LLCA and from adjacent LLCAs. In the south of the area, the small hamlet of Wartling is situated on higher land, overlooking the Open Levels LLCT to the south. Panoramic, open views south and eastwards across the Levels can be gained from the road to the south of the village. Topography rises from south to north across the area, with a ridge of higher land running east-west across the northern edge of the LLCA. Two, small linear villages – Windmill Hill and Boreham Street are situated on this ridge of higher land, which overlooks the landscapes of the High Weald to the north. The vernacular white windmill in Windmill Hill is a key landscape/townscape feature.

B4: Ninfield and Hooe

4.5.11 This relatively large LLCA is situated at the eastern edge of Wealden District and is separated from other LLCAs within the same Landscape Character Type, by a valley of Open Levels (LLCA: F2, Waller's Haven). The northern part of the LLCA is strongly rural and encompasses the small linear village of Ninfield. Ninfield church is a key landmark feature, contributing to recognisable sense of place. To the north of the village, large patches of woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure, linking this area to the strong wooded landscapes of the High Weald to the north. Ninfield is connected to the small hamlet of Hooe Common to the south by the minor rural road corridor of the B2095. Whilst this is a relatively busy north-south road corridor, at a distance from the road, there is a very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout. The small hamlet of Hooe is further to the south. Hooe church, to the east of the settlement, is situated at the end of a narrow, tree-lined rural lane, which results in a strong rural setting. The field pattern throughout most of the area is small-scale and intimate, with mature trees and hedgerows at field boundaries and along road corridors. The topography of the area falls quite sharply from north to south, resulting in lower lying undulating fields in the southern part of the area which facilitate panoramic open views south and westwards across the Open Levels LLCT and its constituent LLCAs.

4.6 Landscape Setting of Bolebroke

Settlement Profile

4.6.1 Bolebroke is situated within the High Weald AONB, one and a half miles to the north of Hartfield on the Edenbridge Road, B2026. This connects with the A264 main road corridor to the north and to Hartfield in the south.

4.6.2 Bolebroke is a small hamlet with a large orchard and plant nursery to the north, a cafe and a village hall. The settlement has developed to the east of the B2026 and is predominantly residential. Notable historical buildings include the 16th century Elizabethan miller's barn and Water Mill. In addition, a Roman road runs alongside the Grade II Listed Bolebroke Castle (c. 1300).

Landscape Character

4.6.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Medway Valley (1) – see **Section 4.3** for details.

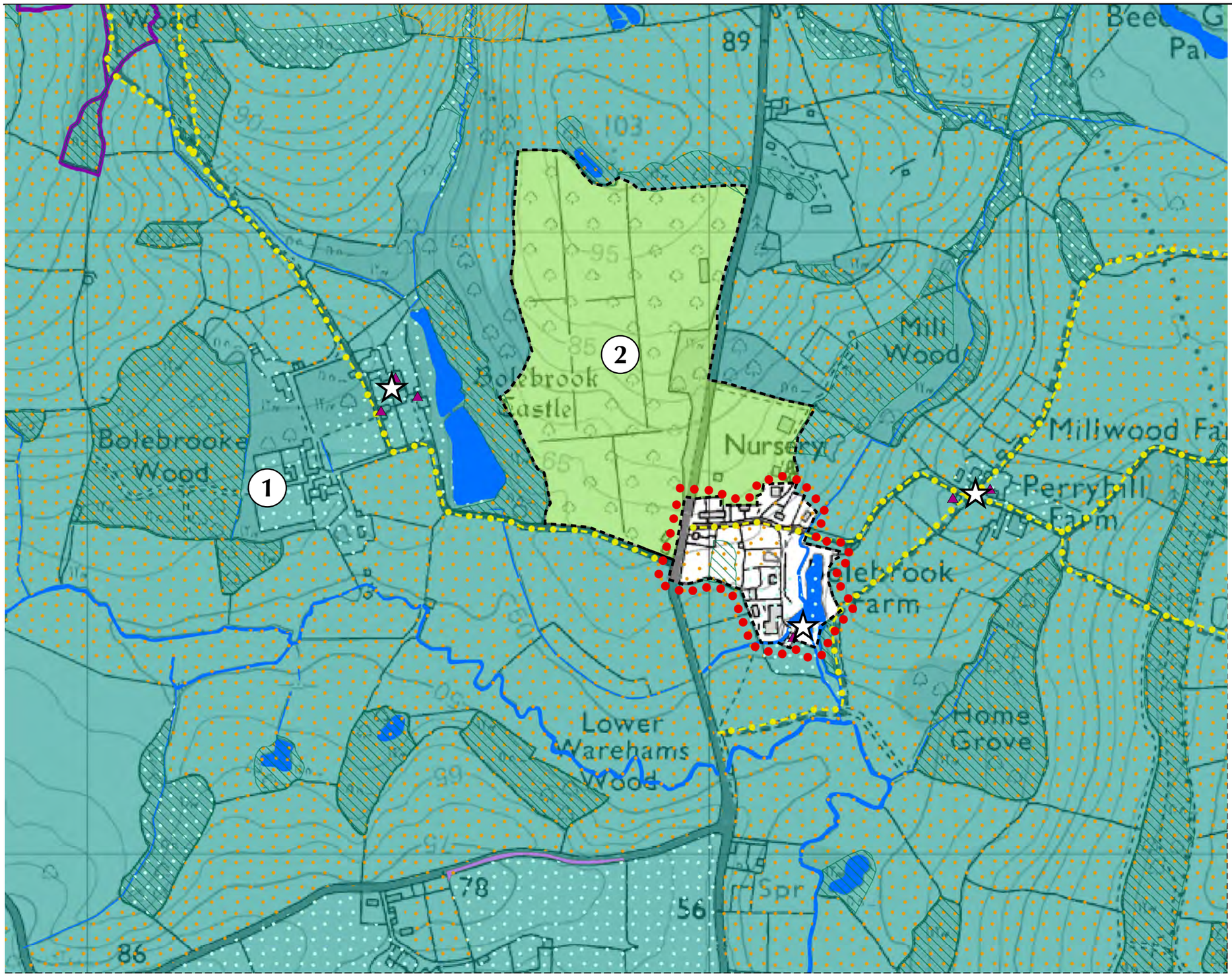
4.6.4 At the more local scale, the landscape falls gently southwards towards Bolebroke and rises again to the adjacent ridge which contains the settlement of Hartfield. The setting comprises a patchwork of stream corridors and Ancient Woodlands, which are set within an undulating landscape.

4.6.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Bolebroke are illustrated on **Figure 4.1** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting predominantly comprises small scale ancient fieldscapes, including aggregate assarts to the north, and cohesive assarts and irregular piecemeal enclosure to the south. Also present is an area of historic planned private enclosure to the south. The landscape is scattered with a number of small to medium-sized blocks of Ancient Woodland.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The Water Mill, Oast House and Castle provide historic and culturally important landmarks to this small hamlet
- **Landscape Detractors:** Polytunnels associated with the nursery to the north of the settlement are considered to be landscape detractors.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are considered to be sensitive as a result of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses and waterbodies:** There are many watercourses running through the Ancient Woodland and undulations in the landscape. These feed a larger stream to the south and the ponds by the Castle and Mill. The River Medway is situated to the southeast.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Open views to the settlement and the Castle from the southern ridge looking north.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A network of footpaths connects Perryhill Farm to Bolebroke Farm and Bolebroke Castle.

4.6.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.1** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A gently meandering river corridor is the key landscape feature of this area. The river corridor is lined with small to medium-scale ancient pastoral fields and linear tracts of Ancient Woodland.
2	• Relatively young orchards; • Polytunnels are a key landscape feature.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 125 250 Meters

N

Scale: 1:6,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 4.1
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF BOLEBROKE

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.6.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Indistinct
Continuity	Ancient	Recent
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Very Weak
Visibility		
Landform	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Low

Landscape Value

4.6.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	Very High	Moderate

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.6.9 At present there is no Conservation Area within Bolebroke.

4.6.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Limited

4.6.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has strong historic time depth as a result of the ancient patchwork of undulating, predominantly pastoral fields, which encompass the eastern, southern and western edges of the village. There is strong inter-visibility between buildings within the village and this Landscape Setting Area, particularly from the higher valley sides which line the river valley to the south of the village. The area has a strong landscape structure, including pockets of Ancient Woodland which enclose and frame distant views from the village to its setting.

4.6.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The modern orchard has little historic continuity and whilst it is a recognisable landscape feature, provides limited landscape structure to the edge of the village. Overall sense of place is considered to be very weak as a result of the pattern of modern orchards and polytunnels.

4.7 Landscape Setting of Boreham Street

Settlement Profile

4.7.1 Boreham Street is situated in the east of Wealden District, a couple of miles to the east of Herstmonceux and west of Ninfield. The village is situated on the southern boundary of the High Weald AONB and the northern landscape setting of the village is situated within the AONB.

4.7.2 Boreham Street is a small linear village which is situated on an east-west orientated ridge. The village comprises a series of detached and semi-detached houses which line the main A271 road corridor. There is a pub and a petrol station/garage at the western end of the village.

Landscape Character

4.7.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Pevensey Levels (25) - see **Section 4.3** for details

4.7.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement lies at the northern boundary of:

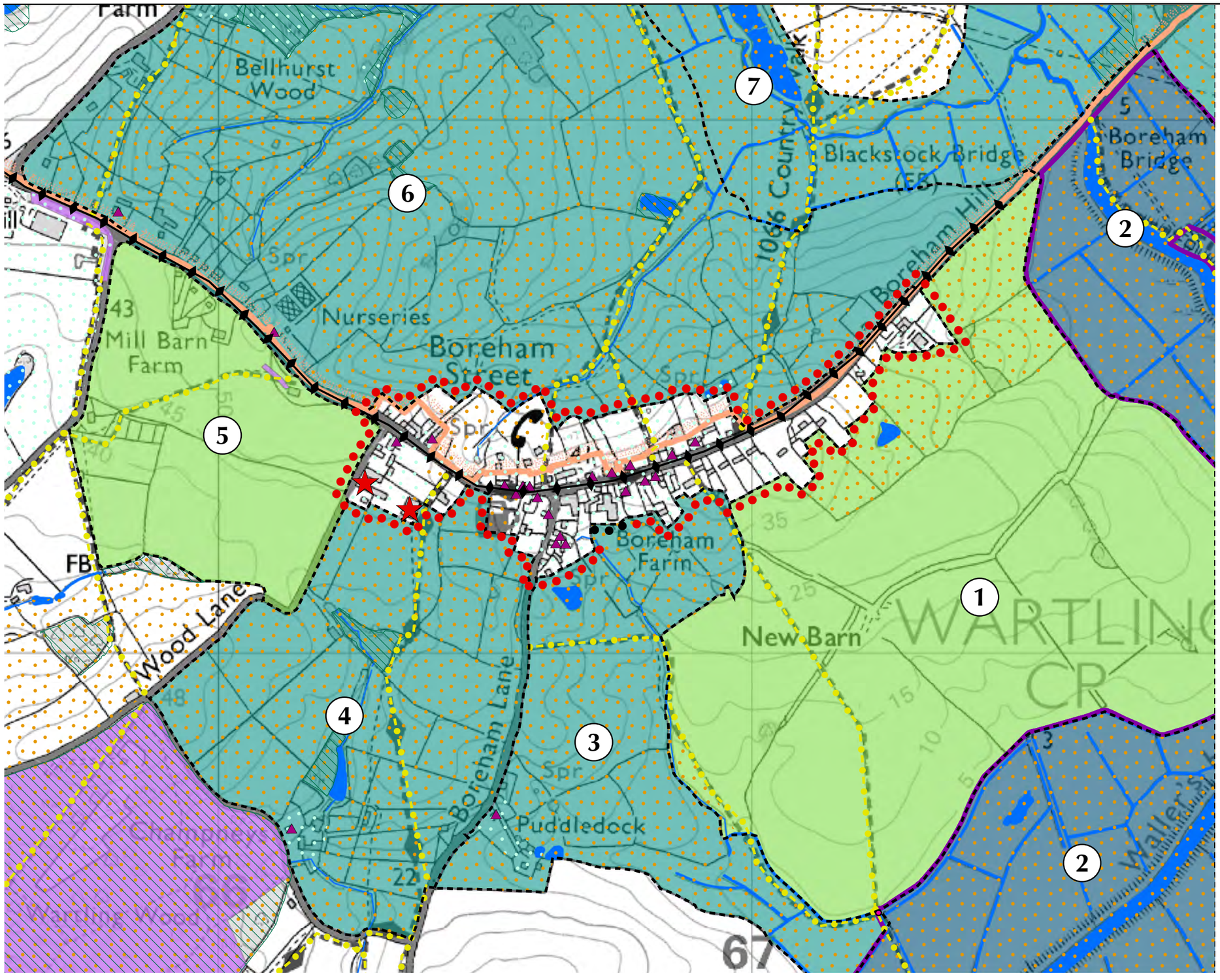
- B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling – see **Section 4.5** for details

4.7.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Boreham Street are illustrated on **Figure 4.2** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The fieldscape to the north and south of the settlement is comprised of small-scale, ancient field patterns, including areas of regular piecemeal enclosure and cohesive and aggregate assarts, with extensive tracts of brooks innings associated with the Waller's Haven river to the east and north. To the west, an area of post-medieval designed parkland links to the registered park and garden landscape of Herstmonceux Castle and Place (the boundary of which falls just outside the study area), adding to the historic interest of the settlement setting.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the village are predominantly sensitive as they are lined with trees or hedgerows.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** As the village is on a ridgeline, views to buildings within the village can be gained from some roads and footpaths within the landscape setting. However, these are generally screened by mature trees along road corridors or hedgerows at field boundaries.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** An interconnected network of footpaths connects the village to its landscape setting, including the 1066 Country Walk National Footpath, which joins the northern edge of the village with the High Weald AONB.

4.7.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.2** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Predominantly large-scale, modern fields throughout the Landscape Setting Area, lined with mature hedgerows at field boundaries which limit views.
2	• Waller's Haven drainage channel dominates the centre of the Landscape Setting Area, which is lined to the east and west by adjacent ancient, predominantly pastoral fields. • An absence of hedgerows at field boundaries, resulting in a predominantly open landscape.
3	• Relatively small-scale, ancient fields cover most of the Landscape Setting Area, with mature trees and hedgerows lining Boreham Lane in the west.
4	• An intricate pattern of small-scale ancient fields throughout the Landscape Setting Area, interspersed with a few farmsteads. • Small patches of Ancient Woodland in the south of the area provide a localised sense of enclosure.
5	• Large-scale, modern fields dominate the Landscape Setting Area. There is an absence of mature trees or hedgerows at field boundaries, resulting in a strong sense of openness throughout.
6	• A small to medium-scale patchwork of predominantly arable fields which are set upon sloping/undulating landform. • In the south of the Landscape Setting Area, in close proximity to the settlement edge, small patches of woodland provide a sense of enclosure.
7	• A gently meandering river corridor runs east-west through the centre of the Landscape Setting Area, surrounded by an adjacent patchwork of small to medium-scale ancient fields which are lined with hedgerows; • Pylons are visible detractors within the landscape.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
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0 150 300 Meters

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FIGURE 4.2
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF BOREHAM STREET

Landscape Sensitivity

4.7.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strength of Place							
Distinctiveness	Indistinct	Unique/ Rare	Distinct	Distinct	Indistinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Recent	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Recent	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very weak	Very Strong	Strong	Strong	Very Weak	Strong	Strong
Visibility							
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Intermittent	Intermittent	Open	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High
Landscape Sensitivity							
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	Very High	High	High	Low	High	High

Landscape Value

4.7.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Landscape Value	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.7.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	Very High	High	High	Low	High	High
Landscape Value	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	High
Landscape Capacity	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Low

4.7.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value. Other than mature hedgerows at field boundaries, there is an absence of valuable landscape features within this area, resulting in Low Landscape Value. Landscape Sensitivity is considered to be Low as a result of the weak historic continuity, and very weak strength of place, associated with the large-scale, modern fields.

4.7.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of the Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This Landscape Setting Area forms part of the Pevensey Levels which are considered to have Moderate Landscape Value, resulting from their nature conservation value and rarity as areas of low-lying, open landscapes. Overall the area is considered to have high visibility as a result of the strong sense of openness and absence of hedgerows at field boundaries. This results in open views and a very strong overall strength of place, contributing to Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.7.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The patchwork of small-scale, ancient fields contribute to Moderate Landscape Value; and the strong landscape structure of mature trees and hedgerows, particularly in the west, lining Boreham Lane results in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.7.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The small patches of Ancient Woodland are valuable landscape features, contributing to Moderate Landscape Value within the area; and the intricate pattern of small-scale ancient fields are considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity. Visibility is considered to be moderate as a result of the small patches of Ancient Woodland in the south of the area which provide a localised sense of enclosure and limit long distance views.

4.7.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value. Visibility is considered to be high as a result of the overall strong sense of openness, which facilitates open views across the landscape. The absence of mature trees or hedgerows and the lack of historic continuity (resulting from the presence of large-scale modern fields) results in Low Landscape Sensitivity.

4.7.15 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Value. The area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. It has a strong strength of place, resulting from the ancient, small to medium-scale patchwork of predominantly arable fields which are set upon sloping/undulating landform.

4.7.16 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value. The area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. Landscape Sensitivity is considered to be high as a result of the strong pattern of small to medium-scale ancient fields and the gently meandering river corridor which contributes to a strong strength of place.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.7.17 At present there is no Conservation Area within Boreham Street.

4.7.18 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Limited	Limited	Major	Major	Moderate	Major	Limited

4.7.19 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement as a result of limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement. The large-scale, modern fields have little historic continuity and provide a weak setting to the village.

4.7.20 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement as a result of limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement. This area does not abut the settlement edge and therefore has limited visual and no physical connection with the village.

4.7.21 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Boreham Street as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core and strong strength of place. It provides an immediate physical setting to the historic core of the village. Fields within the village can be seen from the curtilages of historic properties (Listed Buildings) within the village.

4.7.22 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Boreham Street as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core and strong strength of place. It provides an immediate physical setting to the historic core of the village. There is a strong landscape pattern of small-scale ancient fields, interspersed with pockets of Ancient Woodland which provide visual containment to views from the village.

4.7.23 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of some inter-visibility with the historic buildings within the historic core of the village. Despite this, there is weak historic continuity as a result of the large-scale modern fields, and landscape structure is weak as a result of the absence of mature trees and hedgerows.

4.7.24 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Boreham Street as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core and strong strength of place. It provides an immediate physical setting to the historic core of the village. As the village is situated on a ridge, several of

the historic (Listed) buildings within the village have strong inter-visibility with the small to medium scale ancient fields within this area.

4.7.25 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement. This Landscape Setting Area does not abut the edge of the village and therefore has little visual and no physical relationship with it.

4.8 Landscape Setting of Buxted

Settlement Profile

4.8.1 Buxted is situated on the A272 approximately two miles to the northeast of Uckfield in the Low Weald. The settlement is situated in close proximity to the High Weald AONB, with its southern border just to the north and east of the settlement.

4.8.2 Buxted is one of the larger villages in Wealden District. Situated on a plateau, it affords views northwards and eastwards across the AONB. The A272 runs east to west through the village, which is also connected to smaller villages and hamlets in the vicinity by a network of minor rural roads. The village is predominantly residential with a few shops and services and a train station on the London to Uckfield line.

Landscape Character

4.8.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Central High Weald (4) - see **Section 4.3** for details

4.8.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

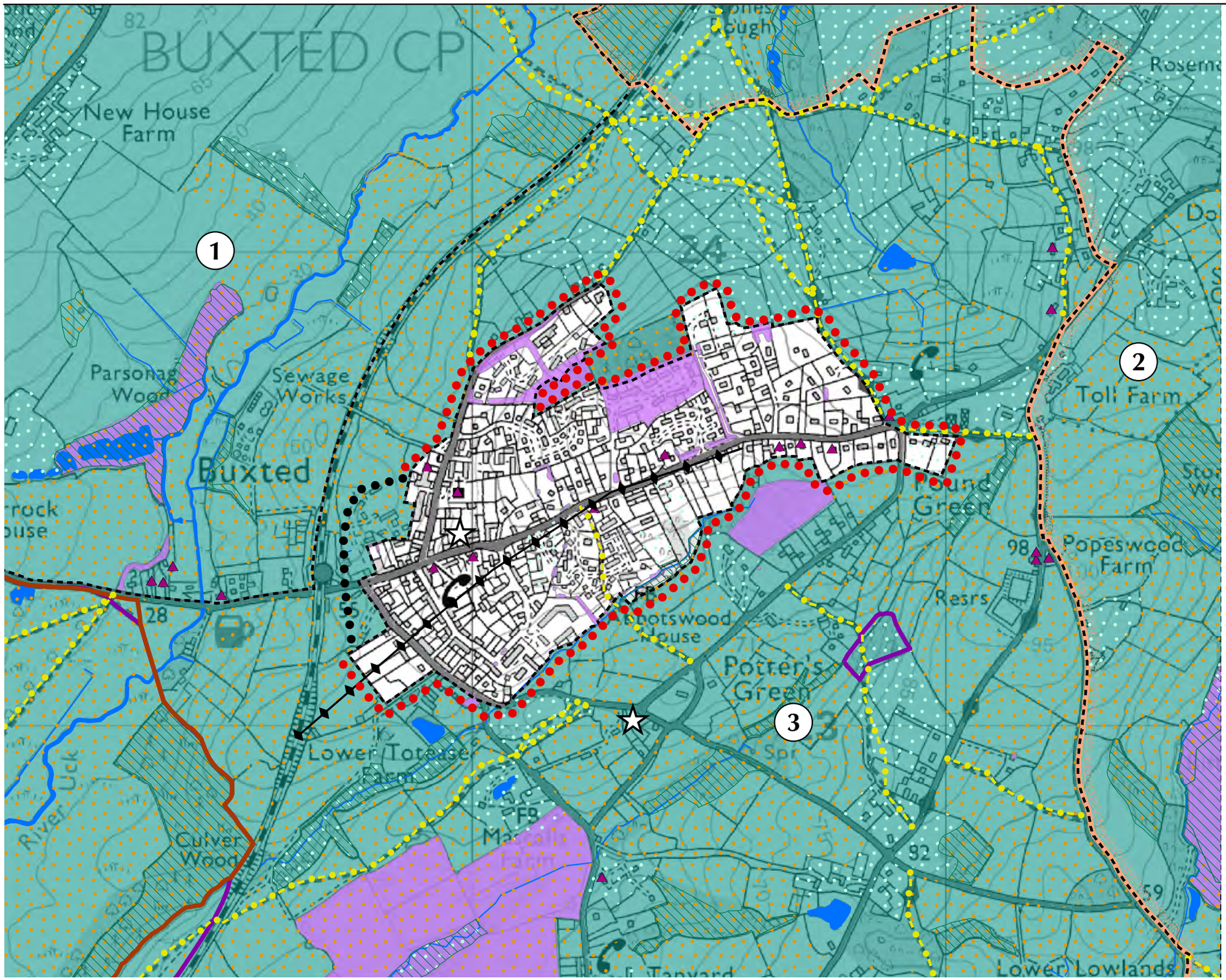
- A3 : Buxted – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.8.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Buxted are illustrated on **Figure 4.3** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A predominantly ancient landscape comprising a patchwork of small scale fields surrounds the settlement, including scattered pockets of Ancient Woodland. To the east and south, the field pattern is dominated by cohesive and aggregate assarts, whilst to the west, along what is now the railway line, remnants of regular piecemeal enclosure can be identified. Historic parkland landscape, associated with Buxted Park to the southwest of the settlement further contributes to the historic landscape within the setting of the village.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** There are a number of Listed Buildings in the surrounding landscape including a traditional Oast House, situated near Mascalls Farm to the south. These are considered to be Culturally Important Landmarks.
- **Urban Edges:** Prominent urban edges have been identified to the northeast and southeast of the station, however, the remainder of the settlement has very sensitive edges with mature trees, gardens and woodland.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The most significant views can be gained from the highest ridge in the area, which runs north to south to the east of Buxted. These views are often obscured by mature trees and woods and deep lanes.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The valley of the River Uck flows almost parallel with the train line, to the northwest of the settlement. The banks of the river are lined with willows and the valley has historical associations as it was used to power the iron industry in this area.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is well connected to the surrounding countryside by a number of footpaths, particularly to the north of the village.

4.8.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.3** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Uck River valley which is lined with willows and adjacent pockets of Ancient Woodland, which provide an intermittent sense of enclosure; • A small-scale patchwork of ancient, predominantly pastoral fields along the valley slopes.
2	• Small to medium-scale ancient fields which are dotted with farmsteads, resulting in a predominantly rural character; • A mature network of hedgerows lines field boundaries, which often contain mature hedgerow trees; • Large areas of Ancient Woodland provide a strong localised sense of enclosure. • A network of rural, deep, sunken lanes.
3	• Large areas of Ancient Woodland provide a sense of enclosure in the south of the Landscape Setting Area, to the south of Marshall's Farm; • The landscape is dotted with narrow meandering stream corridors and farmsteads; • Predominantly undulating landform; • A network of rural, deep, sunken lanes. • A network of mature hedgerows contributes to landscape pattern.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.3
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF BUXTED

Landscape Sensitivity

4.8.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.8.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	Moderate	High	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.8.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High
Landscape Value	Moderate	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Low	Low

4.8.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have a Moderate Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The landscape is gradually sloping and has a generally open feel, comprising large fields which tend to be lined with mature native trees and established hedgerows which contribute to a strong landscape pattern and condition. The river Uck with its Willow lined banks also contributes to a strong strength of place. There is landscape pattern of sporadic, intermittent thick clumps of trees and hedgerows. The above elements contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity. Patches of Ancient Woodland further contribute to an intermittent sense of enclosure and are also valuable landscape features, resulting in Moderate Landscape Value.

4.8.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. It is on higher ground than Landscape Setting Area 1 and glimpsed views across the Landscape Setting Area can be obtained through the mature tall hedgerows and deep, sunken lanes. The undulating fields have a strongly rural character. Smaller agricultural fields are enclosed by large areas of Ancient Woodland and some vernacular farmstead buildings, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.8.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have a Low Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. The landscape is crossed by a network of sunken lanes which result in a strong landscape pattern and there is a strong sense of tranquillity throughout, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity. Many mature trees line the roads, providing an intermittent sense of enclosure and limiting long distance views.

4.9 Landscape Setting of Cade Street

Settlement Profile

4.9.1 Cade Street is situated approximately one mile to the east of Heathfield on the B2096 road corridor. It is situated within the High Weald AONB. The settlement is located on a higher ridge of land that runs from Heathfield to Battle.

4.9.2 Cade Street is a small, predominantly residential linear settlement. Road side monuments to Jack Cade provide recognisable sense of place. There are few services within the village as it is so close to Heathfield, which provides a range of local shops and services. Due to the settlement's position on the ridge, long distance, panoramic views can be gained from parts of the village.

Landscape Character

4.9.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Dudwell Valley (8) - see **Section 4.3** for details

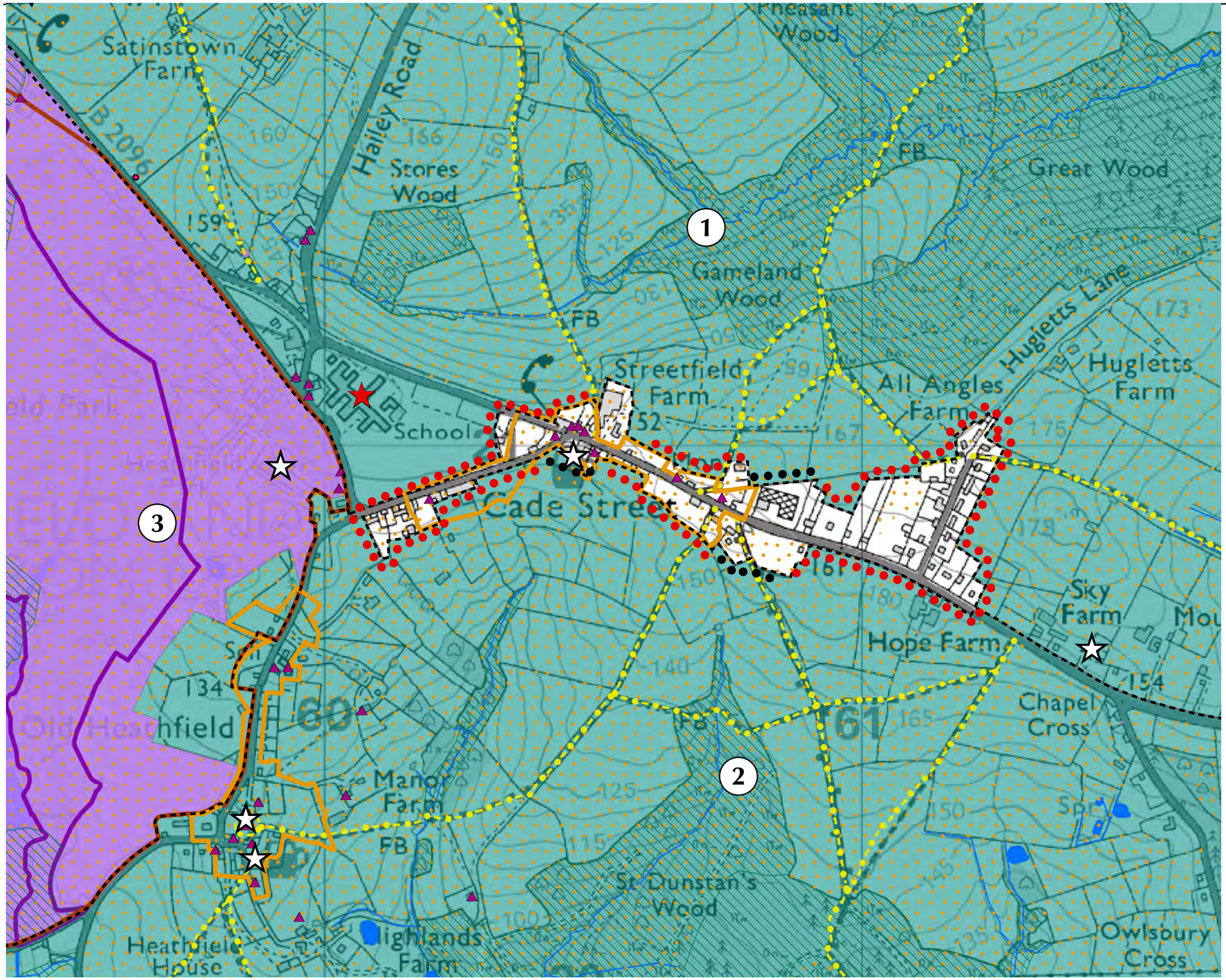
4.9.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement is situated on ridge, facilitating long views over an undulating landscape of small, enclosed fields, which are lined with a network of mature trees and hedgerows.

4.9.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Cade Street are illustrated on **Figure 4.4** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting is predominantly comprised of a mosaic of historic and ancient fieldscapes. These include the ancient fieldscapes of regular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts, and extensive tracts of historic planned private enclosure. To the west, the Grade II listed 17th Century landscape park, Heathfield Park, adds historic interest. Tracts of Ancient Woodland are present to both the north and south of the settlement.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The Half Moon Inn is 14th century and is one of the prominent buildings in the historic core of the settlement with views across to the South Downs;
- **Urban Edges:** There are several prominent edges around the village, including The Half Moon Inn car park, and some large farm buildings on both sides of the B2095 road corridor, further to the east.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Cade Street's elevated position in the High Weald landscape allows for dramatic, often panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. Approaching the village from the west, there are some long distance views northwards across the valley of the River Dudwell towards the ridge-top settlement of Broad Oak. The landscape is gently rolling agricultural land, becoming more densely wooded to the east.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The watercourses are small-scale, dotted within the landscape, including ponds in Heathfield Park.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** Cade Street is very well connected to the countryside via a network of footpaths that link it to the surrounding villages

4.9.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.4** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A mature landscape of hedgerows and hedgerow trees; • Panoramic views across the landscape; • Large swathes of mature, Ancient Woodland provide a localised sense of enclosure to the north of the settlement; • Crossed by a network of public footpaths.
2	• Long distance, panoramic views to distant ridgelines across a landscape which is crossed by mature hedgerows and trees and contains isolated farmsteads; • Narrow, north-south stream corridors which are lined with strips of Ancient Woodland; • Large area of Ancient Woodland (St. Dunstans) in the south of the area
3	• Dominated by large areas of Ancient Woodland and mature trees within the mature ancient landscape of Heathfield Park.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.4
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CADE STREET

Landscape Sensitivity

4.9.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Very Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	High	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.9.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High	High	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.9.9 Cade Street has an existing Conservation Area.

4.9.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Major

4.9.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area abuts the edge of the Conservation Area and there is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. This is intensified as a result of the sloping nature of the landform. The eastern half of the Landscape Setting Area has little or no inter-visibility with the historic core. There are long-distance, panoramic and framed views from the town to its landscape setting (within the High Weald AONB).

4.9.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area abuts the edge of the Conservation Area and there is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. This is intensified as a result of the sloping nature of the landform. The eastern half of the Landscape Setting Area has little or no inter-visibility with the historic core. There are long-distance, panoramic and framed views from the town to its landscape setting (within the High Weald AONB).

4.9.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is strong historic continuity and inter-visibility between Heathfield Park and the historic core of the village. There are long-distance, panoramic and framed views from the town to its landscape setting (within the High Weald AONB).

4.10 Landscape Setting of Cousley Wood

Settlement Profile

4.10.1 Cousley Wood is situated approximately two miles to the southwest of Wadhurst, within the heart of the High Weald AONB. The settlement is situated on a ridge of higher land.

4.10.2 Cousley Wood is essentially a linear Hamlet which has developed at a junction on the Wadhurst to Lamberhurst Road, B2100. The houses are set well apart with large gardens and hidden by hedges. Many of the houses are Clay Tile and timber weather board, with a 17th century pub, The Old Vine at the heart of the village. There are a group of mature yew trees at the east end of the village. The Sussex Border path runs through the historic core. Trees frame views and punctuate and enclose the landscape. There are two areas of open land which contribute to the rural character of the linear settlement, to the east of the junction with Windmill Lane.

Landscape Character

4.10.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Bewl Water Area (7) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Central High Weald (4) - see **Section 4.3** for details

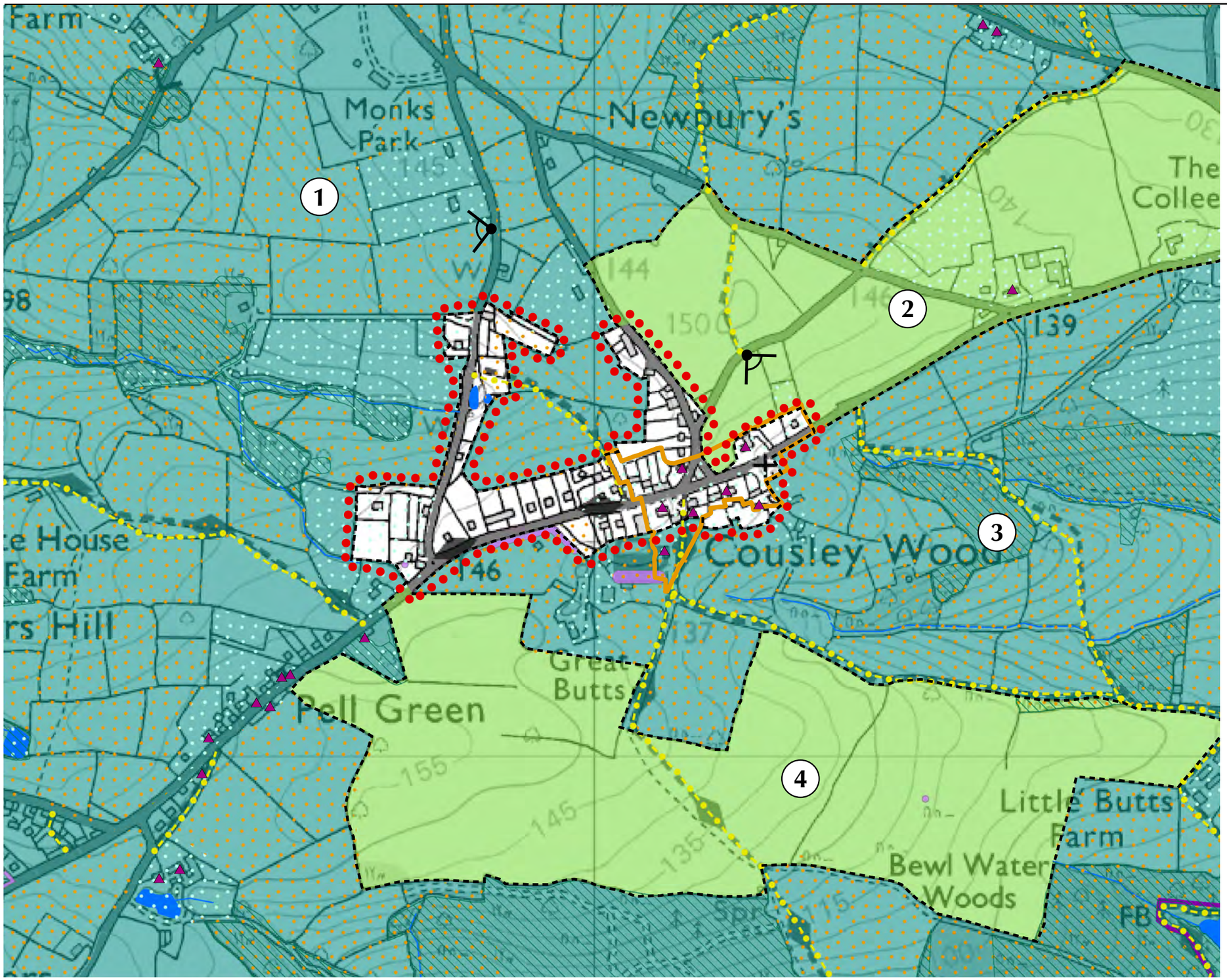
4.10.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement lies on a ridge with views of the High Weald and the reservoir of Bewl Water, which is nearby. Some of the fields are small and enclosed with thick mature tree hedging and woodland patches surrounding them. Other areas, especially to the south and north east, encompass large-scale fields.

4.10.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Cousley Wood are illustrated on **Figure 4.5** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting is a mosaic of ancient, historic, and more modern fieldscapes. These include regular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts, and a small area of irregular piecemeal enclosure immediately to the south of the settlement. Small to medium-sized blocks of Ancient Woodland are scattered across the landscape. Landmarks include Bewl Water Reservoir to the south east and historical buildings in the village.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of Cousley Wood are all considered to be sensitive as the settlement is surrounded by high hedges and mature tree cover.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies**: There are several small streams that feed Bewl Water to the south east.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines**: There are long views through breaks in the mature hedges towards the ridges north of Wadhurst that can be seen looking east from Cousley Wood and Monks Park. Views from the footpaths south of the settlement, look north on to mature trees, undulating hills and hay meadows. Looking south from Windmill Lane, in the north of the village, there are long views across open large agricultural fields, framed by mature trees, towards Bewl Water in the distance.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is well connected to the countryside around it by a network of footpaths including the Sussex Border Path.

4.10.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.5** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Regular shaped, small to medium sized ancient fields which are lined with mature hedgerows; • A narrow stream corridor which is lined with pockets of Ancient Woodland; • Narrow, tree-lined road corridors.
2	• Large-scale modern pastoral fields which are crossed by a network of minor rural road corridors; • Low, trimmed hedgerows and post and wire fences delineate field boundaries.
3	• Two narrow stream corridors cross the landscape, which feed Bewl Water in the east; • Views to Bewl Water from the eastern part of the area. • Large patches of Ancient Woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.
4	• Large-scale, predominantly arable fields which are lined with a network of mature hedgerows.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.5
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF COUSLEY WOOD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.10.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Recent	Ancient	Recent
Strength of Place	Strong	Weak	Strong	Weak
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Low	High	Low

Landscape Value

4.10.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	High	Low	High	Low

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.10.9 Cousley Wood has an existing Conservation Area.

4.10.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Limited	Major	Limited

4.10.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has high visibility due to its position on the ridge and has moderate overall strength of place as a result of the pattern of fields, streams and small woodlands. There is strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement within the eastern part of the area.

4.10.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area is considered to have a weak strength of place overall. The landscape is distinct but is of recent historic continuity, resulting from the pattern of large-scale modern pastoral fields. From the south-western edge of the area, glimpsed views to the historic core of the settlement can be gained.

4.10.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The large patches of Ancient Woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure, framing views from the village. This area has high visibility due to its position on the ridge and has moderate overall strength of place as a result of the pattern of fields, streams and small woodlands. There is inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement within the western part of the area.

4.10.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is little historic continuity within this landscape and no views to the historic core of the village, as the Landscape Setting Area does not abut the edge of the village.

4.11 Landscape Setting of Cowbeech

Settlement Profile

4.11.1 Cowbeech is situated on the boundary of the High Weald AONB, four miles to the northeast of Hailsham and two miles to the northwest of Herstmonceux

4.11.2 Cowbeech is a small linear village. The main road that runs through it leads to Rushlake Green. Residential in character, the houses are of mixed ages and either built directly onto the edge of the road or as larger properties set back from the road. The historic core lies to the north of the village where there is a fork in the road. This is also the location of the Merrie Harriers (16th century Inn), which provides recognisable sense of place.

Landscape Character

4.11.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.11.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

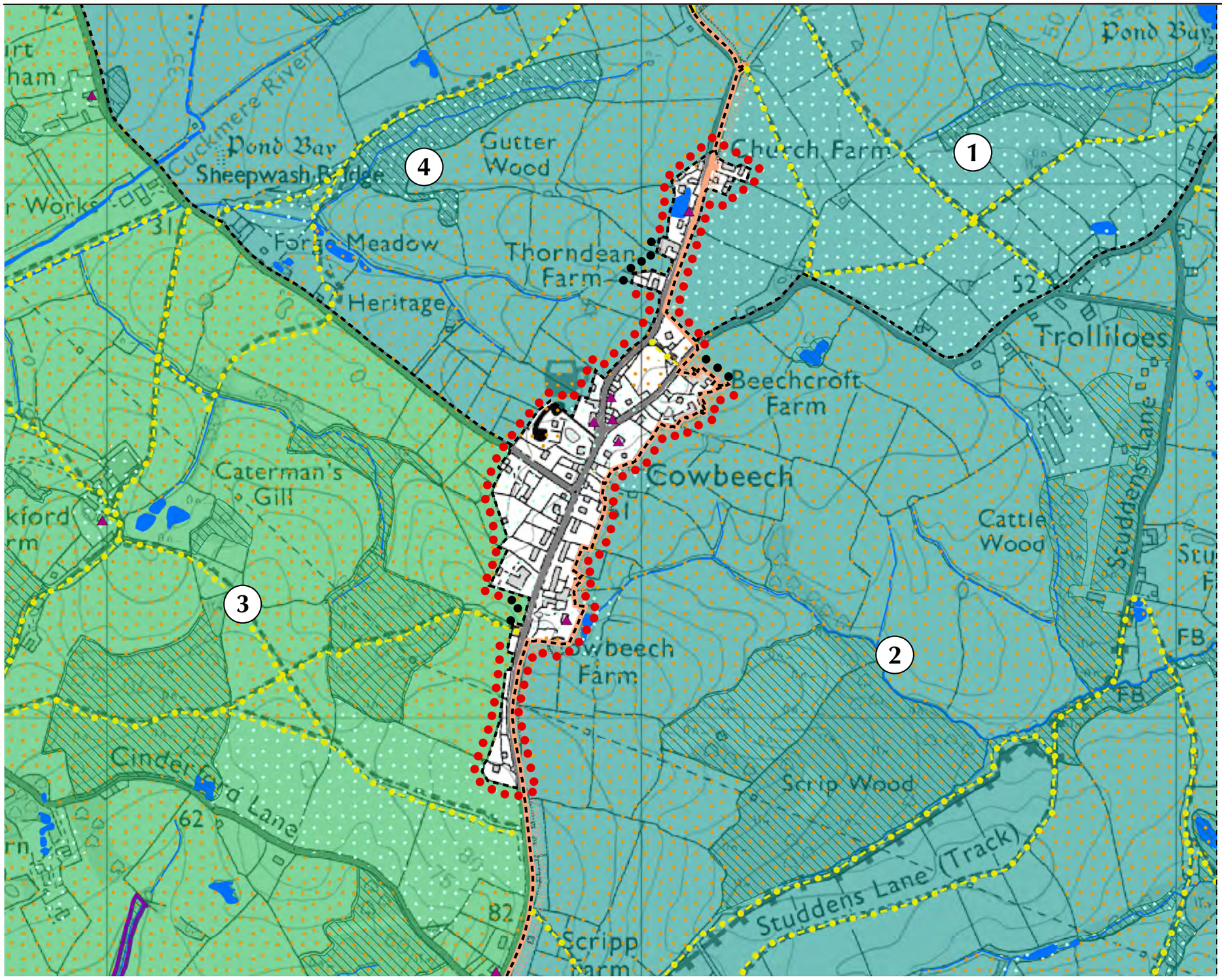
- B1: Cowbeech Hill – see **Section 4.5** for details

4.11.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Cowbeech are illustrated on **Figure 4.6** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement is bounded by an array of ancient fieldscapes, including cohesive and aggregate assarts, and regular piecemeal enclosure. To the north east is an extensive area of planned private enclosure, a field type also present to the south west. A small, isolated area of wood pasture is present to the north west of the settlement near the river. The settlement setting is scattered with a number of blocks of Ancient Woodland of varying size. The numerous pockets of Ancient Woodland on this undulating landscape are visually important in the views, giving the impression of continuous woodland.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The Merrie Harriers is a landmark in the village
- **Landscape Detractors:** A row of pylons run from the northwest to the south east below the village. There is a large garage/tractor showroom on the south tip of the village. In addition, a couple of areas just to the north have large recent farm buildings. All of which are detractors.
- **Urban Edges:** Mostly sensitive urban edges with the exception of the areas described as Landscape Detractors above.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are a few minor streams and the River Cuckmere flows to the north east.
- **Significant Views:** There are views all around, framed by mature trees and are generally long wooded views.
- **Foothpaths/Bridleways:** There are several footpaths leading from the village which link up with a network of other footpaths.

4.11.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.6** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Medium-scale historic fields which are lined with mature hedgerows. • Narrow stream corridors to the east of Church Farm and several associated small ponds.
2	• Medium to large scale ancient fields which are interspersed with isolated farmsteads and lined with a network of mature hedgerows. • Large areas of Ancient Woodland and strips of woodland along stream corridors provide an intermittent sense of enclosure. • Several narrow stream corridors are key landscape features.
3	• An interlocking patchwork of medium scale pastoral fields and large Ancient Woodlands which are crossed by a network of footpaths. • Woodland patches provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.
4	• The Cuckmere river corridor, to the northwest of the settlement, encompasses a patchwork of small to medium-scale ancient fields and linear Ancient Woodlands; • Numerous small ponds feed the river corridor and are a key landscape feature.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.6
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF COWBEECH

Landscape Sensitivity

4.11.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Areas			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare	Distinct	Unique/Rare
Continuity	Historic	Ancient	Historic	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Very Strong	Moderate	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

4.11.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Landscape Value	High	High	High	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.11.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Cowbeech.

4.11.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Moderate	Major

4.11.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area is within the High Weald AONB, and as such, is a historic landscape with high Landscape Value as a result of the mature treed, gently undulating landscape. There are few landscape detractors and strength of place is strong overall.

4.11.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area is also in the High Weald AONB and has a similar character to Landscape Setting Area 1, but has stronger historic continuity and is an ancient landscape, with a small scale landscape pattern. As a result, this area is considered to have a very strong strength of place. Pylons (landscape detractors) run across the southerly section of this area but mainly through the wood and fruit farm which is enclosed by mature trees and has low visibility.

4.11.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Some of the large-scale farm buildings and pylons are visual detractors, however, the long distance wooded views within this ancient landscape and Ancient Woodland, result in moderate strength of place overall.

4.11.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the strong landscape pattern within this ancient landscape of Ancient Woodlands and stream corridors. It is considered to have a very strong strength of place overall. There is also strong inter-visibility between this area and buildings within the village.

4.12 Landscape Setting of Cross-in-hand

Settlement Profile

4.12.1 Cross In Hand is a situated a mile to the northwest of Heathfield within the High Weald AONB. The settlement has grown along the main road corridors of the B2102 Uckfield Road and A267.

4.12.2 It is a small, linear mainly residential settlement with a few local amenities. The settlement has an elevated position on a principal ridge of the High Weald AONB. The middle of Cross In Hand is compact and well developed but the ribbons of roads that extend far out are relatively more scattered with modern housing.

Landscape Character

4.12.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Upper Rother Valley (6) - see **Section 4.3** for details

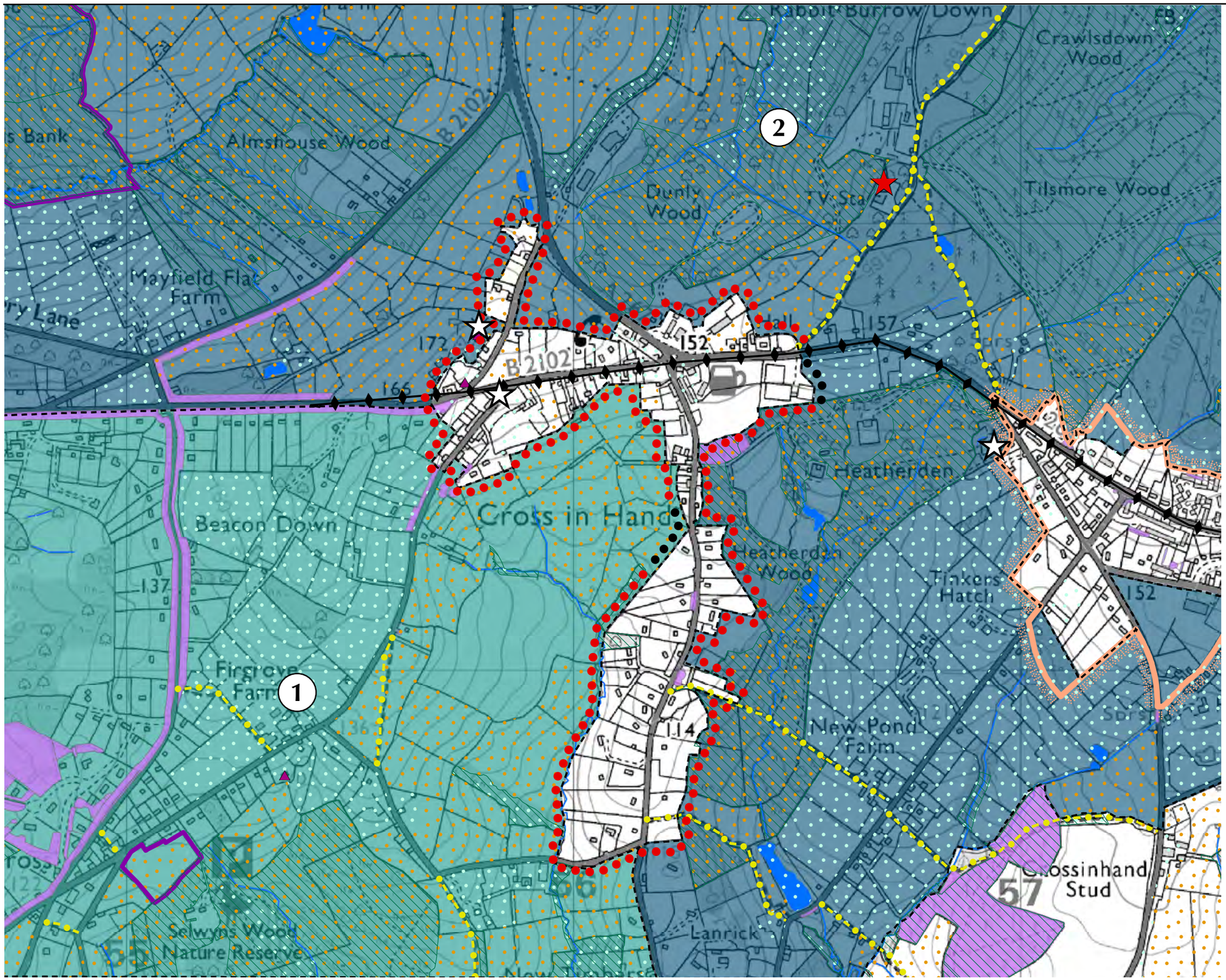
4.12.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement comprises a patchwork of undulating fields, interspersed with moderate to large-scale woodlands. The settlement is situated on an east-west orientated ridge, which facilitates glimpsed views from the settlement to its landscape setting, which is within the High Weald AONB.

4.12.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Cross in Hand are illustrated on **Figure 4.7** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Extensive areas of Ancient Woodland surround the settlement, interspersed with pockets of small scale fields, including ancient piecemeal enclosure and cohesive assarts, and historic fields including parliamentary enclosure and planned private enclosure. A windmill adds to the historic dimension of the settlement, situated on its northwest fringe. It was the last working mill in Sussex until 1969.
- **Landscape Detractors:** To the north of the village, a TV and phone mast is a prominent landscape detractor.
- **Urban Edges:** The urban edges of the settlement are considered to be predominantly sensitive, but there are small sections of prominent, exposed urban edges in the northeast and west of the village.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Several ponds are key landscape features within the setting. These have formed near small streams that run mainly through areas of Ancient Woodland.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The settlement runs along a high ridge but views from the settlement to its adjacent landscape setting are generally obscured by buildings. Other minor ridges within the setting of the village (for example in close proximity to Firgrove Farm), facilitate wide, panoramic views towards The South Downs.
- **Foothpaths/Bridleways:** Several footpaths connect the north-eastern and south-eastern edges of the village with its landscape setting, and these tend to be associated with area of Ancient Woodland.

4.12.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.7** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large areas of Ancient Woodland in close proximity to the settlement edge provide a strong sense of enclosure. • Regular-shaped small-scale historic field pattern, encompassing predominantly pastoral fields; • Open, panoramic views northwards across the landscape, from higher locations on the ridge.
2	• Gently undulating landform which supports a patchwork of small-scale pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows; • Tree-lined, narrow rural lanes; • Linear housing/settlement pattern, outside the main the village.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.7
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CROSS-IN-HAND

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.12.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Unique/rare
Continuity	Historic	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Very Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Dominant	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	High	High
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Very High

Landscape Value

4.12.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	Moderate	High

Landscape Capacity

4.12.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Very High
Landscape Value	Moderate	High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Low

4.12.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to be of Moderate Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The large areas of Ancient Woodland are valuable landscape features, providing a strong sense of enclosure and limiting views across the landscape. This area is considered to have a relatively unique sense of place, comprising rolling hills and a high ridge which facilitates wide ranging panoramic views. This, and the relatively strong sense of remoteness and tranquility contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.12.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have a Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB and contains large patches of Ancient Woodland which are crossed by sunken tree lined lanes contributing to a landscape of high value. In places there is a strong sense of enclosure as a result of overhanging trees and large blocks of woodlands. In some areas the trees are more intermittent, facilitating views to secluded fields with mature hedgerows. These both contribute to the character and the strength of place, resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.13 Landscape Setting of Crowborough

Settlement Profile

4.13.1 Crowborough is situated six miles to the south of Tunbridge Wells and approximately nine miles to the northwest of Uckfield, in the north of Wealden District. The town occupies a prominent position on the northern forest ridge of the High Weald, approximately six miles to the east of the Ashdown Forest.

4.13.2 Crowborough is a large nucleated town which is dissected by the A26 main road corridor. The western edge of the town is served by a mainline railway which connects the town of Uckfield in the south, with the London mainline to the northeast. The majority of business activity within the town is contained on the Millbrook, Farningham Road and Lexden Lodge Business Areas and in the Park Road Area of the town centre, which also houses a variety of offices and other businesses. Elsewhere in the town, there are smaller areas of industrial and commercial activity at Park Road, Connors Yard and on the former railway goods yard off Western Road.

4.13.3 The town centre provides the commercial core of the settlement with a variety of shops and offices which have developed in linear form from London Road, north of The Cross, along the High Street, Broadway and Croft Road to the south, and in an east-west direction either side of The Cross.

4.13.4 Crowborough also contains a large amount of residential development ranging from Victorian terraces, through post-war to modern housing estates. These housing areas or estates are set out along a network of roads and closes leading east-west off the main A26 road corridor. Crowborough has experienced significant growth over the last decade with the highest rate of new housing development among the Wealden Towns. On the western side of the town, Crowborough Warren has a distinctive character of detached properties set within extensive gardens, where tree cover, hedgerows and landscaping are the dominant visual elements that result in an arcadian quality. There are several small pockets of woodland and open space scattered within the urban fabric, in addition to Wolfe Recreation Ground to the east of the town, providing one of the largest areas.

Landscape Character

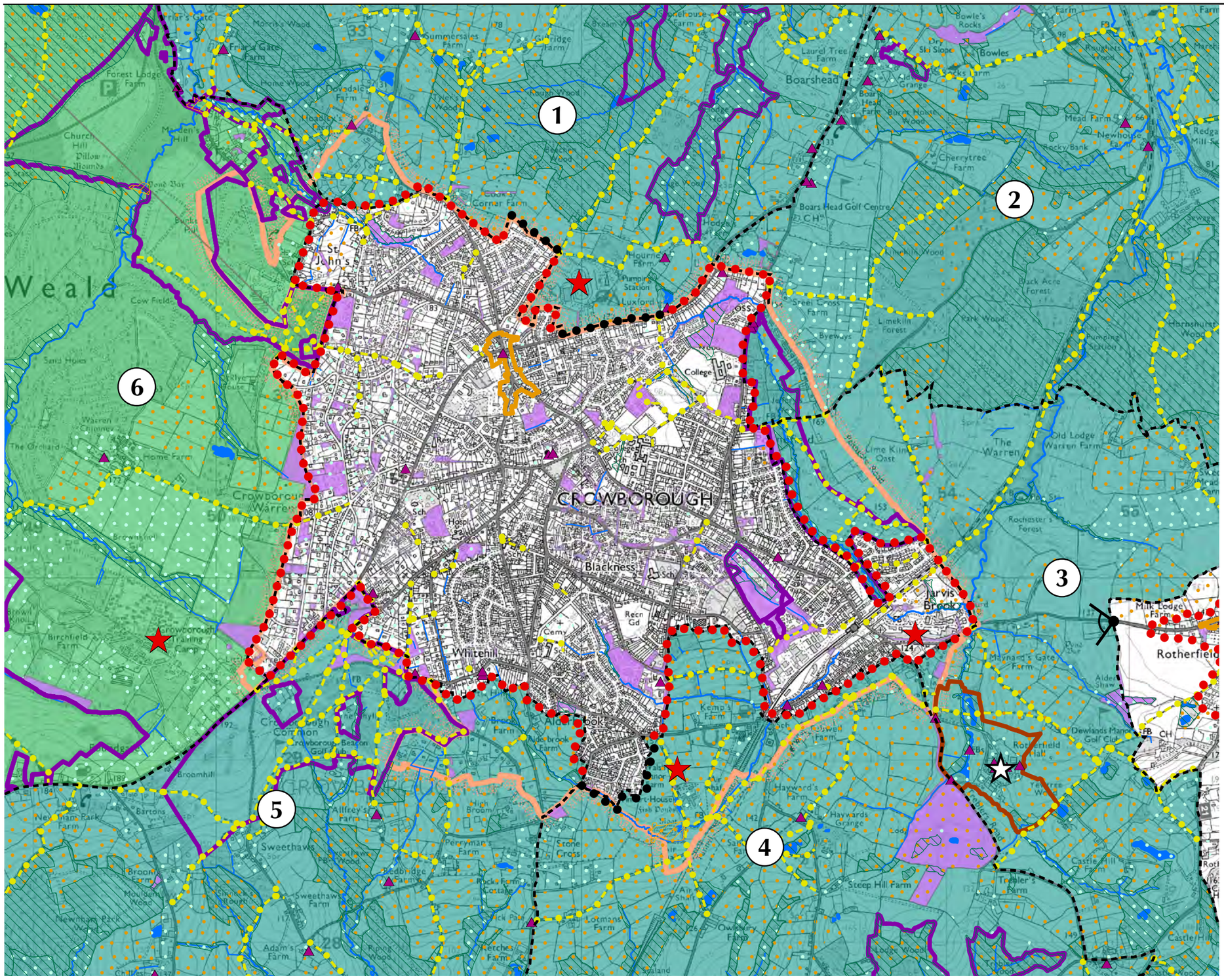
4.13.5 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Central High Weald (4) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Ashdown Forest (2) - see **Section 4.3** for details

4.13.6 At the more local scale, as a result of its elevated position, Crowborough affords extensive views over its undulating landscape setting of woodland, farmland, ridges and ghylls within the High Weald AONB, which surrounds the settlement and abuts the settlement boundary in places. Distant southerly views to the South Downs also contribute to recognisable sense of place. There is extensive woodland coverage within the landscape setting of the town, particularly to the north, northeast, west and southwest.

4.13.7 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Crowborough are illustrated on **Figure 4.8** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A patchwork of small-scale historic fields surrounds the settlement, often abutting the settlement edge. These are interspersed with large areas of Ancient Woodland, particularly to the north and west of the town. To both the north and south of the town, the historic field pattern between woodlands is predominantly comprised of cohesive and aggregate assarts, and regular piecemeal enclosure.
- Large areas of woodland dominate the northern, western and eastern landscape setting of the town, providing a strong sense of enclosure.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Rotherfield Hall, a culturally important historic landmark is situated to the southeast of the Jarvis Brook area of Crowborough.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Several landscape detractors, including buildings at Crowborough Training Camp to the south of Crowborough Warren; buildings associated with the campsite and pumping station at the northern edge of the settlement, close to Luxford Farm; and industrial and commercial buildings at Jarvis Brook industrial estate to the southeast of the town.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is predominantly lined by treed, sensitive soft edges and woodland, with a few pockets of exposed or prominent urban edges along the A26 corridor in the north and at the southern edge of Alderbrook housing area in the south of the town.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Several small watercourses and ponds permeate the landscape setting of the town.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There is a significant view of Crowborough in its elevated position, set within its landscape setting, looking westwards from the Rotherfield road.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A network of footpaths and bridleways connects Crowborough to its landscape setting. Crowborough is situated in an elevated position and there are therefore numerous key ridgelines within the setting of the settlement.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.8
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CROWBOROUGH

4.13.8 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.8** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large areas of Ancient Woodland, interspersed with small-scale, predominantly pastoral fields; • The caravan park at Luxford Farm is considered to be a landscape detractor, in close proximity to the settlement edge; • Strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows and trees.
2	• Dense Ancient Woodlands dominate the eastern part of the area, providing a strong sense of enclosure; • Numerous stream corridors are a key feature; • Open views to the settlement edge in the west.
3	• Strong sense of openness from parts of this area, particularly looking west along Rotherfield road, where a key view of Crowborough settlement edge can be gained; • A gently undulating landscape with a strong landscape structure.
4	• Small-scale landscape pattern of ancient fields, lined with mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees; • Narrow, tree-lined road corridors; • An interconnected network of footpaths, connecting Crowborough to its landscape setting.
5	• An undulating patchwork of small-scale, ancient fields and medium-scale Ancient Woodlands, which provide an intermittent sense of enclosure; • An interconnected network of rural, tree lined lanes and mature hedgerows.
6	• Large areas of woodland contribute to an enclosed feel within much of the area; • Human influence on the landscape is apparent at Crowborough Training Camp in the west; • A mixture of historic and ancient, predominantly pastoral fields.

Landscape Sensitivity

4.13.9 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Strength of Place						
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Moderate
Visibility						
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Enclosed	Enclosed	Intermittent	Enclosed	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity						
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate

Landscape Value

4.13.10 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Landscape Value	High	High	High	Very High	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.13.11 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate
Landscape Value	High	High	High	Very High	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

4.13.12 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is predominantly within the High Weald AONB and contains large areas of Ancient Woodland and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. The strong, mature landscape structure of Ancient Woodland and mature hedgerows contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.13.13 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. Apart from a small tract of landscape, immediately adjacent to the settlement edge, this area is within the High Weald AONB and has a strong landscape structure of dense Ancient Woodlands in the eastern part of the area, resulting in High Landscape Value. There is a strongly recognisable pattern of Ancient Woodlands and stream corridors within this predominantly ancient landscape, resulting in a strong strength of place and High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.13.14 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. Apart from a small tract of landscape, immediately adjacent to the settlement edge, this area is within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. There is an intermittent sense of enclosure, resulting from the undulating landform and presence of mature hedgerows and trees, however, strength of place is strong, a result of open views towards Crowborough and adjacent treed skylines. In addition to this, the strong landscape structure contributes to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.13.15 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. Apart from a small tract of landscape, immediately adjacent to the settlement edge in the north, this area is within the High Weald AONB and as a result is considered to have High Landscape Value. This small-scale, intricate landscape has a strong pattern and landscape structure, comprising a patchwork of fields, which are lined with mature hedgerows. There is a strong sense of enclosure throughout much of the landscape within this area. These factors result in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.13.16 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. Apart from a small tract of landscape, immediately adjacent to the settlement edge in the north, this area is within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. The undulating patchwork of small-scale, ancient fields and medium-scale Ancient Woodlands, alongside the strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows, result in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.13.17 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The area is within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. Historic continuity is weaker than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas, with fewer ancient or historic fields. Human influences are also apparent within this landscape, resulting in a moderate, rather than strong overall strength of place and Moderate Landscape Sensitivity.

4.14 Landscape Setting of Danehill

Settlement Profile

4.14.1 Danehill is situated approximately five miles to the north east of Haywards Heath on the edge of the Ashdown Forest, within The High Weald AONB.

4.14.2 Danehill is a medium sized predominantly residential, linear village, which has developed around a pattern of six ribbon roads which lead to the historic core.

Landscape Character

4.14.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 4.3** for details

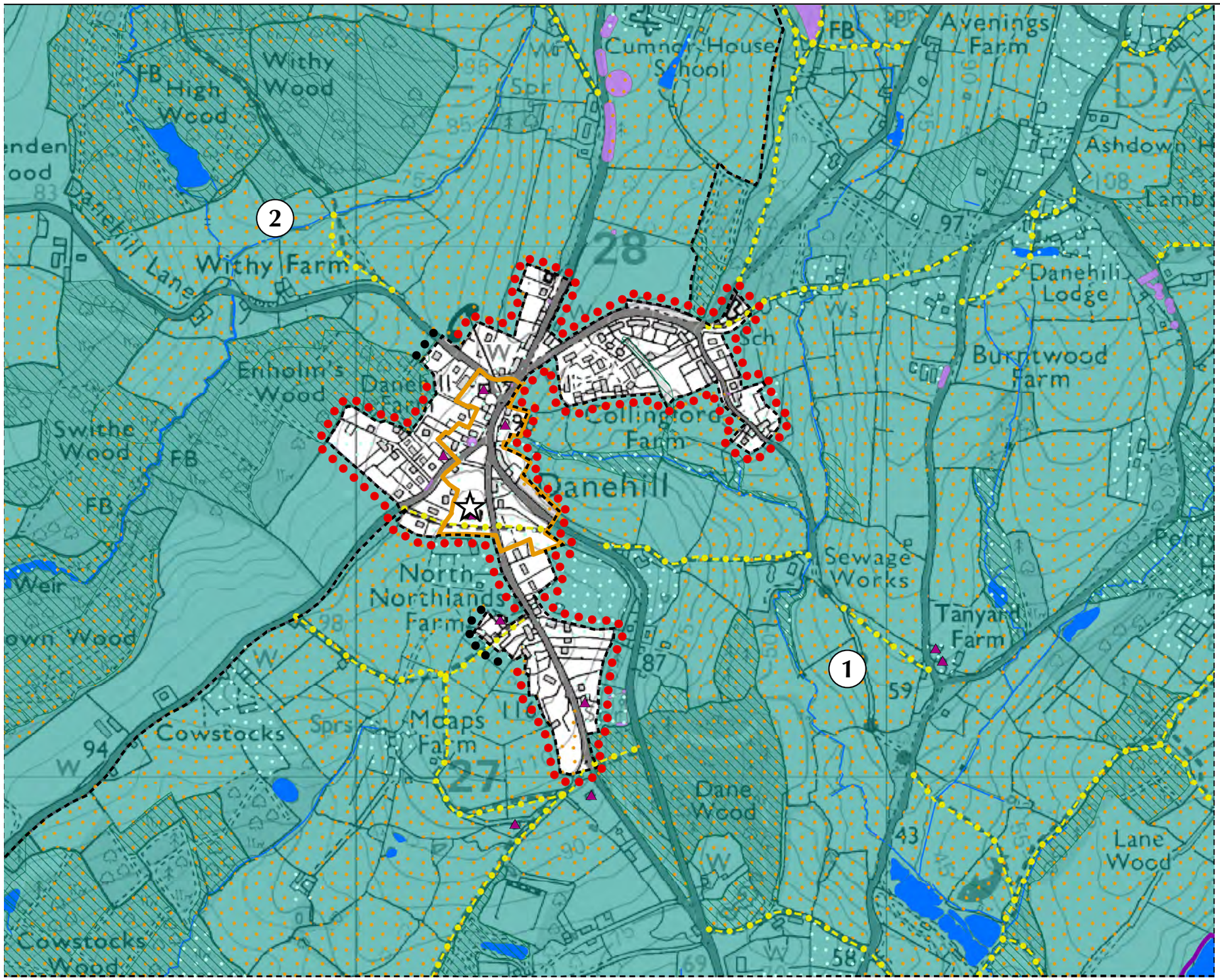
4.14.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement lies on a ridge with long views over undulating small-scale, predominantly enclosed fields with thick mature tree hedges.

4.14.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Danehill are illustrated on **Figure 4.9** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting to Danehill is predominantly comprised of a mosaic of small-scale ancient fieldscapes. To the east, this consists of aggregate assarts, with some regular piecemeal enclosure and cohesive assarts, whilst to the west, the predominant field type present is regular piecemeal enclosure with some significant tracts of cohesive assarts further away from the settlement edge. Medium to large blocks of Ancient Woodland are scattered across the landscape, particularly to the west and south of the settlement.
- **Landscape Detractors:** The fast road that runs through the village is a detractor from the overall sense of tranquility.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Danehill Brook runs through the woods to the west and there are small ponds south of Tanyard Farm to the south.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are predominantly sensitive as a result of mature vegetation within gardens. Around North Northlands Farm there is a prominent edge.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** Danehill is reasonably well connected to the surrounding countryside with footpaths.

4.14.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.9** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A patchwork of small to medium-scale undulating pastoral fields; • Network of minor rural roads, which are often line with verges and mature trees; • Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout; • Views to treed skylines.
2	• Danehill Brook, which runs through Ancient Woodlands, to the west of the village; • Small ponds at Tanyard Farm, to the south; • Views to wooded skylines • A mature, predominantly ancient landscape of Ancient Woodland, pastoral fields and narrow, tree-lined rural lanes.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.9
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF DANEHILL

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.14.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Unique/ Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Very Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High

Landscape Value

4.14.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	High	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.14.9 Danehill has an existing Conservation Area.

4.14.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major

4.14.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The narrow, tree-lined lanes and long views across small fields, with thick hedgerows, to wooded skylines, results in a very strong strength of place. There are views to historic buildings within the historic core of the village from locations in close proximity to the settlement edge.

4.14.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The large areas of Ancient Woodland and views to wooded skylines, contribute to a very strong strength of place. The woodland frames views from the village, providing a wooded backdrop/skyline. There are views to historic buildings within the historic core of the village from locations in close proximity to the settlement edge.

4.15 Landscape Setting of Fletching

Settlement Profile

4.15.1 Fletching is situated on the edge of the High Weald AONB, approximately three miles to the northwest of Uckfield and in close proximity to Sheffield Park (National Trust). The hamlet of Piltdown lies just to the south east

4.15.2 Fletching is a relatively small linear village, situated on a ridge of higher land. The village has some local services and a compact historical core which includes the 12th century church of St Andrew and Mary the Virgin.

Landscape Setting

4.15.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 4.3** for details

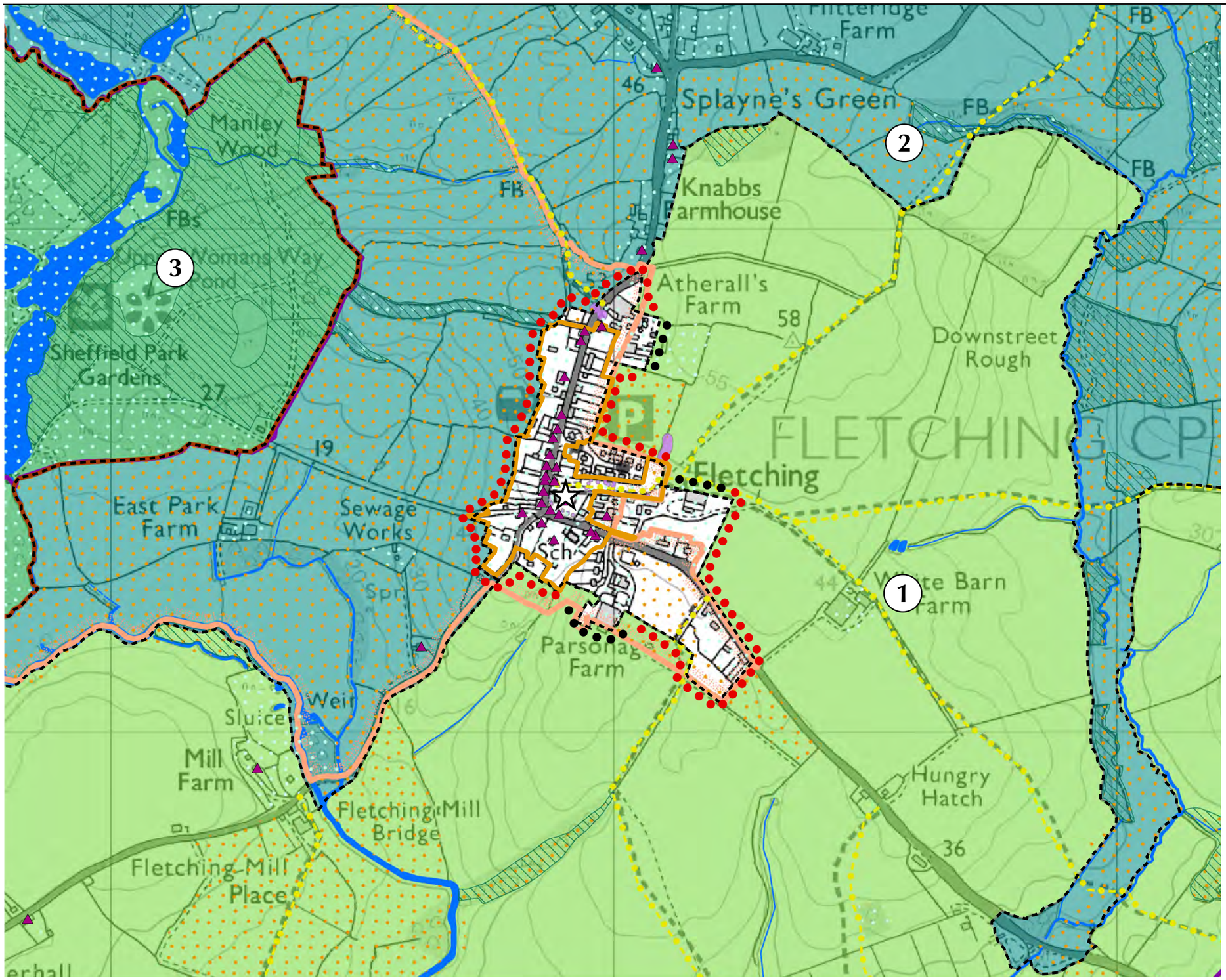
4.15.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement is situated on a ridge with long views over undulating fields.

4.15.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Fletching are illustrated on **Figure 4.10** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** To the west of the settlement, the landscape is predominantly made up of ancient fieldscapes. These include an extensive area of cohesive assarts, regular piecemeal enclosure, and an area of irregular piecemeal enclosure associated with the watercourse to the south west of the settlement. Abutting the eastern settlement edge is a small isolated area of consolidated strip fields. Sheffield Park, a Grade I listed Park and Garden, with landscaping laid out in the mid-late 18th century, adds additional historic interest. There is a large tract of Ancient Woodland within the landscape setting area to the north west of the settlement, within the boundary of Sheffield Park. Further small blocks of Ancient Woodland are scattered across the rest of the landscape. The woodlands of the Historic Park are highly visual from the settlement and form part of a long view to the west.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The 12th century church of St Andrew and Mary the Virgin is a major landmark in the village and the glebe land around it is significant
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are some pylons in the distance of the long view to the south west and west; and some modern farm buildings.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are predominantly sensitive as a result of mature vegetation within gardens. Prominent edges are situated by Parsonage Farm and Atherall's Farm.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The River Ouse, passes under Sheffield Park to the west and there are some minor tributaries and streams to the east.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement is reasonably well connected to the surrounding countryside by footpaths.

4.15.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.10** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large-scale, modern, predominantly arable fields; • Rural lanes which are lined with grass verges and low, often trimmed hedgerows; • An intermittent sense of enclosure; • Corridor of the River Ouse and associated Fletching Mill
2	• Patchwork of ancient fields which are interspersed with thin belts of Ancient Woodland and stream corridors; • This area provides the setting to Sheffield Park, which is situated to the west; • Narrow, often sunken lanes.
3	• Historic parkland landscape of Ancient Woodland and designed landscape features such as the Upper Womans Way Pond.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
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FIGURE 4.10
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF FLETCHING

Landscape Sensitivity

4.15.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare
Continuity	Recent	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Weak	Very strong	Very Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	High	Moderate

Landscape Value

4.15.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Landscape Value	Moderate	Very High	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.15.9 Fletching has an existing Conservation Area.

4.15.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Major	Limited

4.15.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area is considered to have a weak landscape structure and weak overall strength of place as a result of the large, modern fields, which lack historic continuity. There are, however, views to historic buildings within the historic core, from some locations, particularly in the west of the area.

4.15.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core from the south-western part of the area and strong strength of place throughout, resulting from the patchwork of ancient fields, interspersed with areas of Ancient Woodland.

4.15.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Whilst this area contains the valuable historic landscape of Sheffield Park and its associated large areas of Ancient Woodland, It does not abut the settlement edge. There is, however, some inter-visibility between the village and Sheffield Park, despite its indirect physical relationship.

4.16 Landscape Setting of Forest Row

Settlement Profile

4.16.1 Forest Row lies on the northern edge of the Ashdown Forest on the A22 London to Eastbourne and B2110 Hartfield and Tunbridge Wells roads, within the High Weald AONB. It is situated in the north-western corner of Wealden District, approximately four miles to the south of East Grinstead.

4.16.2 Forest Row is a medium-sized nucleated settlement. The two main roads converge at a roundabout in the centre of the settlement's historic core and Conservation Area. The majority of the residential area lies south east of the historic core. There are many shops and services within the settlement. Ashdown Forest surrounds the village on three sides, and the upper reaches of the River Medway flow to the north. Weir Wood Reservoir is a Site of Special Scientific Interest to the west. It is also one of the largest areas of open water in the county.

Landscape Character

4.16.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Ashdown Forest (2) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Upper Medway (1) - see **Section 4.3** for details

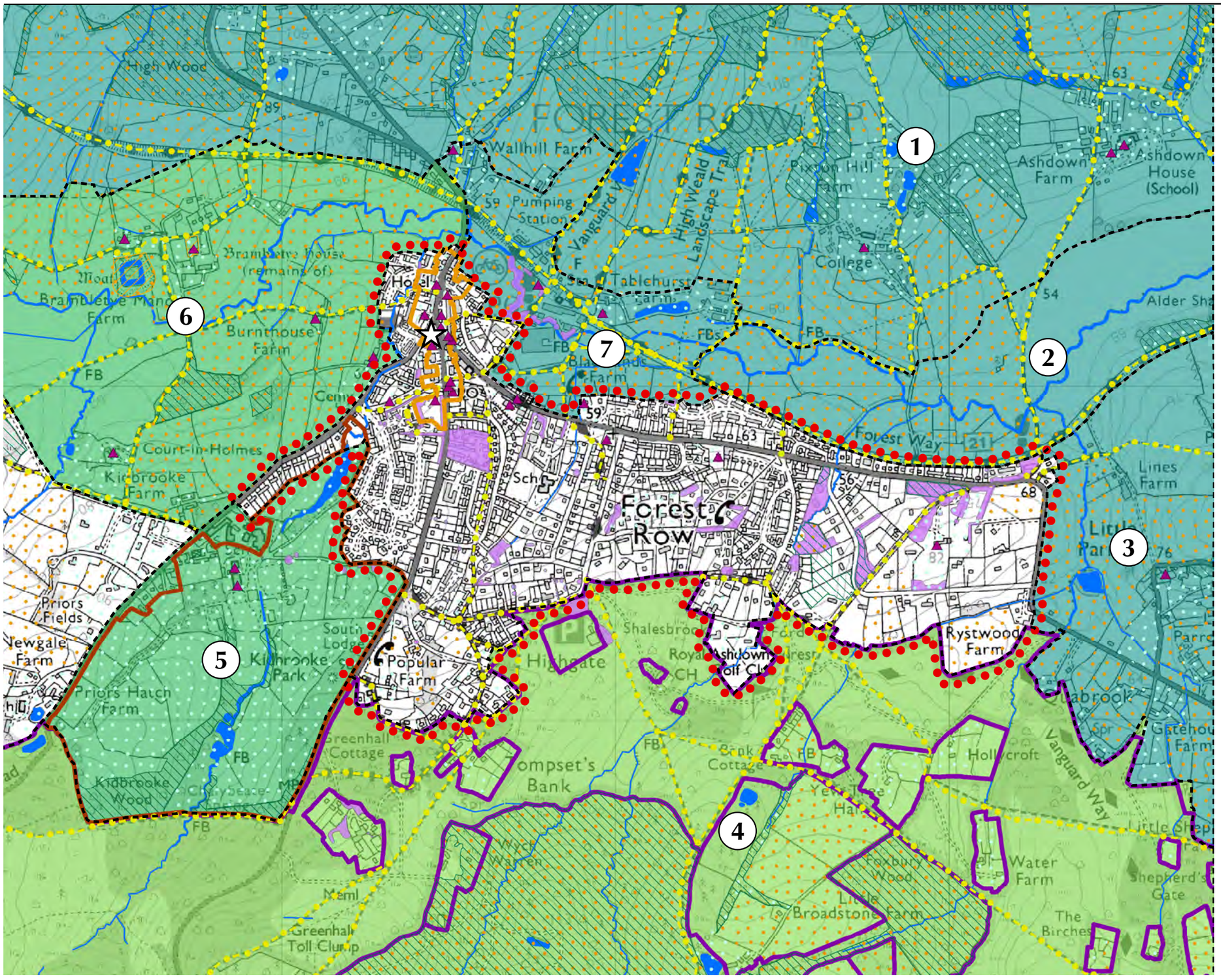
4.16.4 At the more local scale, the Landscape Setting of Forest Row comprises a patchwork of relatively small fields which are often lined with mature hedgerows. To the south of the settlement, dense woodland within Ashdown Forest is a key landscape feature which provides a strong sense of enclosure.

4.16.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Forest Row are illustrated on **Figure 4.11** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The northern settlement edge is bounded by an array of ancient fields, including extensive areas of cohesive assarts and irregular piecemeal enclosure, with pockets of regular piecemeal enclosure. To the southwest is a registered park and garden, Kidbrooke Park, which is an 18th century parkland (designed by Humphrey Repton), with surviving 19th century landscaping. To the south of the settlement are large blocks of Ancient Woodland, which make up part of the Ashdown Forest.
- Occasional clumps of Scots Pine trees are dotted through the landscape.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are some pylons to the north west but they are somewhat concealed within the folds of the landscape. A radio tower is a key landscape detractor to the north.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are all considered to be sensitive and there are also many wooded private roads, with large houses set back from the road and associated extensive grounds.
- **Watercourses and Waterbodies:** There are many tributaries and streams within the area, many of which culminate at Weirwood reservoir and the Brambletye moat to the west. Kidbrooke Parkland has several larger lakes/ponds. Emerson Agricultural College to the north and also several farms to the north have ponds and pockets of water, some of which serve as amenities.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement has an abundance of interlocking footpaths that criss-cross the golf course, cross fields and follow the River Medway. Forest way, on the trackbed of the disused railway line, passes through the village from East Grinstead and continues eastwards as far as Groombridge, a total distance of 10 miles. The important High Weald Landscape Trail and Vanguard Way (Croydon to Newhaven, 66 miles) also cross the Landscape Setting.

4.16.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.11** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Undulating ridge and valley landscape of small stream corridors and linear Ancient Woodlands on the valley slopes; • Interconnected network of footpaths.
2	• Gently meandering river corridor, lined with a small-scale patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields.
3	• Patchwork of medium-scale, predominantly pastoral fields; • Mature trees and grass verges lining road corridors.
4	• Strong landscape pattern of large Ancient Woodland, interspersed with ancient pastoral fields.
5	• Stream corridor runs through Kidbrooke Park area; and Kidbrook Ancient Woodland provides recognisable sense of place and enclosure.
6	• An ancient landscape of pastoral fields, sunken tree-lined roads and isolated farmsteads.
7	• The river corridor is a key landscape feature. • Human influence is apparent, in the form of a business park, warehouse buildings, polytunnels and a pumping station.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.11
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF FOREST ROW

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.16.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strength of Place							
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Recent	Historic	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very strong	Very Strong	Strong	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Strong
Visibility							
Landform	Dominant	Insignificant	Apparent	Dominant	Apparent	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Enclosed	Open	Open	Enclosed	Intermittent	Intermittent	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity							
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

4.16.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.16.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

4.16.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and contains ancient landscapes which are considered to have Very High Landscape Value. There is a strong landscape pattern encompassing a patchwork of fields and woodland and an associated very strong strength of place. In addition to this, the undulating ridge and valley pattern of small stream corridors and linear Ancient Woodlands results in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.16.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and contains ancient landscapes which are considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The strong landscape pattern encompassing a patchwork of fields and woodland, the gently meandering river corridor, with an associated very strong strength of place and the abundance of mature trees and woodland contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.16.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Valuable landscape features include mature trees, and there is a moderately strong strength of place as a result of the patchwork of pastoral fields and tree lined road corridors.

4.16.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Value and Moderate Landscape Sensitivity. There is a weak strength of place within this area, which has little historic continuity and Low Landscape Value. The strong landscape pattern of large Ancient Woodlands, interspersed with ancient pastoral fields, result in Moderate overall Landscape Sensitivity.

4.16.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Kidbrook Wood contributes to a moderate strength of place and is considered to be a sensitive landscape feature. Patches of Ancient Woodland are considered to be sensitive and valuable landscape features, resulting in Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value.

4.16.15 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Valuable landscape features include historic, sunken, tree-lined roads. This ancient landscape of pastoral fields is considered to have Moderate Landscape Sensitivity.

4.16.16 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The river corridor is a sensitive and valuable landscape feature which contributes to the overall High Landscape Sensitivity within the area. Human influences are, however, apparent in the form of a business park, warehouse buildings, polytunnels and pumping station, reducing the value of the landscape, resulting in Moderate Landscape Value overall.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.16.17 Forest Row has an existing Conservation Area.

4.16.18 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Major

4.16.19 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have strong historic continuity and a very strong strength of place, it does not however directly abut the settlement edge and is therefore considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting.

4.16.20 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting as a result of its moderate overall strength of place. There are few views to the historic core of the settlement, other than in the west of the area.

4.16.21 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a moderate overall strength of place resulting from the patchwork of pastoral fields and tree lined road corridors. There are no views to the historic core of the settlement from this area, due to its distance from the Conservation Area, which is situated in the west.

4.16.22 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has a moderate overall strength of place and there are few views to the historic core of the settlement, other than from higher ground in the south.

4.16.23 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Views to the historic core of the settlement can be gained from the northern part of the area, but are limited from the southern part and there is considered to be moderate overall strength of place.

4.16.24 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Forest Row as a result of the strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core. The eastern half of this area is located within close proximity of the Conservation Area, providing a direct setting.

4.16.25 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Forest Row as a result of the strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core. The south-western part of this area abuts the Conservation Area, providing a direct setting.

4.17 Landscape Setting of Foxhunt Green

Settlement Profile

4.17.1 Foxhunt Green is situated approximately five miles to the south east of Heathfield, one mile south of Waldron and two miles to the north east of East Hoathly. It is situated a mile outside the boundary of the High Weald AONB.

4.17.2 Foxhunt Green is a very small linear residential hamlet with a monastery. Houses are large and set back from the road.

Landscape Character

4.17.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.17.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

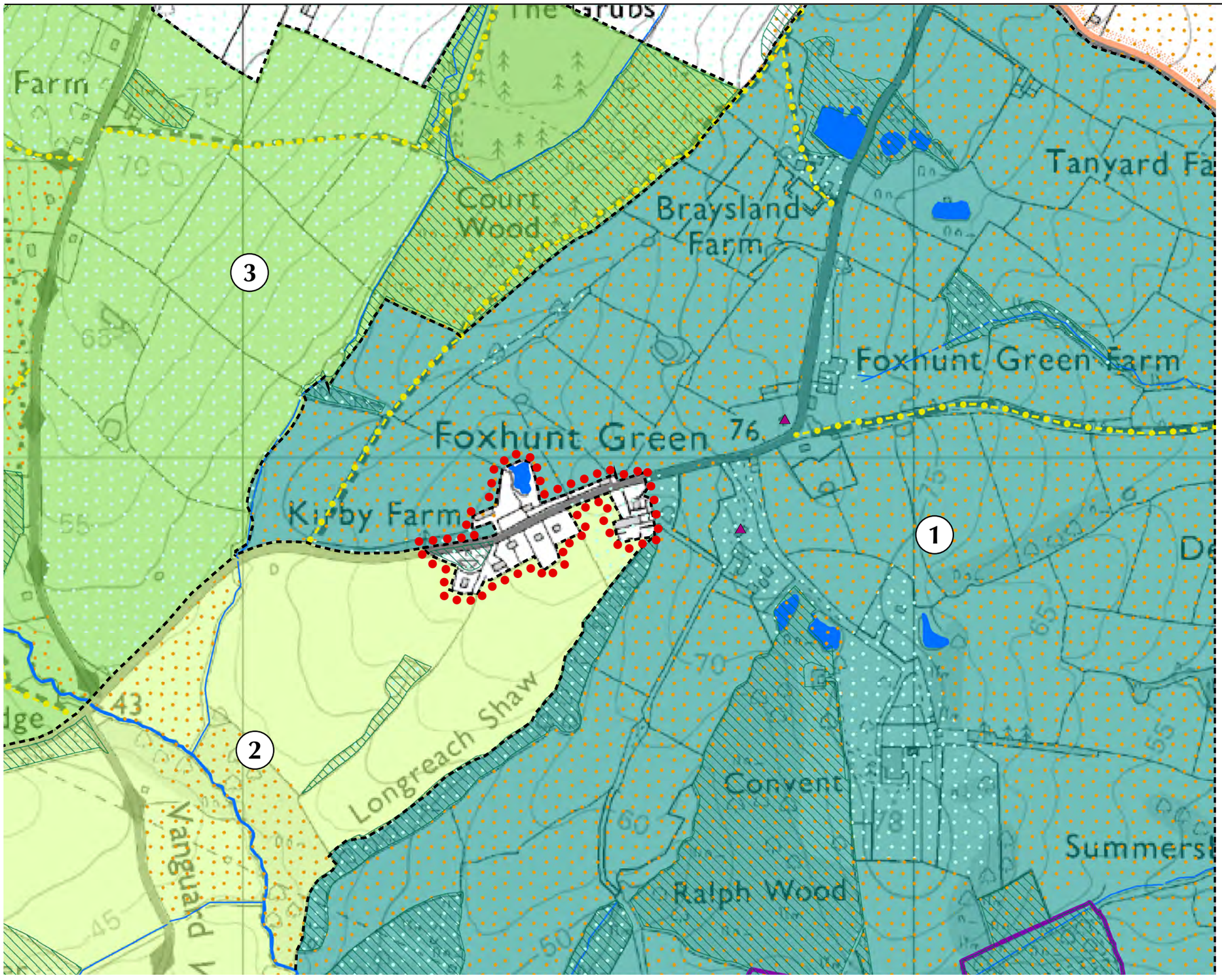
- A5: Hawkhurst Common – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.17.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Foxhunt Green are illustrated on **Figure 4.12** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Foxhunt Green is set within a predominantly ancient fieldscape of regular piecemeal enclosure to the north, cohesive and aggregate assarts to the east and south, and irregular piecemeal enclosure and historic planned private enclosure to the west. Small to medium sized blocks of Ancient Woodland are scattered throughout the settlement setting. There is a monastery to the east end of the hamlet.
- **Landscape Detractors:** A row of pylons to the south-west of the settlement are landscape detractors.
- **Urban Edges:** All edges are sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses and Waterbodies:** Small streams and drainage ditches and small ponds in the Ancient Woodland and to the north of the hamlet.
- **Footpaths and Bridleways:** There are a few footpaths to Foxhunt Green but none that go to the village. The Vanguard way passes to the east.

4.17.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.12** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• An ancient patchwork of small fields, thick mature hedgerows and Ancient Woodlands; • Strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
2	• Large-scale, modern fields; • Thin belts of Ancient Woodland; • Stream corridor which lined with small-scale pastoral fields in the centre of the area.
3	• Historic landscape of large-scale arable and pastoral fields, with occasional mature field trees and low trimmed hedgerows.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.12
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF FOXHUNT GREEN

Landscape Sensitivity

4.17.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Indistinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Recent	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Very Weak	Moderate
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Very Low	Low

Landscape Value

4.17.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High	Low	Moderate

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.17.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Foxhunt Green.

4.17.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Limited	Moderate

4.17.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its strong landscape pattern, overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity. There is also inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

4.17.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very weak strength of place. This area encompasses a predominantly modern landscape of large-scale fields, which lack historic continuity.

4.17.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its moderate strength of place and some inter-visibility with the historic core, from certain viewpoints.

4.18 Landscape Setting of Framfield

Settlement Profile

4.18.1 Framfield is situated approximately two miles to the east of Uckfield on the B2102, in the west of Wealden District. It is situated within the High Weald AONB.

4.18.2 Framfield is a medium sized village, which is predominantly residential in character. The village, which is situated on a ridge of higher land, has developed from a compact historic core, centred on Thomas -a-Becket church. The village has developed predominantly eastwards along the B2102 with principally road frontage development. There are more modern developments to the south.

Landscape Character

4.18.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.18.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

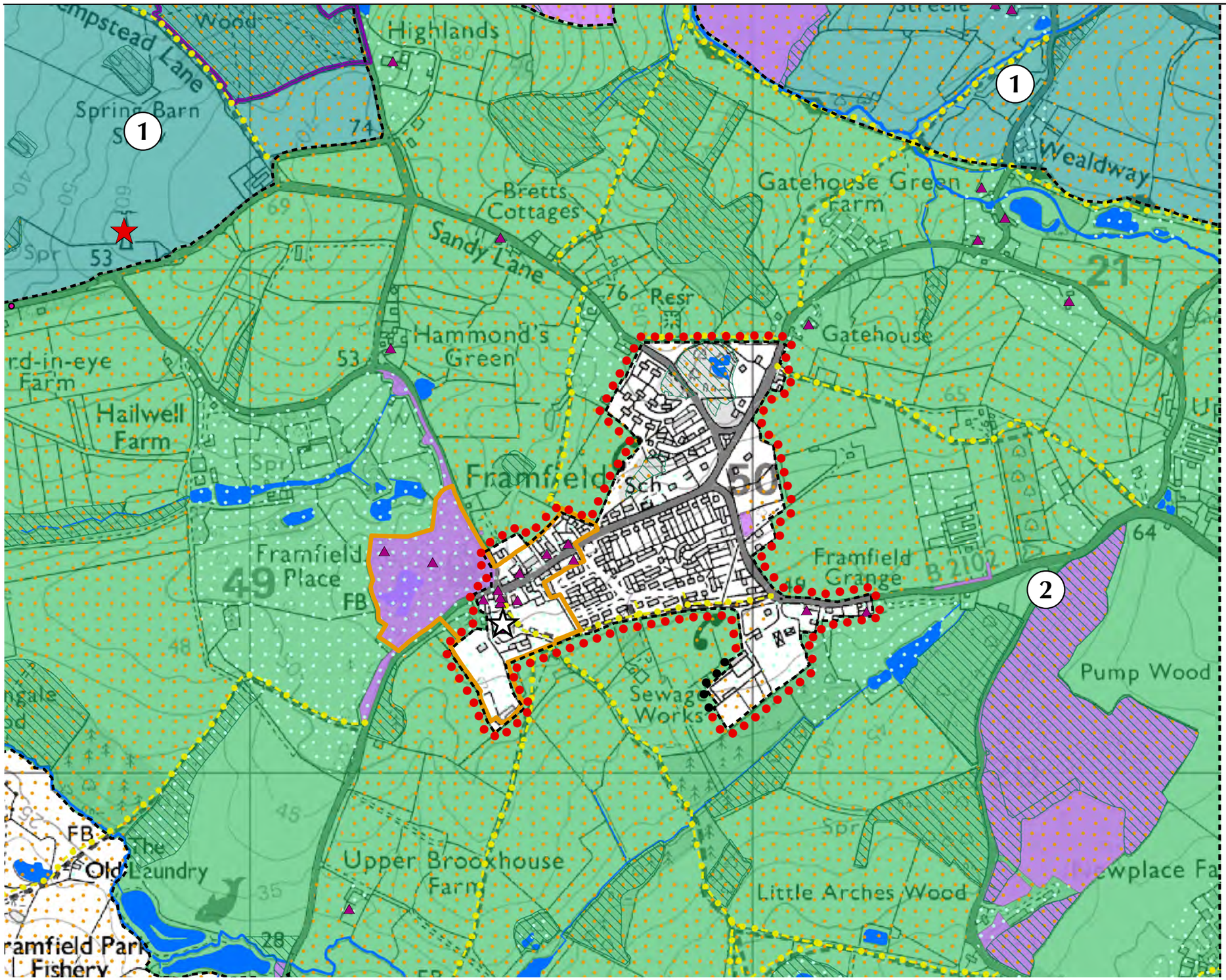
- A4: Blackboys and Framfield – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.18.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Framfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.13** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting of Framfield is predominantly comprised of a mosaic of ancient fieldscapes, with much of the area identified as regular piecemeal enclosure and cohesive assarts. To the north is also an area of aggregate assarts and irregular piecemeal enclosure. Immediately to the west of the settlement, Framfield Place, an area of post medieval designed parkland, adds historic diversity. The settlement setting is scattered with blocks of Ancient Woodland of various sizes. There are tranquil, gentrified lanes of large properties all around the village
- **Landscape Detractors:** Pylons can be seen from Hailwell farm looking south west
- **Urban Edges:** The village is predominantly lined by sensitive edges and woodland with a prominent edge to the south by the sewage works
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement is well connected to the countryside by footpaths and the long distance walkway, The Wealdway (running from Gravesend in Kent to Eastbourne in East Sussex) passes from east to north of the village
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are numerous small ponds within the setting of the village, forming from the minor streams that gather in the vales
- **Significant Views:** Key views can be seen from Sandy Lane looking south.

4.18.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.13** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Patchwork of small and medium scale historic and ancient predominantly pastoral fields; • Narrow, predominantly rural, tree-lined lanes • Strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
2	• Network of thick hedgerows; • Large areas of Ancient Woodland.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.13
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF FRAMFIELD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.18.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Apparent	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Low
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Moderate

Landscape Value

4.18.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.18.1 Framfield has an existing Conservation Area.

4.18.2 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major

4.18.3 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is a very strong strength of place due to long views, small fields and thick hedgerows and also distant inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core as a result of distant views southwards from higher areas of land.

4.18.4 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is a very strong strength of place due to long views across this landscape towards historic buildings within the historic core, small fields, thick hedgerows and Ancient Woodland.

4.19 Landscape Setting of Frant

Settlement Profile

4.19.1 Frant is situated in the northeast of Wealden District on the northern edge of the High Weald AONB. It is also situated on the Kent border, three miles to the south of Tunbridge Wells.

4.19.2 Frant is a medium sized, picturesque village with many historic buildings. The Green, at the centre of the settlement, is unique in that it is raised and facilitates long views out to the surrounding countryside. Additionally, Frant is situated on a ridge which further facilitates views out from the village. Housing, shops and services within the village have developed along the eastern side of the A267 main road corridor.

Landscape Character

4.19.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Central High Weald (4) – see **Section 4.3** for details

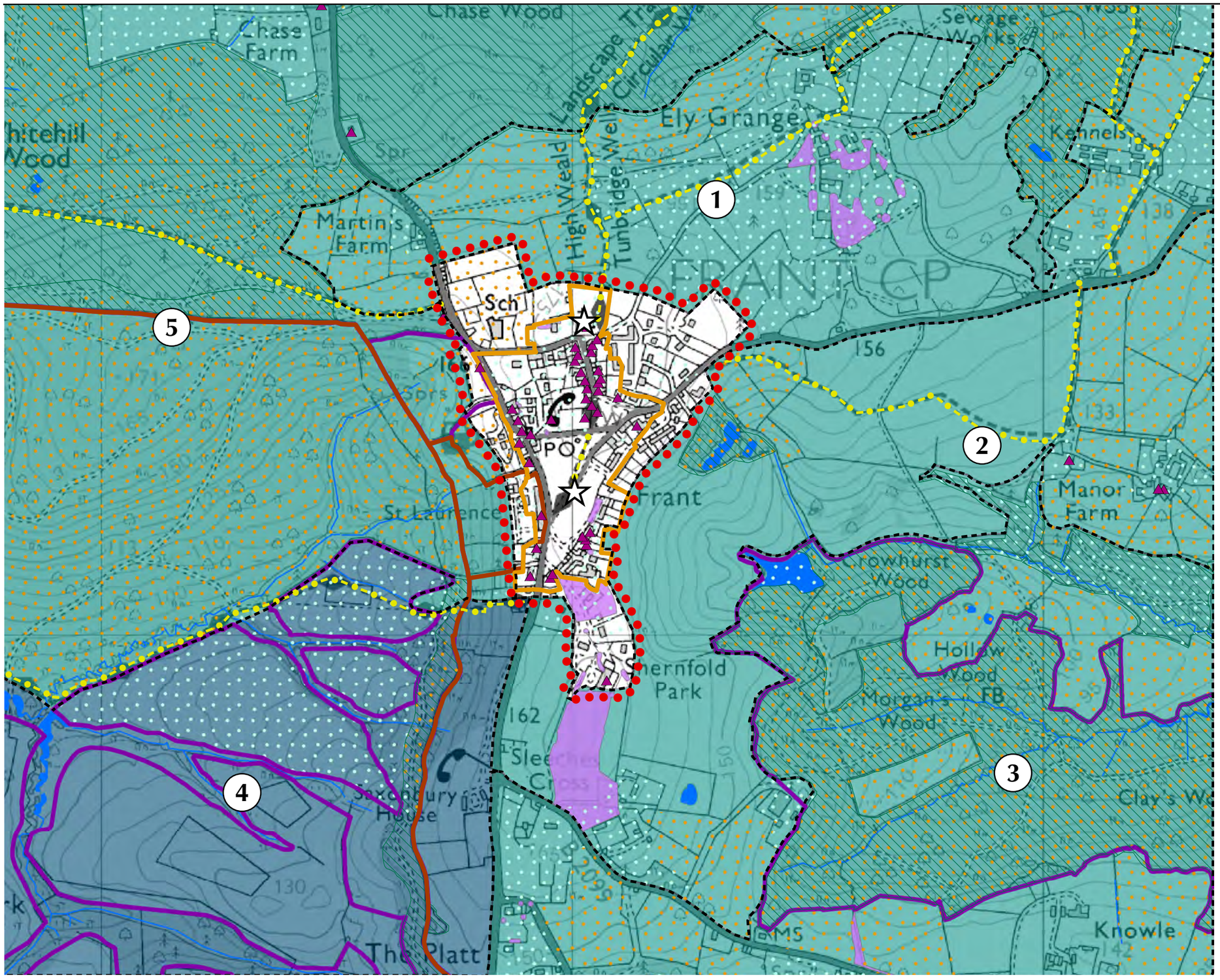
4.19.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding Frant comprises a patchwork of small to medium sized fields gentle rolling fields, interspersed with large blocks of woodland which provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.

4.19.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Frant are illustrated on **Figure 4.14** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Frant has a varied historic landscape setting, including a number of large blocks of Ancient Aoodland. To the west is the extensive Eridge Park, a registered park and garden which was landscaped in the 18th and 19th centuries. Parts of it originated as a medieval deer park. The remaining historic fieldscape is predominantly comprised of a patchwork of regular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts, parliamentary enclosure, and planned private enclosure.
- The higher spurs of landscape surrounding the village are topped with mature trees and Ancient Woodland which is dense and extensive.
- **Urban Edges:** All the edges of the settlement are considered to be sensitive, as a result of mature vegetation, much of which is within large back gardens.
- **Significant Views:** Significant views from the settlement typically include a patchwork of irregular shaped large fields which are interspersed with pockets of Ancient Woodland.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The High Weald Landscape Trail traverses the whole village and to the north there are cohesive connections to the landscape setting via a network of footpaths. The large areas of woodland have footpaths throughout.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Valley corridors within the landscape setting are predominantly lined with mature trees or run through woodland.

4.19.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.14** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Medium-scale patchwork of fields, lined with mature hedgerows
2	• Sloping landscape of pastoral fields, interspersed with occasional farmsteads.
3	• Large are of Ancient Woodland which is a key landscape feature and provides a strong sense of enclosure.
4	• An undulating patchwork of fields, lined with a network of mature hedgerows.
5	• A strong sense of enclosure within this landscape of mature Ancient Woodland. • Strong landscape structure.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
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FIGURE 4.14
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF FRANT

Landscape Sensitivity

4.19.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare
Continuity	Historic	Recent	Ancient	Historic	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Moderate	Very Strong	Strong	Very Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed	Open	Enclosed
Visibility	High	High	Moderate	Very High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Very High	High

Landscape Value

4.19.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Landscape Value	High	Moderate	Very High	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.19.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Very High	High
Landscape Value	High	Moderate	Very High	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

4.19.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated in close proximity to the High Weald AONB which provides its setting. It is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. There is a strong landscape structure and recognisable strength of place as a result of the medium-scale patchwork of fields lined with mature hedgerows, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.19.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is limited historic continuity, although the landscape structure is considered to be strong, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.19.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The area is covered by a large area of Ancient Woodland, contributing to its Very High Landscape Value. The presence of this woodland, which is a key sensitive landscape feature, results in a strongly recognizable strength of place and High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.19.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated in close proximity to the High Weald AONB which provides its setting. It is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. This is an undulating treed landscape which has a strongly recognizable strength of place, and contains numerous mature hedgerows. It is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.19.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. There is a strong landscape structure within this mature landscape of Ancient Woodland. In addition, this area is situated in close proximity to the High Weald AONB which provides its setting. It is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value and High Landscape Sensitivity.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.19.15 Frant has an existing Conservation Area.

4.19.16 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Moderate	Major	Major

4.19.17 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the strong strength of place and from views to historic buildings within the historic core. The southern part of this area abuts the Conservation Area, providing a direct setting to the historic core of the settlement.

4.19.18 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the strong strength of place and from views to historic buildings within the historic core and also views out from the village to this area. The western part of this area abuts the Conservation Area, providing a direct setting to the historic core of the settlement.

4.19.19 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is also considered to have a strong strength of place, however, it does not directly abut the settlement edge and is therefore considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting overall. Views to this area, can be gained from the Conservation Area, resulting in some inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

4.19.20 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the strong strength of place and from views to historic buildings within the historic core and also views out from the village to this area. The northern part of this area abuts the southern boundary of the Conservation Area, providing a direct setting.

4.19.21 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the strong strength of place and from views to historic buildings within the historic core and also views out from the village to this area. Views to the historic core are stronger from the eastern part of the area, whilst the Ancient Woodland within this area can be seen within views westwards from the Conservation Area.

4.20 Landscape Setting of Groombridge

Settlement Profile

4.20.1 Groombridge is situated in the north of Wealden District, just to the south of the Kent border. The village is situated on the B2188, within the High Weald AONB, four miles to the north of Crowborough and four and a half miles to the southwest of Tunbridge Wells.

4.20.2 The small linear settlement is predominantly residential with some local services including a Post Office, convenience store and pub, which have mostly developed to the south east of the B2188.

Landscape Character

4.20.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Medway (1) – see **Section 4.3** for details

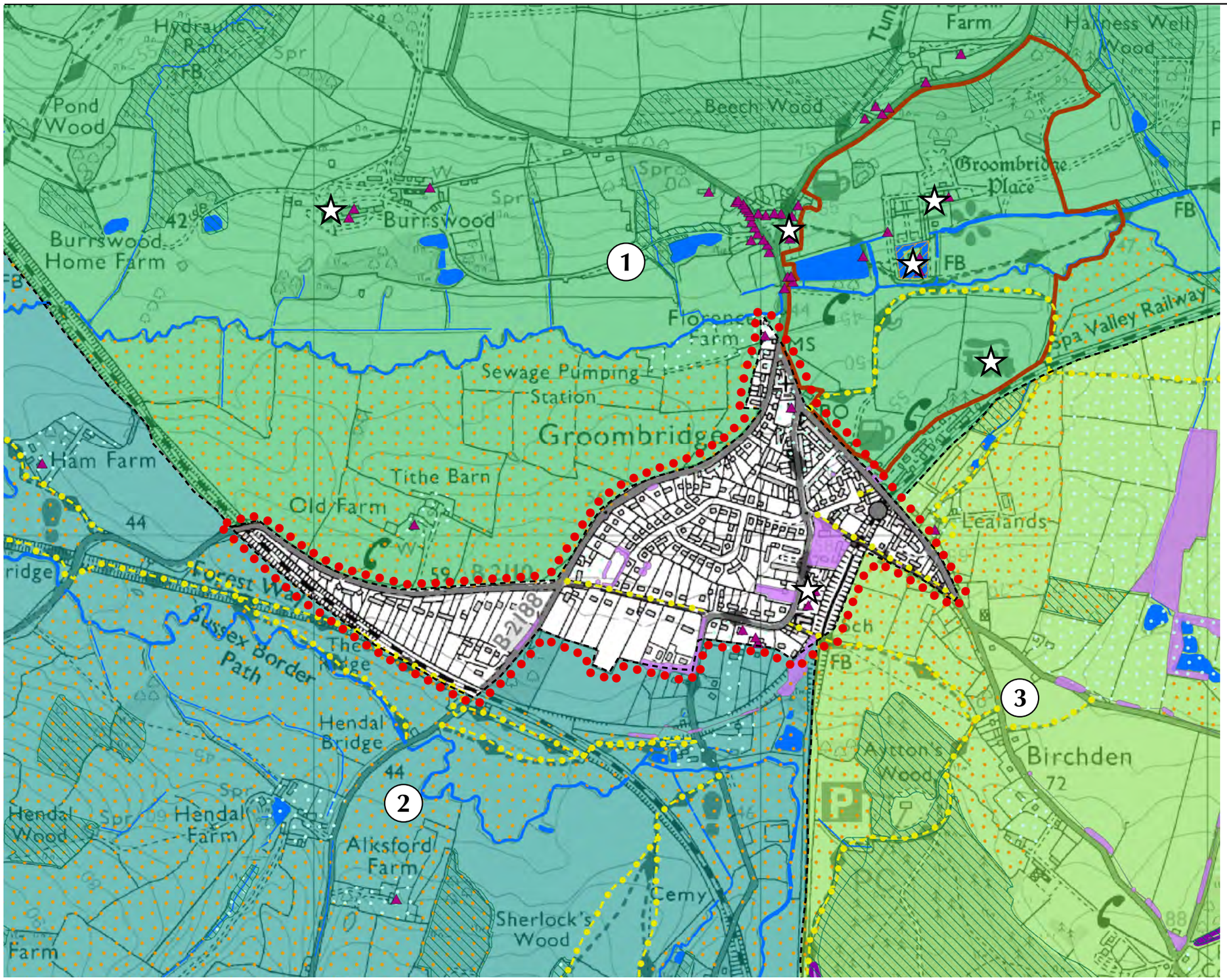
4.20.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement includes two river valleys, one to the north of the village and another to the south, with a large area of woodland to the east, associated with a patchwork of small to medium scale fields.

4.20.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Groombridge are illustrated on **Figure 4.15** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A predominantly ancient landscape comprised of a patchwork of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts, coaxial fields and Ancient Woodland. To the north east of the main settlement lies Groombridge Place, a registered 19th century park and garden with 17th century walled gardens and moated house.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The high ridge to the north is distinctive with its row of tall trees forming a key landscape feature. There are many views to tree covered ridges throughout this landscape, especially looking south from the north ridge and from the Hendel Farm area looking north
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Groombridge Place to the north is a moated historical manor house with extensive gardens. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote Sherlock Holmes stories from here, which results in strong cultural associations. Oast houses are key recognisable landscape features which can be seen from the ridges to the north.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of this settlement are all sensitive as a result of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The River Grom traverses east-west to the north of the settlement, its willow and alder lined banks can be seen from a distance.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** Forest Way - a 10 mile recreational route/country park on an old railway line - is crossed by the Sussex Border Path; and several other footpaths join the settlement to its landscape setting to the south of the village

4.20.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.15** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• The river valley dominates the centre of the area and is lined with a medium-scale patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields. • Groombridge Place historic parkland is a key feature in the east, with linear areas of Ancient Woodland which provide a sense of enclosure.
2	• A meandering river corridor, which is lined with a patchwork of pastoral fields and a network of mature hedgerows.
3	• Small-scale fields with a strong landscape structure in the north • A large area of Ancient Woodland in the south.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.15
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF GROOMBRIDGE

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.20.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Recent	Ancient	Historic
Strength of Place	Moderate	Strong	Moderate
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	Low

Landscape Value

4.20.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.20.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	Low
Landscape Value	High	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	High

4.20.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. The pattern of rare landscape features, wooded spurs and a rich and varied pattern of hedges and woods contribute to moderate Landscape Sensitivity.

4.20.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Views to the village from the outer ridges contribute to a strong strength of place and there is a moderately intact landscape structure.

4.20.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate overall Landscape Value. Landscape Sensitivity is considered to be low as a result of the lack of historic continuity within this recent landscape.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.20.13 There is currently no Conservation Area within Groombridge.

4.20.14 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Moderate	Major

4.20.15 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core. The area has a strong strength of place, resulting from the presence of the river corridor and Groombridge Place historic parkland.

4.20.16 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement due to its distinctiveness and historic landscape features such as Ancient Woodland and the River Grom floodplain. The deep wooded lanes and clumps of mature trees contribute to the strength of place and character. The water cleaning station to the south is in a historic building nestled in the trees. Long views across the valley to the opposite wooded ridge with foregrounds of open, irregular shaped, mature hedge lined fields are also characteristic.

4.20.17 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the landscape setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core and the presence of large areas of Ancient Woodland which are visible within views eastwards from the village.

4.21 Landscape Setting of Gun Hill

Settlement Profile

4.21.1 Gun Hill is situated approximately seven miles to the south east of Uckfield and east of Chiddingly. It is one of the seven hills of the parish in which it stands with open views to the South Downs National Park.

4.21.2 Gun Hill is a long linear residential hamlet on a hill, which is set within very gently undulating landscape. The houses tend to be set back behind low hedges or the frontages are directly on the road. The 15th century Gun pub is a well-known local landmark. There are several Listed Buildings in the hamlet and the surrounding countryside.

Landscape Character

4.21.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Eastern Low Weald (15) - see **Section 4.3** for details

4.21.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

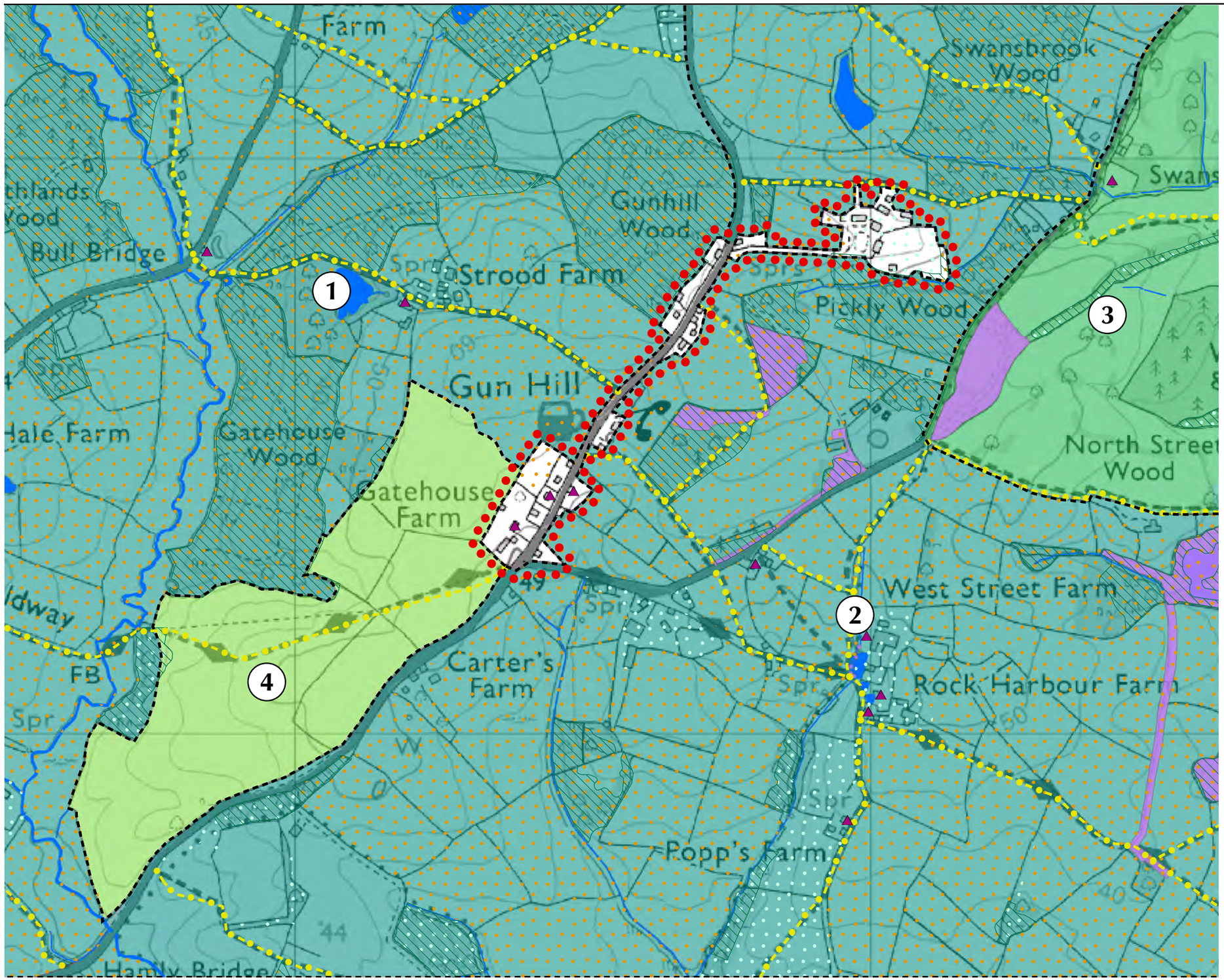
- A6: Horam – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.21.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Gun Hill are illustrated on **Figure 4.16** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The immediate landscape setting to the north, east and south of Gun Hill comprises a range of ancient fieldscapes, including cohesive and aggregate assarts, and regular piecemeal enclosure. Away from the settlement to the west, a belt of irregular piecemeal enclosure can be found along the extent of a watercourse. Extensive blocks of Ancient Woodland add to the historic interest of the settlement setting.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are few landscape detractors, farm buildings have been planted around and the business park by Prickly Wood exists in a dip and has been planted around, as has the golf course to the east.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges are sensitive, due to the presence of mature vegetation and woodland.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** At the bottom of the hill tributaries from the River Cuckmere link with other tributaries. Ponds are found in Rock Harbour Farm and Strood Farm, as well as near Swansbrook Wood to the north.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The South Downs can be seen from several points in the hamlet.
- **Foothpaths/Bridleways:** Gun Hill is well connected to the countryside by a network of footpaths including the Wealdway that passes the foot of the hill. Many of the paths pass through the large number of farms in this area.

4.21.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.16** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A gently meandering stream corridor runs north-south across the landscape, interspersed with large areas of Ancient Woodland.
2	• A patchwork of small-to medium-scale ancient fields which are lined with mature hedgerows.
3	• North Street wood is a key landscape feature, which punctuates a surrounding pattern of modern, large-scale fields.
4	• Modern, large-scale fields which are delineated by a network of mature hedgerows.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.16
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF GUN HILL

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.21.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Distinct	Distinct	Indistinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Recent	Recent
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong	Weak	Very Weak
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Open	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	Moderate	Low

Landscape Value

4.21.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	High	High	Low	Low

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.21.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Gun Hill.

4.21.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Limited	Moderate

4.21.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place –with views to the South Downs and other ridges. The landscape pattern is also considered to be strong. The large patches of Ancient Woodland within this area are visible within views from the settlement.

4.21.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village, particularly within the western part of the area.

4.21.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement because it does not abut the settlement edge or the historic core. There is also a lack of historic continuity within this area, resulting from the presence of modern fields and woodland.

4.21.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. Whilst it is considered to have a very weak strength of place, there is inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core from the northern edge of the area.

4.22 Landscape Setting of Hammerwood

Settlement Profile

4.22.1 Hammerwood is situated in the High Weald AONB, approximately three and a half miles to the east of East Grinstead, off the A264 Holtye Road.

4.22.2 Hammerwood is a small, loosely developed linear hamlet which has grown alongside the historic Hammerwood Park to the south. It has several listed buildings and large landscaped estates and also a strong equestrian presence.

Landscape Character

4.22.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Medway (1) – see **Section 4.3** for details

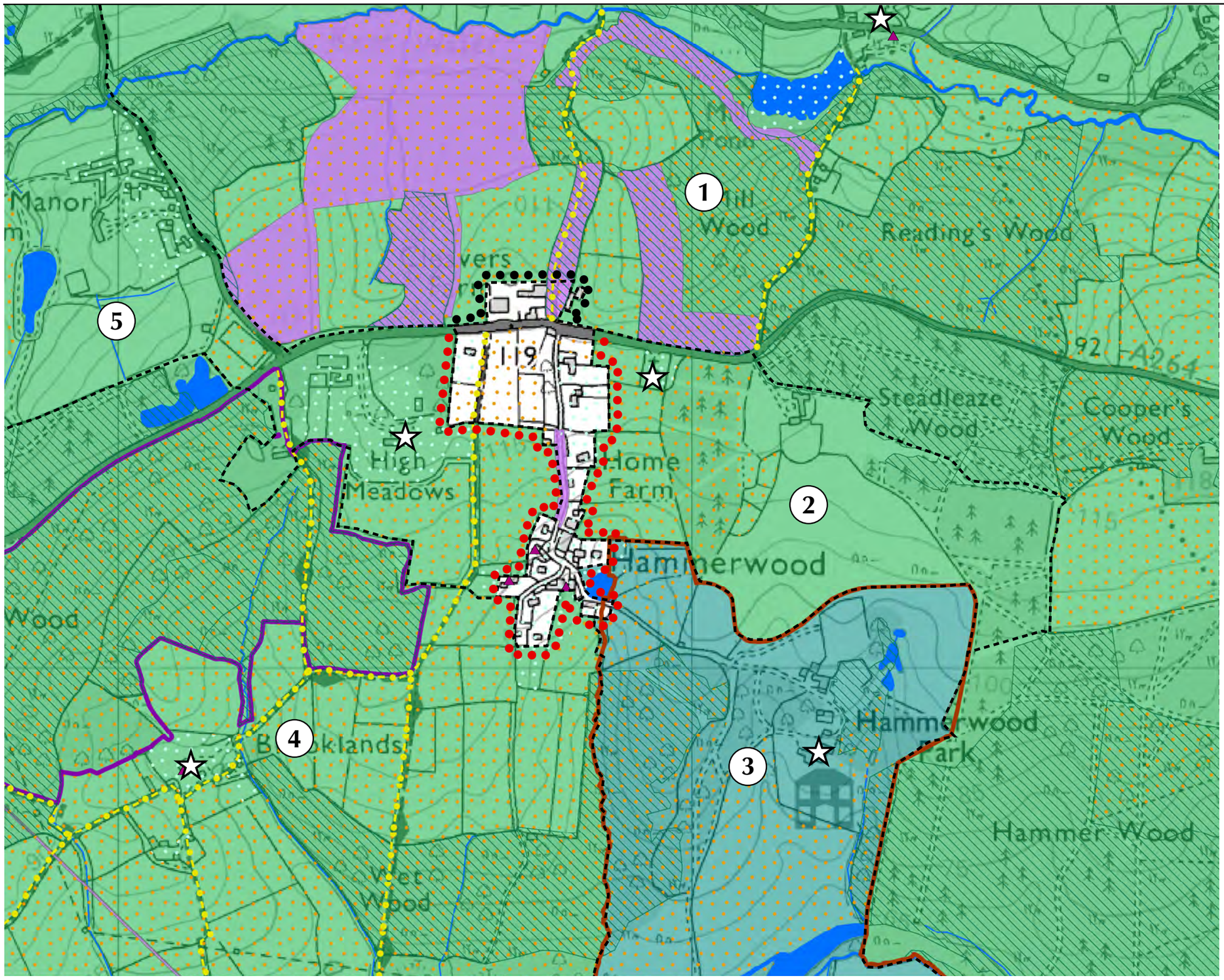
4.22.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement is predominantly wooded and slopes southward down from the high point from High Meadows estate to the immediate west of the hamlet.

4.22.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Hammerwood are illustrated on **Figure 4.17** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting to Hammerwood is predominantly comprised of small scale ancient fields. Surrounding the settlement is an area of regular piecemeal enclosure. Further afield, the field pattern includes tracts of cohesive and aggregate assarts, irregular piecemeal enclosure, and extensive blocks of Ancient Woodland. To the south east is Hammerwood Park a late 18th century Grade II listed landscape park. Large areas of gently sloping Ancient Woodland
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The church of St Stephen is situated next to the relatively fast A264 but marks the entrance to Hammerwood residential area and can be seen from the Park to the South. High Meadows, Steadleaze wood estate and Gotwick Manor Farm have historical buildings and large grounds.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are mainly sensitive due to mature vegetation and woodland, but the Cleavers Farm edge and A264 are considered to be prominent.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Water has collected in ponds on the Estates and to the north in Mill Wood where the road passes the old Mill buildings.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There are views to the church from the entrance of the park and long views from the park across fields to the south. Views also extend north when looking from the southern part of the Vanguard Way
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A foot path runs parallel to the hamlet connecting it to the Ancient Woodlands to the north and also links with the Vanguard Way. There are many footpaths in the woods.

4.22.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.17** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large, regular blocks of Ancient Woodland, interspersed with a patchwork of ancient pastoral fields; • A mature landscape structure.
2	• Coniferous woodland blocks are landscape detractors.
3	• A patchwork of woodland and pastoral fields, containing part of Hammerwood Park
4	• A strongly undulating swathe of Ancient Woodlands and pastoral fields, resulting in a strong sense of enclosure.
5	• Small to medium-scale pastoral fields which are lined with mature hedgerows and dotted with farmsteads.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.17
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF HAMMERWOOD

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.22.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Distinct	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong	Very Strong	Very Strong	Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Enclosed	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Value

4.22.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Value	Very High	High	Very High	Very High	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.22.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Hammerwood.

4.22.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Moderate	Major	Major	Moderate

4.22.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the very strong strength of place and pattern of Ancient Woodlands. This mature landscape structure is visible within views northwards from the village, providing a wooded backdrop.

4.22.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the overall strong strength of place and mature hedgerow network. There is also some inter-visibility with historic buildings in the historic core of the settlement. The large areas of Ancient Woodland are particularly prominent within views eastwards from the village.

4.22.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the very strong strength of place and strong landscape structure of woodland and pastoral fields. The large areas of Ancient Woodland within Hammerwood Park are key landscape features which are visible within views south-eastwards from the village.

4.22.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the very strong strength of place and pattern of Ancient Woodlands. These dense Ancient Woodlands provide a strongly wooded backdrop to views westwards from the village.

4.22.15 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the overall strong strength of place and mature hedgerow network. There is also some inter-visibility with historic buildings in the historic core of the settlement. The sloping nature of the landscape and position of Ancient Woodlands on these slopes, results in them being visible landscape features within views northwards from the village

4.23 Landscape Setting of Catts Hill

Settlement Profile

4.23.1 Catt's Hill is situated on the B2100 approximately one mile to the northeast of Rotherfield and half a mile to the southwest of Mark Cross close to the hamlet of Town Row. It is within the High Weald AONB

4.23.2 The Hamlet of Catt's Hill is small and linear, consisting of large, gentrified properties set back from the road with mature trees lining the road. The area to the south near Bletchinglye Farm is also gentrified with large plots of land. The landscape is undulating with mature trees and deep lanes. Catt's Hill is a higher area of land that leads from Town Row to Mark Cross.

Landscape Character

4.23.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Central High Weald (4) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Upper Rother Valley (6) - see **Section 4.3** for details

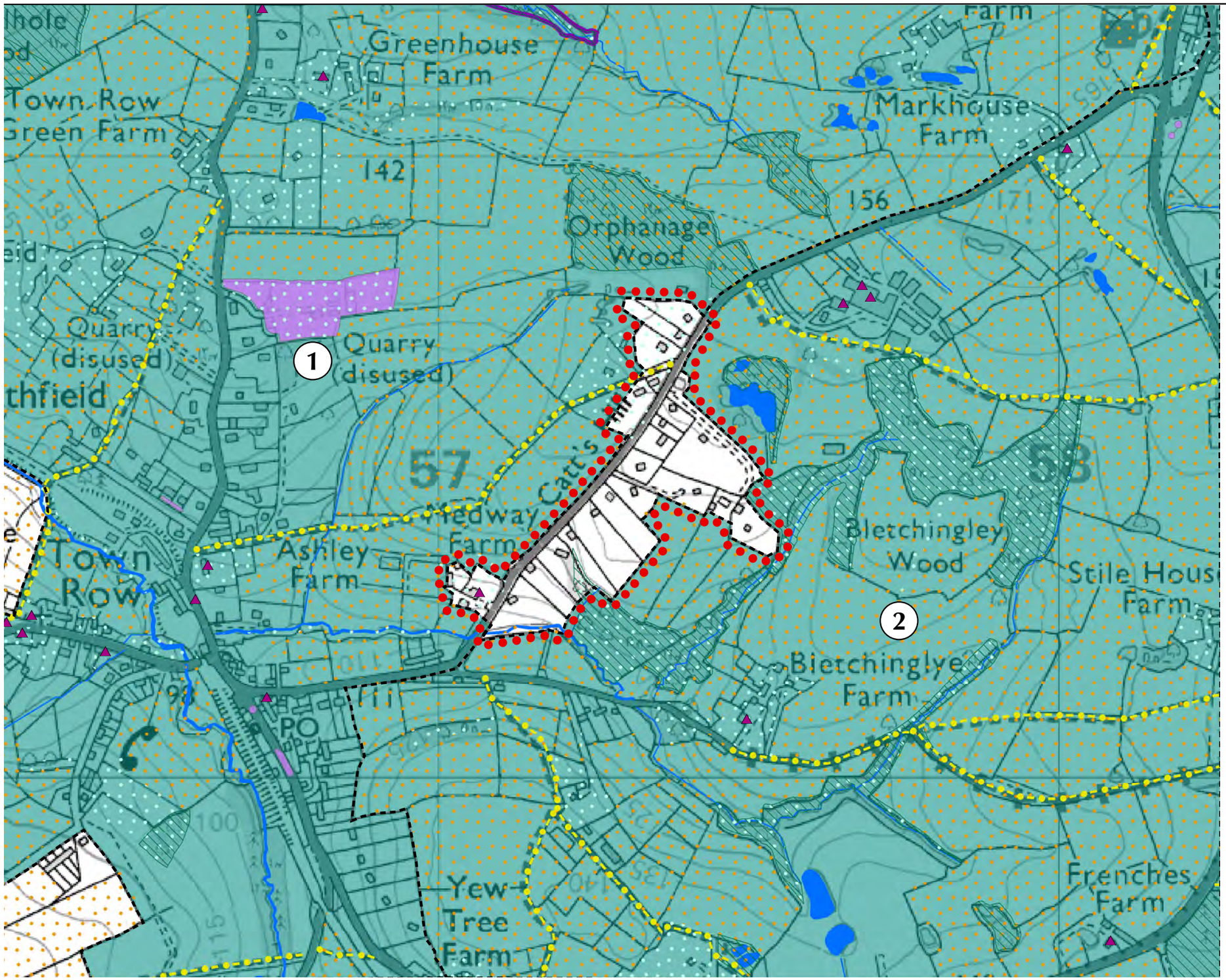
4.23.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement is undulating, with ancient fields and mature trees and hedges and deep lanes. There are some listed buildings dotted throughout the landscape.

4.23.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Catt's Hill are illustrated on **Figure 4.18** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting around Catts Hill is predominantly comprised of small-scale ancient fieldscapes, interspersed with belts of Ancient Woodland. The main field types present are cohesive and aggregate assarts, with some regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure. The trees that surround the smaller ancient fields are thick and mature. They add to the character of the landscape by framing views and giving the impression of thick wooded hills.
- **Urban Edges:** The settlement has sensitive edges due to its thick hedges and trees.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are several small streams that run through the woodland in the dips, and ponds have formed in Bletchingley wood and south of Bletchingley Farm. There is a more substantial stream that runs through Town Row to the south east.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There are significant views of Rotherfield and the church spire from the footpath that runs parallel to Catt's Hill.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement has a number of footpaths leading from it, one links with Town Row and others link with the countryside to the south and south east.

4.23.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.18** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• An undulating landscape containing a network of stream corridors and pastoral fields, with a mature landscape structure. • Linear settlement along road corridors is also a feature, for example at Town Row.
2	• Long distance views to Rotherfield; • A patchwork of small, medium and large-scale fields, which are lined with a network of mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
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- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
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FIGURE 4.18
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CATTS HILL

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.23.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare	Unique/Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Very Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High

Landscape Value

4.23.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	High	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.23.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Catt's Hill.

4.23.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major

4.23.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place, strong landscape structure and inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the settlement. As the settlement is situated on a ridge of higher land, open and framed views northwards across this undulating landscape of stream corridors and pastoral fields can be gained from the village.

4.23.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place, strong landscape structure and inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the settlement. The patchwork of fields with mature hedgerows provides a strong landscape structure to the south-eastern and south-western edges of the village.

4.24 Landscape Setting of Hartfield

Settlement Profile

4.24.1 Hartfield is situated in the northwest of Wealden District, three miles to the east of Forest Row on the B2110. Falling within the Upper Medway Valley and on the northern edge of Ashdown Forest, it is in the High Weald AONB. Bolebrooke Castle (associated with Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn) is situated one and a half miles to the north of the village and A.A Milne's home is situated one and a half miles to the south of the village, resulting in strong cultural associations with the landscape setting of the settlement.

4.24.2 Hartfield is a relatively small rural residential village which has developed around a historic core of the High Street. Many buildings display the local vernacular style of white weather boarding.

Landscape Character

4.24.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Medway (1) – see **Section 4.3** for details

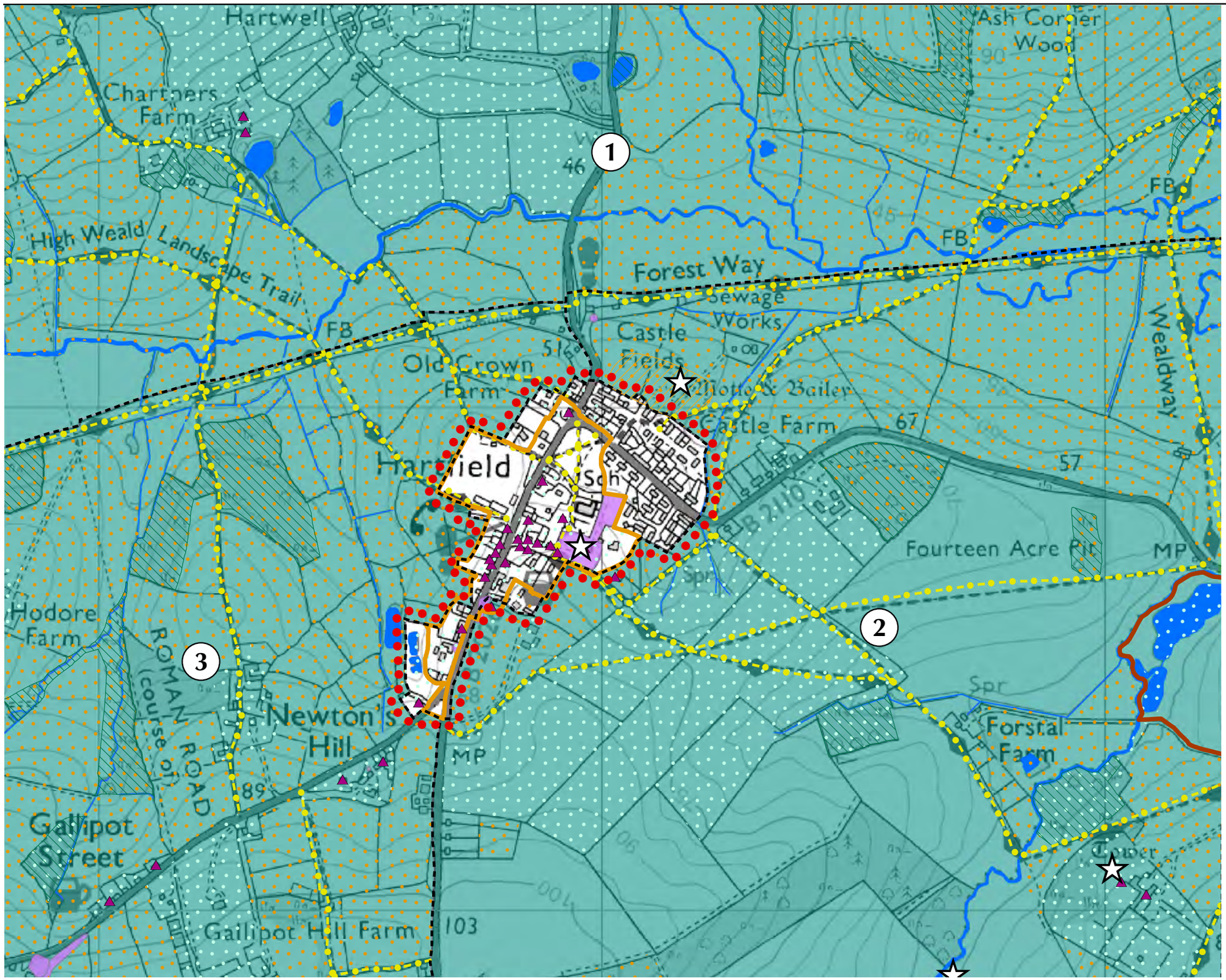
4.24.4 At the more local scale, a river valley runs to the north of the village, whilst the landscape setting to the south of the village comprises a patchwork of small to medium scale fields which are interspersed with patches of woodland.

4.24.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Hartfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.19** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The historic landscape setting comprises a mosaic of ancient and historic field patterns, with small, scattered blocks of Ancient Woodland. Extensive areas of irregular piecemeal enclosure and cohesive assarts make up the majority of the ancient fieldscape, with some smaller pockets of regular piecemeal enclosure. Other historic field types include planned private enclosure. To the east, a registered park and garden, Buckhurst Park, adds to the historic interest of the settlement settling.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The church spire in the centre of the village is very prominent and can be seen from all surrounding Landscape Setting Areas.
- The remains of a motte and bailey castle are found in the northeast of the village.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the village are all sensitive, connecting with gardens and small fields and mature hedgerows.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The River Medway travels east-west, north of Hartfield and natural ponds can be found dotted along the course of the valley.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There is a long view across the village and towards higher ridges of the AONB to the south. The spurs are tree covered which makes them prominent within views.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** Forest Way, a 10 mile long recreational route/country park on an old railway line crosses from east to west just to the north of the settlement. This in turn is bisected by the High Weald Landscape Trail - a 90 mile trail which passes through the landscape of the High Weald and is of regional importance.
- As well as the key trails or the High Weald Landscape Trail and Forest Way, the village is well connected to the surrounding countryside by footpaths

4.24.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.19** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Sunken lanes with over-hanging trees are a key feature. • Meandering stream corridors lined by a mature landscape structure of historic and ancient fields.
2	• The church is a key feature within views from roads leading into the village. • Sunken lanes with over-hanging trees are a key feature. • Undulating/sloping large-scaled ancient, historic and modern pastoral fields, interspersed with small blocks of woodland.
3	• An undulating ridge and valley landscape of ancient pastoral fields which are interspersed with narrow stream corridors.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 150 300 Meters

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Scale: 1:8,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 4.19
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF HARTFIELD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.24.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Rare	Rare	Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very strong	Very strong	Very strong
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.24.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.24.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High
Landscape Value	High	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Low

4.24.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB, resulting in a strong landscape structure of meandering, tree-lined stream corridors and patchwork of ancient fields, with High Landscape Value. The sunken lanes, overhanging trees and meandering stream corridors contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.24.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. The strong landscape structure of small blocks of woodland provides a wooded backdrop to views from the village. There is also a strong strength of place as a result of key views to the higher ridges of the High Weald AONB. Pockets of mature Ancient Woodland and the ancient field pattern contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.24.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. The strong landscape structure of undulating ridges and valleys with strong historic continuity results in High Landscape Sensitivity.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.24.13 Hartfield has an existing Conservation Area.

4.24.14 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

	Landscape Setting Area		
Criteria	**1**	**2**	**3**
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Major

4.24.15 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village a strongly recognisable sense of place. As a result of the village's high position on a ridge, open views northwards across this intricate landscape of stream corridors and ancient fields can be gained from the northern edge of the village.

4.24.16 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village a strongly recognisable sense of place. Open views south-eastwards across this area can be gained from the eastern edge of the village. Pockets of Ancient Woodland provide a backdrop to views from the edge of the village and also limit long distance views in places.

4.24.17 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village a strongly recognisable sense of place. Areas of Ancient Woodland provide a wooded backdrop to views westwards from the village and limit long distance views.

4.25 Landscape Setting of Heathfield

Settlement Profile

4.25.1 Heathfield is situated within the central eastern part of Wealden District, approximately eight miles to the east of Uckfield and approximately nine miles to the north of Hailsham, in the north of Wealden District. The town occupies an elevated location on one of the principal east-west ridges crossing the High Weald. The settlement is located within the High Weald AONB.

4.25.2 Heathfield is a predominantly residential, nucleated town which has grown around the A265 and B2203 road corridors, which are lined with several local shops and businesses. The town has witnessed considerable growth in housing throughout the 1980's and predominantly comprises a series of housing estates at the edges of the town, adjacent to older terraces within the town centre. There are two business areas within the town, at Ghyll Road and Browning Road. Small pockets of open spaces are scattered within the urban fabric, however, there is an absence of large playing fields within the town.

Landscape Character

4.25.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Upper Rother Valley (6) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Dudwell Valley (8) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.25.4 At the more local scale, as a result of its elevated position on one of the principal east-west running ridges crossing the High Weald AONB, Heathfield affords framed views over its undulating, predominantly wooded landscape setting. Along most edges of the town, large areas of woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure, and frame views. To the east of the town, Heathfield Park (a registered Historic Park and Garden), with its extensive mature woodland, contributes a valuable wooded edge to the town.

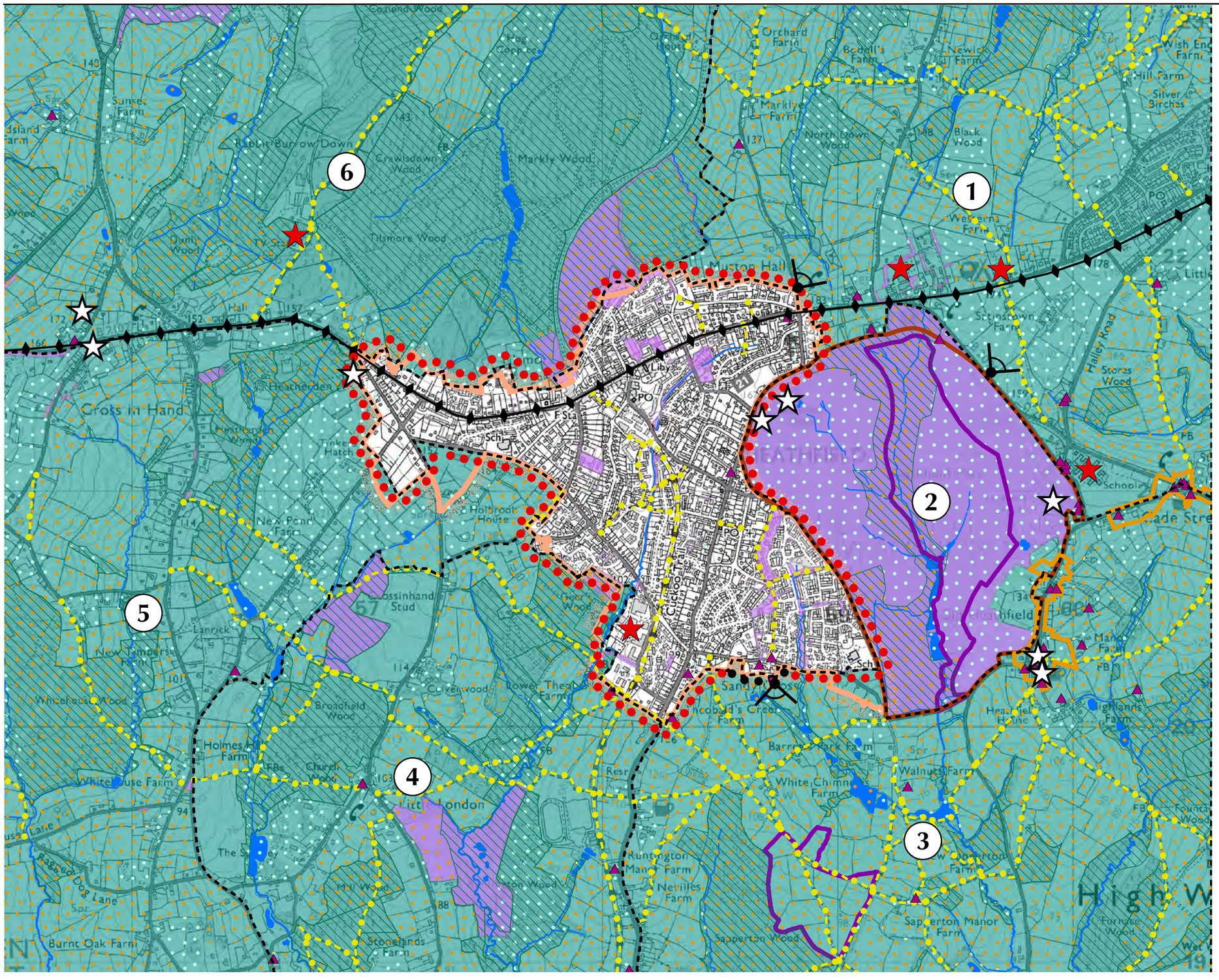
4.25.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Heathfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.20** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** An ancient landscape comprising a patchwork of small-scale fields, dominated by large tracts of Ancient Woodland. The small-scale field pattern comprises a scattering of regular piecemeal enclosure, with some cohesive assarts to the south, and some parliamentary enclosure to the west. The large historic parkland (Heathfield Park), to the east of the town, provides a significant tract of historic landscape within the town's setting. The historic core of the village of Old Heathfield (to the southeast of the town), which is designated as a Conservation Area, contributes a further historic dimension to the setting.

- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** There are several Culturally Important Landmarks within the setting of the town, including Heathfield Hall and the Gibraltar tower, within Heathfield Park; the church and several Listed Buildings in Old Heathfield and the church at Heatherden at the western edge of the town.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Several landscape detractors, industrial buildings along Ghyll Road, the caravan park to the north of the A265 road corridor and the communications mast within Rabbit Burrow Down woodland, to the northwest of Heathfield.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is predominantly lined by treed, sensitive soft edges and woodland, with one pocket of prominent, exposed urban edge at the southern edge of the town, along Sandy Cross Lane.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Several small watercourses, usually running in a north-south orientation off the ridge; and ponds permeate the landscape setting of the town. This includes the narrow stream corridor of Waldron Gill.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Several framed views can be gained from the edges of the town, to its landscape setting. A prominent ridgeline runs east west through the town, affording framed views.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A network of footpaths and bridleways connects Heathfield to its landscape setting. Connecting with the southern edge of the town, the Cuckoo trail provides a key recreational/tourist route.

4.25.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.20** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A small-scale patchwork of sloping, ancient pastoral fields and Ancient Woodland; • Key, panoramic long distance views northwards across the High Weald.
2	• The historic landscape of Heathfield Park with its mature Ancient Woodland and stream corridor at the centre of the area.
3	• An intricate patchwork of stream corridors, mature hedgerows, sunken lanes, Ancient Woodland, criss-crossed by a network of footpaths and bridleways.
4	• Numerous farmsteads and studs • Large areas of Ancient Woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure.
5	• North-south landscape pattern, including features such as stream corridors, Ancient Woodland, linear settlements and footpaths.
6	• A strong sense of enclosure as a result of large patches of Ancient Woodland and stream corridors.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 350 700 Meters

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Scale: 1:17,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 4.20
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF HEATHFIELD

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.25.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Strength of Place						
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Unique/rare	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Very Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Visibility						
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Enclosed	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity						
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.25.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below.

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Landscape Value	High	Very High	High	High	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.25.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	High	High
Landscape Value	High	Very High	High	High	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

4.25.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. The small-scale patchwork of sloping, ancient pastoral fields and pockets of Ancient Woodland are valuable and sensitive landscape features. In addition, key, panoramic long distance views northwards across the High Weald contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.25.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB, and in addition, contains the valuable historic landscape of Heathfield Park resulting in Very High Landscape Value. Mature Ancient Woodlands, stream corridors and Heathfield Park are sensitive landscape features, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.25.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. The strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows, sunken lanes and Ancient Woodland contributes to High Landscape Sensitivity overall.

4.25.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. Large areas of Ancient Woodland further contribute to the value and sensitivity of the landscape, providing a strong sense of enclosure.

4.25.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. The linear pattern of stream corridors, settlements and footpaths within this area is considered to be distinctive and contributes to High Landscape Sensitivity. Pockets of Ancient Woodland are sensitive landscape features and further contribute to the value of the landscape.

4.25.15 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB, resulting in High Landscape Value. Patches of Ancient Woodland further contribute to landscape value. The woodland and stream corridors contribute to a strong landscape structure, resulting High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.26 Landscape Setting of Herstmonceux

Settlement Profile

4.26.1 Herstmonceux is located along the path of the A271 and is situated four miles to the east of Hailsham, on a low lying ridge at the southern edge of the High Weald AONB.

4.26.2 It is a linear village, comprising predominantly post war housing. The historic core of the settlement is situated towards the centre of the settlement. There are a range of shops and services which are boosted by the tourism to the local Castle and Greenwich Observatories.

Landscape Character

4.26.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.26.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

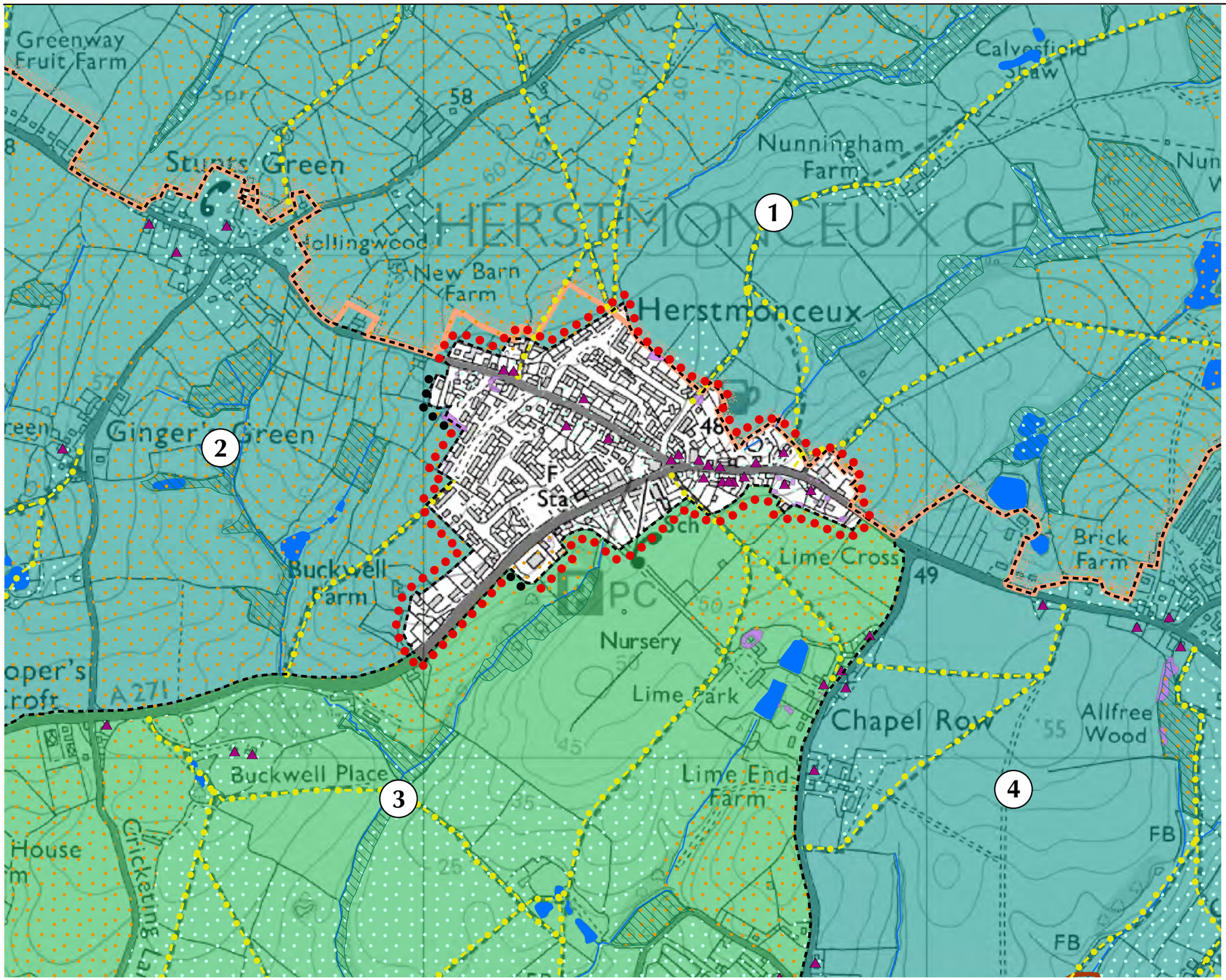
- B1: Cowbeech Hill - see **Section 4.5** for details

4.26.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Herstmonceux are illustrated on **Figure 4.21** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Small pockets of Ancient Woodland, and extensive tracts of small-scale fields provide the historic setting to the settlement. The presence of ancient landscape features is particularly pronounced to the north and west of the settlement, composed of cohesive and aggregate assarts, as well as regular piecemeal enclosure abutting the settlement edge. Historic landscape features are more dispersed to the south and east, including some areas of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure, planned private enclosure and cohesive assarts.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Key views to a restored windmill towards the east near Windmill Hill. Key views to the top of Isaac Newton's telescope building situated in the observatory near the Castle 2.5 miles away can be seen above the tree line.
- The gently undulating hills and ridgelines facilitate important long distance, panoramic views across Pevensey Levels.
- **Urban Edges:** Most of the urban edges are sensitive but a slight prominent edge can be found on the south side of the A271 just as you leave the village and to the south as you leave the village heading toward Stunts Green.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Watercourses are scattered around the village, encompassing several ponds and small streams.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is well connected to the surrounding countryside by a network of footpaths and bridleways.

4.26.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.21** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A mixture of small, medium and large-scale fields which have a gently undulating landform. • Field boundaries are lined with mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees.
2	• Small-scale, ancient field pattern in the north; • Larger fields and pockets of Ancient Woodland in the south.
3	• Large-scale, modern fields and a nursery, situated on a hill in the north of the area, in close proximity to the settlement edge. • Linear belts of Ancient Woodland lining north-south orientated stream corridors.
4	• A hill of higher land to the east of Chapel Row, which overlooks Herstmonceux to the west; • A strong landscape structure and sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.21
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF HERSTMONCEUX

Landscape Sensitivity

4.26.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Historic	Weak
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Moderate	Moderate
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

4.26.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.26.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	Moderate	High
Landscape Value	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

4.26.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have low landscape capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. Pockets of Ancient Woodland contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. Furthermore, this area is within the High Weald AONB. Mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and the pattern gently undulating small, medium and large-scale fields contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.26.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value. It contains pockets of Ancient Woodland which contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. The area is also within the High Weald AONB. The numerous sunken lanes, alongside significant open views from ridges towards the historic Observatory result in High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.26.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is less historic continuity within this area than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas and large-scale modern fields and a nursery detract from landscape value. However, sensitive landscape features include linear belts of Ancient Woodland lining north-south orientated stream corridors.

4.26.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity overall as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is less historic continuity within this area than within Landscape Setting Areas 1 and 2. Sensitive landscape features include occasional hedgerows; however strength of place is strong as a result of the hill of higher land which overlooks Herstmonceux to the west, facilitating long distance open views in places.

4.27 Landscape Setting of Horam

Settlement Profile

4.27.1 Situated two and a half miles to the south of Heathfield on the southern edge of the High Weald AONB, Horam is focused around the junction between A267 and the B2203 Heathfield road. The village can also be approached by a number of other rural lanes which cross its landscape setting.

4.27.2 Horam is one of the larger villages in the District with most of the development on the eastern side of the A267. It contains a mixture of local amenities for recreation, shops and business. The village is positioned on the side of a valley, which facilitates wide ranging views out to the surrounding countryside.

Landscape Character

4.27.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.27.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

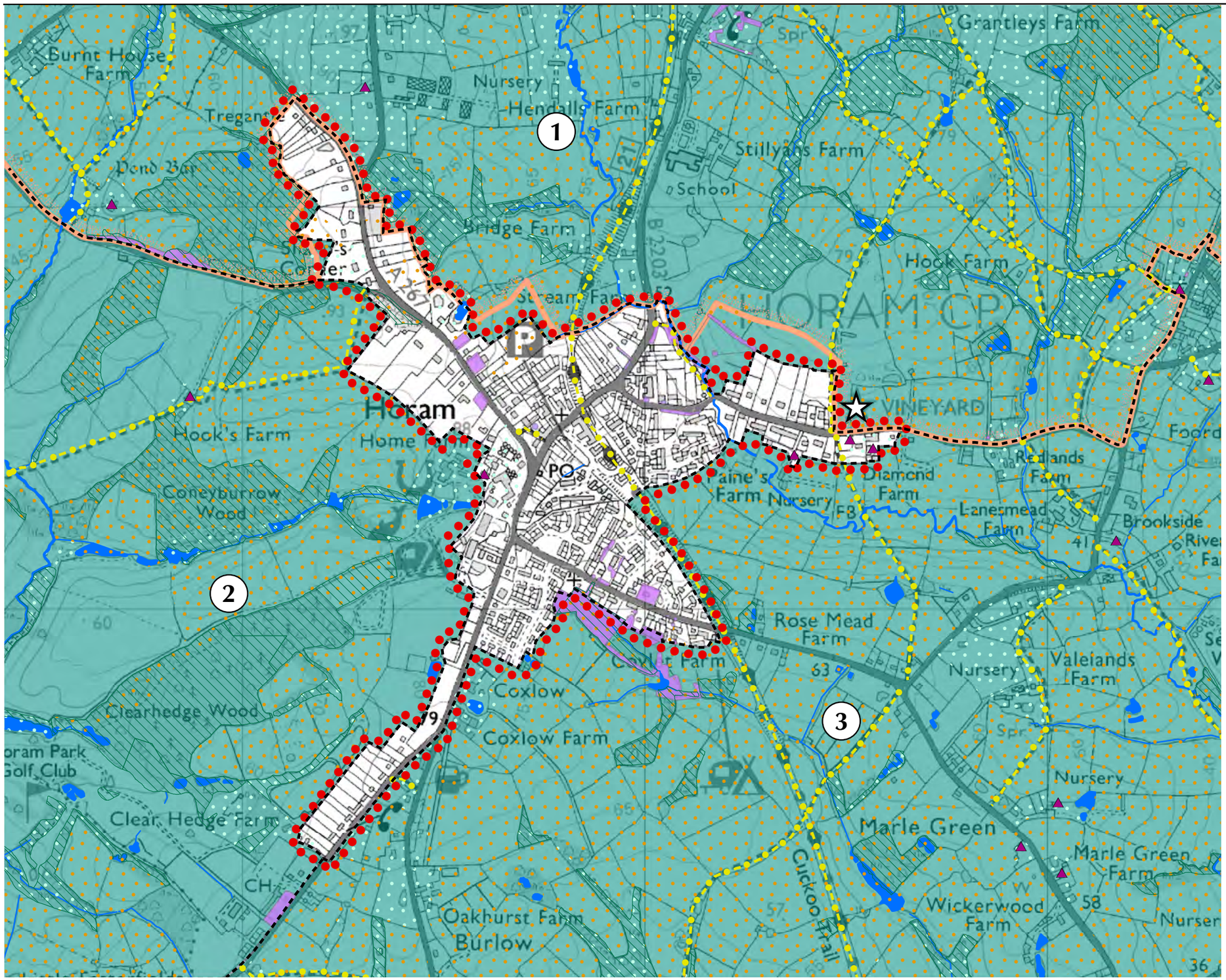
- A6: Horam – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.27.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Horam are illustrated on **Figure 4.22** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Pockets of Ancient Woodland of varying size (with the largest to the north and west) are scattered around the settlement within a patchwork of a predominantly ancient field pattern. The principal field types present are cohesive and aggregate assarts, with areas of regular piecemeal enclosure.
- **Urban Edges:** The settlement edges surrounding the village are all considered to be sensitive (lined with trees or hedgerows) and none prominent.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The landscape is bisected by a stream, the Waldron Ghyll, which flows past several farmsteads to later join the valley of the Cuckmere River. This is a key landscape feature within the setting of the village. Several ponds have formed along the course of the stream.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The Cuckoo Trail, a major route for recreation, follows the former Eastbourne to Tunbridge Wells railway and passes through the middle of this settlement contributing to its tourism. A number of other footpaths connect with the Cuckoo Trail and also connect the village to its landscape setting.

4.27.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.22** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• North-south orientated stream corridors, often lined with mature trees and belts of Ancient Woodland.
2	• East-west stream corridors within this undulating landscape. • Large areas of Ancient Woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.
3	• A vineyard to the east of the village is a key landscape feature. • A small to medium-scale patchwork of ancient pastoral fields and east-west running stream corridors; • A network of predominantly rural lanes; • Numerous farmsteads.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.22
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF HORAM

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.27.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.27.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Landscape Value	High	High	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.27.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High
Landscape Value	High	High	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Moderate

4.27.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The area has a strongly distinctive sense of place, encompassing Ancient Woodland, mature native field trees and stream corridors; coupled with high overall landscape value. This area is also situated within the High Weald AONB. There is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity within this Landscape Setting Area and Oast houses are culturally significant features.

4.27.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The area has a strongly distinctive sense of place, encompassing Ancient Woodland, mature native field trees and stream corridors; coupled with high overall landscape value. There is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity within this Landscape Setting Area.

4.27.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have moderate overall landscape capacity overall. Whilst Landscape Sensitivity within this area is still considered to be high, as a result of the small to medium–scale patchwork of ancient pastoral fields and east-west running stream corridors, there are fewer valuable landscape features than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas

4.28 Landscape Setting of Maresfield

Settlement Profile

4.28.1 Maresfield is situated in the west of Wealden District, about a mile to the north-west of Uckfield. The village is located in close proximity to the southern edge of the High Weald AONB.

4.28.2 Maresfield is a relatively large nucleated village. The historic core is situated in the south-east of the village around the junction of London Road and Batts Bridge Road; there is a recreation ground within the Conservation Area. The north of the village comprises extensive areas of low density housing with associated mature tree cover and landscaping. The south of the village predominantly comprises more modern housing development.

Landscape Character

4.28.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.28.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

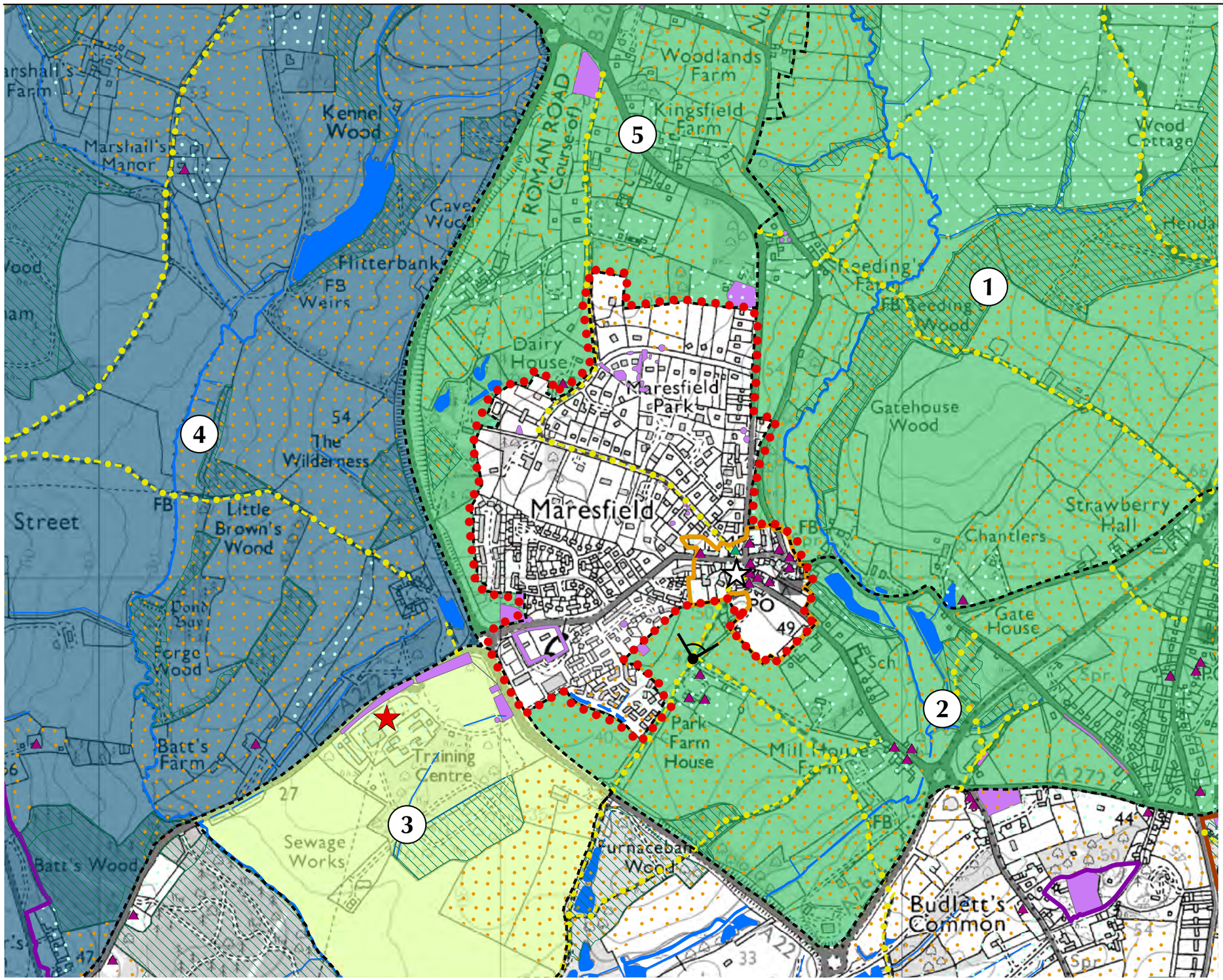
- A1: Fletching and Maresfield. – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.28.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Maresfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.23** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Maresfield sits within a predominantly ancient landscape of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure, with areas of cohesive and aggregate assarts to the north and west; and an extensive area of historic, planned private enclosure to the northeast. The settlement setting is scattered with blocks of Ancient Woodland.
- **Urban Edges:** The settlement edges surrounding the village are all considered to be sensitive, lined with trees or hedgerows.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Medium-large blocks of woodland provide visual screening from the edges of the village.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Two stream corridors run north/south along the eastern and western edges of the village, containing small waterbodies.
- Small ponds within woodlands and sometimes associated with farmsteads.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** To the south-east, the village is connected to its landscape setting and to Uckfield by a relatively dense network of public rights of way. A promoted route runs north-south to the east.

4.28.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.23** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Sloping landform and a patchwork of small-scale ancient fields. • Linear tracts of Ancient Woodland line the stream corridor.
2	• Linear settlement along road corridors. • Ancient pastoral fields and mature hedgerows.
3	• Human influences are apparent in the form of the Training Centre and Sewage Works. • A large-scale landscape pattern.
4	• Linear patches of Ancient Woodland lining the north-south stream corridor, which is a key landscape feature. • Valley landform.
5	• Small-scale patchwork of ancient fields which are lined with mature hedgerows.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.23
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF MARESFIELD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.28.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Indistinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Historic	Ancient	Recent	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Moderate	Strong	Very Weak	Strong	Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Apparent	Insignificant	Insignificant	Dominant	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	Low	Low	High	Low
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Very Low	Very High	Moderate

Landscape Value

4.28.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.28.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Very Low	Very High	Moderate
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate

4.28.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area has moderate strength of place, with some recognisable landscape features, such as the linear tracts of Ancient Woodland which contribute to landscape value and are sensitive landscape features. The stream corridor is also considered to be a sensitive landscape feature.

4.28.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area has Moderate strength of place, with some recognisable landscape features, such as the linear settlement pattern, adjacent to road corridors. Landscape structure is strong in places resulting from a network of mature hedgerows.

4.28.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of Very Low Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Visibility within this area is low as a result of pockets of woodland or groups of trees which provide a sense of enclosure and there are few culturally important landmarks or rare landscape features. There is little historic continuity and human influences are apparent in the form of the Training Centre and Sewage Works. The large-scale landscape pattern further detracts from overall Landscape Sensitivity.

4.28.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Low landscape capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The prominent landform of rising and falling ridges and valley slopes, combined with belts of mature woodland contribute to Very High Landscape Value. Pockets of Ancient Woodland are valuable landscape features.

4.28.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Moderate Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area has Moderate strength of place, with some recognisable landscape features, such as the small-scale patchwork of ancient fields, lined with mature hedgerows.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.28.15 Maresfield has an existing Conservation Area.

4.28.16 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Major	Limited	Moderate	Moderate

4.28.17 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. The area does not abut the settlement edge or Conservation Area boundary, however it does have a moderate overall strength of place with several valued landscape characteristics including linear tracts of Ancient Woodland and the stream corridor. It is therefore considered to make a moderate contribution to the landscape setting of the settlement.

4.28.18 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place and strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The area has a strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows, providing a green edge to the village and limiting long distance views. Open views to the church and other historic buildings can be gained from the western edge of this area.

4.28.19 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is no inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. This area is also considered to have a weak strength of place with little historic continuity.

4.28.20 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It does not abut the settlement edge or Conservation Area boundary, however it does have a moderate overall strength of place with several valued landscape characteristics, including linear patches of Ancient Woodland lining the north-south stream corridor.

4.28.21 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It is situated at some distance from the historic core of the village and therefore there are few views to historic buildings, however the area has a strong landscape structure of ancient pastoral fields, which are lined with mature hedgerows. This limits views northwards from the settlement.

4.29 Landscape Setting of Mayfield

Settlement Profile

4.29.1 Mayfield is situated in the north of Wealden District, on the A267 Tunbridge Wells to Eastbourne Road about ten miles south of Tunbridge Wells on the north side of the Rother Valley. It is on a ridge top within the High Weald AONB.

4.29.2 Mayfield is a historic linear residential village, one of the larger villages in the District with a range of shops and services. It has developed around the former A267 which has now been bypassed. It is a typical Wealden ridge top settlement that has ribbons of developments along adjoining ridges which afford long distance views to and from the village from its landscape setting within the High Weald AONB.

Landscape Character

4.29.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Rother Valley (6) – see **Section 4.3** for details

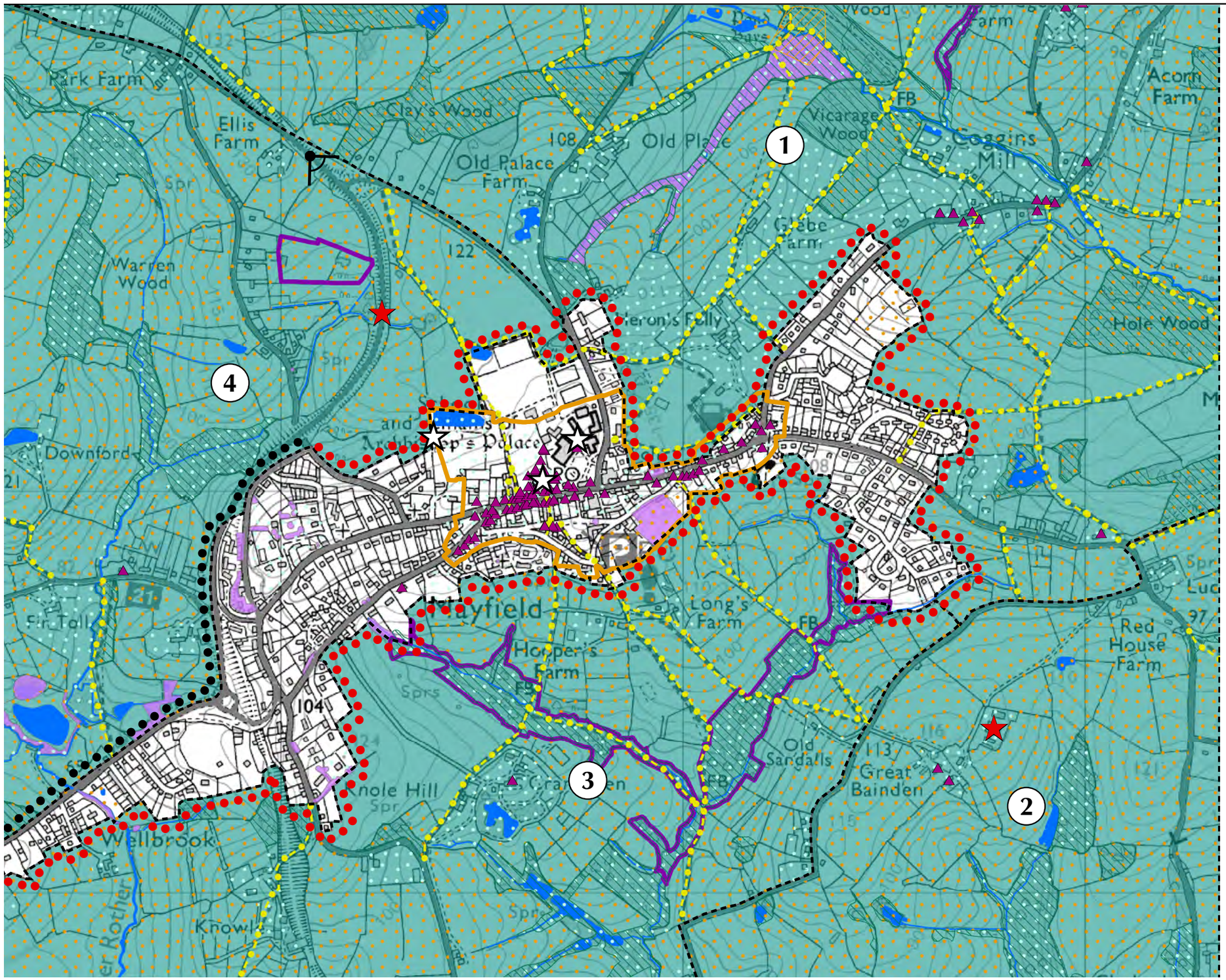
4.29.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement comprises an intricate patchwork of fields, which are crossed by a network of small streams and interspersed with patches of mature woodland.

4.29.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Mayfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.24** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The fieldscapes surrounding Mayfield are predominantly ancient, with extensive areas of regular piecemeal enclosure, and cohesive and aggregate assarts.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Remains of the Archbishop's Palace to the north of the settlement dates from the 14th century and is now part of the Mayfield Private School. There are patches of Ancient Woodland surrounding the settlement.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Piccadilly Lane is a deep, narrow, wooded lane to the south east which allows views at certain points along its length, to the church spire.
- The spire of St Dunstan's church can be seen from outside the village especially to the south where the slope falls dramatically away.
- Significant views in and out of the village especially to the south towards Heathfield and north to Argos Hill and its windmill. St Dunstan's church can be seen from all around.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Some large farm buildings south of the Piccadilly Lane area are considered to be landscape detractors
- **Urban Edges:** The edges are all considered to be sensitive except on the east edge of the village where edges are more prominent due to buildings.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are numerous streams, predominantly to the south of the village, some with associated ponds. The River Rother runs north-south to the east of the village with gentrified buildings and pastures surrounding it.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement is well connected by footpaths to its landscape setting. Some of these cross through nature reserves and woods.

4.29.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.24** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• An intricate patchwork of small-scale ancient, predominantly pastoral fields which are interspersed with linear tracts of Ancient Woodland.
2	• Sloping landform and small to medium-scale ancient pastoral fields.
3	• Numerous farmsteads are dotted within the landscape, which contains linear Ancient Woodlands and a network of rural lanes.
4	• Sloping landform and narrow stream corridors, lined with linear tracts of Ancient Woodland, which are key landscape features.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.24
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF MAYFIELD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.29.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Unique/rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Very Strong	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Dominant	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.29.8 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Landscape Value	High	High	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.29.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High
Landscape Value	High	High	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Low	Low

4.29.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB resulting in High Landscape Value. Strength of place is strong as a result of the intricate patchwork of small-scale ancient fields. Linear tracts of Ancient Woodland further contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity and Value throughout the area.

4.29.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB resulting in High Landscape Value. Strength of place is strong as a result of the intricate patchwork of small-scale ancient fields and sloping landform, which contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.29.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB resulting in High Landscape Value. Strength of place is very strong as a result of the strong pattern of linear Ancient Woodlands and pastoral fields. In addition, the linear Ancient Woodlands and a network of rural lanes contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.29.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB resulting in High Landscape Value. Stream corridors, lined with linear tracts of Ancient Woodland are key sensitive landscape features, contributing to High Landscape Sensitivity.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.29.14 Mayfield has an existing Conservation Area.

4.29.15 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Moderate

4.29.16 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its moderate inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and moderate strength of place. The linear tracts of Ancient Woodland provide a wooded backdrop to views north from the village and limit long distance views across this Landscape Setting Area.

4.29.17 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its moderate inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and moderate strength of place. The undulating nature of the landscape, coupled with patches of woodland within this area provides a relatively strong sense of visual containment to the southeast of the village.

4.29.18 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the village as a result of the strong inter-visibility with buildings within the historic core and strong landscape structure. Several historic buildings within the village are visible within views northwards from the northern part of this area. Further south, views are limited by linear tracts of Ancient Woodland which provide a sense of enclosure.

4.29.19 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its moderate inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and moderate strength of place. The pockets of Ancient Woodland within this area are visible as a wooded backdrop within views north-westwards from the village, resulting in strong inter-visibility between the edge of the settlement and this Landscape Setting Area.

4.31 Landscape Setting of Ninfield

Settlement Profile

4.31.1 Ninfield is situated in the Combe Haven Valley area of the High Weald on the A271, three and a half miles northwest of Bexhill. The boundary of the High Weald AONB passes just to the northwest of the settlement

4.31.2 Ninfield is a relatively small residential linear village with a few local services. The A269 to Bexhill is a busy road that runs through the centre of the village. The village is situated on a ridge so is elevated from its surrounding, gently undulating landscape setting.

Landscape Character

4.31.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Coombe Haven Valley (10) - see **Section 4.3** for details

4.31.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

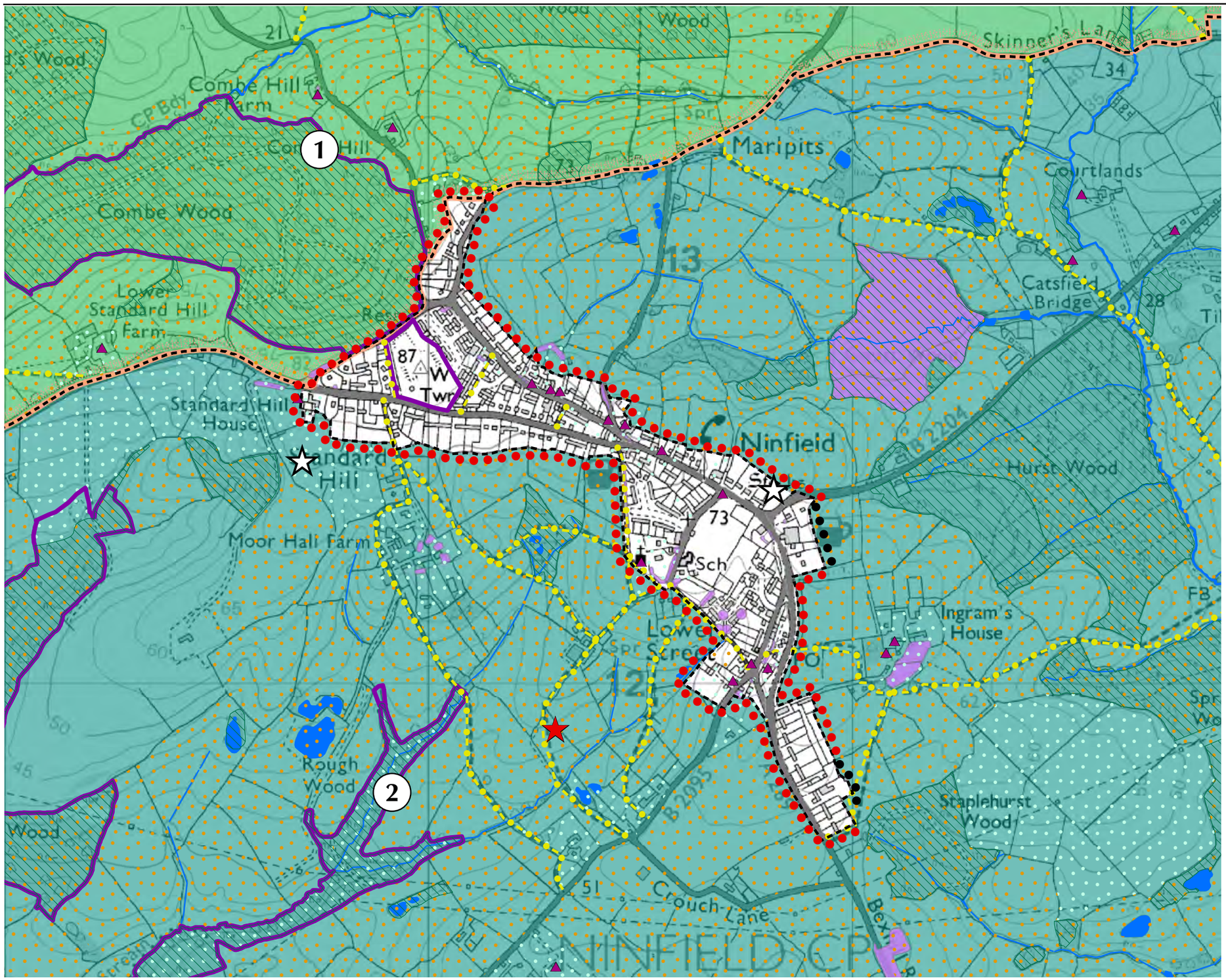
- B4: Ninfield and Hooe – see **Section 4.5** for details

1.01.1 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Ninfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.25** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Ancient fieldscapes abut the majority of the settlement edge in Ninfield, with the principal field type being regular piecemeal enclosure. Blocks of Ancient Woodland contribute to the historic setting of the settlement, bounding the settlement edge in the northwest. The remaining landscape is predominantly comprised of a patchwork of cohesive and aggregate assarts, and planned private enclosure.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Standard Hill is culturally important as the place where William the conqueror placed his flag after the Battle of Hastings. Here, long distance views across the levels can be gained.
- **Urban Edges:** To the south east of the village on the Bexhill Road near Staplehurst Wood there is a small complex of industrial buildings and yard which has a prominent urban edge and several other areas in the near vicinity also have prominent urban edges.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are a few small ponds of water scattered within the setting of the village, mainly near Rough Wood and to the east at Catsfield.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is connected to the surrounding countryside and The High Weald AONB by many interconnecting footpaths.

4.31.5 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.25** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Strongly wooded character and sense of enclosure. • Coombe Wood Ancient Woodland is a key landscape feature.
2	• Undulating patchwork of wooded spurs (covered in patches of Ancient Woodland), intersected by narrow stream corridors. • Occasional farmsteads and small ponds.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.25
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF NINFIELD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.31.6 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Enclosed	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

4.31.7 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	High	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

4.31.8 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High
Landscape Value	High	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate

4.31.9 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have high landscape value. It has a very strong strength of place because there are large patches of Ancient Woodland, sunken lanes with over hanging trees and tree roots visible which add considerably to its sensitivity and value. There are a few listed buildings mainly associated with farmsteads which add to a distinctive sense of place.

4.31.10 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Within this area, views across the levels can be glimpsed through established hedgerows. The views are both short - into meadows and Ancient Woodlands and also long and panoramic across the Levels and over the undulating fields.

4.32 Landscape Setting of Old Heathfield

Settlement Profile

Old Heathfield is situated approximately one mile to the southeast of the main town of Heathfield on the B2096 road corridor. The settlement is within the High Weald AONB and is situated on a ridge that that runs from Heathfield to Battle. Heathfield Park (17th century parkland) is situated at the edge of the village. This parkland also abuts the edge of Heathfield.

4.32.1 Old Heathfield is a small linear, predominantly residential settlement which is situated in close proximity to Cade Street on the B2096 road corridor. There are few services as it is so close to Heathfield. The village has a historic core of older buildings and facilitates long, often panoramic views across its landscape setting. The setting of the village has been immortalised by J.M.W. Turner in his painting 'The Vale of Heathfield'.

Landscape Character

4.32.2 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

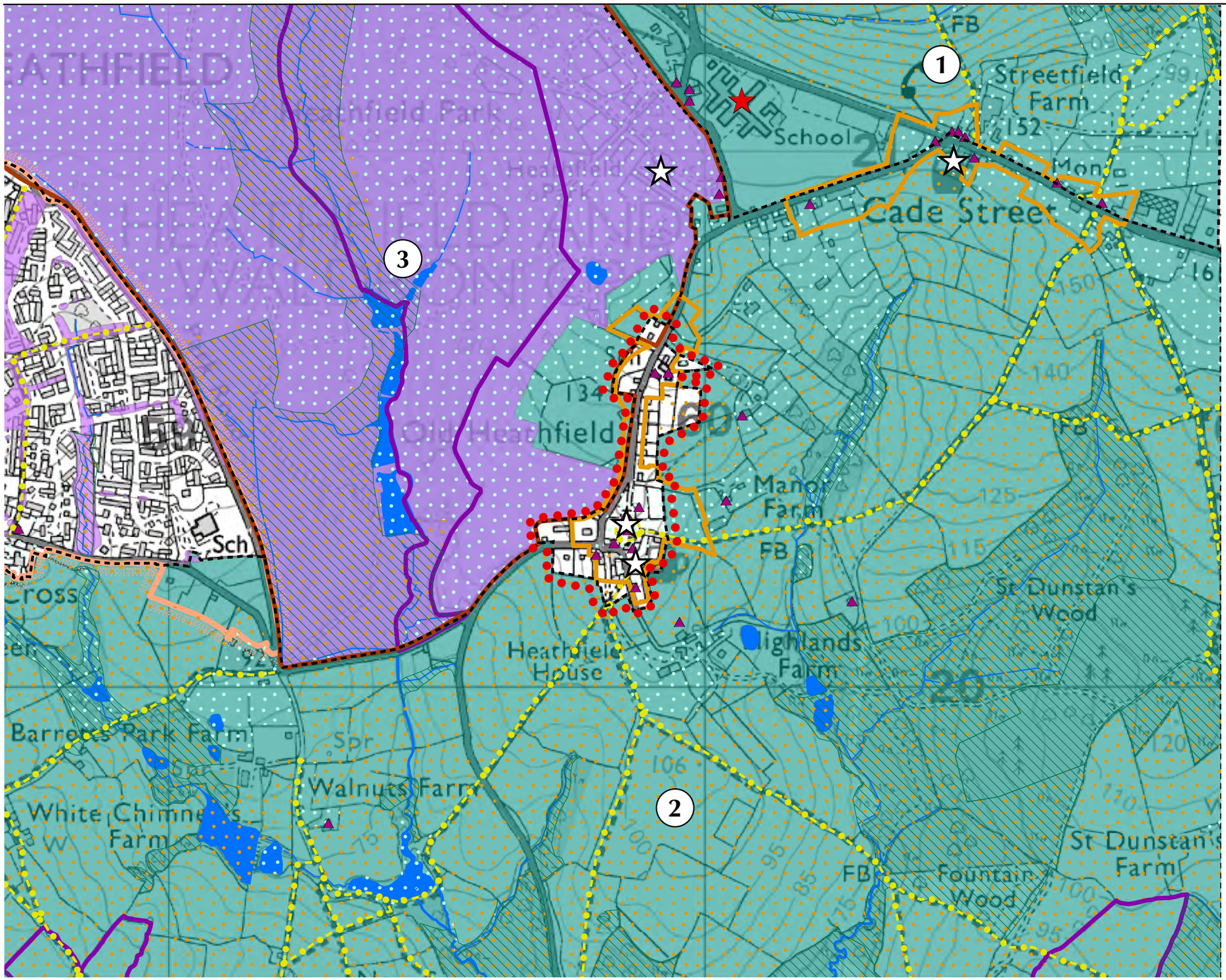
4.32.3 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement comprises undulating, small-scale, enclosed fields with thick, mature tree hedges. Long distance views to the South Downs to the south are a key feature.

4.32.4 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Old Heathfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.26** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The historic settlement setting is created in part by the presence of Heathfield Park, a Grade II listed 17th Century landscape park. This dominates the landscape setting to the north west of the settlement. The remaining fieldscape is comprised of ancient field patterns, mainly regular piecemeal enclosure and cohesive assarts. Large blocks of Ancient Woodland are present within the boundary of Heathfield Park, and to the south east of the settlement. All Saints Church, built in the 13th century, situated next to the Star Inn is a prominent feature when viewed from the surrounding countryside.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The Star Inn (14th century) has long distance, panoramic views across to the South Downs and forms part of the historic core of the village. Heathfield Park has a brick wall around its circumference.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Old Heathfield's elevated position in the High Weald landscape facilitates, long distance, panoramic views over the surrounding landscape of rolling fields, interspersed with densely wooded areas.
- **Urban Edges:** There are mainly sensitive edges to this settlement as a result of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Ponds are found in Heathfield Park and to the south west near Walnuts Farm and White Chimneys Farm. St Dunstans wood has a stream running through it.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement is very well connected to the countryside through footpaths that link it to the surrounding villages.

4.32.5 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.26** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Sloping landform which incorporates a patchwork of pastoral fields and urban fringe land uses, including a school and nursery on the edges of Cade Street.
2	• A mature landscape structure of undulating pastoral fields, lined with hedgerows and hedgerow trees. • Large areas of Ancient Woodland (for example St Dunstan's Wood), provide an intermittent sense of enclosure; • Key, long distance, panoramic views southwards towards the South Downs.
3	• Large historic parkland (Heathfield Park) with its pattern of strong woodland and open grassy areas; • A stream corridor, running north-south through the parkland is a key landscape feature.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.26
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF OLD HEATHFIELD

Landscape Sensitivity

4.32.6 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Very Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.32.7 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High	High	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.32.8 Old Heathfield has an existing Conservation Area.

4.32.9 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Major

4.32.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. The sloping landform which incorporates a patchwork of pastoral fields is visible within distant views northwards from the village (and Conservation Area).

4.32.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. This is also a mature, historic and ancient landscape, with a strong landscape pattern and structure. There is strong inter-visibility between the village and its close and distant landscape setting as a result of long distance panoramic views to the South Downs.

4.32.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This historic parkland landscape has strong historic and cultural associations with the historic core of the village and there is also strong inter-visibility between the area and historic buildings within the historic core.

4.33 Landscape Setting of Rotherfield

Settlement Profile

4.33.1 Rotherfield is situated within the north of Wealden District, approximately two miles to the east of Crowborough in the High Weald AONB. The village is situated on the intersection of the B2100 and B2101 road corridors. Its elevated position facilitates open views across the High Weald, which forms the landscape setting of the village.

4.33.2 Rotherfield is a small nucleated village which has a strong historic core with many large historic detached listed properties. The River Rother runs in close proximity to the village. The village has ancient features and was mentioned in the Domesday Book and other medieval writings.

Landscape Character

4.33.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Central High Weald (4) – see **Section 4.3** for details

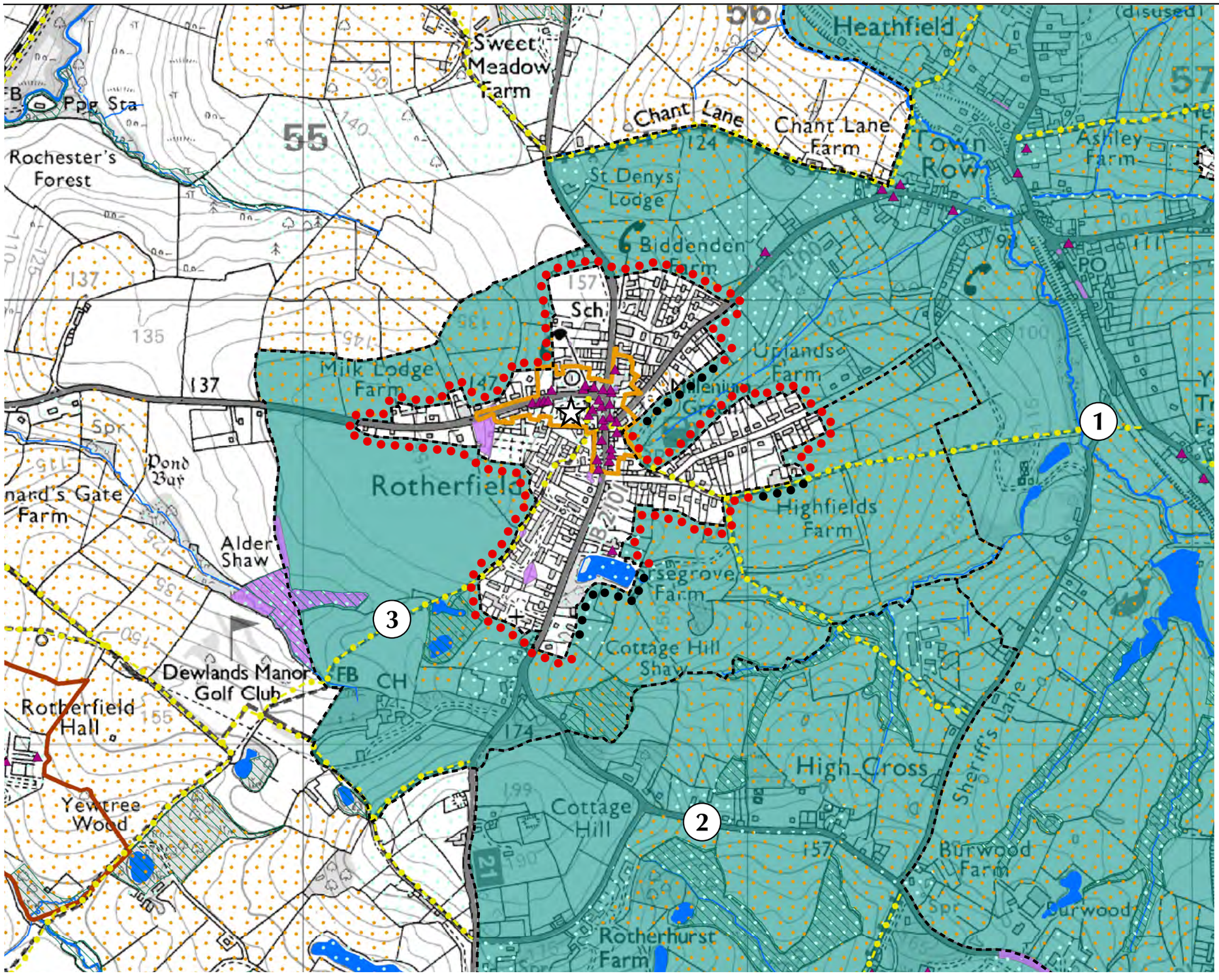
4.33.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement comprises an undulating patchwork of fields and patches of woodland. The village is situated on high ground.

4.33.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Rotherfield are illustrated on **Figure 4.27** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A historic landscape setting comprised of an array of ancient fieldscapes, predominantly regular piecemeal enclosure, particularly abutting the northern settlement edge, with extensive areas of aggregate assarts and pockets of irregular piecemeal enclosure and Ancient Woodland. Other historic fields present include planned private enclosure.
- **Urban Edges:** Although the majority of the urban edges are considered to be sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation, there are a few slightly prominent edges near Horsegrove Farm and Highfields Farm with their sheds as well as at the top of the Millennium Green.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The River Rother starts south of the village and is an important water source for the District. There are numerous springs, woodland lakes and small streams, some which feed Yew Tree Lakes and Fisheries.
- **Significant Key Views/Ridgelines:** The settlement can be seen from all surrounding Landscape Setting Areas, especially from the southeast on Sheriffs Lane. The deep lanes and high mature hedges limit some potential views. The highest point is on Cottage Hill.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** There are several footpaths that connect the settlement with the surrounding countryside and one that passes through the centre of the settlement's historic core.

4.33.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.27** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• North-south oriented stream corridor which is lined with linear Ancient Woodlands and a patchwork of pastoral fields.
2	• An area of hills and slopes • Cottage Hill is a key landscape feature • Numerous small ponds and pockets of Ancient Woodland.
3	• Dewlands Manor golf club is a key human influence • Pockets of small-scale fields in the north and south of the area • Larger-scale, modern fields towards the centre of the area.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.27
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF ROTHERFIELD

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.33.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Historic	Historic
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Apparent	Dominant	Dominant
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

4.33.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High	High	High

Landscape Capacity

4.33.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High
Landscape Value	High	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Low

4.33.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. There is a strong recognisable strength of place as a result of the pattern of pastoral fields and Ancient Woodlands. The north-south oriented stream corridor which is lined with linear Ancient Woodland is considered to be a sensitive landscape feature, contributing to High Landscape Sensitivity

4.33.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. There is strong recognisable strength of place as a result of the undulating topography of hills and slopes. Numerous small ponds and pockets of Ancient Woodland further contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.33.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area is within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have High Landscape Value. Sensitive landscape features include pockets of small-scale fields in the north and south of the area.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.33.13 Rotherfield has an existing Conservation Area.

4.33.14 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Limited	Major

4.33.15 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. In the north of the area, there is strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. There is also a strong landscape structure and pattern throughout. Small pockets of Ancient Woodland along the stream corridor can be seen within views eastwards from the village, providing a semi-wooded backdrop.

4.33.16 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. This area does not abut the settlement edge and there is little inter-visibility with the historic core. Views southwards to this area from the village are limited by pockets of Ancient Woodland within Landscape Setting Area 1.

4.33.17 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. There is also a strong landscape structure and pattern throughout. Pockets of Ancient Woodland to the east of the golf course are visible within views southwards from the village.

4.34 Landscape Setting of Rushlake Green

Settlement Profile

4.34.1 Rushlake Green is in the High Weald AONB. It is situated four miles to the southeast of Heathfield and nine miles to the northeast of Battle.

4.34.2 Rushlake Green is on the slopes of the High Weald. Mostly linear in nature it has developed around a triangular village green to the north which is slightly raised and offers views all around giving an open feel. There is the 17th century Horse and Groom Pub and a village shop. The residential village has numerous listed buildings located around the green, originally the typical Sussex workers houses, as well as some smaller more recent homes to the south.

Landscape Character

4.34.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

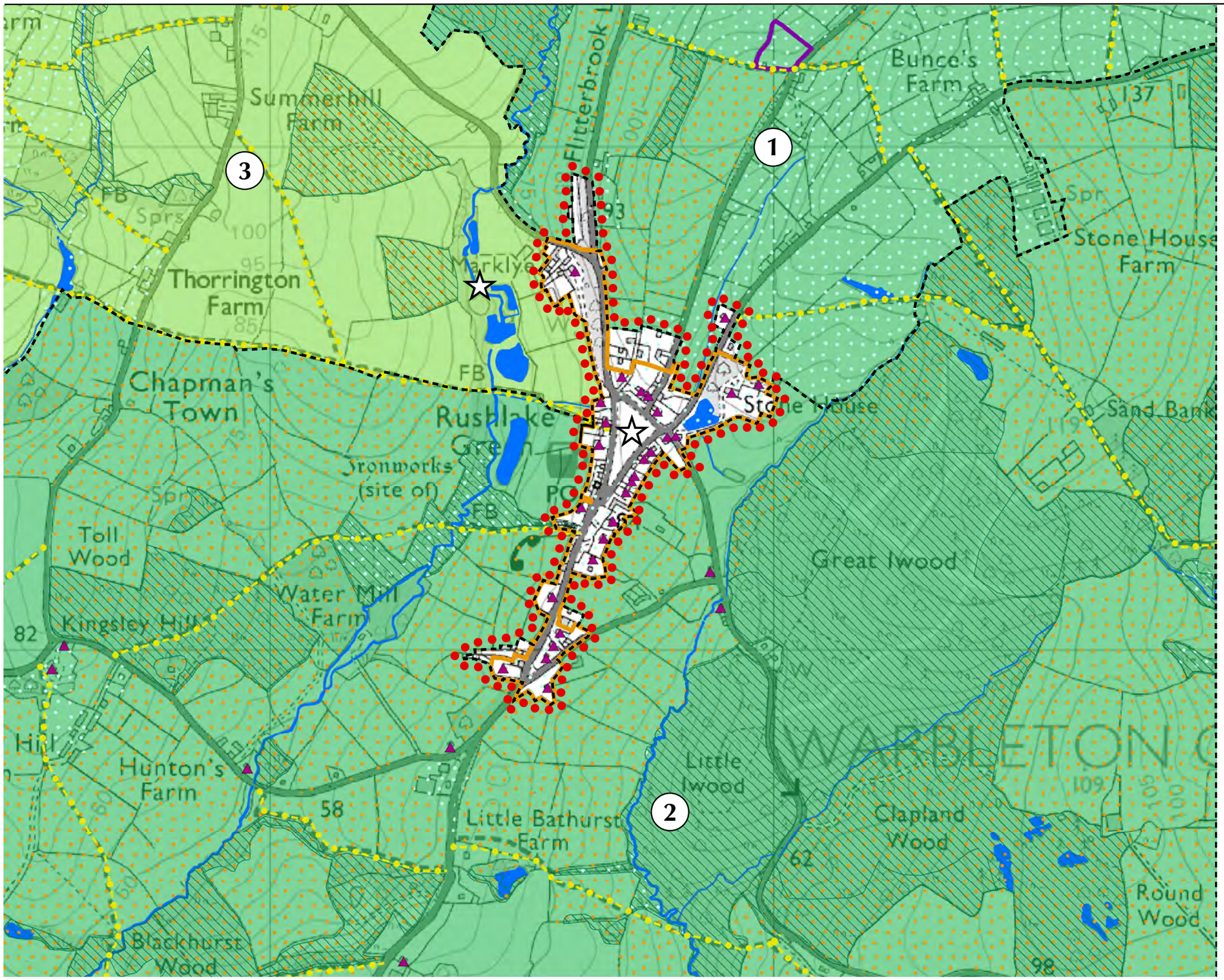
4.34.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement in considerably wooded and slopes from north to south.

4.34.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Rushlake Green are illustrated on **Figure 4.28** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** To the south east, the settlement setting of Rushlake Green is dominated by a large area of Ancient Woodland. Across the rest of the settlement setting, Ancient Woodland is a feature, though present in smaller blocks. Between the woodland, the fieldscape has a significant proportion of ancient field types, including regular piecemeal enclosure, and cohesive and aggregate assarts, as well as historic planned private enclosure. To the north west, an area of post medieval designed parkland adds to the historical interest. The village green is a landmark in the village, as is the pub. Warbleton church can be seen from the green and the Chapman's Town road. The Windmill at Punnett's Town, 2 miles to the north-west can be seen.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges are sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation and woodland, and there are no landscape detractors.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Flitter Brook runs through the woodland behind the pub, collects in ponds and runs red with iron. Small ponds are also found in other wooded areas to the north and to the south east in Clap land wood.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Views to the surrounding villages such are Warbleton and Punnett's Town give this village a greater sense of place.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is well connected to the surrounding landscape by a series of footpaths.

4.34.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.28** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Several linear landscape features, including rural road corridors, Ancient Woodlands and stream corridors.
2	• Large areas of Ancient Woodland are key landscape features, particularly in the east of the area; • Small-scale landscape pattern, encompassing predominantly pastoral fields; • North-south oriented stream corridors.
3	• Patchwork of pastoral fields, interspersed with regular shaped woodland. These provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.28
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF RUSHLAKE GREEN

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.34.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Historic	Ancient	Recent
Strength of Place	Moderate	Strong	Weak
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Enclosed	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Low

Landscape Value

4.34.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	High/Moderate	High	Moderate

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.34.9 Rushlake Green has an existing Conservation Area.

4.34.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Moderate

4.34.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of a strong landscape structure and inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. Pockets of Ancient Woodland within this area are visible within views northwards from the village.

4.34.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of a strong landscape structure and inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The large areas of woodland within this area provide a wooded backdrop to views from the village.

4.34.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. There is little historic continuity within this area, and there is a weak strength of place overall. There is however, some inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

4.36 Landscape Setting of Splaynes Green

Settlement Profile

4.36.1 Splayne's Green is almost an extension of Fletching as it is situated on the north edge of Fletching on the edge of the High Weald AONB, three miles northwest of Uckfield close to Sheffield Park (National Trust).

4.36.2 Splayne's Green is a very small linear village situated on the same ridge as the village of Fletching.

Landscape Character

4.36.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 4.3** for details

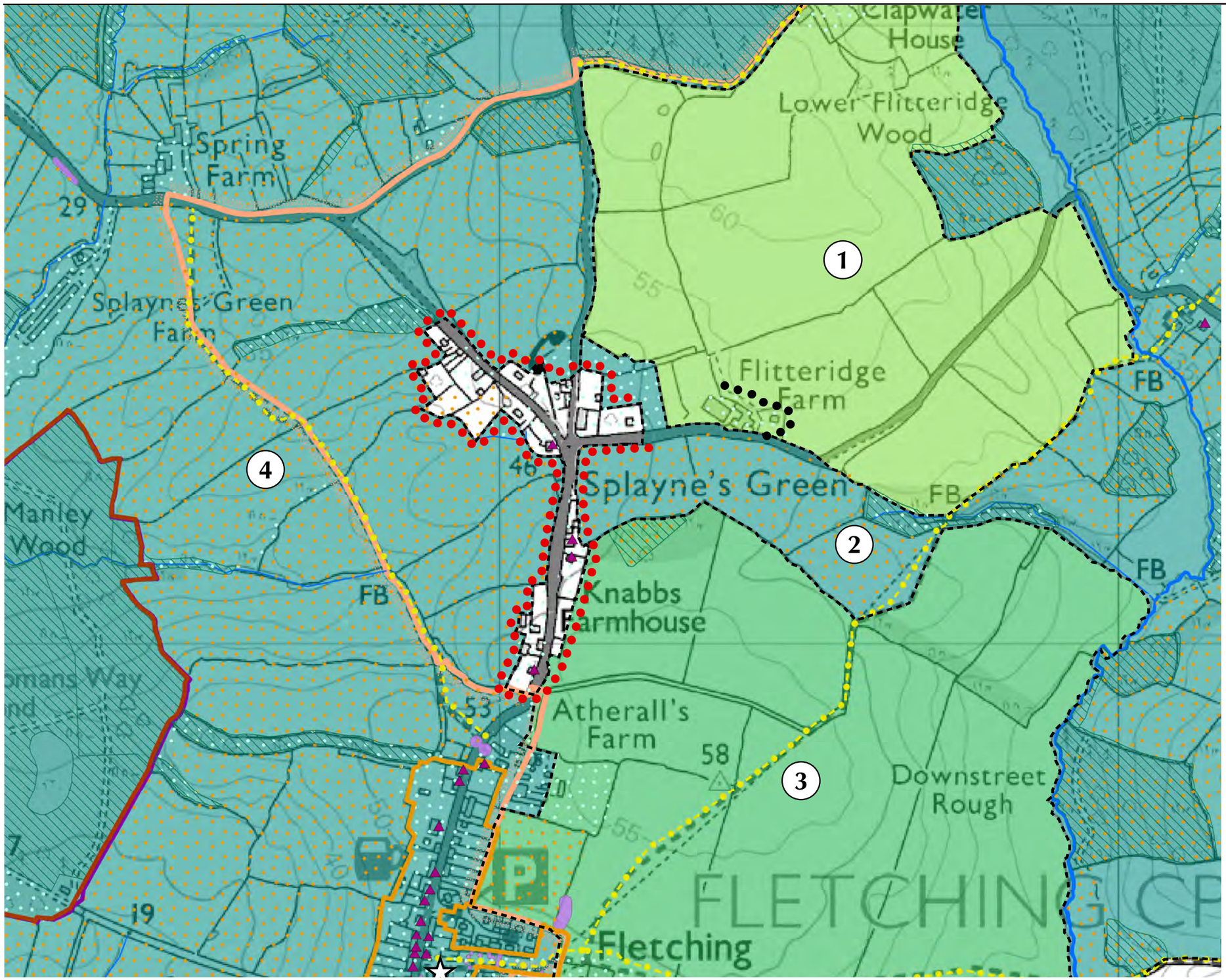
4.36.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement lies on a ridge with long views over gently undulating fields.

4.36.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Splaynes Green are illustrated on **Figure 4.29** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A mosaic of ancient fieldscapes is present to the west of the settlement, which consists primarily of cohesive assarts and some regular piecemeal enclosure. There are also some small areas of cohesive assarts in the landscape to the east of the settlement. Some small blocks and belts of Ancient Woodland are scattered across the surrounding landscape.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The woodlands of the Historic Park are highly visible from the settlement and form part of a long view to the south west.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are some pylons in the distance of long views.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are predominantly sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation. Around Flitteridge Farm, buildings create a prominent edge.

4.36.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.29** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large-scale modern fields, lined by mature hedgerows.
2	• North-south running stream corridor which is lined by a patchwork of Ancient Woodland and pastoral fields.
3	• Large-scale, modern fields which are crossed by a minor rural road corridor.
4	• An undulating patchwork of ancient fields which are lined with mature hedgerows. • Manley Wood, a large area of Ancient Woodland in the west of the area, is a key landscape feature.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.29
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF SPLAYNES GREEN

Landscape Sensitivity

4.36.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Unique/Rare	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Recent	Ancient	Recent	Ancient
Strength of Place	Weak	Very strong	Weak	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Open	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	High	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

4.36.8 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	Moderate	Very High	Low	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.36.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Splaynes Green.

4.36.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Major

4.36.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate Contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Whilst the area does not abut the settlement edge, there is inter-visibility between this area and the historic core of the village, due to its topography which encompasses the slopes of a small higher plateau/ridge. The area encompasses modern fields, with little historic continuity and overall strength of place is therefore considered to be moderate.

4.36.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate Contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Whilst this area has a very strong strength of place resulting from the pattern of woodlands and stream corridors, it does not abut the entirety of the settlement edge and there has limited inter-visibility with the historic core.

4.36.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major Contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core.

4.36.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major Contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core. The undulating patchwork of ancient, hedgerow-lined fields and pockets of Ancient Woodland within this area is visible within views westwards from the settlement.

4.37 Landscape Setting of Wadhurst

Settlement Profile

4.37.1 Wadhurst is situated in the north of Wealden District on the B2099 and B2100 cross country routes in the Central High Weald. It is situated in the High Weald AONB, seven miles to the east of Crowborough.

4.37.2 Wadhurst is a large linear village. It is predominantly residential with many historical buildings throughout. There are local shopping facilities and a train station to the northwest of the village on the Hastings to London Line. A ridge that runs east to west facilitates long and dramatic views of the streams and valleys below. To the north the views are more limited.

Landscape Character

4.37.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Rother Valley (6) – see **Section 4.3** for details
- Bewl Water Area (7) - see **Section 4.3** for details
- Central High Weald (4) - see **Section 4.3** for details

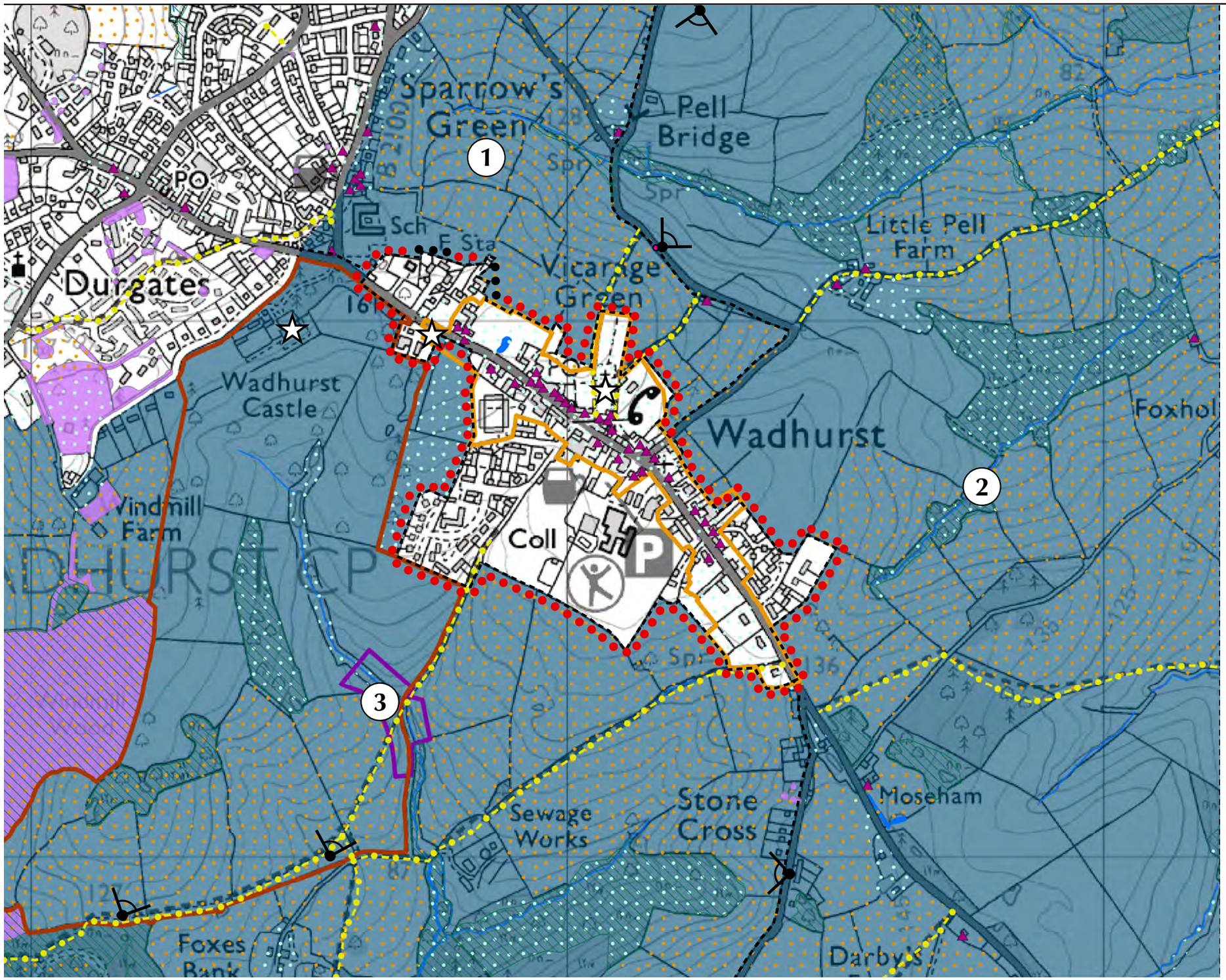
4.37.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement comprises undulating fields which are interspersed with small stream corridors and extensive patches of woodland.

4.37.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Wadhurst are illustrated on **Figure 4.30** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A predominantly ancient landscape predominantly comprised of regular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts and Ancient Woodland. Wadhurst Castle, and its associated registered park and garden, add historic interest to the settlement setting.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Bewl Water and Kent can be seen to the northeast. The church is central and dominant in the village and can be seen from all around on the high ridge.
- **Urban Edges:** All the edges of the village are sensitive, surrounded by mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Narrow occasional streams scattered across the surrounding countryside.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The settlement is well connected to the countryside with footpaths.

4.37.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.30** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• An undulating landscape of sloping valley sides and narrow stream corridors which are often lined by mature Ancient Woodlands. • Open views northwards across the High Weald landscape from several locations. • Narrow, deep, wooded ghylls
2	• An undulating pattern of small-scale ridges and slopes, supporting small-scale ancient pastoral fields. • Medium/large-scale Ancient Woodland which provides an intermittent sense of enclosure.
3	• Moderate/large-scale fields. • Sloping landform which is interspersed with narrow stream corridors and a mature landscape structure. • Sunken, tree-lined lanes.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 160 320 Meters

N

Scale: 1:7,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 4.30
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF WADHURST

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.37.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Unique/rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Very Strong	Very Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Open	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Very High	High	High
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	Very High	Very High	Very High

Landscape Value

4.37.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High

Landscape Capacity

4.37.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	**2**	**3**
Landscape Sensitivity	Very High	Very High	Very High
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High
Landscape Capacity	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low

4.37.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The wooded ghylls and stream corridors are highly sensitive landscape features and there is strong strength of place throughout, resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.37.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The area has a very strong strength of place and landscape structure resulting from the pattern of small-scale ancient pastoral fields and Ancient Woodlands; resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.37.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The area has a very strong strength of place and mature landscape structure resulting from the intricate pattern of narrow stream corridors, resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.37.13 Wadhurst has an existing Conservation Area.

4.37.14 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Major

4.37.15 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong landscape structure and strength of place, in addition to strong inter-visibility with historic buildings in the historic core. Wadhurst's position on the hill, its strong strength of place with the church spire and historical buildings and the outstanding views to and from the village are considered to be sensitive and valuable.

4.37.16 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong landscape structure and strength of place. There is strong inter-visibility between historic buildings within the Conservation Area (situated on a ridge) and adjacent fields within this area.

4.37.17 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong landscape structure and strength of place, in addition to strong inter-visibility with historic buildings in the historic core. This area provides a direct physical setting to parts of the Conservation Area.

4.39 Landscape Setting of Withyham

Settlement Profile

4.39.1 Withyham is situated approximately ten miles to the south west of Tunbridge Wells and three and an half miles from Crowborough in the High Weald AONB on the B2110 road corridor.

4.39.2 Withyham is a very small linear residential and picturesque village in the valley of the River Medway. Other than houses there is a church, a bed and breakfast and the village pub, the Dorset Arms, which was once a farmhouse.

Landscape Character

4.39.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Upper Medway Valley (1) – see **Section 4.3** for details

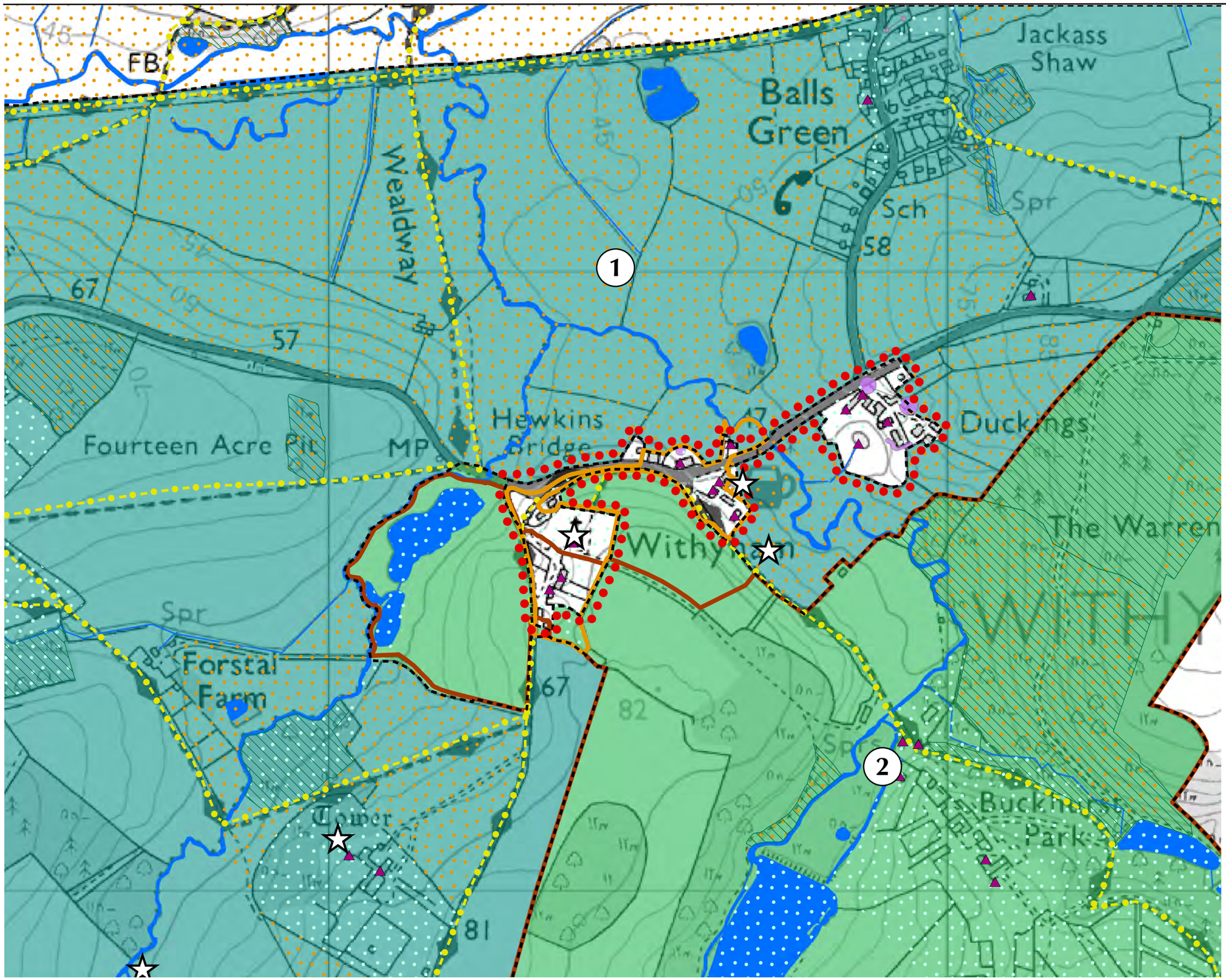
4.39.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement lies within the valley of the River Medway on a slight ridge. The houses are set back from the road with large gardens and mature trees punctuating views and softening the road edges. Balls Green village lies to the north with large newer properties but still mature hedges keeping the rural setting. The cycle route 21 passes through Balls Green.

4.39.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Withyham are illustrated on **Figure 4.32** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The historic settlement setting comprises ancient fieldscapes to the north of the settlement, specifically regular piecemeal enclosure; and irregular piecemeal enclosure associated with the River Medway and its related watercourses. To the south west is an isolated area of regular piecemeal enclosure, and to the south east, additional historic interest is generated by the presence of Buckhurst Park, a Grade II* listed 18th century landscape park. Within Buckhurst Park is a large area of Ancient Woodland.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The Gardens and Park are particular to this area. The 100 acre wood from A. A. Milne's classic, Winnie the Pooh is part of this estate. There is a row of Scots Pines to the south of the church which forms part of the long view across three ridges. The 17th century church of St Michael and All Angels, is found to the south west of the village. The Dorset Arms forms a village centerpiece. The Cricket pitch behind the Dorset Arms can be seen from the Church hill.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the settlement are all sensitive, due to presence of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** A tributary from the River Medway to the north divides just north of the village and collects in several large ponds on the Buckhurst Park Estate.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The Church is on a high point and there are views of the picturesque countryside and several ridges all around, including the church spire and rooftops of Hartfield to the west.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The Weald Way passes the Church and continues up hill and allows for views back to the village and church. Forest Way passes through Balls Green village to the north and connects with The Weald Way

4.39.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.32** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Mature landscape structure of Ancient Woodlands, reservoirs and stream corridors within Buckhurst Park.
2	• Medium to large-scale fields, lined with mature hedgerows and interspersed with narrow stream corridors. • Large areas of Ancient Woodland.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 125 250 Meters

N

Scale: 1:6,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 4.32
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF WITHYHAM

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Landscape Sensitivity

4.39.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Rare	Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Very Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate	Low
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Moderate

Landscape Value

4.39.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	High	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.39.9 Withyham has an existing Conservation Area.

4.39.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major

4.39.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It is considered to have a strong strength of place and strong landscape structure. The Ancient Woodlands, reservoirs and stream corridors within Buckhurst Park are visible from the northern edges of the village (within the Conservation Area) and long distance views northwards across the stream valley corridors contribute to recognisable strength of place.

4.39.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It is considered to have a strong strength of place and strong landscape structure. The large areas of Ancient Woodland are visible within views from the southern edges of the village, providing a wooded backdrop to views from the Conservation Area.

4.40 Landscape Setting of Waldron

Settlement Profile

4.40.1 Waldron is situated to the west of Heathfield between the A22 and B2192 and is in the High Weald AONB. It is situated five miles to the northwest of Hailsham and five miles to the southeast of Uckfield.

4.40.2 Waldron is a small residential hamlet which has developed where two roads meet in a Y shape. The historic core is at the centre of the village. The landscape surrounding Waldron is very hilly with many trees.

Landscape Character

4.40.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 4.3** for details

4.40.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

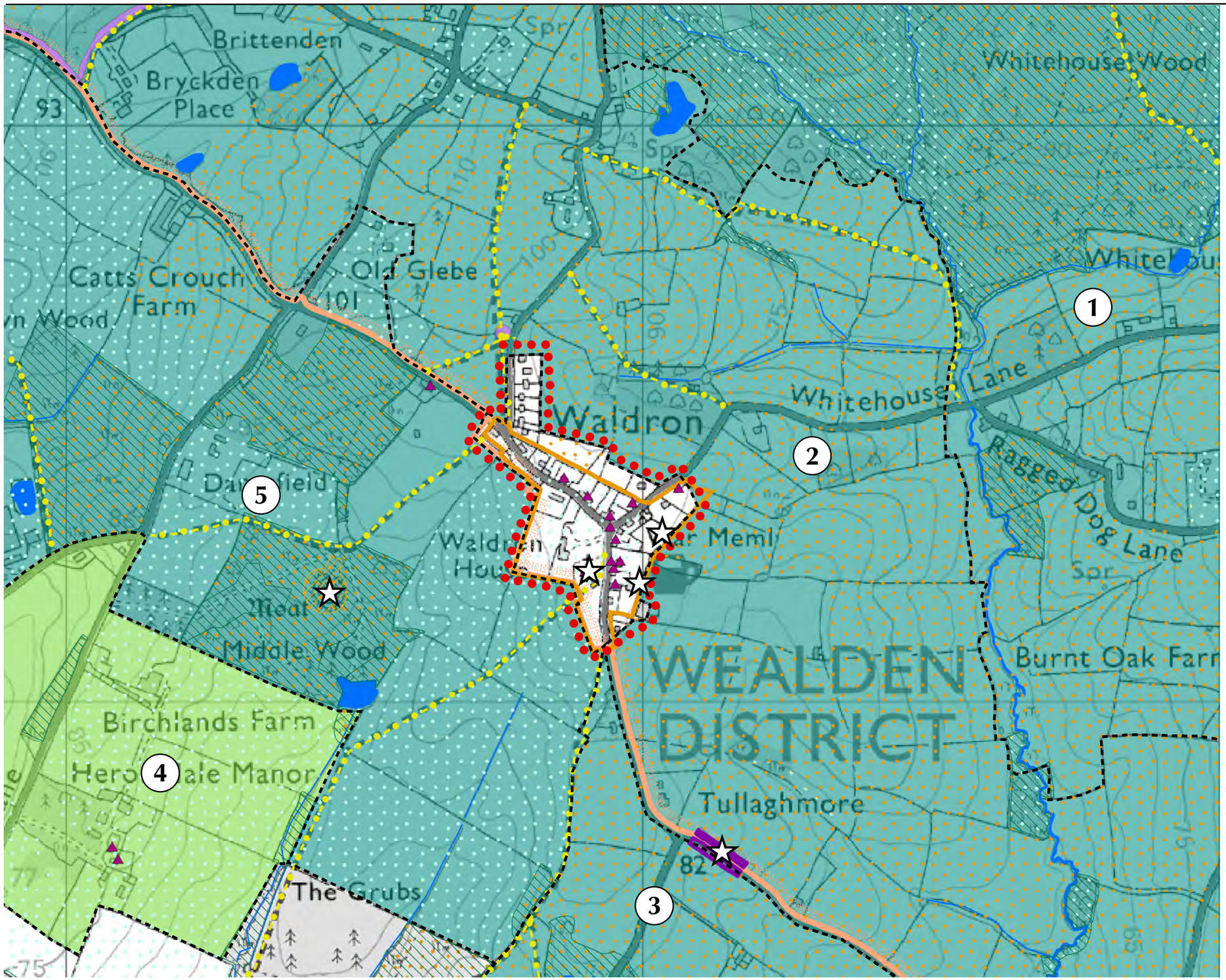
- A5: Hawkhurst Common – see **Section 4.4** for details

4.40.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Waldron are illustrated **Figure 4.33** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The historic settlement setting for Waldron comprises a variety of ancient and historic fieldscapes, including large tracts of cohesive assarts to the east, and planned private enclosure to the west. These are interspersed with small areas of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure. A large block of Ancient Woodland dominates the settlement setting to the north east. Additional historic interest is generated by a Medieval ringwork within Middle Wood (west of the settlement), which is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The 12th-century parish church is dedicated to All Saints. Foxhunt Manor at Waldron dates from 1898 and there are a number of other listed buildings. There is a war memorial. Pylons can be seen from some of the views from higher ground and are landscape detractors as is a mast that can be seen from Whitehouse lane looking north.
- **Urban Edges:** The hamlet is considered to have sensitive edges due to presence of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Ponds have developed in the Ancient Woodland and a stream crosses under Whitehouse Lane to the south.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The hamlet is reasonably well connected to the countryside by footpaths.

4.40.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 4.33** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Sunken, tree-lined rural landscape containing large swathes of mature, Ancient Woodland, such as Whitehouse Wood.
2	• Patchwork of small to medium scale ancient fields, with a strong landscape structure and a mature network of hedgerows and trees
3	• Sunken, tree lined lanes • Small-scale, ancient, predominantly pastoral fields
4	• Birchlands Farm and Herondale Manor are two human elements within this area of regular-shaped pastoral fields.
5	• Medium to large-scale regular blocks of Ancient Woodland and pastoral fields.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
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- Locally Listed Buildings
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- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 4.33
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF WALDRON

Landscape Sensitivity

4.40.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Rare	Distinct	Distinct	Rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Historic	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate	Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Dominant	Apparent	Apparent	Insignificant	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Low	High

Landscape Value

4.40.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Value	High	Very High	High	High	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.40.9 Waldron has an existing Conservation Area.

4.40.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Limited	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Major

4.40.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It does not abut the settlement edge and there is limited inter-visibility between this area and the historic core of the village.

4.40.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a very strong strength of place and has strong historic continuity as a result of the patchwork of ancient fields and mature landscape structure. This area provides the eastern setting to the Conservation Area and as a result, there is strong inter-visibility with the historic core. Views to the church and war memorial can be gained from the eastern edges of this area.

4.40.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a strong character, with recognisable strength of place and some inter-visibility with the historic core of the village from its northern edge. The area does not, however, abut the Conservation Area.

4.40.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a strong character, with recognisable strength of place, however it does not abut the settlement edge and therefore has no direct physical relationship with the village.

4.40.15 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a very strong strength of place and has strong historic continuity as a result of the patchwork of ancient fields and mature landscape structure. There is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings in the historic core of the village from the eastern edge of the area.

5.0 THE LOW WEALD LANDSCAPE

5.0 THE LOW WEALD LANDSCAPE

5.1 General

5.1.1 Within the landscape character context set out in **Section 3.0**, this Section presents the assessment of the Low Weald Landscape and the landscape setting of the selected settlements in this area. The assessment includes:

- A summary overview of the Low Weald National Character Area and its constituent County Landscape Character Areas
- Assessment of the character, sensitivity and value of each Local Landscape Character Type identified within the Low Weald Landscape, including description of each Type's constituent Local Landscape Character Areas, in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.0**
- Assessment of the Landscape Settings for each of the selected settlements within the Low Weald Landscape in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.0**

5.2 The Low Weald National Character Area

5.2.1 The extent of the Low Weald National Character Area in respect of Wealden District is shown on **Figure 2.1**. A full description of the National Character Area as a whole is available from the Natural England website[17]. A summary overview of the Low Weald National Character Area within the District is provided below.

Summary

5.2.2 The Low Weald forms the eroded outer edges of the High Weald, largely coinciding with the outcrop of Weald Clay but also with narrow bands of Gault Clay and the Lower and Upper Greensands, which outcrop close to the scarp face of the South Downs. Below the irregular escarpment of the Greensands belt and the chalk lies a broad vale, rarely exceeding more than 40 m above sea level, with many areas as low as 15 m. The resulting landscape is gently undulating with occasional steep-sided stream valleys, ridges and plateaux, becoming hillier to the south as it reaches the South Downs.

5.2.3 Water is a dominant feature, owing to the topography and impervious clay, particularly ponds and many meandering streams with riparian willows and alders. The area includes major parts of the valleys and floodplains of several principal rivers of the region.

5.2.4 Land use is still predominantly agricultural, and largely pastoral owing to the heavy clay soils with either grazed grassland or forage, including hay meadows. Most grassland has been agriculturally improved, but fragments of unimproved, floristically rich meadow and pasture are still present.

5.2.5 Fields are generally small and irregular in shape, many formed by woodland clearance or 'assarting' in the medieval period and often bounded by shaws, or formed from cleared land along woodland edges. Many of the species-rich hedgerows in this area may be remnants of larger woodland and often follow the pattern of medieval banks or ditches. Wherever there are lighter soils on slightly higher ground, more mixed farming is found. Fields in these areas tend to be larger and more regular in shape with fewer hedgerows.

5.2.6 Like the High Weald, the Low Weald is densely wooded in places. Numerous and extensive blocks of ancient, semi-natural coppiced woodland and important wood pasture sites are striking features. Oak is the principal tree and, despite centuries of clearances for settlement, transport and agriculture, significant areas of Ancient Woodland survive.

5.2.7 Isolated farmsteads, often occupying ancient sites (some moated), form the predominant settlement pattern, intermixed with small villages, often with 'Street' or 'Green' names suggesting secondary settlement. These farmsteads are associated with a landscape of small and irregular shaped fields, created by assarting from woodland in the medieval period, or medium-sized and more regular shaped fields created between the 15th and 18th centuries by enclosure through agreement of former arable strips. The latter are more common in the eastern parts of the area. Many small towns and typical Wealden villages, on the heavier clay soils in the western part, are scattered among a patchwork quilt landscape of woodland, permanent grassland, hedgerows and wetlands. Traditional buildings are often made of brick, with local colour variations, and some flint towards the South Downs. Pre-18th-century buildings were predominantly timber framed and even later buildings are often weather-boarded.

Key Characteristics

5.2.8 The key characteristics of the Low Weald National Character Area as a whole are:

- *Broad, low-lying, gently undulating clay vales with outcrops of limestone or sandstone providing local variation.*
- *The underlying geology has provided materials for industries including iron working, brick and glass making, leaving pits, lime kilns and quarries. Many of the resulting exposures are critical to our understanding of the Wealden environment.*
- *A generally pastoral landscape with arable farming associated with lighter soils on higher ground. Land use is predominantly agricultural.*
- *Field boundaries of hedgerows and shaws (remnant strips of cleared woodland) enclosing small, irregular fields and linking into small and scattered linear settlements along roadsides or centred on greens or commons. Rural lanes and tracks with wide grass verges and ditches.*
- *Small towns and villages are scattered among areas of woodland, permanent grassland and hedgerows on the heavy clay soils where larger 20th-century villages have grown around major transport routes.*

[17] Natural England (2013) National Character Area Profile 121: Low Weald http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/low_weald.aspx

- *Frequent north–south routeways and lanes, many originating as drove roads, along which livestock were moved to downland grazing or to forests to feed on acorns.*
- *The Low Weald boasts an intricate mix of woodlands, much of it ancient, including extensive broadleaved oak over hazel and hornbeam coppice, shaws, small field copses and tree groups, and lines of riparian trees along watercourses. Veteran trees are a feature of hedgerows and in fields.*
- *Many small rivers, streams and watercourses with associated water meadows and wet woodland.*
- *Abundance of ponds, some from brick making and quarrying, and hammer and furnace ponds, legacies of the Wealden iron industry.*
- *Traditional rural vernacular of local brick, weatherboard and tile-hung buildings plus local use of distinctive Horsham slabs as a roofing material.*
- *Weatherboard barns are a feature. Oast houses occur in the east and use of flint is notable in the south towards the South Downs.*

5.3 County Landscape Character Areas

5.3.1 The relevant County Landscape Character Areas within Wealden District that fall (whole or in part) within the Low Weald National Character Area are included below (see **Figure 3.1**), taken from the East Sussex County Landscape Assessment[18]:

Upper Ouse Valley (3)

Summary

5.3.2 *This is a gently sloping landscape of low ridges and wider valleys covered by an intricate pattern of streams and woods. It lies between Wivelsfield Green (outside the Study Area) and Buxted, and includes the valley system of the River Ouse and the River Uck.*

Key Characteristics

- *Small, winding, alder-lined rivers and streams.*
- *Predominantly gently undulating terrain with broad valleys, but more pronounced relief near northern edge.*
- *Abundant tree cover, with 17.5% woodland and a strong structure of woods, trees, hedges and shaws.*
- *Some remote, secluded, unspoiled valleys.*
- *Significant designed landscapes, parks and gardens.*
- *Village groups dominated by churches.*
- *Numerous large ponds.*
- *Rock outcrops and incised roadways.*
- *Farmhouses and large farmsteads.*
- *Rich variety of traditional local building materials.*

South Slopes of High Weald (5)

Summary

5.3.3 *This is an intricate, small scale landscape with a strong pattern of hedgerows, falling southward from the Heathfield to Battle ridge towards the Low Weald and Pevensey Levels. This landscape of gentle valleys and slopes affords good views of the Downs.*

Key Characteristics

- *High Weald landscape at its most intricate; a very detailed landscape.*
- *Deeply dissected into innumerable north-south ridges, valleys and ghylls.*
- *Streams drain mainly into River Cuckmere or Pevensey Levels waterway systems.*
- *Close network of ghyll woodland, small woods, shaws and hedges; 15% woodland. An abundance of hornbeam ('horebeech').*
- *Close network of winding lanes with scattered farms, cottages and linear settlements, often on ridges.*

[18] East Sussex County Council (2010). The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment. http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/download.htm

- *Varied villages, most with remote rural character and on ridges.*
- *Secluded, often shady valleys with remote feel.*
- *Substantial remote areas in the east.*
- *Parkland and designed landscapes.*
- *Numerous hammer ponds and other iron industry relics.*
- *Chestnut post and rail fencing is characteristic of this area.*

Western Low Weald (14)

Summary

5.3.4 *The low lying clay vale stretches from the foot of the Downland scarps to the High Weald, between Ditchling and Ringmer in the south and North Chailey and Isfield to the north (outside Wealden District). Its abundant trees and hedges, combined with undulating landform create a sheltered, secluded countryside with a strong landscape structure.*

Key Characteristics

- *Gently undulating, relatively low-lying countryside.*
- *Abundant trees, with small woods and hedges, several large areas of woodland.*
- *Abundance of oak in woods and hedgerows, also field maple and hornbeam.*
- *Designed landscape and some fine parkland and ornamental woodland.*
- *Gentle, winding, partly tree-lined rivers and streams.*
- *Small attractive villages, and their flint churches are on higher ground, particularly along the Greensand ridge running parallel with the Downs.*
- *Larger 20th century villages have grown near railways and through routes.*
- *Frequent uninterrupted views of the bold scarp of the Downs just to the south.*
- *Rich, secluded, sheltered feel due to combination of gentle relief and abundant small woods, trees and hedges.*
- *Pattern of parallel lanes running from the Downs.*

Eastern Low Weald (15)

Summary

5.3.5 *This area is more open and exposed than the western low weald, with many more flat, treeless areas. It contains the large woodland areas of Abbot's and Vert Woods, which are mainly conifer plantations. Running from Ringmer in the west (outside Wealden District) to Polegate in the east the area contains the upper River Cuckmere and Arlington Reservoir.*

Key Characteristics

- *Significant areas of flat, nearly treeless country with remote windswept feel.*
- *A greater area (15%) is under woodland than in the Western Low Weald but, by contrast, nearly all of this is in large blocks over 2 Ha.*
- *About half the woodland is coniferous.*
- *Hedges and hedgerow trees are slightly less abundant, and trees are often small and wind-bent.*
- *Ancient pathways cross the area, including ancient Drove roads running North and South across the Low Weald.*
- *Fine, open views of the Downs.*
- *Small, remote and largely unspoiled rural villages.*
- *Historic designed landscapes and parkland.*
- *Small, winding, partly tree-lined streams, notably the River Cuckmere, but also many artificial, straightened drains and channels.*

Firle and Bishopstone Downs (21)

Summary

5.3.6 *This area of magnificent downland lies between the Ouse and Cuckmere valleys. A block of bare, open landscape culminates in the beautiful curving sweep of Firle Beacon. The bold grassy scarp dramatically overlooks the villages of Firle, Alciston and Berwick. High and Over with its white horse provides a dramatic backdrop to the Cuckmere River. The broad, rolling arable southern slopes contain secluded winding denes.*

Key Characteristics

- *Simple sculptural forms; a bold, bare north-facing scarp culminating in the landmark of Firle Beacon.*
- *Rolling arable dipslope with winding dry valleys.*
- *A prominent secondary scarp curves west and north from High and Over.*
- *Country houses in designed landscape or parkland setting, notably Firle Place and estate.*
- *The peaceful, largely unspoiled villages beneath the scarp – with their flint cottages, churches and tree compositions contrasting with the open downland.*
- *Numerous tumuli and other prehistoric features.*
- *Remote character of central areas.*

Pevensey Levels (25)

Summary

5.3.7 *Grazing marsh and reeds are completely dominant in this large, flat, open landscape. This is a landscape characterised by reed fringed drainage channels with scattered thorns and willows. Away from the roads there is a distinct remoteness amongst the big skies and cries of wetland birds.*

Key Characteristics

- *Reed-fringed winding channels in open wetland pasture.*
- *Scattered straggly willow and thorn along channels.*
- Islands (eyes) of slightly higher ground - *Horse Eye, North Eye*
- *Main channels engineered.*
- *Isolated farms and cottages.*
- *Winding lanes cross the levels.* □
- *Coastline with shingle banks and groynes.*
- *Coastal development*

5.4 Local Landscape Character Type C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

5.4.1 The Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys LLCT (C) is situated along part of the western boundary of Wealden District, wrapping round Uckfield's southern edges. To the north, this LLCT is adjacent to the High Weald's Ridges and Valleys LLCT (A); whilst to the east it abuts the Wooded Clay Vales LLCT (D) of the Eastern Low Weald.

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** A series of northeast-southwest flowing river valleys which are often lined with areas of mature shaws/woodland. The relatively narrow valleys cut through an undulating landscape of predominantly pastoral fields;
- **Settlement pattern**: is limited to farmsteads and small linear villages which are often situated on the valley sides or on higher ridges between two valleys.
- **Communications:** A number of A-road corridors cross the landscape, introducing a source of noise and movement and these are connected to a network of minor rural road corridors which follow the valleys sides and cross the valleys.
- **Views and Visibility:** At the eastern edge of this LLCT, views to the urban edge of the large town of Uckfield are a key feature, which contributes to recognisable strength of place.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** Despite the presence of the A22, A26 and A272 main road corridors, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity with the valleys, particularly along the stream/river valley floors, at a distance from the roads and from the edges of Uckfield.

Physical Landscape Character

5.4.2 This sparsely settled landscape is distinguished from the Ridges and Valleys (LLCT A) landscape to the north east by its more gentle topography. The field pattern is very varied, ranging from large, irregularly shaped arable fields to an intricate network of small fields used primarily for grazing. Uniting the varied field pattern is a consistency in presence of hedges and shaws as a field boundary. These boundary features contribute to the well-wooded character of the landscape along with a large number of small woodlands, primarily deciduous, and scattered larger woodland blocks. The small settlements that are present within the landscape are predominantly associated with higher ground rather than the valley floor.

Historic Landscape Character

5.4.3 Generally, medium-large sized modern field amalgamations dominate this LLCT, reflecting the needs of modern agricultural practices. Irregular small-medium sized fields, generally enclosed by hedgerows and/or shaws, are remnants of the former medieval practice known as 'assarting'. Cohesive and aggregate assarts, as well as assart woods, are clustered mainly to the south-east and west of Uckfield. Isolated farmsteads associated with this medieval landscape form the predominant settlement pattern, intermixed with small villages. A swathe of regular piece meal enclosures is present in the west and south-west of this LLCT.

5.4.4 Important Ancient Woodland survives, dotted across the LLCT. This is also true of historic pits and quarries, created as a result of the extraction of materials used in industries such as iron working, and brick and glass making. There is evidence of iron working in the Low Weald for over 2,000 years, including hammer and furnace ponds, grand houses built by once wealthy foundry owners and coppiced woodland (which provided the necessary charcoal fuel for smelting). Other vestiges of the past include drove roads (now used as roads/public rights of way), which were once used by early farming communities to move livestock to and from Downland grazing; and isolated farmsteads occupying historic sites (e.g. Medieval farmstead at Buckham Hill). Horsted Place, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, reveals a late 20th century garden designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe amid the setting of the remnants of 19th century ornamental woodland and parkland.

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

5.4.5 Overall, the Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys LLCT is assessed as having High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of distinct pattern of narrow stream corridors and wooded valleys and the fields within the valleys are ancient in many places. Overall visibility is considered to be high as a result of the dominant topographical pattern of valleys which cut through gently undulating field and the intermittent sense of enclosure, resulting from the patches of mature woodland.

Criteria	**Evaluation**
Strength of Place	Strong
Visibility	High
Indicative Landscape Sensitivity	**High**

Landscape Value

5.4.6 The Undulating Wooded Valleys LLCT is considered to have High Landscape Value. There is a strong pattern of valleys and woodlands, and the landscape is generally in good condition. A few visual detractors are present at the edges of Uckfield, and also along main road corridors, however, generally this is a unified landscape. Views across and along stream corridors contribute to recognisable strength of place and there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity at a distance from the main roads and edges of Uckfield.

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

C1: Fletching and Piltdown

5.4.7 This LLCA encompasses several narrow, meandering stream corridors which run north south across the landscape and feed the main valley of the River Ouse, further to the south. Lined in places with areas of mature, often Ancient Woodland, these corridors are key landscape and ecological features within this gently undulating landscape. The small village of Piltdown is situated towards the centre of the area, and other houses and farmsteads have developed along the linear north-south road corridors that cross the area. The main A272 road corridor (which connects Maresfield in the northeast, to Newick in the southwest) introduces a source of noise and movement within this otherwise, predominantly tranquil landscape. There is a mature landscape structure of trees and hedgerows, lining road corridors and field boundaries.

C2: Uck Valley

5.4.8 The gently meandering corridor of the River Uck flows north-south through this LLCA, lined in places with small areas of mature woodland. Numerous small ponds and waterbodies associated with the main river corridor are recognisable landscape features. In the south of the area, open, localised views across predominantly arable fields to wooded low ridges, contribute to recognisable sense of place. Patches of woodland (much of which is ancient) contribute to an intermittent sense of enclosure within this gently undulating landscape. A network of rural road corridors, lined with mature trees crosses the landscape and historic houses and farmsteads are scattered along, and set back from the road. The dismantled railway corridor which once housed the Lewes to Uckfield line, is a key landscape feature, with the southern part of the line forming the Lavender Line, a functioning vintage steam railway. Within the southern part of the area, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity. There is contrast within this LLCA between the northern and southern landscapes. In the north, where the landscape abuts the southern edges of the large town of Uckfield, urban fringe land uses (such as industrial estates and sewage works) are apparent. The dominant corridor of the A22 also introduces a source of noise and movement, crossing the northern part of the LLCA and disturbing the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity. Views to the urban edges of Uckfield are a key feature in the north of the area.

C3: High Cross

5.4.9 This relatively small LLCA forms the southeastern landscape setting to the town of Uckfield and comprises a pattern of regular shaped blocks of mature woodland and small stream corridors (such as the Ridgewood Stream). These stream corridors feed the River Uck to the southwest. High Cross Lake is also a key landscape feature. The settlement pattern comprises isolated farmsteads and large residential properties that are situated alongside the network of rural roads. This is a gently undulating, treed landscape, with views to wooded skylines contributing to recognisable sense of place. The overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity is diminished by noise and movement associated with the A22 main road corridor in the south and the residential edges of Uckfield in the northwest.

C4: Little Horsted

5.4.10 This LLCA encompasses a patchwork of undulating arable and pastoral fields, interspersed with stream corridors, small waterbodies and blocks of woodland. Field boundaries and road corridors tend to be lined with low, trimmed hedgerows or mature trees. Views are characterised by distant wooded skylines. The A26 main road corridor runs north-south through the western edge of the area, and the A22 main road corridor runs along the northern edge, introducing a source of noise and movement. At a distance from these roads, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout. In the north of the area, the designed landscape associated with the East Sussex National Golf Club imparts a human influence on the landscape. There is strong sense of enclosure at the southern edge of the area, as a result of the large area of woodland (Plasnett Wood), which dominates landscape character.

5.5 Local Landscape Character Type D: Wooded Clay Vales

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

5.5.1 The Wooded Clay Vales LLCT (D) is located in the south-western part of Wealden District; stretching broadly between Halland to the north-west and Hailsham's urban edge to the south-east. To the north, this LLCT abuts the High Weald's southern Ridges and Valleys LLCT (A); and to the south and east the Open Clay Vales LLCT (E). To the west, it is adjacent to the Low Weald's Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys LLCT (C).

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** A flat, to gently rolling landscape of clay vales, which supports a small-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, interspersed with small areas of woodland (much of which is ancient).
- **Settlement Pattern:** A small-scale pattern of rural hamlets, villages and farmsteads/houses which tend to be located along the network of minor roads that cross this predominantly rural landscape. This LLCT abuts the main town of Hailsham in the east.
- **Views and Visibility:** Open views across gently rolling fields are punctuated by hedgerows and small blocks of woodland. From the south of this LLCT, open views across the adjacent Open Clay Vales (LLCT E) can be gained. To the east, open, panoramic views across the vast Open Levels (LLCT F) contribute to recognisable sense of place.
- **Communications:** The landscape is crossed by a network of rural road corridors, which are often lined with mature trees and hedgerows. In contrast, the A22 main road corridor runs east –west across the northern part of the LLCT and also forms part of its eastern boundary. A network of footpaths connects the hamlets and villages to their landscape settings.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout most of the landscape, at distance from the A22 main road corridor.

Physical Landscape Character

5.5.2 This rolling clay landscape of woodland and farmland is scattered with villages, hamlets and farmsteads, all small in size. The area is predominantly rural, with a mixture of pastoral and arable farming, as well as a significant presence of equestrian land uses. The arable land is primarily, but not exclusively associated with higher ground. The landscape is very well treed, with a number of large blocks of woodland, as well as the small woodlands, hedges and shaws typical of Wealden landscape. Woodland is primarily deciduous or mixed, adding ecological and landscape value. The main hydrological feature in this LLCT is the River Cuckmere, running north-west to south-east through the landscape in a broad, shallow valley.

Historic Landscape Character

5.5.3 A large proportion of the landscape is made up of cohesive and aggregate assarts and assart woods of varying sizes. This reflects the popular medieval cultivation practice known as 'assarting'. Isolated farmsteads associated with this medieval landscape form the predominant settlement pattern, intermixed with small villages. Regular piece meal enclosures and modern field amalgamations are interspersed throughout assarts. Large-scale planned private enclosures are present to the south of East Hoathly and around Lower/Upper Dicker. There are two large 20th century plantations, one to the south and one to the north. Co-axial fields survive around Deanland Wood.

5.5.4 Similarly to the Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys LLCT (C), important Ancient Woodland survives, scattered across the landscape; as well as droves, historic ponds linked to the iron, brick and/or glass making industries and historical sites (e.g. Michelham Priory, originally founded by Augustinian canons).

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

5.5.5 Overall, the Wooded Clay Vales LLCT is assessed as having High Landscape Sensitivity. There is a strong strength of place as a result of the patchwork of arable and pastoral fields and woodland. The landscape also has a strong landscape structure, resulting from the networks of mature hedgerows and trees lining road corridors. There is strong historic continuity throughout the LLCT, with many ancient field patterns and several areas of Ancient Woodland. Overall visibility is considered to be moderate as a result of the intermittent sense of enclosure provided by areas of woodland and the gently rolling topography.

Criteria	Evaluation
Strength of Place	Strong
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	**High**

Landscape Value

5.5.6 The Ridges and Slopes LLCT is considered to have High Landscape Value. There is a strong sense of place as a result of the small-scale pattern of fields and woodlands; and open views southwards across the Open Clay Vales LLCT and eastwards across the Open Levels LLCT. There is also strong historic continuity throughout. There are many valuable landscape and historic landscape features, including woodland, mature hedgerows, stream corridors and historic buildings. There is also a strong sense of wildness and tranquillity throughout this predominantly rural landscape, which has few detracting features.

Local Landscape Character Areas

D1: East Hoathly and Halland

5.5.7 This LLCA has a strong landscape structure of woodlands which are interspersed with small to medium-scale, predominantly pastoral fields. This pattern is particularly prevalent in the northwestern corner of the area and is likely to be the result of assarting. Field boundaries are lined with mature hedgerows, resulting in an intermittent sense of enclosure overall. A network of minor, rural road corridors, often lined with mature trees crosses the landscape. In the southeast of the area, to the south of the small village of East Hoathly, there is a stronger sense of openness, with fewer woodland patches. Settlement pattern comprises farmsteads and houses which are set back from the rural road corridors. The A22 main road corridor bisects the area, introducing a source of noise and movement and reducing the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity. To the southeast of the A22, the field pattern is larger, comprising more recent, arable fields. Within this part of the area there is a sense of openness as a result of low hedgerows and gaps in roadside trees/hedgerows.

D2: Laughton

5.5.8 This LLCA has a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout and contains the small historic hamlet of Laughton and its associated Common to the west of the settlement. Small-scale, predominantly pastoral fields are interspersed with small woodlands, often resulting in a strong sense of enclosure within views. There is also a strong sense of enclosure along the eastern edge of the area as a result of the large area of woodland within LLCA D3. A network of minor rural roads crosses the area, often lined with trees and low hedgerows. Road corridors are also often lined with wide, species-rich grass verges. Mature field trees are also a key landscape feature.

D3: Upper and Lower Vert Wood

5.5.9 This LLCA is almost entirely covered in mature, dense woodland, encompassing Upper and Lower Vert Wood, Laughton Common Wood, Sandpit Wood and Bowen Wood. There is a very strong sense of enclosure throughout. One minor road corridor runs north-south through the woodland. The woods tend to have a relatively open understorey. An unmade track/bridleway crosses the woodland east-west. The A22 main road corridor also crosses the north-eastern corner of the area, introducing a source of noise and movement. At a distance from the A22, this LLCA has a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.

D4: Golden Cross

5.5.10 There are several human influences within this LLCA, including the caravan park towards the centre of the area and nearby nursery. Farmsteads are dotted throughout the landscape, but are more prevalent in the east, associated with the network of minor rural road corridors. Tall, mature trees line several of the road corridors, limiting views across adjacent fields. There is a strong network of hedgerows at field boundaries. Small pockets of woodland are common in the north of the area and surround the northern edges of the caravan park and nursery. In the south, moving towards the Open Clay Vales LLCT, there is less woodland and a stronger sense of openness.

D5: Chiddingly

5.5.11 This relatively large LLCA, encompasses several small villages and hamlets, such as Chiddingly, Muddles Green and Whitesmith. There is very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity within the northwestern part of this area around Chiddingly. Here, a network of small to medium-scale, predominantly pastoral fields are lined with small mature woodlands and a dense hedgerow network. The network of rural roads is lined with trees and trimmed hedgerows. Short-distance views to wooded skylines contribute to recognisable sense of place. The landscape is crossed by numerous stream corridors. The A22 main road

corridor runs along the southern edge of the area introducing a source of noise and movement and reducing the sense of remoteness and tranquillity in the south. Overall, this LLCA encompasses a patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, small woodlands and stream corridors.

D6: Upper Dicker

5.5.12 This LLCA encompasses a radial network of minor rural corridors which converge at the village of Upper Dicker in the centre of the area. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of the area, which comprises a relatively small-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral fields. There is strong historic continuity within this area, evidenced by the ancient field pattern and the remains of Michelham Priory to the southeast of Upper Dicker, in the east of the area. The gently meandering corridor of the River Cuckmere is a key landscape feature within the east. Views southeast from the eastern part of the area are enclosed by mature woodland within Wilmington and Abbot's Wood (LLCA D7). There is a mature landscape structure of hedgerows and trees throughout.

D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood

5.5.13 There is a strong sense of enclosure within this LLCA, which encompasses mature woodland within Wilmington Wood and Abbots Wood. There are no road corridors running through the woodland, however the Robin Post Lane track/bridleway provides access north-south. This LLCA forms a wooded backdrop to views from surrounding LLCAs and also from the southern edges of the town of Hailsham. The A22 main road corridor runs north-south along the eastern edge of the area, introducing a source of noise and movement. To the north and east of the woodland, an ancient field pattern of small-scale, predominantly pastoral fields is apparent.

5.6 Local Landscape Character Type E: Open Clay Vales

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

5.6.1 The Open Clay Vales LLCT (E) is situated in the south-western part of Wealden District, broadly stretching between Ashton Green to the north-west (which sits immediately outside the boundary of this LLCT) and Polegate to the south-east. The Open Clay Vales also wrap around all but the south-western quarter of Hailsham. To the north, the majority of this LLCT is adjacent to the Wooded Clay Valleys LLCT (D); with a small portion in the east being adjacent to the High Weald's Ridges and Valleys LLCT (A) and Ridges and Slopes LLCT (B). To the east, the Open Clay Vales abut Polegate's urban edge and also overlook Pevensey's Open and Settled Levels (LLCTs F and G). To the south this LLCT meets the northern edge of the South Downs National Park. The Wooded Clay Vales LLCT (D) also lies to the west of Hailsham.

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** Flat to gently sloping, predominantly low-lying landform associated with several stream and river corridors. Small hills of higher land provide landscape interest.
- **Settlement Pattern:** A small-scale pattern of rural hamlets, villages and farmsteads/houses which tend to be located along the network of minor roads that cross this predominantly rural landscape. This LLCT abuts the main town of Polegate in the east.
- **Views and Visibility:** Open views across predominantly flat fields are characterised by wide skies. Views southwards (from most areas) to the dominant ridges of the South Downs contribute to a strongly recognisable sense of place and provide orientation. Views northwards to the Wooded Clay Vales (LLCT D) comprise wooded skylines.
- **Communications:** The landscape is crossed by a network of rural road corridors, which are often lined with mature trees and hedgerows. The mainline Lewes-Eastbourne railway runs west-east across this LLCT and the A27 main road corridor forms the southern boundary.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout most of the landscape, at a distance from the A27 main road corridor and railway line.

Physical Landscape Character

5.6.2 This predominantly low-lying LLCT is characterised by a lower level of tree cover than much of the study area, and very gently rolling topography. The landscape is largely rural, comprising a mixture of small pastoral fields, and larger fields managed as arable land. The lowest lying areas also have a presence of some coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. This lowest-lying land frequently encompasses a network of man-made drainage ditches, which add to the existing naturally occurring small watercourses that criss-cross the landscape, many of which flow into the main drainage channel that crosses this LLCT, the River Cuckmere. Field boundaries are predominantly hedgerows, with occasional hedgerow trees and shaws, usually associated with smaller pastoral fields. Settlements are small and scattered, and include a number of farmsteads.

Historic Landscape Character

5.6.3 Regular piecemeal enclosures and planned private enclosures dominate the central part of this LLCT, as well as its eastern and western fringes. Large blocks of assart woods located north and south of Ripe and Chalvington and a swathe of cohesive assarts in the south-eastern part of this LLCT reflect the past medieval cultivation technique of 'assarting'. Isolated farmsteads associated with this medieval landscape form the predominant settlement pattern, intermixed with small villages. Medium-large segregated blocks of consolidated strip fields lie in the central part of this LLCT as well as in its eastern and western edges.

5.6.4 Similarly to LLCT C (Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys) and D (Wooded Clay Vales), important Ancient Woodland survives, scattered across the landscape; as well as droves, historic ponds linked to the iron, brick and/or glass making industries and historical sites (e.g. Wootton Manor, a site rooted in Medieval times though much altered through the centuries and which now includes an early 20th century garden designed by Detmar Blow).

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

5.6.5 Overall, the Open Clay Vales LLCT is assessed as having High Landscape Sensitivity. There is a strong strength of place as a result of open views southwards to the ridges of the South Downs and a recognisable landscape pattern of arable/pastoral fields and stream corridors. The landscape also has a strong landscape structure, resulting from the networks of mature hedgerows and trees lining road corridors. There is strong historic continuity throughout the LLCT, with many ancient field patterns apparent. Overall visibility is considered to be moderate. Landform is predominantly flat and is considered to be visually insignificant. There is also a strong sense of openness throughout much of the LLCT.

Criteria	**Evaluation**
Strength of Place	Strong
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	**High**

Landscape Value

5.6.6 The Open Clay Vales LLCT is considered to have High Landscape Value. There is a strong strength of place as a result of views to the South Downs. There is also strong historic continuity throughout. There are many valuable landscape and historic landscape features, including woodland, mature hedgerows, stream corridors and historic buildings. There is also a strong sense of wildness and tranquillity throughout this predominantly rural landscape, which has few detracting features.

Local Landscape Character Areas

E1: Laughton Place

5.6.7 This predominantly flat and low-lying LLCA has a strong sense of openness. Views southwards to the ridges of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place. The southern part of the area contains some marshy areas, whilst the north of the area is covered by a patchwork of medium to large-scale arable and pastoral fields. Fields are lined with a network of mature hedgerows and trees, and road corridors tend to be lined on both sides with low to medium hedgerows. Numerous drainage ditches and small stream corridors cross the landscape and these are reed-fringed in places. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout. The settlement pattern is sparse, with occasional farmsteads a feature.

E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe

5.6.8 In the north, this LLCA contains the two linear villages of Chalvington and Ripe, which are connected by a minor rural road corridor. These historic villages have a strong local vernacular character, with houses often displaying traditional red brick/tile upper floors and white painted lower floors. Village churches often form focal points within views to these villages from their landscape settings. Landscape pattern comprises a mixture of medium to large-scale arable and pastoral fields. Whilst hedgerows are apparent, they are not dominant landscape features, and there is a strong sense of openness throughout much of the area. Panoramic, open views southwards towards the ridges of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place. The network of rural roads tends to be lined with tall, mature hedgerows, often resulting in glimpse views to adjacent fields and the South Downs whilst travelling along them. The railway corridor crosses the southern part of the area and the A22 main road corridor forms the southern boundary. Both of these transport corridors introduce a source of noise and movement to this otherwise predominantly tranquil landscape. In the south, the small village of Selmeston, centred on its historic church is a key feature.

E3: Arlington

5.6.9 The large expanse of Arlington reservoir is the key landscape feature within this LLCA. Open views across the water from locations in close proximity to the reservoir are a key feature. In addition, views southwards to the ridges of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place. The reservoir is a nature reserve and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its ecological interest. The northern and western edges of the reservoir are fringed with mature woodland. The River Cuckmere valley runs north-south through the eastern part of the area, to the east of the reservoir. This is lined with a patchwork of arable and pastoral fields. Settlements include the small village of Arlington, to the east of the reservoir and the small hamlet of Berwick Station to the southwest, which has developed in conjunction with the railway corridor. The railway corridor crosses the southern part of the area and the A22 main road corridor forms the southern boundary. Both of these transport corridors introduce a source of noise and movement to this otherwise predominantly tranquil landscape.

E4: Wilmington Green

5.6.10 This relatively small LLCA is situated directly to the south of Abbots Wood (within LLCA D7). As a result, views northwards are dominated by wooded skylines. Open views southwards towards the ridges of the South Downs are a key feature (as with adjacent LLCA's within the Open Clay Vales LLCT). The area is generally low lying, however a series of small hills provide topographical variation in the west. Landscape within the area comprises a patchwork of arable and pastoral fields which are lined with mature hedgerows. Settlement pattern is generally absent, other than a few scattered farmsteads in the northwest of the area. The railway corridor and A27 main road corridor reduce the sense of remoteness and tranquillity

in the south. Urban fringe land uses (including a motel and associated car parking) are apparent at the edges of Polegate to the east of the area.

E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge

5.6.11 This gently sloping area of landscape forms the eastern edge of the Clay Vale landscapes and overlooks the Open Levels LLCT to the east. As a result, open views eastwards across the striking, low lying Levels, with their networks of drainage ditches are a key feature and contribute to recognisable sense of place. Landscape within the area comprises a small-scale patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, lined with a network of hedgerows. The Cuckoo Trail footpath runs north south through the area, connecting Polegate and Willingdon in the south to Hailsham in the north. The A22 main road corridor, just to the west of this LLCA disturbs overall sense of tranquillity. In the north, this area forms the landscape setting to the southern edges of Hailsham, and as such, views to the urban edges are a key feature. In the south, urban fringe land uses and roundabouts associated with northern edges of Polegate diminish the rural character.

E6: Hellingly

5.6.12 This LLCA wraps around the northern edge of the large town of Hailsham and provides its northern and eastern landscape setting. To the east Hailsham, open views across the Levels are a key feature looking eastwards, whilst views westwards are dominated by residential properties at the urban edge. Here, a patchwork of small scale, predominantly pastoral fields dominate landscape character. To the north of Hailsham, settlement pattern includes the two small villages of Hellingly and Lower Horsebridge. From this part of the LLCA, views southwards are dominated by the urban edges of Hailsham (although these are often screened by mature vegetation). Urban fringe land uses are apparent, including several nurseries. The upper reaches of the River Cuckmere also flows north-south through this LLCA. Despite proximity to Hailsham, there is a strong landscape structure of hedgerows lining field boundaries and trees lining some of the road corridors.

5.7 Landscape Setting of Arlington

Settlement Profile

5.7.1 Arlington is situated on a minor road off the A27 between Polegate and Lewes, in close proximity to Berwick Station. The hamlet lies approximately five miles to the north of Eastbourne and one and a half miles to the south of Upper Dicker, in close proximity to the South Downs National Park.

5.7.2 Arlington is a small hamlet which has developed around a very small historic core on a cross roads. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity within the hamlet, which has a church and pub but no other amenities.

Landscape Character

5.7.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.7.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

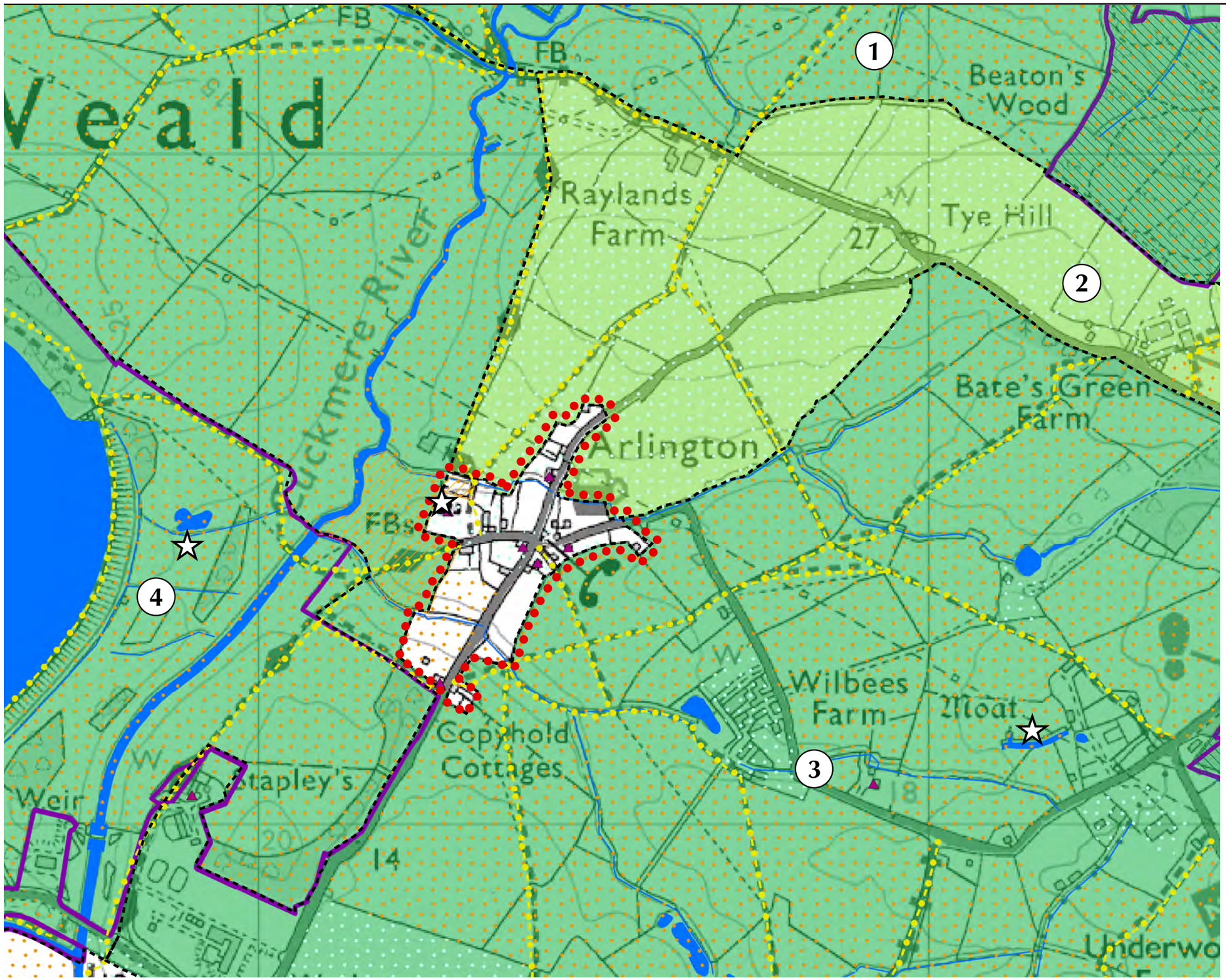
- E3: Arlington – see **Section 5.6** for details

5.7.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Arlington are illustrated on **Figure 5.1** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The fieldscapes around Arlington are predominantly comprised of ancient field patterns. Abutting the settlement edge to the south is an extensive tract of regular piecemeal enclosure, and further to the northwest and south are areas of consolidated strip fields, with a large area of isolated enclosure between the western settlement edge and the reservoir. To the north and east of the settlement edge is an area of historic planned private enclosure. Immediately adjacent to the settlement to the west are the remains of a medieval settlement designated as a Scheduled Monument, adding further historic interest to the settlement setting. There are many Willows and Alder growing along the banks of the River Cuckmere.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The reservoir is an important landmark as is the Anglo Saxon Church and Yew Tree pub near the church. There is the remains of a moat near Underwood Farm to the south east.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Some of the Southern Water cleaning buildings near the south of the reservoir are prominent. Pylons cross the settlement and also pass it to the north. These are detractors. There are a number of new builds by Underwood Farm that are prominent within the landscape.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the hamlet are considered to be sensitive as a result of mature vegetation.
- **Waterbodies/Watercourses:** The River Cuckmere passes the hamlet to the west and there are several ponds near the farms.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The Long Man of Wilmington can be seen from several points to the north of the hamlet and glimpsed views of the South Downs can be gained through gaps in hedgerows.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The National Cycle route 2 passes through the settlement and there is an abundance of footpaths, creating a lattice across the settlement and surrounding countryside. The Wealdway also passes through.

5.7.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.1** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A strong sense of enclosure, particularly within Beaton's Wood; • Large, ancient, pastoral fields which are lined with a mature landscape structure of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. • Open views to the ridges of the South Downs;
2	• Mature, tall hedgerows and trees lining rural road corridors; • Open views to the ridges of the South Downs; • Large-scale historic arable and pastoral fields.
3	• Meandering valley of the River Cuckmere to the northwest of the hamlet, lines with willow and alder in places; • Views to Arlington Reservoir; • Narrow rural road corridors; • Patchwork of arable and pastoral fields with a strong landscape structure.
4	• Arlington Reservoir, is a key landscape feature; • A network of ecological habitats surrounds the reservoir; • Glimpse views to the reservoir through a network of mature roadside trees and hedgerows; • Minor rural road corridors; • A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 100 200 Meters

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Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 5.1
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF ARLINGTON

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Landscape Sensitivity

5.7.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Historic	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Moderate	Very Strong	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Low	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Value

5.7.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	High	High	High	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.7.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Arlington.

5.7.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Major	Major	Major

5.7.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a strong strength of place as a result of views to the ridges of the South Downs, and a mature landscape structure. The area does not, however, abut the settlement edge and there is limited inter-visibility between the area and historic buildings within the hamlet.

5.7.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a strong strength of place as a result of views to the ridges of the South Downs, and a mature landscape structure. There is also inter-visibility between the southern part of this area and the historic core.

5.7.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a moderate strength of place, however there is inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core and also a mature landscape structure of trees and hedgerows. This area provides much of the direct physical setting to the village.

5.7.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a strong strength of place as a result of the reservoir, and a strong landscape structure. There is also inter-visibility between the eastern part of this area and historic buildings within the historic core.

5.8 Landscape Setting of Berwick Station

Settlement Profile

5.8.1 Berwick Station is situated in the southwest of Wealden District about two miles to the north of the main village of Berwick, which is just inside the South Downs National Park. Berwick railway station lies on the East Coastway Line from Eastbourne to Brighton, between Glynde and Polegate railway stations.

5.8.2 Berwick Station is a small linear settlement on the Alfriston to Upper Dicker road that has grown up around Berwick railway station. It includes a few listed buildings, but mainly 1930s houses with large front and rear gardens. A garage, a small shop and a pub are also key features of the settlement. Arlington Reservoir and the surrounding SSSI Wildlife Site dominate the northeast landscape setting of this Settlement Area. A small wood now disguises the former old brick works to the northwest of the station.

Landscape Character

5.8.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.8.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

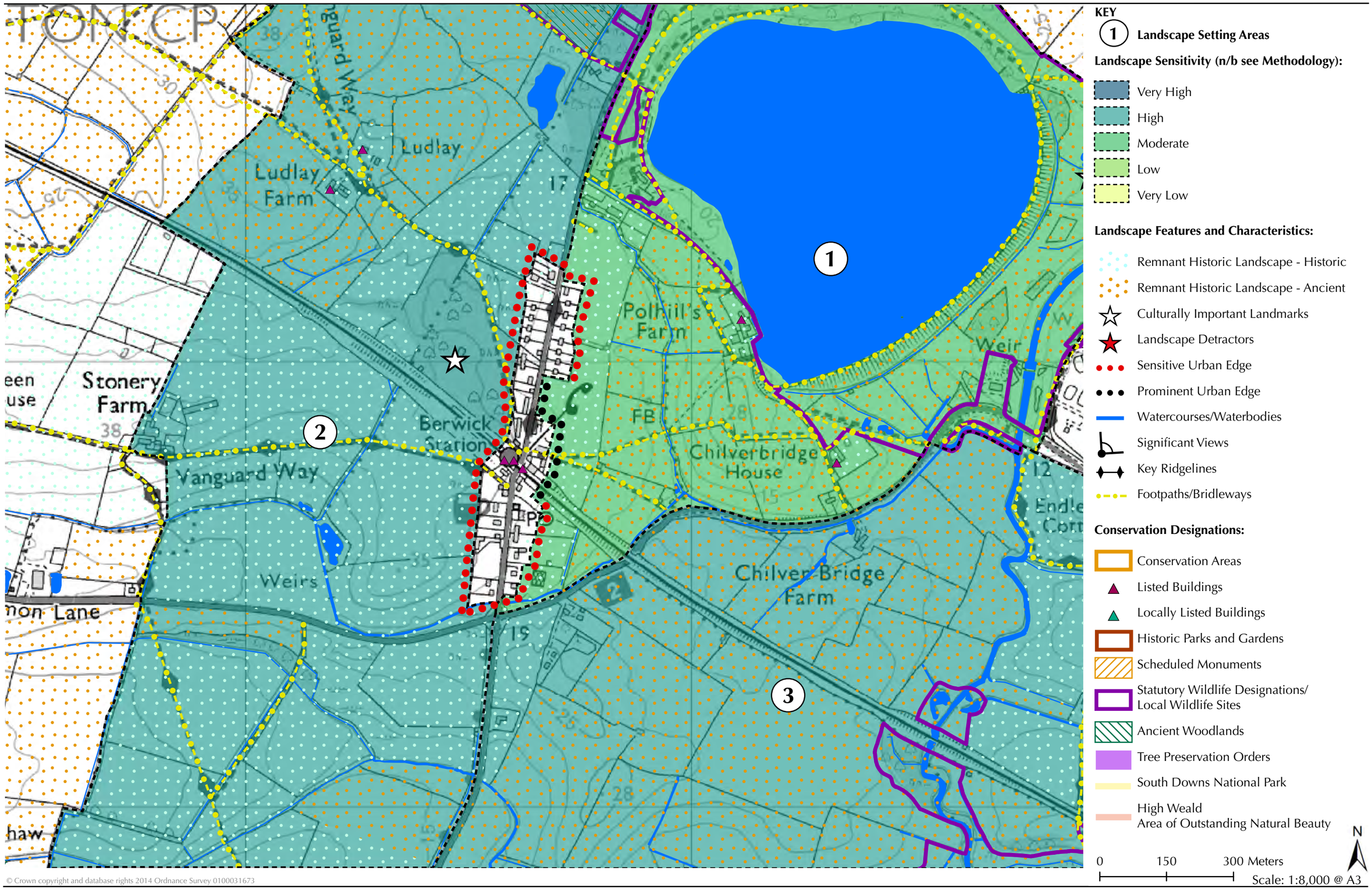
- E3:Arlington – see **Section 5.6** for details
- E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe – see **Section 5.6** for details

5.8.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Berwick Station are illustrated on **Figure 5.2** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A pattern of small-scale historic fields abuts the settlement edge, with tracts of ancient fieldscapes to the east and north, including consolidated strip fields, cohesive assarts and regular piecemeal enclosure.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Long Man of Wilmington is an important landmark that can be seen from the reservoir.
- **Urban Edges:** The linear settlement has predominantly sensitive edges of trees, hedges and gardens. Behind the garage, near the station there is a more prominent edge.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Significant views across the reservoir to the Long man of Wilmington Chalk Art and also to the South Downs National Park. Two main ridgelines culminate at the station.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** Many footpaths and bridleways circle the reservoir and connect the village with its surrounding landscape setting.

5.8.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.2** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Arlington Reservoir, a large expanse of water, with a woodland belt at its northern edge, is a key landscape feature; • A network of ecological habitats surrounds the reservoir; • The church on the east side of the water; • Views of the ridges of the edge of the South Downs National Park
2	• Numerous stream corridors and drainage channels feed Arlington Reservoir; • Large, arable fields; • An absence of hedgerows along road corridors (which have a rural character) results in open views southwards to the South Downs; • The railway line introduces a source of noise and movement. Otherwise, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
3	• Medium to large-scale ancient pastoral fields; • The gently meandering corridor of the River Cuckmere is a key landscape feature; • Rural road corridors are lined with mature hedgerows and species-rich grass verges; • Brick railway bridges. • The railway line introduces a source of noise and movement. Otherwise, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.



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FIGURE 5.2
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF BERWICK STATION

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Landscape Sensitivity

5.8.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Unique	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Recent	Historic	Ancient
Strength of Place	Moderate	Moderate	Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Open	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	High

Landscape Value

5.8.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

5.8.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	High
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

5.8.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area has unique features such as the reservoir but little historic continuity. It has intermittent tree cover and the slightly undulating landform and moderate visibility results in moderate landscape sensitivity. There are some important features of conservation value with the SSSI and there is also significant ornithological interest. The church on the east side of the water and the views of the ridges of the edge of the South Downs National Park also add to the landscape value and the strength of place.

5.8.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The pattern of stream corridors and large arable fields contributes to moderate strength of place and strength of character. There are some features of landscape value, including the numerous stream/drainage corridors.

5.8.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout and views southwards to the South Downs contribute to a strongly recognisable strength of place. This area also has a strong landscape structure of mature trees, hedgerows and species-rich verges, which result in a high overall landscape sensitivity.

5.10 Landscape Setting of Chalvington

Settlement Profile

5.10.1 Chalvington is situated approximately fifteen miles to the northwest of Eastbourne. It has developed between the A27 Eastbourne to Lewes road and the A22 Hailsham to Uckfield road. Chalvington is situated just to the north of the South Downs National Park in the valleys of the River Cuckmere and the River Ouse.

5.10.2 Chalvington is a small hamlet with no services but has a church and is built around a crossroads of the old Roman Road to Ripe (which is situated one mile to the west). The hamlet is predominantly residential, with several equestrian centres and Stud Farms. Further local services, including shops and pubs are located in the nearby village of Ripe.

Landscape Character

5.10.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.10.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

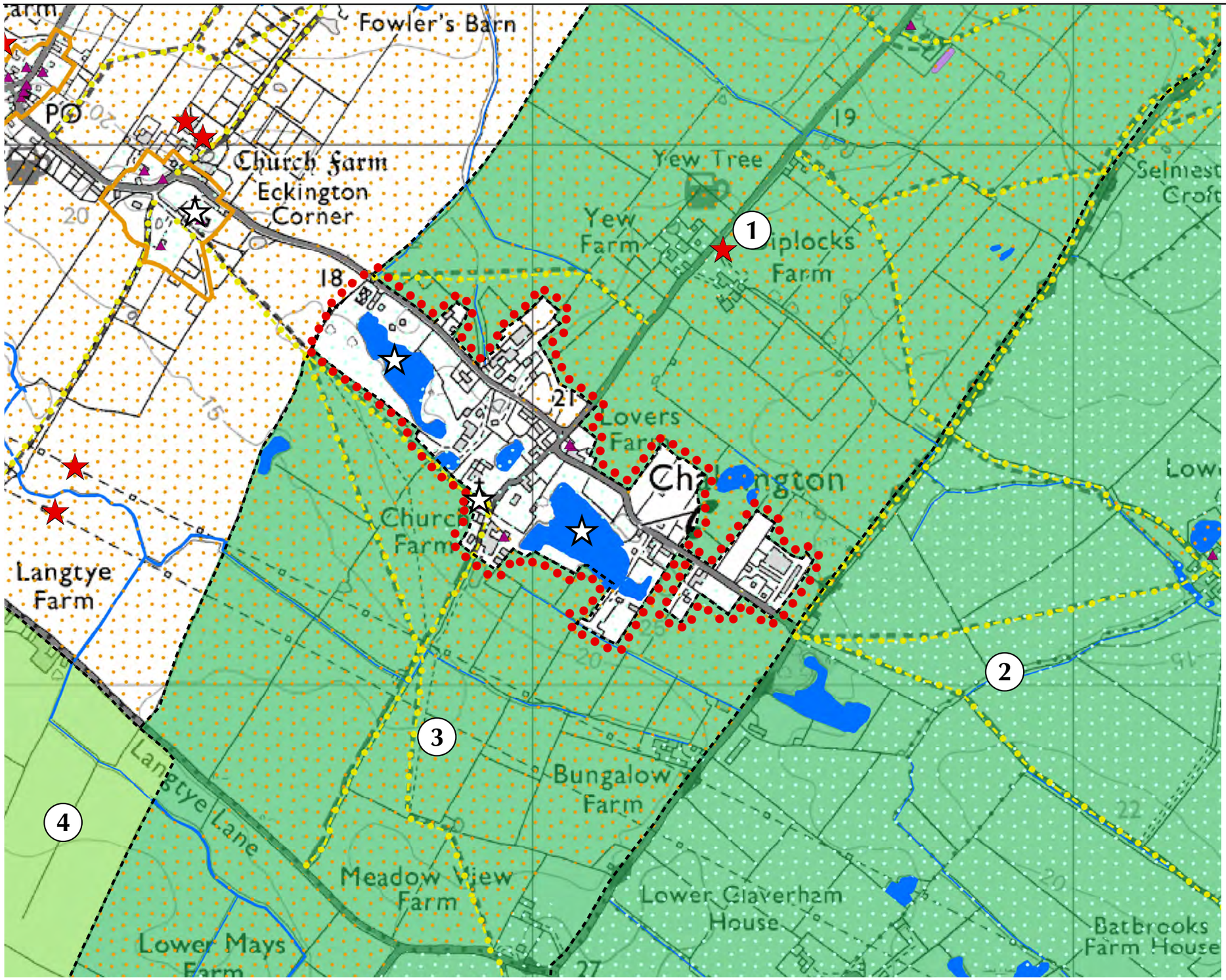
- E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe – see **Section 5.6** for details

5.10.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Chalvington are illustrated on **Figure 5.3** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The predominant field type surrounding Chalvington is ancient co-axial fields, with small areas of regular piecemeal enclosure near to Eckington Corner. To the south east of the settlement is an extensive tract of historic planned private enclosure;
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The tiny church in Chalvington is unusual, being constructed of local flint from the South Downs. It has a wooden tower which has leant slightly since the Great Storm of October 1987.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are several lakes in the hamlet and a series of large ponds parallel to the Roman road to the south of the settlement.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There are long views to the South Downs to the west and south.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are two rows of pylons travelling left to right to the south of the settlement.
- **Urban Edges:** All sensitive edges as a result of mature vegetation.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The Weald way passes the east end of the hamlet and several footpaths connect it to Ripe and the surrounding landscape.

5.10.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.3** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A patchwork of arable and pastoral fields which are lined with a network of mature hedgerows: • Network of rural lanes.
2	• Numerous small ponds and waterbodies; • Views to the South Downs ridges contribute to recognisable sense of place; • Mature landscape structure.
3	• Straight, historic road pattern; • Views to the South Downs scarp contribute to a distinctive sense of place; • Mature landscape structure; • Isolated farmsteads and numerous stream corridors.
4	• Large-scale, modern fields with a network of mature hedgerows at field boundaries.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 150 300 Meters

Scale: 1:7,500 @ A3

N

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FIGURE 5.3
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CHALVINGTON

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Landscape Sensitivity

5.10.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Rare	Rare	Rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Historic	Ancient	Recent
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong	Very Strong	Weak
Visibility				
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Low	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low

Landscape Value

5.10.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	Moderate

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.10.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Chalvington.

5.10.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Major	Limited

5.10.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and very strong strength of place resulting from views to the South Downs and a mature landscape structure. This landscape structure of mature hedgerows is visible within views northwards from the northern edge of the village.

5.10.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The mature landscape structure of hedgerows limits long distance views eastwards from the settlement. The church is visible within short-distance views from the western edge of this area.

5.10.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village and very strong strength of place resulting from views to the South Downs. The distinctive landscape pattern of stream corridors and ancient fields lined with mature hedgerows provides a strong landscape edge to the south of the village. Long distance views are often limited by hedgerows lining field boundaries.

5.10.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area does not abut the settlement edge and there is no inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. There is also less historic continuity within this area than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas as a result of the patchwork of modern fields, rather than ancient fields.

5.11 Landscape Setting of Chiddingly

Settlement Profile

5.11.1 Chiddingly is situated approximately five miles to the north west of Hailsham in the Low Weald on the intersection of the Weald Way and The Vanguard Way footpaths.

5.11.2 Chiddingly is a small linear village with two historic cores. It is largely residential with a village hall, church and four public houses.

Landscape Character

5.11.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.11.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

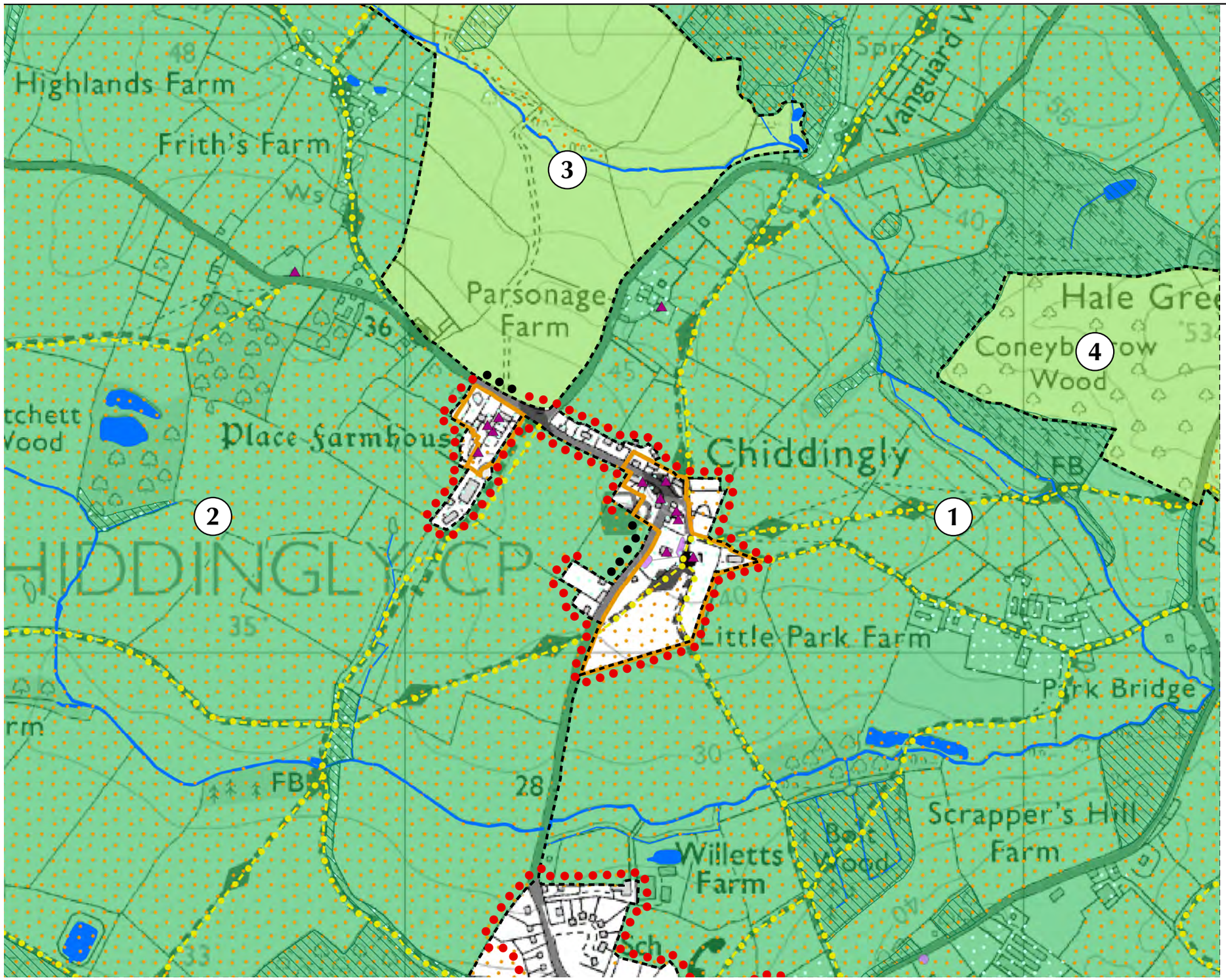
- D5: Chiddingly – see **Section 5.5** for details

5.11.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Chiddingly are illustrated on **Figure 5.4** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The immediate fieldscapes abutting the settlement edge comprise an ancient landscape of regular piecemeal enclosure. Further to the west is an extensive tract of ancient cohesive assarts, divided by a strip of land identified as irregular piecemeal enclosure. The settlement setting is scattered with small blocks of Ancient Woodland.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Some farm buildings on Highlands Lane next to the caravan park are landscape detractors.
- **Urban Edges:** Most edges of Chiddingly are sensitive but some farm buildings on Highlands Lane and car parks in the village are considered to be prominent.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Tributaries of the River Cuckmere flow north and south of the village. There are also ponds dotted around the village.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The South Downs are visible in the distance from several places in the village and also its surroundings. The church is visible from several points around the village.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is very well connected to the surrounding settlements and countryside via the Weald Way and Vanguard Way that intersect in the village. Other smaller footpaths connect with these.

5.11.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.4** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A patchwork of small-scale, ancient arable and pastoral fields, lined with a strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees. • Two stream corridors, which are lined in places by patches of Ancient Woodland. • Views to the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place.
2	• Medium to large-scale arable and pastoral fields, interspersed with medium sized areas of woodland, which provide an intermittent sense of enclosure. • Views to the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place.
3	• Large-scale, modern fields which are lined with thick, mature hedgerows and a strong sense of openness.
4	• A hill of higher land which supports Coneyburrow Wood, resulting in a strong sense of enclosure.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 125 250 Meters

N

Scale: 1:6,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 5.4
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF CHIDDINGLY

October 2014

Landscape Sensitivity

5.11.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Rare	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Recent	Recent
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong	Weak	Weak
Visibility				
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Open	Enclosed
Visibility	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low

Landscape Value

5.11.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.11.9 Chiddingly has an existing Conservation Area.

5.11.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major	Moderate	Limited

5.11.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is a very strong strength of place as a result of views to the ridges of the South Downs and a mature landscape structure. This area also has strong inter-visibility with historic buildings (such as the church) within the historic core of the settlement. Relatively large areas of woodland provide a distant sense of enclosure within views northwards and westwards from the edge of the village, often framing views.

5.11.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is a strong strength of place as a result of views to the ridges of the South Downs and a strong landscape pattern of pastoral fields and woodland. This woodland provides a sporadically wooded backdrop to certain views westwards from the village. This area also has strong inter-visibility with historic buildings (such as the church) within the historic core of the settlement.

5.11.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Overall this area has a weak pattern of modern fields, with little historic continuity; however, there is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings (such as the church) within the historic core of the settlement.

5.11.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Overall this area has a relatively weak landscape pattern and it does not abut the settlement edge. There is no inter-visibility with historic buildings (such as the church) within the historic core of the settlement.

5.12 Landscape Setting of East Hoathly

Settlement Profile

5.12.1 East Hoathly is situated approximately four miles to the northwest of Hailsham and two miles to the east of the A22. The village lies in close proximity to the South Down National Park.

5.12.2 East Hoathly is a large village spread out over a T junction, which is the location of the historic core and Conservation Area. Two of the roads from this junction lead to the A22 main road corridor. The southern part of the settlement comprises recent residential development. There is a church and a few pubs within the village.

Landscape Character

5.12.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details
- South Slopes of High Weald (5) - see **Section 5.3** for details

5.12.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

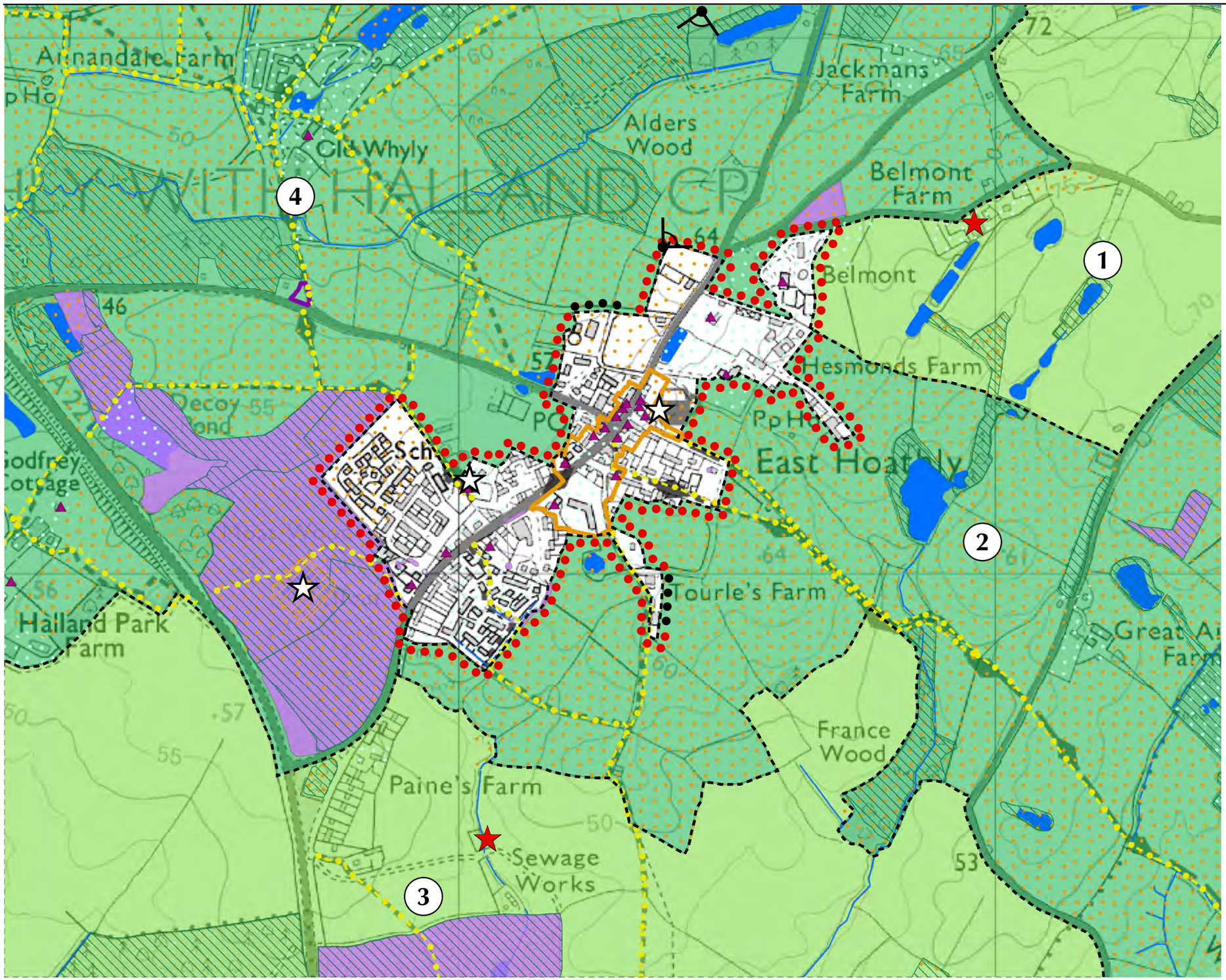
- D1: East Hoathly and Halland – see **Section 5.5** for details

5.12.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around East Hoathly are illustrated on **Figure 5.5** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting is a patchwork of small scale ancient and historic fieldscapes, and more modern field patterns. The southern settlement edge abuts an extensive area of cohesive assarts, ancient fieldscapes that are also present extensively to the north of the settlement. Also present are areas of regular piecemeal enclosure. To the west of the settlement in Moat Wood, an Ancient Woodland, is a moated site designated as a scheduled monument, which adds further historic interest to the settlement setting. Moat Wood also has a TPO in place across the whole wood.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The Church is an important feature for the village as are the Kings Head and the Foresters Arms, two local pubs.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Tourle's Farm and the sewage works are all considered to be landscape detractors. From Belmont Farm, pylons can be seen in the distance to the north. More pylons can be seen to the south towards the South Downs.
- **Urban Edges:** Most areas are sensitive due to woodland and mature vegetation, but the settlement edges around Hesmonds farm and Tourle's farm are considered to be prominent.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are small and medium sized ponds dotted across the landscape, which are often in woodland areas
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** There are glimpses of the South Downs from several places and longer views from Hollow Lane and the paths near France Wood.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is very well connected to the surrounding landscape by a series of interlocking footpaths, including the Weald Way which passes through the centre of the Historic Core and churchyard.

5.12.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.5** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large-scale, modern fields, with several large farm buildings, some of which are considered to be landscape detractors. • Several small, linear ponds/waterbodies.
2	• Medium to large-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral fields. Smaller fields tend to be lined by thick, mature hedgerows. • Linear belts of woodland lining stream corridors.
3	• Large-scale, modern arable and pastoral fields. • Views to the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place.
4	• Several large areas of Ancient Woodland, which provide an intermittent sense of enclosure. • Main A22 road corridor runs north-south across the area, introducing a source of noise and movement.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 150 300 Meters

N

Scale: 1:7,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 5.5
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF EAST HOATHLY

October 2014

Landscape Sensitivity

5.12.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Recent	Ancient	Recent	Ancient
Strength of Place	Weak	Strong	Weak	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Low	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate

Landscape Value

5.12.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	Moderate	High	Moderate	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.12.9 East Hoathly has an existing Conservation Area.

5.12.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major

5.12.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. The area is considered to have a weak strength of place overall, as a result of the large modern fields, with weak historic continuity. There is, however, some inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core from this area.

5.12.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. This area is considered to have a strong strength of place as a result of the medium to large-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral fields. There is also inter-visibility between this area and historic buildings within the historic core. The linear belts of Ancient Woodlands lining stream corridors provide landscape structure and are visible within views eastwards from the edge of the village.

5.12.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. The area is considered to have a weak strength of place overall, as a result of the large modern fields, with weak historic continuity. There is, however, some inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core from this area.

5.12.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. This area is considered to have a strong strength of place as a result of the pockets of Ancient Woodland. There is also inter-visibility between this area and historic buildings within the historic core. The large areas of Ancient Woodland provide a strong sense of visual containment and enclosure to views north and eastwards from the settlement. They provide a wooded backdrop and interrupt long distance views across the landscape.

5.13 Landscape Setting of Hailsham

Settlement Profile

5.13.1 Hailsham is situated approximately three miles to the north of Polegate, in the central southern part of Wealden District. It is the largest settlement in the southern half of the District and is situated between the middle reaches of the River Cuckmere to the west and the Pevensey Levels to the east. The extensive Wilmington Wood abuts the south-western edge of the town.

5.13.2 Hailsham is a large nucleated settlement, which has grown around several north-south orientated road corridors. It has been an established market town since 1252 and still retains its historic core around the market square and St Mary's Church. The town has experienced considerable growth during this century, with significant residential estate development occurring in the Post-War years. More recently, house building has taken place on the western and southern edges of the town.

5.13.3 Shops are concentrated within the town centre and also at The Quintins and St Mary's Walk. A variety of shops, offices and other businesses provide facilities for the town. The majority of the town's business activity is contained within two business areas at Diplocks Way and Station Road. A number of smaller, light industrial units are also located at Old Swan Lane and Leap Cross Business Centre on London Road. There are few large areas of recreational open space or playing fields within the town.

Landscape Character

5.13.4 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

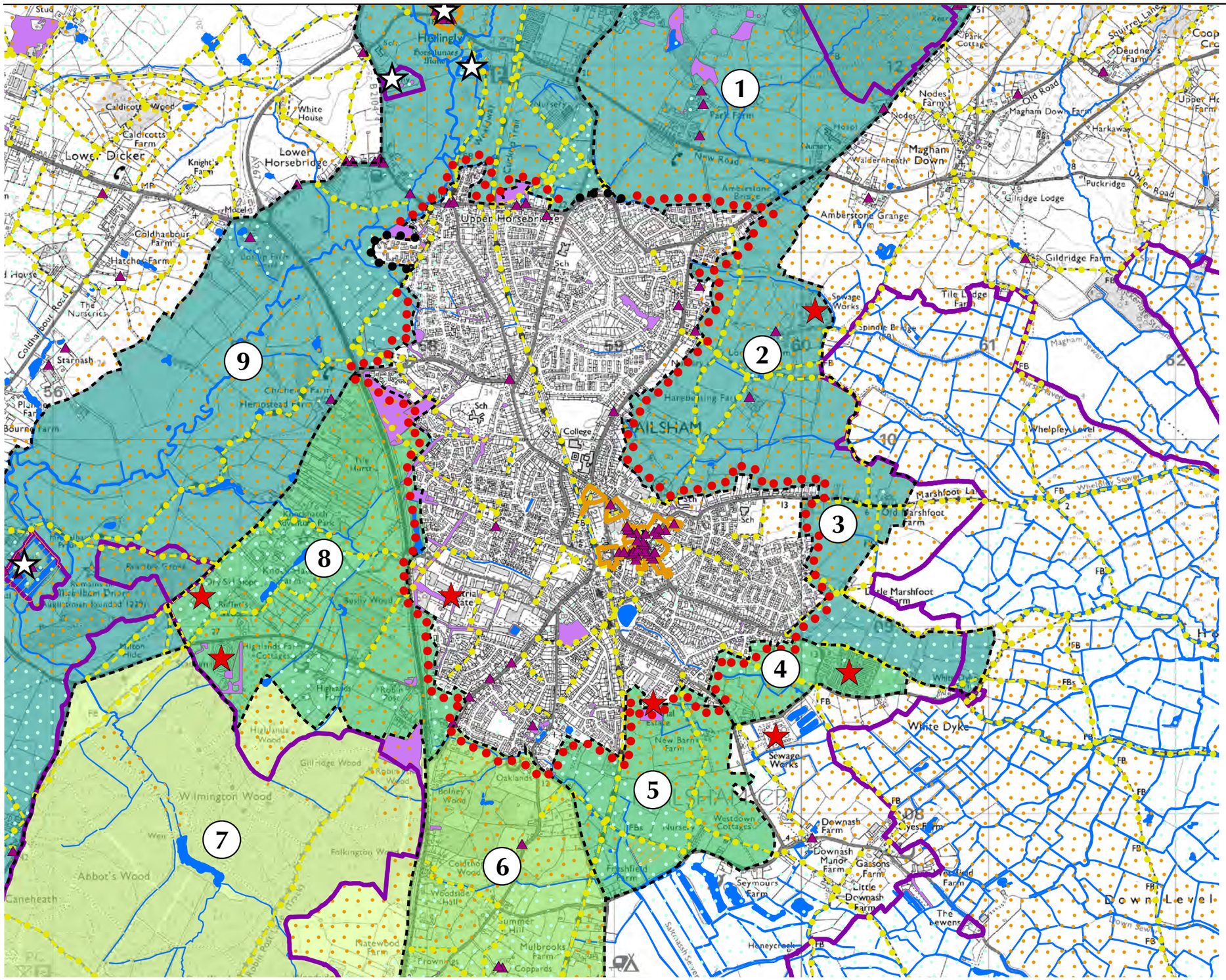
- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see **Section 5.3** for details
- Eastern Low Weald (15) - see **Section 5.3** for details
- Pevensey Levels (25) - see **Section 5.3** for details

5.13.5 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

- D7: Wilmington and Abbot's Wood – see **Section 5.5** for details
- E5:Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge – see **Section 5.6** for details
- E6: Hellingly – see **Section 5.6** for details

5.13.6 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Hailsham are illustrated on **Figure 5.6** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A patchwork of small-scale historic fields surrounds the settlement, often abutting the settlement edge. These are interspersed with large areas of Ancient Woodland, at the south-western edge of the town. The un-wooded ancient landscapes to the west of the settlement are cohesive and aggregate assarts. To the north are scattered areas of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure, and to the east, regular piecemeal enclosure and consolidated strip fields. Further to the east and south east (within the levels landscape), is a landscape of brooks innings and saltmarsh innings.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Horselunges Manor complex, to the north of the settlement is a key Culturally Important Landmark, as is Michelham Priory, at some distance from the western edge of Hailsham.
- **Landscape detractors** include large industrial and commercial buildings to the south of the town, sewage works to the east of the town and a Chalet Park also at the eastern edge of the town.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is predominantly lined by treed, sensitive edges and woodland, with a few pockets of exposed or prominent urban edges along the northern edges of the town, often associated with new or partially complete new development sites.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The valley of the River Cuckmere is a key landscape feature, running to the north and west of the town. Several smaller tributaries (and associated ponds) feed this main river system. To the east of the settlement, the vast expanse of Pevensey Levels, with its associated drainage ditches is a key feature.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Key views southwards from the town are dominated by the backdrop of Wilmington Wood.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A network of footpaths and bridleways connects Hailsham to its landscape setting, including the Cuckoo Trail.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 500 1,000 Meters

N

Scale: 1:21,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 5.6
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF HAILSHAM

October 2014

5.13.7 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.6** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A small-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral, ancient fields which are interspersed with small patches of woodland (much of which is ancient). • A strong landscape structure, resulting from the network of mature hedgerows and trees (often lining road corridors).
2	• A small-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral fields which are often lined with mature hedgerows; • Open views eastwards across the Open Levels contribute to recognisable sense of place. • West-east orientated stream corridors that feed the Levels to the east.
3	• A small scale patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, with stronger historic continuity in terms of field pattern in the north than in the south. • Open views eastwards across the Open Levels contribute to recognisable sense of place.
4	• A caravan park in the east, which is considered to be a landscape detractor. • West-east stream corridor, which is lined in places by mature trees and vegetation. • Open views southwards across the Open Levels contribute to recognisable sense of place.
5	• Several isolated farmsteads and houses; • A patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields with an ancient field pattern; • Open views southwards across the Open Levels contribute to recognisable sense of place.
6	• Small to medium-scale pockets of ancient and more recent, predominantly pastoral fields. • Several narrow rural road corridors.
7	• Strong sense of enclosure as a result of the several large areas of woodland • Numerous stream corridors run through the woodland.
8	• A small-scale, ancient landscape of arable and pastoral fields which are lined with a mature network of hedgerows. In the northwest of the area, ancient strip fields are a feature. • The Knockhatch adventure farm and several other farmsteads are dotted across the landscape.
9	• Gently meandering corridor of the River Cuckmere, which is lined with a patchwork of predominantly pastoral, ancient fields; • A22 road corridor crosses the northern part of the area, introducing a source of noise and movement.

Landscape Sensitivity

5.13.8 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Indistinct	Indistinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong	Moderate	Moderate
Visibility					
Landform	Apparent	Apparent	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Visibility	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	6	**7**	**8**	**9**
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Historic	Recent	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Moderate	Weak	Strong	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Enclosed	Enclosed	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	Very Low	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

5.13.9 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	6	**7**	**8**	**9**
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

Landscape Capacity

5.13.10 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	6	**7**	**8**	**9**
Landscape Sensitivity	Low	Very Low	Moderate	High
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Landscape Capacity	High	High	Moderate	Low

5.13.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area has a strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows and trees and strong historic continuity, resulting from the ancient field pattern. Valuable landscape features include pockets of Ancient Woodland.

5.13.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area has a strong strength of place as a result of open views eastwards across the Open Levels and a strong landscape pattern of arable and pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows. West–east orientated stream corridors further contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity.

5.13.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Low Landscape Value. There is strong historic continuity within this area, particularly in the north and the area has a strong strength of place as a result of open views eastwards across the Open Levels.

5.13.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Low Landscape Value. Whilst there is a moderate strength of place, resulting from the pattern of stream corridors and pastoral fields, landscape value is considered to be low as a result of the presence of several landscape detractors, such as the caravan park.

5.13.15 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Low Landscape Value. There are few valuable landscape features within this area, however the patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields with an ancient field pattern and open views southwards across the Open Levels contribute to recognisable strength of place.

5.13.16 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is little historic continuity within this area. Features of landscape value include pockets of Ancient Woodland and mature hedgerows.

5.13.17 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very Low Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is little historic continuity within this area. Features of landscape value include pockets of Ancient Woodland and mature hedgerows, however visibility is limited as a result of the strong sense of enclosure provided by the dense woodland blocks.

5.13.18 **Landscape Setting Area 8** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area has a strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows and trees and strong historic continuity, resulting from the ancient field pattern. Valuable landscape features include mature hedgerows and trees. In the northwest of the area, ancient strip fields are considered to be particularly sensitive.

5.13.19 **Landscape Setting Area 9** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area has a strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows and trees and strong historic continuity, resulting from the ancient field pattern. Valuable landscape features include mature hedgerows and trees. The gently meandering corridor of the River Cuckmere, which is lined with patchwork of predominantly pastoral, ancient fields in considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity.

5.15 Landscape Setting of Laughton

Settlement Profile

5.15.1 Laughton is situated approximately five miles to the east of Lewes on the B2124 Hailsham to Ringmer road. The village is situated on a slight rise in the flat landscape between the South Downs National Park and Ashdown Forest on the Laughton Levels.

5.15.2 Laughton developed around a cross roads which includes the Roebuck Inn and village stores and Post Office on the corner of the B2124 and Shortgate Lane. Church Lane to the south forms the fourth road in the cross roads and leads to the church, and primary school.

Landscape Character

5.15.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.15.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

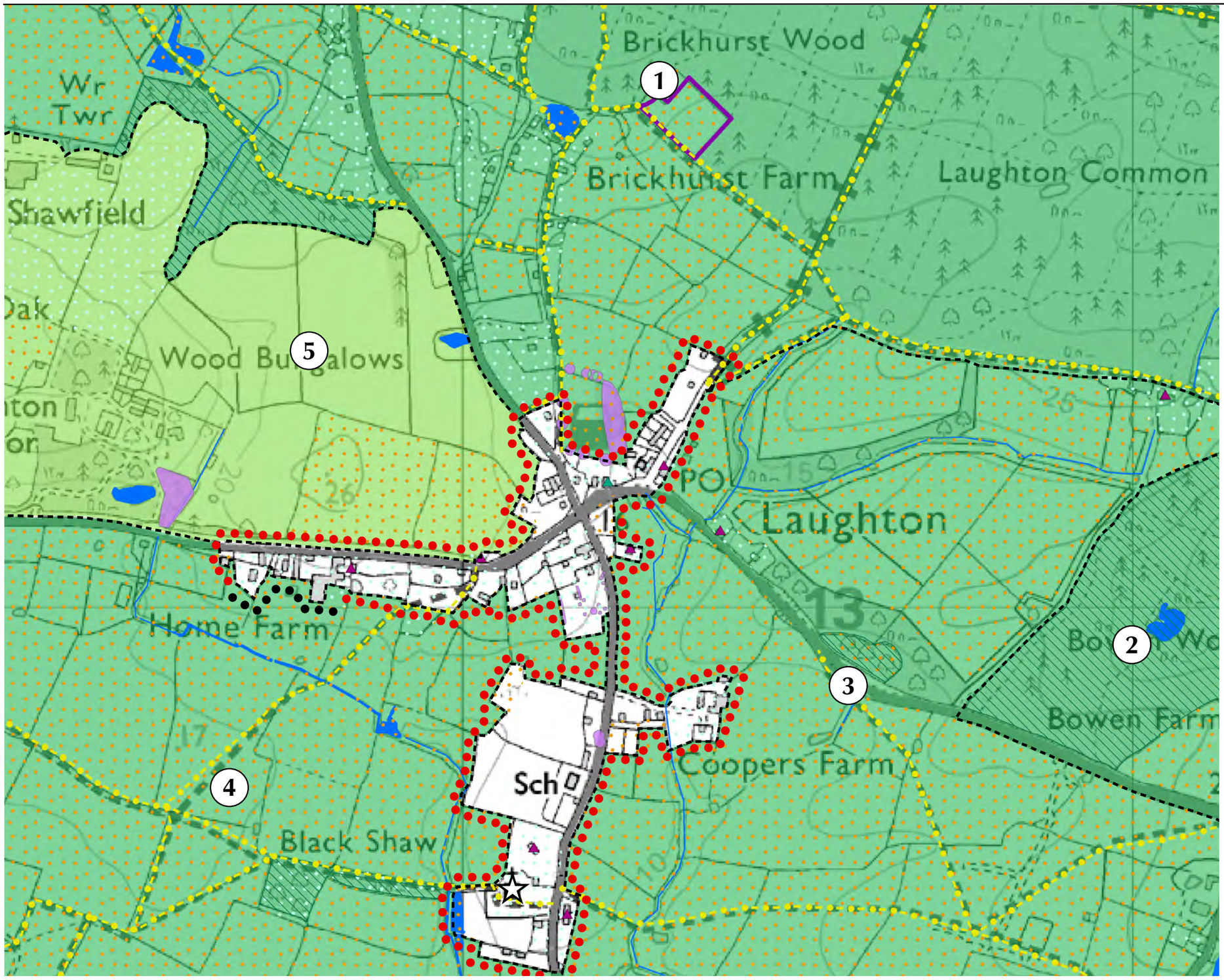
- D2: Laughton – see **Section 5.5** for details

5.15.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape surrounding Laughton are illustrated on **Figure 5.8** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting to Laughton is predominantly comprised of a mosaic of ancient fieldscapes. These include an array of cohesive assarts to the north, regular piecemeal enclosure to the south and west, aggregate assarts and co-axial fields to the south east, and consolidated strip fields to the south west. Small blocks of Ancient Woodland are scattered across the settlement setting. Laughton Common and Brickhurst wood to the north are more recent plantations which includes a small nature reserve.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are few landscape detractors but the main road corridor introduces a source of noise and movement.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges are mostly sensitive with mature vegetation, and a small area of prominent urban edge by Home Farm.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Several small ponds are found dotted around the settlement and near the nature reserve with small streams occurring throughout the setting.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Open views southwards to the South Downs National Park towards Alfriston.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is well connected to its landscape setting via a network of footpaths.

5.15.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.8** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Predominantly wooded, including Laughton Common and Brickhurst Wood • A strong sense of enclosure throughout
2	• Small to medium-scale ancient fields which are interspersed with stream corridors and adjacent Ancient Woodlands.
3	• A small to medium-scale patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows.
4	• A patchwork of medium-scale ancient fields, lined with mature hedgerows.
5	• Predominantly large-scale, modern fields • Laughton Manor and Wood Bungalows in the south east.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

N

0 125 250 Meters

Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 5.8
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF LAUGHTON

Landscape Sensitivity

5.15.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	4	**5**
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Rare	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Historic
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Moderate
Visibility					
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Enclosed	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Very Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low

Landscape Value

5.15.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Landscape Value	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Limited

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.15.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Laughton.

5.15.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Moderate	Major	Major	Limited

5.15.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. The large areas of woodland, including (parts of) Laughton Common and Brickhurst Wood provide a wooded backdrop to views north-eastwards from the village and limit long distance views. These woodlands also provide a strong landscape structure at the edges of the village.

5.15.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Whilst the woodland within this area provides a wooded backdrop to views eastwards from the village, this area does not abut the village edge and provides no physical setting to the settlement.

5.15.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The ancient field pattern, interspersed with narrow stream corridors and mature hedgerows, provides a strong landscape structure to the edge of the village.

5.15.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. There is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core of the village. The patchwork of medium-scale ancient fields, with mature hedgerows at field boundaries provides a strong landscape structure to the edge of the village. The hedgerows limit long distance views across the landscape.

5.15.15 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of the weak landscape structure, and limited historic continuity within this, predominantly with large-scale, modern fields.

5.16 Landscape Setting of Muddles Green

Settlement Profile

5.16.1 Muddles Green is situated approximately half a mile to the south of Chiddingly, five miles to the northwest of Hailsham and half a mile to the north of Golden Cross on A22 main road corridor.

5.16.2 Muddles Green is a small hamlet attached to Chiddingly. There are a mixture of houses, some newer and close to the road, others are older or listed, set back with larger gardens. There is a school, village shop and art gallery. It lies in a section of the Low Weald which gradually rises northwards from the South Downs, the topography surrounding it is one of small hills of which there are seven within the parish, namely Holmes Hill, Gun Hill, Thunders Hill, Stone Hill, Burgh Hill, Pick Hill and Scrapers Hill. Four of these hills surround Muddles Green in the valley, the streams running from them are part of the watershed of the River Cuckmere.

Landscape Character

5.16.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.16.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

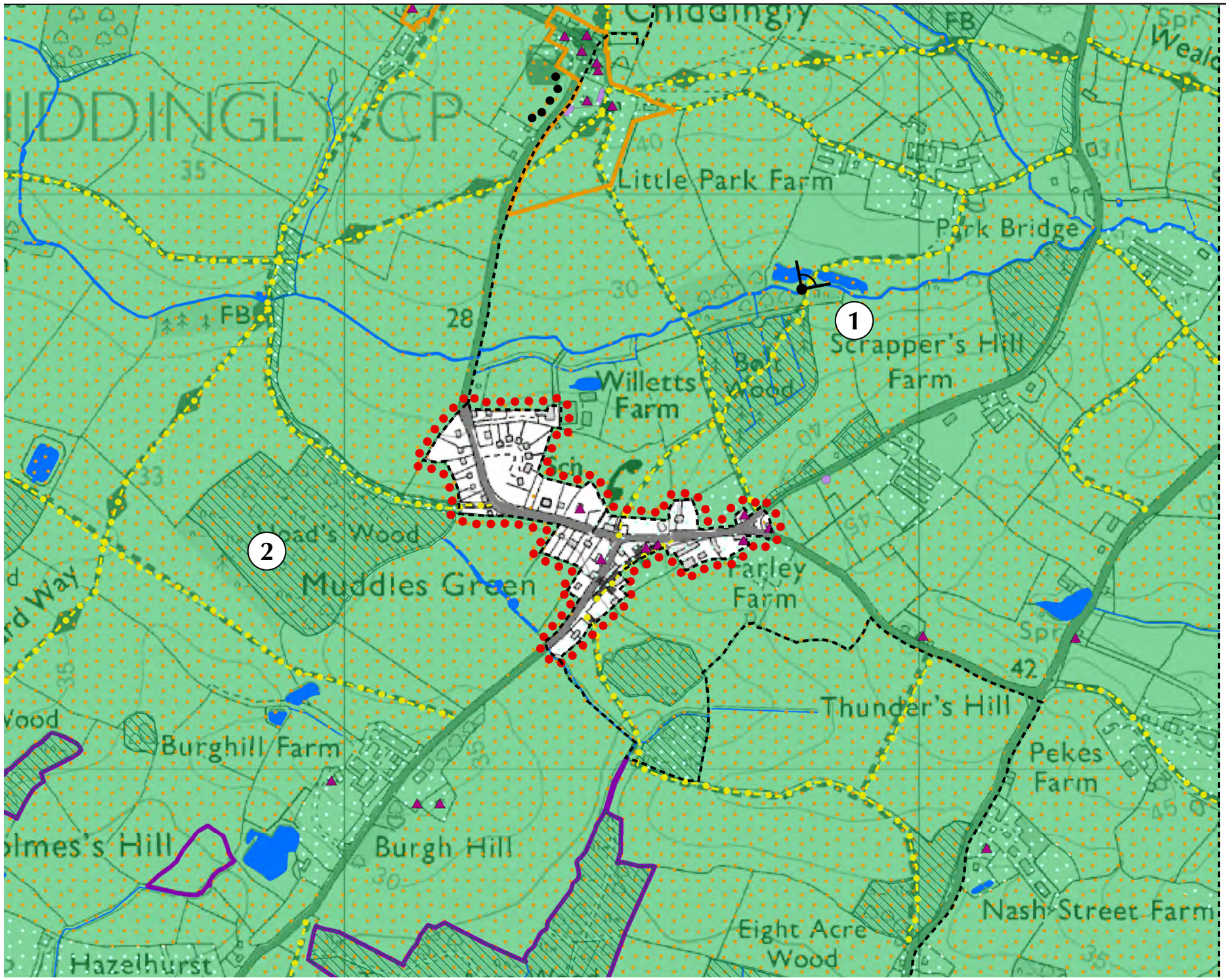
- D5: Chiddingly – see **Section 5.5** for details

5.16.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Muddle's Green are illustrated on **Figure 5.9** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting to Muddles Green is predominantly comprised of small scale ancient fieldscapes. The northern and eastern part of the settlement setting is primarily made up of regular piecemeal enclosure, divided by narrow strips of irregular piecemeal enclosure along watercourses. To the west is an extensive tract of cohesive assart landscape, with aggregate assarts also present to the south. The settlement setting is scattered with small to medium sized blocks of Ancient Woodland.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The church at Chiddingly can be seen from Scraper's Hill. A surrealist art gallery and gardens is situated by the farm/village shop, next to the school. There are several listed buildings in the hamlet.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Some farm buildings on Burgh Hill Farm are landscape detractors that can be seen from the school.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of Muddles Green are all considered to be sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Tributaries of the River Cuckmere flow mainly to the north of the village. Ponds are dotted around the village. A larger pond is found next to the SSSI nature reserve at Burgh Hill Farm
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The South Downs are visible in the distance from several places in the village and its surroundings.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is very well connected to the surrounding villages and countryside by footpaths which in turn link to the Weald Way and Vanguard way in Chiddingly.

5.16.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.9** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A gently sloping patchwork of ancient arable and pastoral fields, which are lined with mature hedgerows; • East-west running stream corridor; • Isolated farmsteads.
2	• Large, regular-shaped areas of Ancient Woodland; • Numerous ponds are key landscape features.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 5.9
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF MUDDLES GREEN

Landscape Sensitivity

5.16.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Value

5.16.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	High	High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.16.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Muddles Green.

5.16.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Major

5.16.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place, and strong inter-visibility between Muddles Green, Chiddingly Church and the South Downs. Valuable landscape features include pockets of Ancient Woodland, the east-west running stream corridor and mature hedgerows.

5.16.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place, and strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement. The large, regular-shaped areas of Ancient Woodland provide a backdrop to views south and westwards from the village, providing a strong landscape structure at the village edge and limiting long distance, open views across the landscape.

5.17 Landscape Setting of Ripe

Settlement Profile

5.17.1 Ripe is situated in the southwest of Wealden District, in close proximity to the village of Chalvington, which is situated to the east of the village. For the purposes of this assessment, Ripe also includes Eckington Corner.

5.17.2 Ripe is a small linear village which runs along a minor B road corridor, connecting to Chalvington in the east and Laughton in the northwest. The village encompasses a series of relatively large detached and semi-detached houses which are often set within large plots. There are many Listed Buildings within the village and the church provides a key landmark at the eastern end of the settlement.

Landscape Character

5.17.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.17.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

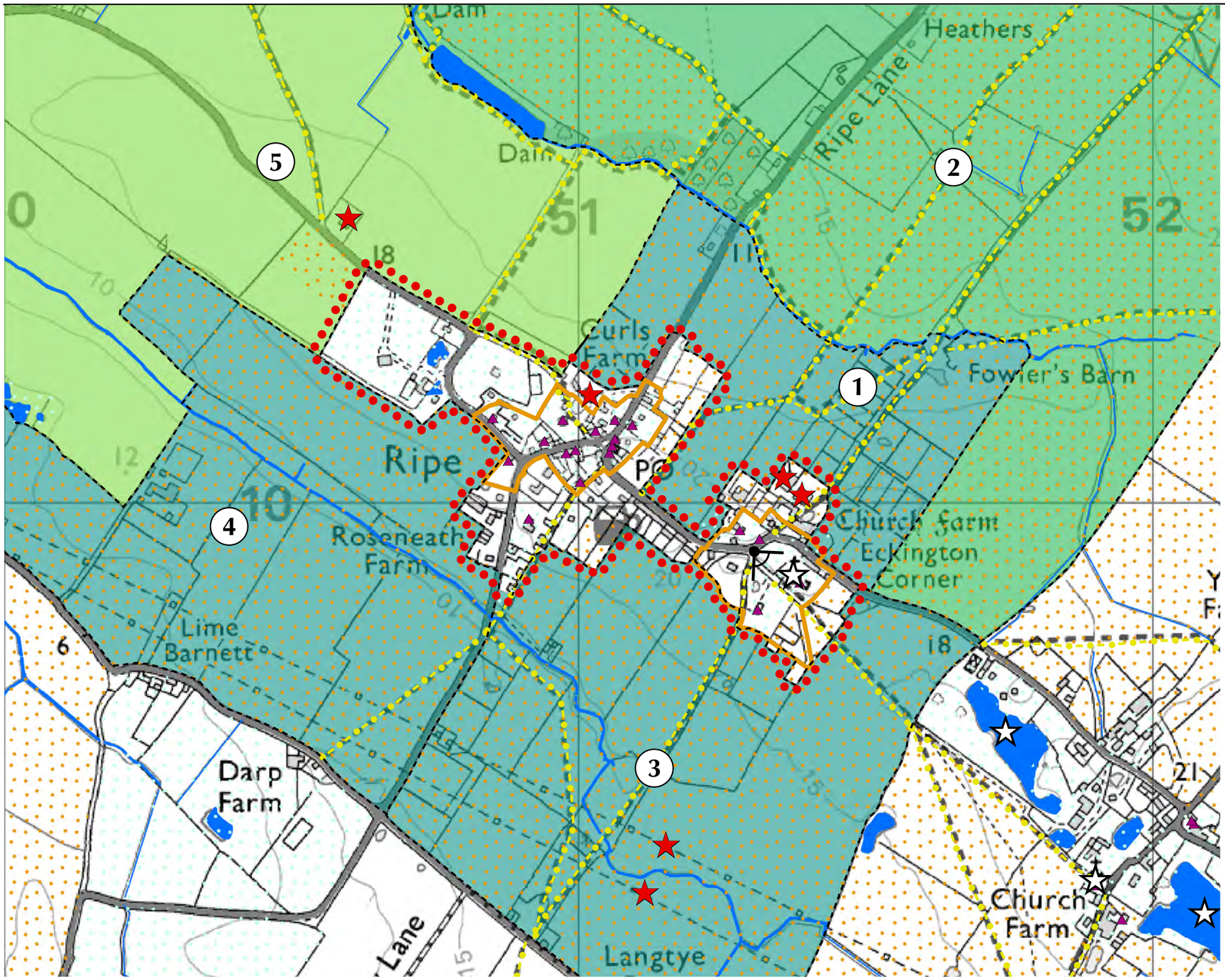
- E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe – see **Section 5.6** for details

5.17.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Ripe are illustrated on **Figure 5.10** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** A predominantly ancient landscape, comprised of coaxial fields, abuts the majority of the settlement edge, with some, smaller areas of brooks innings contributing to the ancient fieldscapes. Other, historic field types present include planned private enclosure.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The church, at the eastern end of the village (at Eckington Corner) is a culturally important landmark which contributes to recognisable sense of place.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are several large farm buildings in close proximity to the northern edge of the village which are considered to be Landscape Detractors.
- **Urban Edges:** The village is predominantly lined with sensitive urban edges, comprising a mixture of trees and hedgerows;
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** A significant view of the church can be gained looking eastwards along the High Street from the main part of the village;
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** There is an interconnected network of footpaths within the Landscape Setting of Ripe, which connect the village to its surroundings.

5.17.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.10** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A linear pattern of small-scale, ancient arable and pastoral fields; • Key views to the church and the South Downs to the south
2	• A patchwork of large-scale ancient fields which are delineated by mature hedgerows; • A relatively strong sense of openness
3	• Stream corridor running east –west • Medium-scale fields and a mature landscape structure • Key views southwards to the ridges of the South Downs
4	• Stream corridor running east –west • Medium-scale fields and a mature landscape structure • Key views southwards to the South Downs scarp • Isolated farmsteads
5	• Large-scale modern fields, with little historic continuity • A strong sense of openness.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 5.10
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF RIPE

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Landscape Sensitivity

5.17.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Recent
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Weak
Visibility					
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Intermittent	Open	Open	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Moderate	High	High	Low

Landscape Value

5.17.8 The inherent Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

5.17.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Moderate	High	High	Low
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

5.17.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area encompasses a patchwork of medium to large scale fields, which are often lined with mature hedgerows, contributing to moderate to low visibility overall. The mature hedgerows and ancient field pattern contribute to moderate landscape value. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of the distinct character and ancient fieldscapes, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity overall.

5.17.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area encompasses a patchwork of medium to large scale fields, which are often lined with mature hedgerows, contributing to Moderate Landscape Value. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of the relatively strong sense of openness, resulting in Moderate Landscape Sensitivity.

5.17.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area encompasses a patchwork of medium to large scale fields, which are often lined with mature hedgerows, contributing to moderate to low visibility overall. The stream corridor and mature landscape structure contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of the distinct character, ancient fieldscapes and key views southwards to the ridges of the South Downs, resulting in High Landscape Sensitivity overall.

5.17.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area encompasses a patchwork of medium to large scale fields, which are often lined with mature hedgerows, contributing to moderate to low visibility overall. The stream corridor and mature landscape structure of hedgerows contribute to High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of the distinct character and ancient fieldscapes. There is a strong sense of openness, with key views southwards to the South Downs scarp.

5.17.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area includes more recent, larger scale fields, with less historic continuity than adjacent Landscape Setting Areas. It is also considered to have a weak strength of place and low visibility overall.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.17.15 Ripe has an existing Conservation Area.

5.17.16 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Moderate	Major	Major	Limited

5.17.17 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Ripe as a result of its strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village/church and strong strength of place/historic time depth. Open views southwards towards the church can be gained from the southern part of this area.

5.17.18 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting. Whilst it also has strong historic time depth (encompassing a patchwork of ancient fields), there is lower inter-visibility with the historic core of the village (particularly in the north, where this Landscape Setting Area does not abut the settlement edge). At the southern end of Landscape Setting Area 2, there is stronger inter-visibility with the church.

5.17.19 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Ripe as a result of its strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The church is visible within open views northwards, particularly from the northern part of this area. Further south, there is less inter-visibility with the church/historic buildings within the historic core of the village.

5.17.20 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Ripe as a result of its strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village, particularly from the northern part of this area. In addition, the patchwork of medium to large scale fields, which are often lined with mature hedgerows and the stream corridor provide a strong landscape structure at the village edge.

5.17.21 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting as a result of its weak historic continuity and low inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. Whilst this area does abut the settlement edge, landscape structure is considered to be weak.

5.18 Landscape Setting of Selmeston

Settlement Profile

5.18.1 Selmeston is situated in the south-western corner of Wealden District, in close proximity to the villages of Berwick Station, Ripe and Chalvington. The village is located in close proximity to the northern edge of the South Downs National Park and part of its setting falls within the National Park.

5.18.2 Selmeston is small linear village. The historic core is situated at the northern end of the village and is centred on the church. Properties within the village comprise detached and semi-detached houses which face the road corridor. There is a petrol station with shop and a pub at the southern end of the village, at the junction with the A27 main road corridor.

Landscape Character

5.18.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details
- Firle Bishopstone Downs (21) - see **Section 5.3** for details

5.18.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

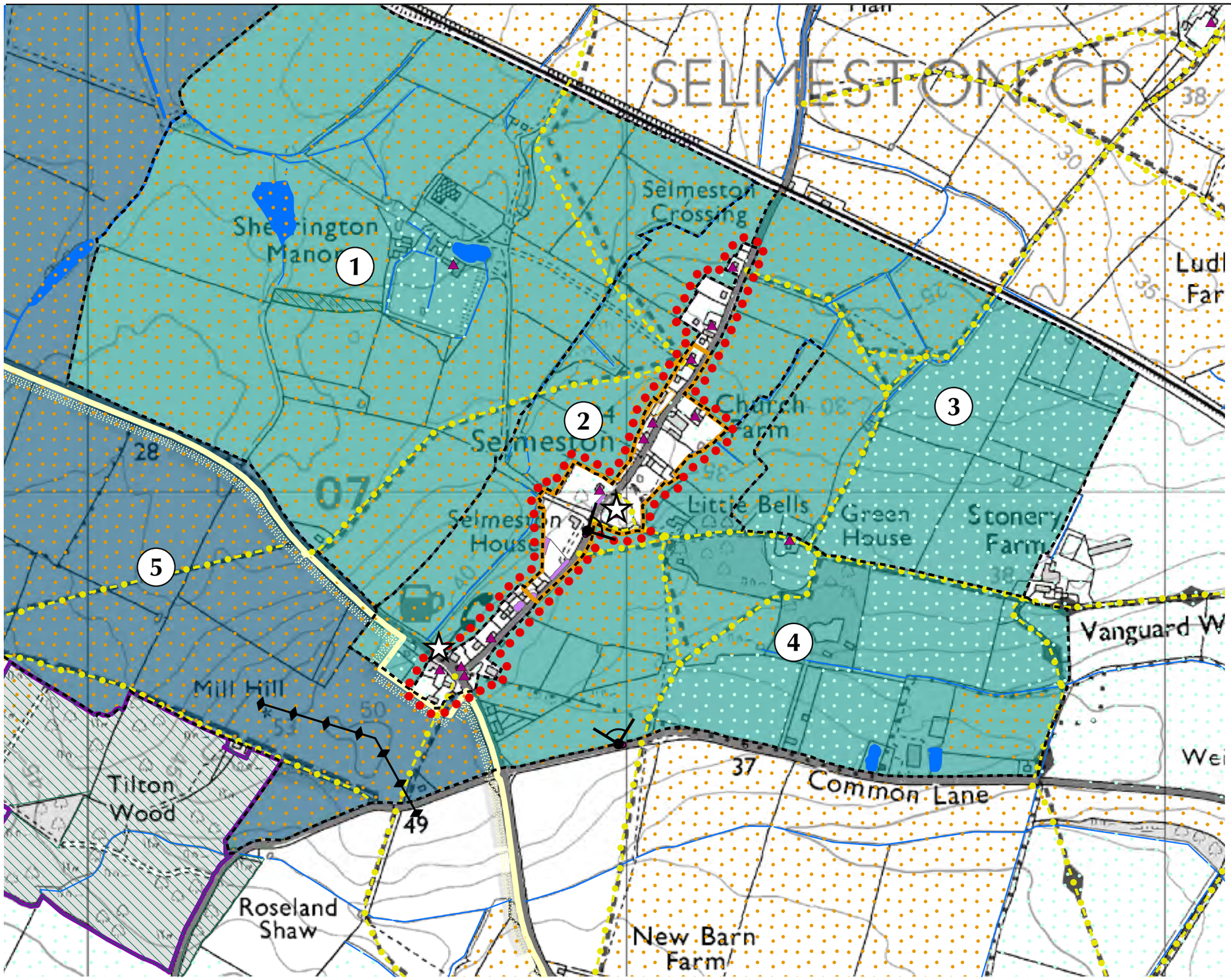
- E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe – see **Section 5.6** for details

5.18.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Selmeston are illustrated on **Figure 5.11** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Selmeston lies within a landscape predominantly comprised of ancient fieldscapes. Consolidated strip fields abut the settlement edge to the west and north east, with regular piecemeal enclosure to the east. Coaxial fields, planned private enclosure and Ancient Woodland add to the historic interest of the settlement setting.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Several Listed Buildings along the High Street, particularly at the northern end, in close proximity to the church (which is a culturally important landmark). The cross at the southern end of the village, at the junction between the High Street and the A27 is also a culturally important landmark which contributes to recognisable strength of place.
- **Urban Edges:** The edges of the village are all sensitive, screened by mature hedgerows/trees at back garden boundaries.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** There are several small ponds within the setting of the village and a larger pond/lake associated with Sherrington Manor to the west of the village.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is connected to its landscape setting by a relatively dense network of public rights of way.

5.18.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.11** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Large-scale, ancient pattern of fields, delineated in places by mature hedgerows • Key views to the South Downs to the south • Sherington Manor complex with its associated stream corridors and ponds/waterbodies.
2	• A patchwork of small to medium-scale fields, lined with hedgerows
3	• A combination of historic and ancient, medium scale arable and pastoral fields; • A few farmsteads
4	• A patchwork of small to medium-scale fields, lined with hedgerows • Key views to the South Downs to the south
5	• An area of higher ground, encompassing a ridge and supporting a patchwork of ancient fields.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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FIGURE 5.11
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF SELMESTON

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Landscape Sensitivity

5.18.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Indistinct	Distinct	Unique/rare
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Historic	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Apparent	Apparent	Dominant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Open	Intermittent	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Very High
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	Very High

Landscape Value

5.18.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

Landscape Capacity

5.18.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	Very High
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Very High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low

5.18.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area is considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity as a result of its strong strength of place (with views southwards to the South Downs) and pattern of ancient fields, delineated in places by mature hedgerows. Sherington Manor complex is also considered to be a sensitive landscape feature.

5.18.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area is considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity as a result of the presence of mature hedgerows and an associated strong strength of place (with views southwards to the South Downs). The pattern of ancient fields contributes to Moderate Landscape Value.

5.18.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area is considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity as a result of the combination of historic and ancient medium-scale arable and pastoral fields, often with mature hedgerows at field boundaries. There is a strong strength of place throughout the area (with views southwards to the South Downs).

5.18.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area is considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity as a result of the strong strength of place (with views southwards to the South Downs) and pattern of ancient fields. Small pockets of Ancient Woodland contribute to Moderate Landscape Value.

5.18.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. It is situated within the South Downs National Park and encompasses a ridge of higher land, resulting in very high visibility and Very High Landscape Value. The patchwork of ancient fields within this is considered to be highly sensitive as a result of its landscape pattern and strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.18.15 Selmeston has an existing Conservation Area.

5.18.16 The contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Major	Major	Major	Limited

5.18.17 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of Selmeston. Whilst this area does not directly abut the edge of the village, it has a moderate strength of place as a result of the pattern of historic and ancient landscapes and moderate inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

5.18.18 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is assessed as making a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Selmeston as a result of its strong or very strong strength of place and strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. Open views eastwards towards the edge of the village can be gained from this area and vice versa, views westwards across the area can be gained from the western edge of the village.

5.18.19 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is assessed as making a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Selmeston as a result of its strong or very strong strength of place and strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. Open views westwards to the church (within the historic core of the settlement) can be gained from the western edges of this area.

5.18.20 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is assessed as making a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of Selmeston as a result of its strong or very strong strength of place (with views to the South Downs) and strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The church is a dominant feature within views northwards across this area and the area also has a strong pattern of small to medium-scale fields, lined with hedgerows.

5.18.21 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting as a result of its distance from the historic core and Conservation Area within the village, with limited inter-visibility to historic buildings.

5.19 Landscape Setting of Uckfield

Settlement Profile

5.19.1 Uckfield is situated in the west of Wealden District, approximately eight miles to the southwest of Crowborough and eight miles to the west of Heathfield. It is one of the largest settlements in the District and serves as a local employment and shopping centre. Uckfield is situated in close proximity to the southern edge of the High Weald AONB.

5.19.2 Uckfield is a large linear town which has developed at the crossroads between two B roads running north-south, east-west. The town is bypassed by the A22 main road corridor which runs to the west of the settlement. Uckfield has experienced significant growth over the last decade, resulting in a pattern of several large-scale housing estates at the edges of the town.

5.19.3 The town centre provides the commercial core of the settlement with a variety of shops and offices which have developed in linear form along the High Street (the former A22). The historic core of Uckfield is situated at the northern end of the High Street, with a concentration of Listed Buildings resulting in a historic character. More recently the focus of shopping activity has shifted southwards at the bottom on the High Street, with a small shopping complex at Bell Walk and the large supermarket to the south of Luxford Field.

5.19.4 There are two main business/commercial centres within Uckfield, at Bellbrook and Ridgewood. These areas comprise modern business units and warehouses. There are several key areas of open space within the town, which provide a range of outdoor recreational facilities. There include Victoria Pleasure Ground, the New Road Recreation Ground at Ridgewood, Hempstead Lane, Luxford Field, New Barn Farm and at West Park.

Landscape Character

5.19.5 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

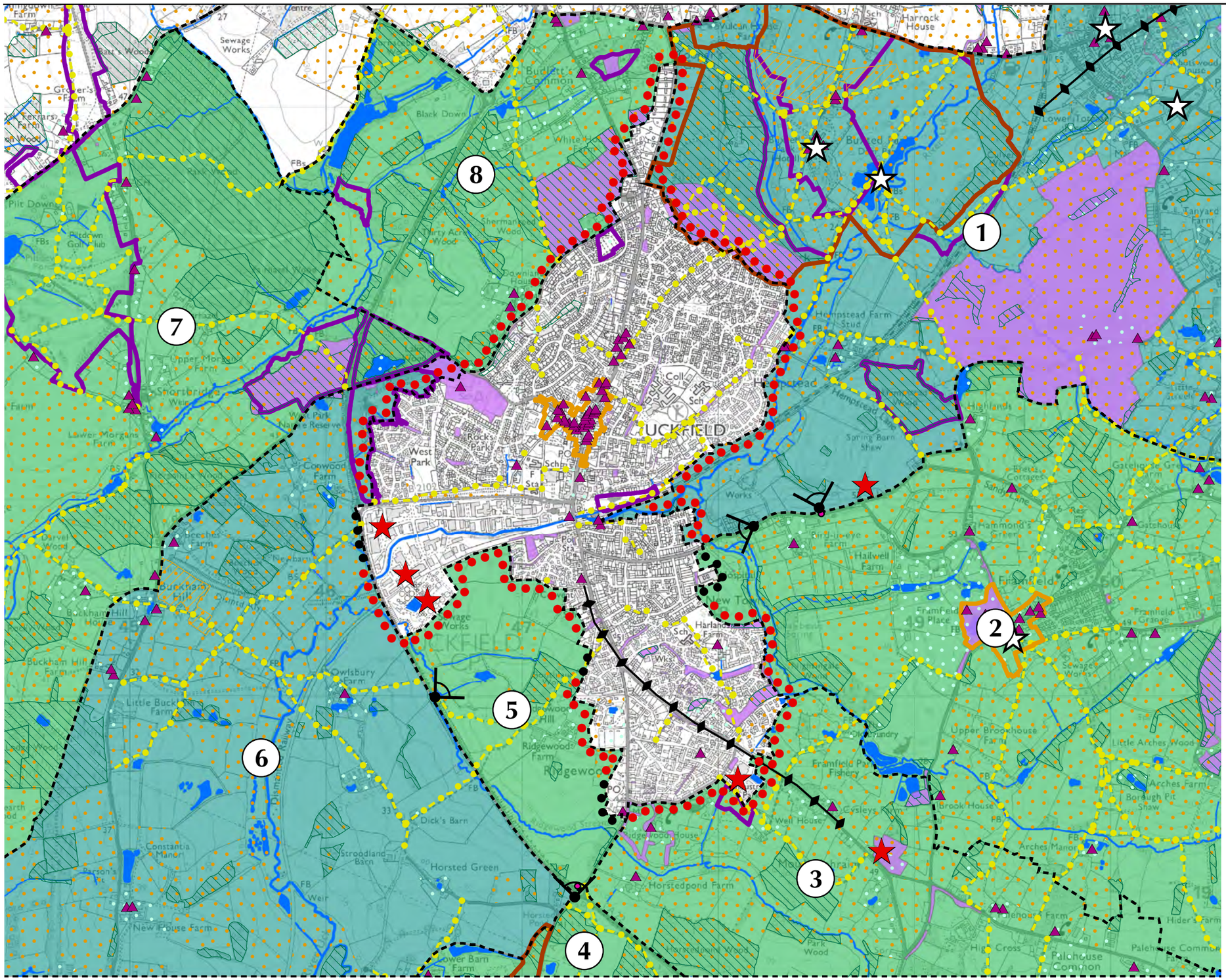
- Upper Ouse Valley (3) – see **Section 5.3** for details
- Western Low Weald (14) - see **Section 5.3** for details

5.19.6 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

- A1: Fletching and Maresfield – see **Section 4.4** for details
- A2: Budlett's Common and Five Ash Down – see **Section 4.4** for details
- A3: Buxted – see **Section 4.4** for details
- A4: Blackboys and Framfield – see **Section 4.4** for details
- C1: Fletching and Piltdown – see **Section 5.4** for details
- C2: Uck Valley – see **Section 5.4** for details
- C3: High Cross – see **Section 5.4** for details

5.19.7 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Uckfield are illustrated on **Figure 5.12** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Pockets of historic landscape within the setting of the town, comprising small-scale fields with intact boundaries, particularly to the northwest, west and southeast of the town. The historic field pattern is a mosaic, predominantly comprised of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure, and cohesive and aggregate assarts. Historic parkland landscape, associated with Buxted Park to the northeast of the settlement and relatively large areas of Ancient Woodland, further contribute to the historic landscape within the periphery of the town.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Buxted Park Hall(hotel), a culturally important historic landmark is situated to the northeast of the settlement and other important historic landmarks include the church at Framfield and listed buildings within the historic core of the town centre.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Several landscape detractors are present within the setting of the town, including industrial and commercial buildings at Ridgewood and Bellbrook Industrial estates.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is predominantly lined by sensitive soft edges and woodland, with a few pockets of exposed or prominent urban edges within the Bellbrook Industrial Area and at the eastern edge of the town, associated with the Hospital.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The key watercourse running northeast- southwest through the town, is the River Uck, set within its meandering valley. Several smaller tributary streams feed the main river system, including the Chalybeate Spring. There are also numerous small ponds within the setting of the town.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Key views of the edges of the town can be gained looking north-eastwards from the A22 road corridor and northwards from the Framfield Road.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A network of footpaths and bridleways connects Uckfield to its landscape setting.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
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FIGURE 5.12
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF UCKFIELD

5.19.8 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.12** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Gently meandering corridor of the River Uck, which is lined in places by small linear woodlands; • Buxted Park which is a key landscape feature, with its designed landscape elements and mature parkland trees
2	• A patchwork of woodlands, arable and pastoral fields which are often lined with mature hedgerows. • Intermittent sense of enclosure.
3	• Gently meandering Ridgewood Stream corridor, with several adjacent blocks of mature woodland • A strong landscape structure of hedgerows and trees.
4	• A patchwork of Ancient Woodland and pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows.
5	• Topography slopes from south to north, forming the northern valley side of the Ridgewood stream. • A patchwork of sloping, modern, arable and pastoral fields • A22 road corridor forms the southern edge of the area and introduces a source of noise and movement.
6	• The southern section of the Uck River corridor which gently meanders through a fieldscape which is interspersed with patches of woodland; • A22 road corridor forms the northern edge of the area and introduces a source of noise and movement.
7	• A strong sense of enclosure within this ancient landscape as a result of large areas of Ancient Woodland.
8	• A gently meandering tributary of the River Ouse which is lined with mature woodland, providing a strong sense of enclosure; • Park Wood, to the west is a key landscape feature, further contributing to the enclosed feel.

Landscape Sensitivity

5.19.9 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong	Moderate
Visibility				
Landform	Apparent	Insignificant	Insignificant	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	5	**6**	**7**	**8**
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Recent	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Weak	Strong	Strong	Strong
Visibility				
Landform	Dominant	Apparent	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Enclosed	Enclosed
Visibility	Very High	High	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Value

5.19.10 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area							
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	High

Landscape Capacity

5.19.11 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Landscape Sensitivity	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

5.19.12 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The area is considered to have High Landscape Sensitivity as a result of the gently meandering corridor of the River Uck, with its pattern of small woodlands and the designed landscape of Buxted Park, which has strong character and identity. Whilst there are large areas of Ancient Woodland associated with Buxted Park, landscape to the south is considered to have less valuable landscape features, resulting in Moderate Landscape Value overall.

5.19.13 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is recognisable strength of place as a result of the pattern of woodlands and fields, however views are localised, resulting in an intermittent sense of enclosure. Valuable landscape features include pockets of Ancient Woodland and mature hedgerows.

5.19.14 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area is considered to have a strong landscape structure of hedgerows and trees and the Ridgewood Stream corridor is a key valuable landscape feature.

5.19.15 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This area is considered to have a strong landscape structure of hedgerows and trees, which contribute to Moderate Landscape Sensitivity. It also includes large areas of valued Ancient Woodland, which contribute to Moderate Landscape Value overall.

5.19.16 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity is disturbed by the presence of the A22 road corridor, which also detracts from the value of the landscape. However this area is considered to have a strong landscape structure of trees and hedgerows, which are considered to be sensitive landscape features. Due to the prominent, sloping topography, this area is visible from surrounding Landscape Setting Areas.

5.19.17 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Landscape Sensitivity is considered to be high as a result of the intricate, meandering river corridor and adjacent pastoral fields, which are interspersed with pockets of valued Ancient Woodland. These pockets of ancient woodland are valuable landscape features, however overall landscape value is diminished by the presence of the A22 road corridor.

5.19.18 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The large areas of Ancient Woodland are considered to have High Landscape Value and are sensitive landscape elements. The strong sense of enclosure also contributes to recognisable strength of place and Moderate overall Landscape Sensitivity.

5.19.19 **Landscape Setting Area 8** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The strong pattern of mature woodland is considered to be a highly valued landscape feature, and the meandering Ouse Tributary contributes to recognisable strength of place and landscape value. Overall Landscape Sensitivity is considered to be Moderate as a result of the presence of the tributary corridor, woodland lining the river and other blocks of woodland, which are considered to be sensitive landscape features.

5.20 Landscape Setting of Upper Dicker

Settlement Profile

5.20.1 Upper Dicker is situated in the southwest of Wealden District, three miles west of Hailsham and five miles north of the South Down's National Park.

5.20.2 Upper Dicker is a small linear settlement in the Eastern Low Weald. It is essentially a residential village with low density housing, formed around a four way cross roads with few amenities. It is dominated by the presence of St Bede's Private School and its playing fields. The historical Michelham Priory is a tourist destination which is situated to the southeast of the village. The village is surrounded by several watercourses, some of which feed into the historical water mill at the Priory. There are patches of significant Ancient Woodland and TPOs.

Landscape Character

5.20.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 5.3** for details

5.20.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

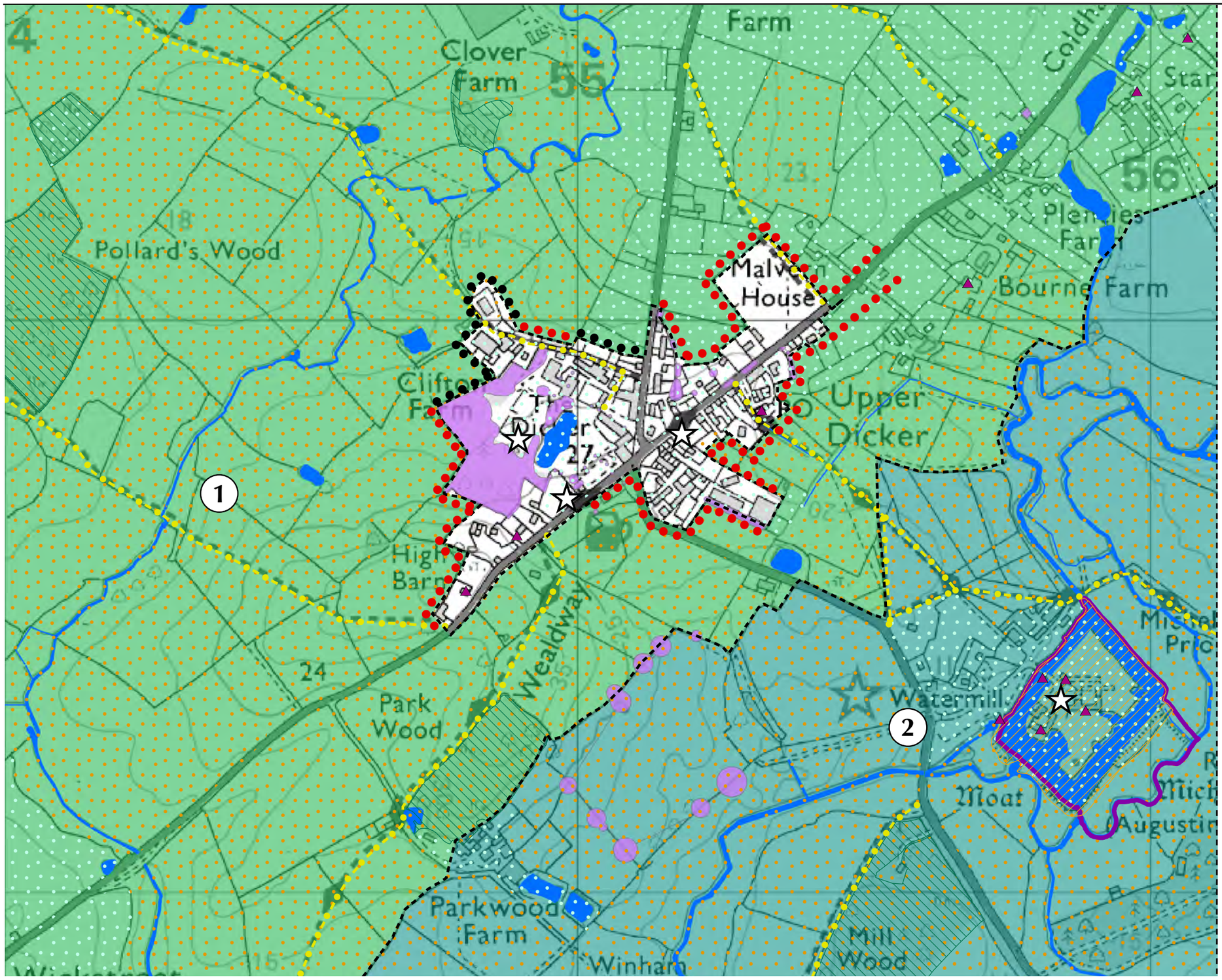
- D6: Upper Dicker – see **Section 5.5** for details

5.20.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Upper Dicker are illustrated on **Figure 5.13** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Blocks of Ancient Woodland sit within a predominantly ancient fieldscape of piecemeal enclosure, cohesive assarts and coaxial fields. The historic Michelham Priory (moated site in various uses since 1229, including watermill) contributes further historic interest to the settlement setting.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is predominantly lined by sensitive vegetated edges, the exception of Clifton Farm and a short stretch on the north edge of the settlement, where the edges are prominent.
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The River Cuckmere and other waterways feed the ancient watermill and also surround the village forming small ponds.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Views to and from ridges are generally obscured by mature hedgerows. Two main ridgelines can be found in Upper Dicker, both culminating in the village. One runs loosely to the East and the other to the South.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The Village is connected to its landscape setting by seven footpaths and bridleways which cross the village.

5.20.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 5.13** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Gently meandering stream corridor • Medium to large-scale ancient fields, which are often lines with mature hedgerows. • Pockets of Ancient Woodland.
2	• Several stream corridors which feed the moat at Michelham Priory • Michelham Priory – a key historic landscape feature; • The watermill • A patchwork of medium scale ancient fields, often delineated by mature hedgerows.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 150 300 Meters

N

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3

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CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES
landscape | environment | heritage

October 2014
11119501_Completed maps_10-14.indd

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 5.13
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF UPPER DICKER

Landscape Sensitivity

5.20.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Strength of Place		
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong
Visibility		
Landform	Insignificant	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent	Intermittent
Visibility	Low	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity		
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

5.20.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Value	Moderate	High

Landscape Capacity

5.20.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area	
	1	2
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High
Landscape Value	Moderate	High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Low

5.20.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value. There is low visibility due to the high established hedgerows. A meandering stream is surrounded by arable fields and a relatively large Ancient Woodland contributes to a Moderate Landscape Value. Mature hedgerows are also sensitive landscape features.

5.20.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. This area contains an ancient field pattern of piecemeal enclosure and the historic complex of Michelham Priory which contribute to its High Landscape Sensitivity and Landscape Value. Several small stream corridors and mature hedgerows are also sensitive landscape features.

6.0 THE PEVENSEY LEVELS LANDSCAPE

6.0 THE PEVENSEY LEVELS LANDSCAPE

6.1 General

6.1.1 This Section presents the assessment of the Pevensey Levels Landscape and the landscape setting of the selected settlements in this area. The assessment includes:

- A summary overview of the Pevensey Levels National Character Area (NCA) and its constituent County Landscape Character Areas.
- Assessment of the character, sensitivity and value of each Local Landscape Character Type identified within the Pevensey Levels Landscape, including description of each Type's constituent Local Landscape Character Areas, in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.0**.
- Assessment of the Landscape Settings for each of the selected settlements within the Pevensey Levels Landscape in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.0.**

6.2 The Pevensey Levels National Character Area

6.2.1 The extent of the Low Weald National Character Area in respect of Wealden District is shown on **Figure 2.1**. A full description of the National Character Area as a whole is available from the Natural England website[19]. A summary overview of the Pevensey Levels National Character Area within the District is provided below.

Summary

6.2.2 The Pevensey Levels are extensive tracts of low-lying reclaimed wetland with pockets of raised land typically associated with farm buildings and settlements. A distinctive windswept feel characterises the large-scale open landscape of predominant pasture. Large fields are set within an irregular network of drainage ditches and banks, with a few hedges (often associated with old silted dykes) and trees, except on areas of higher ground where isolated groups of trees associated with small settlements add variety and interest. Ditches are typically fringed with reeds while patches of standing water and rushy pasture further reinforce the wetland character. Although intensively farmed, much of the area is still wet pasture and is managed for grazing. Much of the area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and the Pevensey Levels are designated as a Ramsar Site and Site of Community Importance[20].

Key Characteristics

6.2.3 The key characteristics of the Pevensey Levels National Character Area as a whole are:

- *Low-lying tract of largely reclaimed wetland, actively maintained by purpose-built drainage systems and river flood plain improvements, with long views to the dramatic and distinctive backdrop of the South Downs and out over the sea. A predominantly open landscape with extensive grazed wet meadows and some arable fields with characteristic dykes, wetlands and wide skies. The open, windswept feel is further enhanced by the scarcity of trees and hedges in the landscape.*
- *Low density of dispersed settlement, mostly farmsteads on medieval sites, away from main centres of population.*
- *Local landscape diversity is added by 'eyes' – islands of higher ground, many with farmsteads – and also by reed-fringed ditches, scattered willows and patches of standing water with adjacent rushy pasture. Ditches of high biodiversity value, particularly for invertebrates and aquatic plants, typically fringed with reeds, and with patches of standing water and rushy pasture reinforcing the wetland character.*
- *Pevensey Castle overlooks the Levels near the coast, dominating the landscape and adding to the historic interest of the area along with Martello towers and Eastbourne Pier.*
- *Numerous salt works where seawater was evaporated to form salt crystals, resulting in distinctive low mounds.*
- *Shingle beaches with views along the coast dominated in the west by the Victorian seafront at Eastbourne and the Sovereign Harbour complex.*
- *Widely spaced roads and isolated settlements combine with the overall open character to provide a sense of remoteness. Roads tend to be slightly raised above the surrounding land, forming visual divisions in the landscape.*
- *Electricity transmission lines and pylons form vertical features in the flat and open landscape.*

[19] Natural England (2013) National Character Area Profile 124: Pevensey Levels
http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/pevensey_levels.aspx
[20] Sites of Community Importance are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) but not yet formally designated by the government of each country as a Special Area of Conservation.

6.3 County Landscape Character Areas

6.3.1 The relevant County Landscape Character Areas within Wealden District that fall (whole or in part) within the Pevensey Levels National Character Area are included below (see **Figure 3.1**), taken from the East Sussex County Landscape Assessment[21]:

Eastern Low Weald (15)

Summary

6.3.2 *This area is more open and exposed than the western low weald, with many more flat, treeless areas. It contains the large woodland areas of Abbot's and Vert Woods, which are mainly conifer plantations. Running from Ringmer in the west (outside Wealden District) to Polegate in the east the area contains the upper River Cuckmere and Arlington Reservoir.*

Key Characteristics

- *Significant areas of flat, nearly treeless country with remote windswept feel.*
- *A greater area (15%) is under woodland than in the Western Low Weald but, by contrast, nearly all of this is in large blocks over 2 Ha.*
- *About half the woodland is coniferous.*
- *Hedges and hedgerow trees are slightly less abundant, and trees are often small and wind-bent.*
- *Ancient pathways cross the area, including ancient Drove roads running North and South across the Low Weald.*
- *Fine, open views of the Downs.*
- *Small, remote and largely unspoiled rural villages.*
- *Historic designed landscapes and parkland.*
- *Small, winding, partly tree-lined streams, notably the River Cuckmere, but also many artificial, straightened drains and channels.*

Wilmington Downs (23)

Summary

6.3.3 *From the mouth of the Cuckmere to Eastbourne, this landscape contains the iconic coastline cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head. Friston Forest, the fine wood above Folkington, and the woods on the edge of Eastbourne contrast with the open downland. Inland, The Long Man of Wilmington chalk carving looks out from the scarp across the Low Weald and remote denes wind through the interior.*

Key Characteristics

- *Complex and diverse block of downland with bold, dramatic landforms and several famous features.*
- *This area contains significant areas of valued chalk grassland habitat which is nationally scarce.*
- *Fine, coombed scarp at Wilmington, Folkington and Wannock, with bold landforms complemented by 'sculptural' tree groups.*
- *Picturesque, varied villages of with flint churches, cottages and walls, and fine tree compositions.*
- *Traditional flint farm houses, barns and walls on the Downs.*
- *Dramatic erosion of coastline, especially at Birling Gap where coastguard cottages are falling into the sea.*
- *Remote central areas away from main roads.*

Eastbourne Levels (24)

Summary

6.3.4 *This small tract of levels is separated from the Pevensey Levels by the low Polegate-Stone Cross-Pevensey ridge. Its other boundaries are the urban edges of Eastbourne, Willingdon, Langney and Sovereign Harbour.*

Key Characteristics

- *Quiet pasture and reedy channels.*
- *Flat open landscape.*
- *Hard urban edges intrude on rural tranquillity.*
- *Established urban trees soften this in places.*

Pevensey Levels (25)

Summary

6.3.5 *Grazing marsh and reeds are completely dominant in this large, flat, open landscape. This is a landscape characterised by reed fringed drainage channels with scattered thorns and willows. Away from the roads there is a distinct remoteness amongst the big skies and cries of wetland birds.*

Key Characteristics

- *Reed-fringed winding channels in open wetland pasture.*
- *Scattered straggly willow and thorn along channels.*
- *Islands (eyes) of slightly higher ground.*
- *Main channels engineered.*
- *Isolated farms and cottages.*
- *Winding lanes cross the levels.*

[21] East Sussex County Council (2010). The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment.
http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/download.htm

6.4 Local Landscape Character Type F: Open Levels

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

6.4.1 The Open Levels Local Landscape Character Type (LLCT) (F) is situated in the south-eastern part of Wealden District, to the east of Hailsham and north of Eastbourne. This LLCT also occurs as a tract of encapsulated landscape between Polegate and Stone Cross (Eastbourne). In the south, the Open Levels are adjacent to the Settled Levels (G) and Coastal Levels (H) LLCTs. To the north, this LLCT abuts the southern wooded slopes of the High Weald (LLCT B: Ridges and Slopes), whilst to the west, the Open Levels are overlooked by the gently rising landscape of the Open Clay Vales LLCT (E).

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** Low-lying, predominantly flat landscape encompassing a patchwork of alluvial grazing marshes which are drained by purpose-built drainage channels and ditches. The marshes give rise to a network of wetland habitats which often attract flocks of birds.
- **Settlement Pattern:** An absence of large-scale settlement within the LLCT. Existing settlements comprise primarily isolated farmsteads, which are often situated at the junctions of minor road corridors, on higher islands or 'eyes' of land. Brick and flint buildings, weatherboarding and tiles are the predominant building materials within the Open Levels.
- **Communications:** Crossed by a network of national and local recreational routes and footpaths including the 1066 Country Walk, facilitating access to this landscape.
- **Views and Visibility:** A large-scale, predominantly open landscape facilitating open views north and eastwards to surrounding higher landscapes and southwards across the Coastal Levels. Wide, open skies contribute to local sense of place. Views northwards are dominated by the rising slopes of the southern High Weald (LLCT B: Ridges and Slopes), which form a skyline backdrop. To the east, the gently rising landscapes of the Open Clay Vales (LLCT E) provide setting and visual containment to the Open Levels.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, particularly in the north of this LLCT, at a distance from the large urban areas of Polegate and Eastbourne.

Physical Landscape Character

6.4.2 This low-lying, predominantly flat landscape forms the lowest land within the Study Area and encompasses a network of man-made drainage ditches which dissect the landscape into a series of 'levels'. Two main drainage channels (Waller's Haven and Pevensey Haven) cross this LLCT, running north-south from higher land (within the southern slopes of the Low Weald –LLCT B: Wooded Ridges and Slopes) to the coast (via the Coastal Levels – LLCT H). Small islands of higher ground or 'eyes', which tend to form the location for farmsteads, punctuate the low lying Open Levels. The Levels are largely rural, with a predominant habitat of grazed pasture and wetland floodplain habitats. The drainage ditches are often reed filled which contributes to landscape and ecological interest. The present day appearance of the levels results from a combination of natural sediment depositional processes and extensive reclamation of the wetland for agricultural use. An absence of tree cover or hedgerows is a key defining feature of the physical character of this area, resulting in a strong sense of openness throughout the LLCT.

Historic Landscape Character

6.4.3 The pattern of scattered settlements and open roads reflects the history of land reclamation from wetland. Isolated farmsteads are often situated on higher ground or 'eyes' which is reflected in placenames with the suffix 'ey' such as Manxey. Military fortifications are scattered across the landscape, alongside historic military buildings. The draining of this landscape began in the Middle Ages, when a network of drainage ditches were dug in order to take advantage of the fertile soils. The Open Levels were formed by the changing relationship between land and sea, which first began during this period.

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

6.4.4 Overall, the Open Levels LLCT is assessed as having Very High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be very strong as a result of the distinctly recognisable pattern of drainage ditches, on low lying, open landscapes. There is strong historic continuity as a result of the ancient pattern of drainage ditches, which were first dug in the Middle Ages. The low lying open landform dominates character, which, when combined with an absence of tree cover, results in very high visibility and open views across the LLCT.

Criteria	Evaluation
Strength of Place	Very Strong
Visibility	Very High
Indicative Landscape Sensitivity	**Very High**

Landscape Value

6.4.5 The Open Levels LLCT is considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The harmonious arrangement of drainage ditches, which dissect nationally important ecological habitats (much of the area is designated as a SSSI and the Pevensey Levels are designated as a Ramsar Site and a Site of Community Importance[22] provide strong structure within the landscape. Overall, sense of tranquillity and remoteness is very strong as a result of the absence of detracting features and presence of a network of narrow, rural, unmarked lanes. Open views northwards to the southern slopes of the High Weald (LLCT B) contribute to a strong local strength of place.

Local Landscape Character Areas

F1: Down and Whelpley

6.4.6 Forming a large part of the Open Levels LLCT (F), this Landscape Character Area (LCA) comprises a patchwork of large pastoral fields, which form a series of 'Levels' including Down Level, Horse Eye Level and Whelpley Level. Vast open skies and long distance, panoramic open views are a key characteristic feature of the area. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity as a result of the absence of large scale settlement and the network of minor, unmarked roads. Wooden electricity poles, and trees associated with farmsteads provide some of the only vertical elements. Other human influences include low post and wire fences at field boundaries and the network of drainage ditches (which are softened by reeds and wetland vegetation). Where present, hedgerows are low and tend to follow the course of the minor road corridors. The ever present backdrop of the rising southern slopes of the High Weald (LLCT B: Ridges and Slopes) frame views northwards from the area. The cries of wetland birds and the sound of wind in the reeds contribute to local recognisable sense of place.

F2: Waller's Haven

6.4.7 This LLCA encompasses a relatively long river which is fed by the numerous small stream corridors within the slopes of the Low Weald to the north and stretches to the sea in the south. The banks of the river have been modified in places, resulting in a straight channel; however, to the north there are gentle meanders in the river corridor. The river channel is lined by reeds and there is a strong sense of openness throughout the area, resulting in strong inter-visibility with surrounding LLCAs within the Open Levels LLCT. Occasional small trees line the river banks, but there is an overall absence of tree cover or hedgerows. Long distance, panoramic open views across the Levels contribute to recognisable sense of place and there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.

F3: Manxey and Hooe

6.4.8 This LLCA encompasses a patchwork of small scale pastoral fields that are lined with numerous drainage ditches at field boundaries. The drainage ditches are reed fringed, resulting in a strongly recognisable sense of place. Remnant salt-workings are key historic features; however these are not visually dominant within the current landscape. Vast open skies and long distance, panoramic open views are key characteristics of the area. A minor, narrow road corridor runs west-east across the area, leading to Norman's Bay coastal hamlet. Whilst this has a predominantly rural appearance, with low grass verges and absence of hedgerows or trees, it is relatively busy and introduces a source of noise and movement. In addition, the corridor of the busy main A259 road corridor also runs south-north across the area, reducing the overall sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Urban fringe land uses (including services associated with the A259) are apparent in the west of the area, in close proximity to the settlement of Pevensey.

F4: East Polegate Levels

6.4.9 This LLCA is surrounded on all sides by the settlements of Polegate, Willingdon and Langney. Views from the area are therefore dominated by the predominantly residential urban edges of these urban areas. Within this LLCA, there is a strong sense of openness. The eastern part of the area, to the east of the main railway line (which connects Eastbourne to Pevensey Bay and Hastings to the east) comprises predominantly small pastoral fields and rough grassland which are crossed by a network of reed-fringed drainage ditches. These connect with Shinewater Lake and the Willingdon Levels (to the south of the Study Area). The western part of the area comprises further pastoral fields and, in closer proximity to the urban

[22] Sites of Community Importance are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) but not yet formally designated by the government of each country as a Special Area of Conservation.

edge, a series of planting fields and recreation grounds. Within these areas, mature trees are a key feature. Overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity is diminished as a result of the presence of the railway corridor, the A27 road corridor in the east and the proximity to urban edges.

6.5 Local Landscape Character Type G: Settled Levels

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

6.5.1 The Settled Levels LLCT (G) is located in the southern tip of Wealden District, stretching only between the northern edge of Polegate to the west and Pevensey to the east. This LLCT is adjacent to the Open Levels LLCT to the north, east and west; and abuts the northern edge of Polegate and Stone Cross to the south.

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** Low-lying, predominantly flat landscape encompassing a patchwork of alluvial drainage marshes, pastoral fields and small settlements. This LLCT is slightly higher than the surrounding Open Levels LLCT, likely resulting in historic choice for settlement.
- **Settlement Pattern:** There is an absence of large-scale settlement within the LLCT. Existing settlement comprises isolated farmsteads and properties along the network of minor rural road corridors and the small villages of Pevensey and Westham.
- **Communications:** The east-west corridor for the A27 main road is a dominant feature within this LLCT, and the east-west railway corridor also crosses its southern edge. In addition, a network of minor rural road corridors and footpaths (including the 1066 Country Walk), provides access to this landscape.
- **Views and Visibility:** A large-scale, predominantly open landscape facilitating open views north and eastwards to surrounding higher landscapes and southwards to the settlement edges of Polegate and Eastbourne (Langney) Wide, open skies contribute to local sense of place. Views northwards are dominated by the rising slopes of the southern High Weald (LLCT B: Ridges and Slopes), which form a skyline backdrop. To the east, the gently rising landscapes of the Open Clay Vales (LLCT E) provide setting and visual containment to the Settled Levels.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, particularly in the north of this LLCT, at distance from the large urban areas of Polegate and Eastbourne.

Physical Landscape Character

6.5.2 This LLCT is characterised by the presence of settlement on land that is slightly elevated above the Open Levels (LLCT F) landscape. Despite some presence of settlement, the landscape is still predominantly rural, with the lowest lying land associated with large, arable fields, and the higher ground around the settlements being primarily used for pasture, with some presence of land managed as plant nurseries. Woodlands are small and scattered, and field boundaries are varied, with some hedges and shaws.

Historic Landscape Character

6.5.3 The pattern of scattered settlements and open roads reflects the history of land reclamation from wetland. Isolated farmsteads are often situated on higher ground or 'eyes' which is reflected in placenames with the suffix 'ey' such as Manxey. The draining of this landscape began in the Middle Ages, when a network of drainage ditches were dug in order to take advantage of the fertile soils. The Settled Levels were formed by the changing relationship between land and sea, which first began during this period. Evidence that this landscape was used and settled during the Roman and Norman periods is present in the form of Anderita Roman Fort and Pevensey Castle. Settlement associated with these two key historic features began in the 4th century as one of the last and strongest of the Roman 'Saxon-Shore' forts, two thirds of which whose towered walls still stand. This was the landing place of William the Conqueror's army in 1066 and thus has very strong historic and cultural associations. During the century after the Conquest, a full-scale Norman Castle with a great square keep and a powerful gatehouse was built within one corner of the fort. In the 1250's, the towered bailey wall was constructed, and soon put to test during the great siege of 1264.

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

6.5.4 Overall, the Settled Levels LLCT is assessed as having Very High Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be very strong as a result of the distinctly recognisable pattern of drainage ditches, on low lying, open landscapes. There is strong historic continuity as a result of the ancient pattern of drainage ditches, which were first dug in the Middle Ages; and the strong historical and cultural associations with Pevensey Castle and Anderita Roman Fort. The low lying open landform dominates character, which, when combined with an absence of tree cover, results in very high visibility and open views across the LLCT.

Criteria	Evaluation
Strength of Place	Very Strong
Visibility	Very High
Indicative Landscape Sensitivity	**Very High**

Landscape Value

6.5.5 The Settled Levels LLCT is considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The harmonious arrangement of drainage ditches, which dissect nationally important ecological habitats (much of the area is designated as a SSSI and Ramsar Site) provide strong structure within the landscape. Overall, sense of tranquillity and remoteness is strong as a result of the absence of detracting features and presence of a network of narrow, rural, unmarked lanes. This is, however, diminished in the south as a result of proximity to the A27 road corridor and settlement edges. Open views northwards across the Open Levels LLCT to the southern slopes of the High Weald (LLCT B) contribute to a strong local strength of place.

Local Landscape Character Areas

G1: Pevensey and Hankham

6.5.6 This LLCA encompasses the small villages of Pevensey and Westham in the east; and the small hamlet of Hankham, which are connected to Eastbourne and Polegate in the west and Pevensey Bay in the east via the A27 road corridor and a series of interconnected rural lanes. In the north of the area, there is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity within the levels. Houses, nurseries and a school within Hankham introduce a human influence to the centre of the area and there are also scattered farmsteads along the network of rural road corridors to the west of Hankham. Pastoral fields predominate, and whilst there is an overall sense of openness, low hedgerows and trees provide a stronger sense of enclosure than within adjacent LLCAs within the Open Levels LLCT. Views to treed settlement edges are a key feature of much of this area. In the south of the area, to the south of Westham, there is a stronger sense of openness; and alluvial drainage marshes, lined with reed-fringed ditches are a key feature. In the south of the area, overall sense of tranquillity and remoteness is diminished as a result of the presence of the A27 road corridor, the railway corridor and proximity to densely settled urban edges.

6.6 Local Landscape Character Type H: Coastal Levels

Character Description

Location and Boundaries

6.6.1 The Coastal Levels LLCT (H) is situated along the southern edge of Wealden District. It is bounded by the English Channel to the south and east and by the Open Levels LLCT (F) to north and west. Eastbourne's Marina lies just beyond its south-western edge.

Key Characteristics

- **Topography:** Low-lying, predominantly flat, coastal edge landscape which encompasses the beach/shoreline and the coastal settlement of Pevensey Bay.
- **Settlement Pattern:** The coastal-facing settlement of Pevensey Bay overlooks the beach/seascape.
- **Communications:** The western part of this LLCT is connected to Eastbourne via the A259 main road corridor, which connects to a minor road corridor, leading eastwards through Pevensey Bay to Norman's Bay. The Eastbourne-Hastings railway line forms part of the northern boundary to this LLCT, accessible via a station to the north of the Pevensey Bay.
- **Views and Visibility:** Open, ever-changing panoramic views southwards across the seascape of the English Channel, with wide, open skies. There is also a strongly recognisable sense of place within open views northwards across the Open Levels LLCT.
- **Tranquillity and Remoteness:** This LLCT encompasses a busy seaside settlement, therefore overall sense of tranquillity and remoteness is diminished. On eastern parts of the beach (and seasonally along the whole stretch of the beach) there is a sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

Physical Landscape Character

6.6.2 This flat and low lying landscape encompasses a narrow strip, primarily comprised of settlement and a shingle beach between LLCT F, the Open Levels, and the sea. The settlement comprises a mixture of caravan parks and urban development, with an associated golf course.

Historic Landscape Character

6.6.3 Settlement within this area is likely to have grown as a result of the defence of the landscape during the Roman and Norman periods (associated with Anderita Roman Fort and Pevensey Castle to the north). Whilst there is little evidence of early settlement within the current urban fabric, three Martello Towers, adjacent to the beach are key historic features. These were built as fortifications (originally with rotating canons on top) to protect against Napoleonic invasion. More recently, the settlement of Pevensey Bay has grown as a seaside town associated with Pevensey Bay beach.

Evaluation

Landscape Sensitivity

6.6.4 Overall, the Coastal Levels LLCT is assessed as having Moderate Landscape Sensitivity. Strength of place is considered to be strong as a result of open views southwards across the sea and northwards across the Open Levels LLCT. There is strong historic continuity as a result of the presence of the Martello Towers. Whilst this LLCT is low-lying and there are panoramic, open views across the sea to the south, within the built up area, buildings, rather than trees, provide an intermittent sense of enclosure, often truncating views to the sea.

Criteria	Evaluation
Strength of Place	Strong
Visibility	Low
Indicative Landscape Sensitivity	**Very High**

Landscape Value

6.6.5 The southern part of the Coastal Levels LLCT (encompassing the beach/coastal edge) is considered to have Very High Landscape Value as a result of the very strong strength of place resulting from open, panoramic views and presence of key valued historic features (the three Martello towers). To north, this LLCT is considered to have Moderate to Low Landscape Value as a result of the presence of predominantly post-war residential development within Pevensey Bay.

Local Landscape Character Areas

H1: Pevensey Bay

6.6.6 This LLCA encompasses the seaside town of Pevensey Bay which overlooks the beach, forming the coastal edge to Pevensey Bay. There is a very strong strength of place within the southern part of the area, resulting from open, panoramic views across the ever changing seascape within Pevensey Bay. The three Martello towers, placed at regular intervals along the coastal edge in the southwest of the area further contribute to recognisable sense of place. The beach is a popular tourist area and there are associated tourist-influences, in the form of car parking and colourful seaside tourist shops within close proximity to the beach. Pevensey Bay settlement comprises a mixture of predominantly post-war housing estates, with some older Victorian properties towards the centre of the town along the high street. Several of the roads that run south from the high street have been designed to facilitate framed views across the sea, and coastal edge properties often have informal, private, beachfront gardens. Wooden and concrete groynes along the beach are key landscape features. The beach is predominantly pebbly, with some patches of sand. From the northern edges of the area, panoramic, open views northwards across the Open Levels LLCT and its constituent LLCAs contribute to a strongly recognisable strength of place.

6.7 Landscape Setting of Polegate

Settlement Profile

6.7.1 Polegate is situated at the south-eastern edge of Wealden District, to the north of Willingdon/Eastbourne and south of Hailsham. The south-western edges of the settlement abut the northern edge of the South Downs National Park. The town is situated on an east-west ridge.

6.7.2 Polegate is a medium-sized linear town, which has developed along the Lewes to Hastings railway line and the A27 main road corridor. The A22 road corridor also passes north to south through the town. The town comprises a series of post-war housing estates, with a High Street shopping area running through the centre of the town. In the east of the town, Chaucer Industrial Estate provides a key employment base. There is some formal recreational use of the large tract of open, relatively low-lying fields between Polegate and Willingdon at the eastern edge of the town, however this area is predominantly agricultural.

Landscape Character

6.7.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see **Section 6.3** for details
- Pevensey Levels (25) - see **Section 6.3** for details
- Wilmington Heritage Downs (23) – see **Section 6.3** for details
- Eastbourne Levels (24) – see **Section 6.3** for details

6.7.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

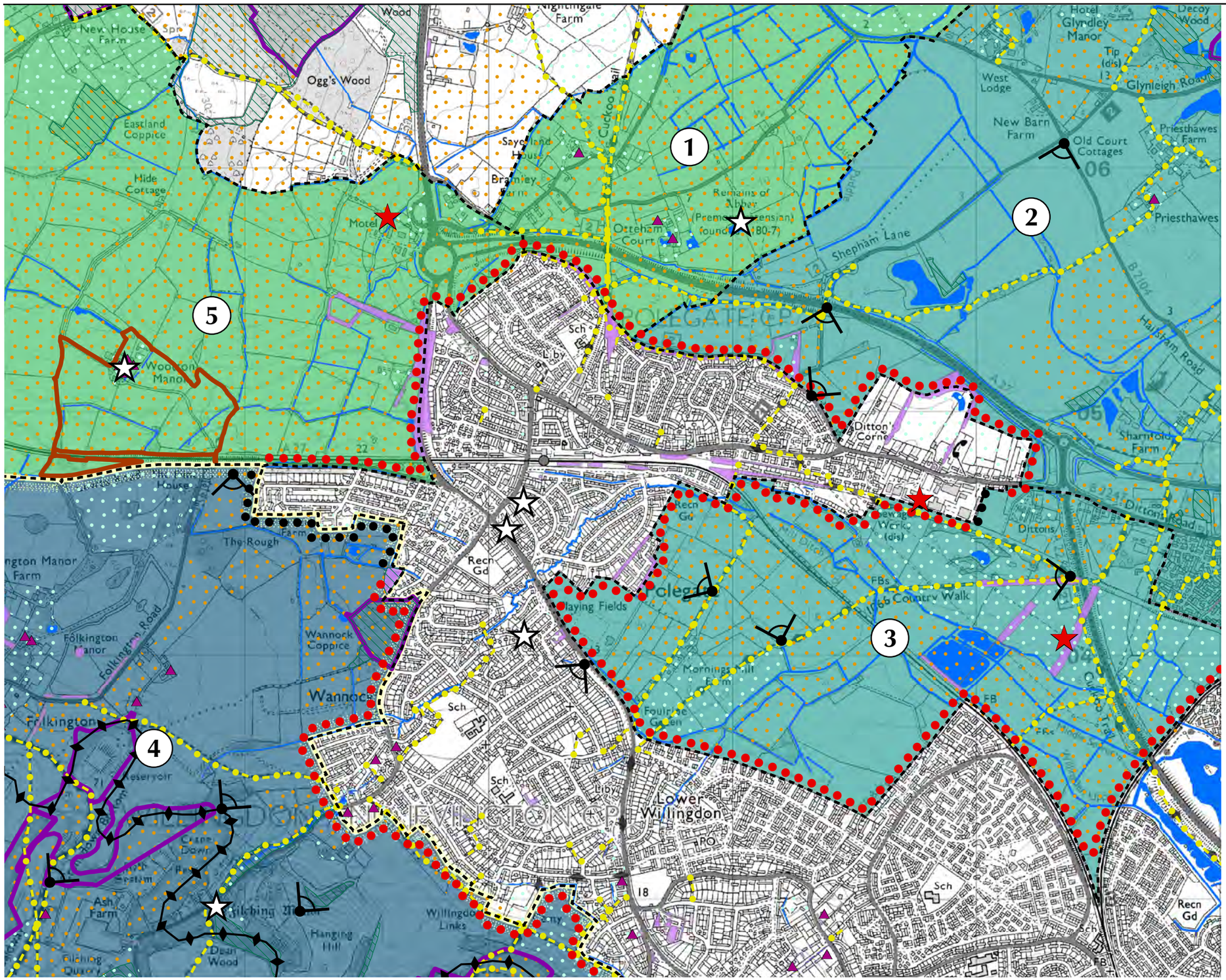
- E4: Wilmington Green – see **Section 5.6** for details
- E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge – see **Section 5.6** for details
- F1: Down and Whelpey – see **Section 6.4** for details
- F4: East Polegate Levels – see **Section 6.4** for details
- G1: Pevensey and Hankham – see **Section 6.5** for details

6.7.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Polegate are illustrated on **Figure 6.1** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Pockets of small-scale historic fields, comprising cohesive assart and regular piecemeal enclosure to the northwest, and brooks innings with some regular piecemeal enclosure and consolidated strip fields to the southeast of the town; and the ancient landscape complex of a Premonstratensian Abbey (founded in 1180) to the east of Ottenham Court and north of Polegate. Also of historic interest is an area of prehistoric earthworks on the ridge to the southwest of the town.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Two Culturally Important Landmarks within the setting of the town – the remains of a Premonstratensian Abbey to the north of the town, and Filching Manor at some distance to the south of Polegate and Willingdon; and several landmark churches within the urban fabric.
- **Landscape Detractors:** Several landscape detractors, including industrial buildings to the south of the B2247 at the eastern edge of Polegate and the Motel and services at the large roundabout junction between the A22 and A27 main road corridors at the northwestern edge of the town.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is predominantly lined by sensitive, soft, treed/hedged edges, however there are pockets of prominent, harsher urban edges at the eastern edge of the Industrial Area (as above) and along Hyperion Avenue and Sunstar Lane at the western edge of the town.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** At the northern and eastern edges of the town, open views north, south and east across a landscape setting of open levels are characteristic. Vice versa, there are several key views to the settlement edge from the Levels. Views southwards from several parts of the settlement are dominated by the steep rising scarp slopes of the South Downs ridge to the southwest of the town. Polegate can also be viewed within the foreground of views from the edges of the South Downs scarp slopes, resulting in high inter-visibility between the town and the South Downs National Park. A ridgeline runs east west through the town.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** A network of footpaths and bridleways connects Polegate to its landscape setting. The 1066 Country Walk runs to the south of the town, connecting the settlement within the Levels and settlements to the east and the South Downs to the west. The Cuckoo Trail also joins the northern edge of the town, connecting Polegate with Hailsham and Heathfield to the north.

6.7.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 6.1** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• A small-scale patchwork of ancient fields of drained alluvial grazing marsh, lined with reed-fringed ditches; • A strong sense of openness throughout. • Urban fringe land uses (including roadside services and a hotel) associated with the A27 main road corridor which reduces overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
2	• Large-scale, drained fields of alluvial grazing marsh; • Reed-fringed drainage ditches; • A series of minor, rural road corridors.
3	• Playing fields and recreation grounds at the settlement edges in the west, with mature trees; • Predominantly pastoral fields, lined with occasional hedgerows.
4	• An intricate landscape pattern of spurs and slopes which form the eastern edge of the South Downs (National Park) and facilitate open views across the settlement and adjacent landscapes; • This area also includes a series of ridges at the top of the slopes. • Patches of Ancient Woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.
5	• A small-scale, ancient patchwork of drained grazing marshes, with reed-fringed ditches at field boundaries.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 350 700 Meters

N

Scale: 1:16,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 6.1
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF POLEGATE

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Landscape Sensitivity

6.7.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Indistinct	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient	Ancient	Ancient	Historic	Ancient
Strength of Place	Moderate	Very Strong	Very Strong	Strong	Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Dominant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Open	Open	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Very High	Low
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	High	Very High	Moderate

Landscape Value

6.7.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Very High	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

6.7.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	High	High	Very High	Moderate
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Very High	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate

6.7.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is a strongly recognisable pattern of ancient drained fields, lined with reed fringed ditches (which are valuable landscape features), however human influences are present in the form of road corridors and associated service areas, detracting from the value of the landscape and reducing the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

6.7.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. This large-scale landscape of drained alluvial grazing marsh has a recognisable landscape pattern, but little historic continuity. Valuable landscape features in the reed fringed drainage channels contribute to recognisable strength of place. The far eastern edge of this Landscape Setting Area adjoins the designated SSSI, Ramsar and Site of Community Importance.

6.7.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Urban fringe land uses are present within this area, in the form of playing fields and recreation grounds. There is a relatively strong strength of place as a result of open views across the area and south-eastwards towards the ridges of the South Downs.

6.7.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area encompasses the ridges and slopes of the South Downs National Park, which are considered to have Very High Landscape Value as a result of their patchwork of ecologically valuable, species-rich grassland and valuable landscape/topographical features. The area is considered to have Very High Landscape Sensitivity as a result of its contribution to a strongly recognisable strength of place – providing the backdrop to numerous Landscape Setting Areas and LLCAs within Wealden District.

6.7.14 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. There is a strongly recognisable pattern of ancient drained fields, lined with reed fringed ditches (which are valuable landscape features), however human influence is present in the form of the railway corridor, detracting from the overall sensitivity and value of the landscape.

6.8 Landscape Setting of Willingdon

Settlement Profile

6.8.1 Willingdon is situated at the south-eastern edge of Wealden District, to the south of Polegate and west of Eastbourne. The western edges of the settlement abut the north-eastern edge of the South Downs National Park.

6.8.2 Willingdon is a nucleated settlement which forms part of a continuous urban area with Lower Willingdon and Polegate to the north and Eastbourne to the east. The western edge of the settlement abuts the eastern scarp slopes of the South Downs (within the National Park). The A2270 main road runs north south through the settlement. The settlement is predominantly residential, comprising a mixture of housing estates and terraces. A school, with its associated playing fields, form part of the urban fabric. Willingdon Golf Course also abuts the western edge of the settlement, adjacent to the scarps of the South Downs.

Landscape Character

6.8.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Wilmington Heritage Downs (23) – see **Section 6.3** for details

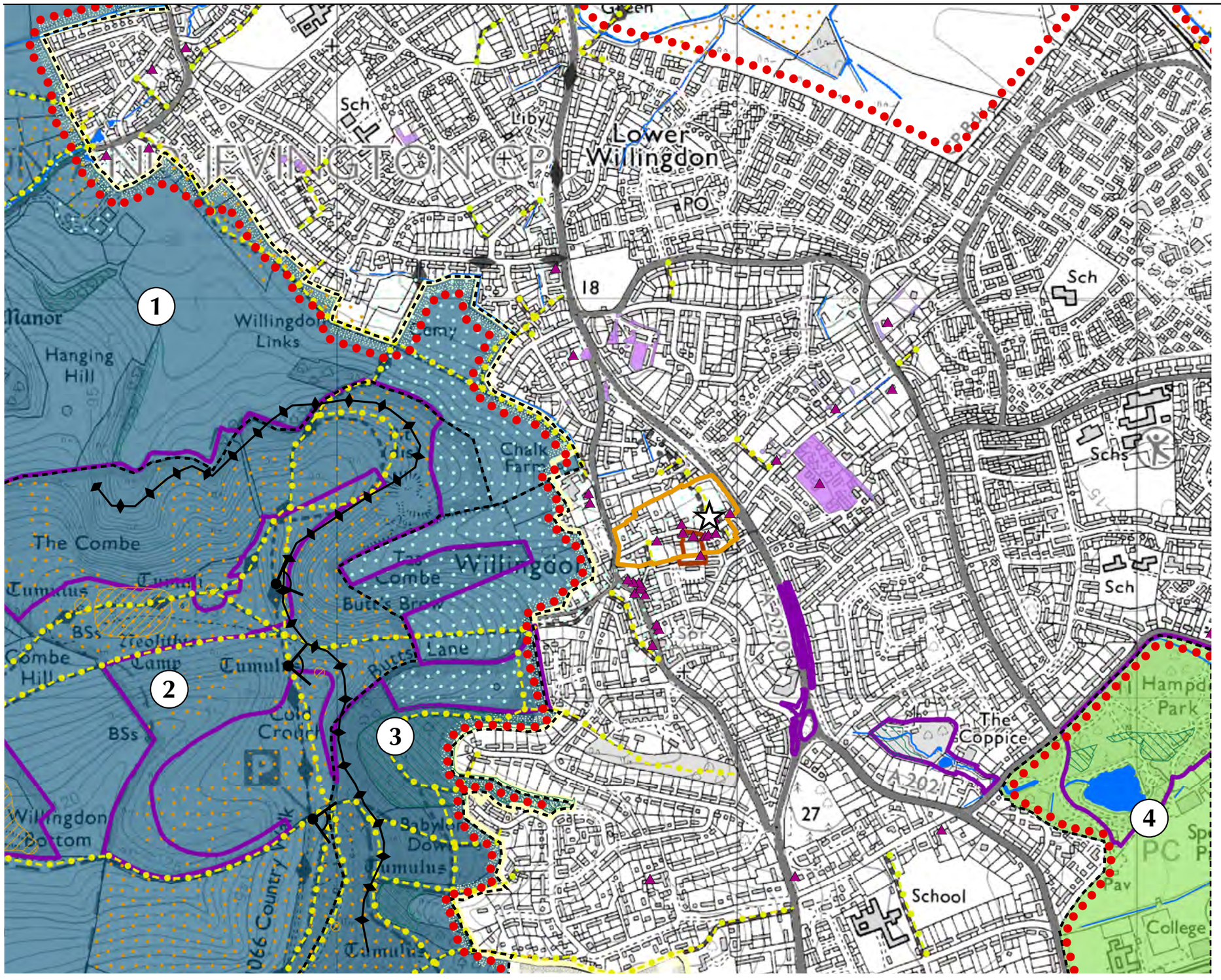
6.8.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement lies predominantly within the South Downs National Park and comprises a combination of scarp slopes and Downs.

6.8.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Willingdon are illustrated on **Figure 6.2** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Abutting the western settlement edge is an area of historic, planned private enclosure on the lower slopes of the sharply rising scarp. Beyond this, an area of ancient historic interest is generated by the presence of prehistoric earthworks, some features of which (bowl barrows, and a neolithic causewayed enclosure) are designated as scheduled monuments. Small areas of Ancient Woodland also contribute to the historic settlement setting.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is lined by sensitive treed/hedged edges.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** The historic core of the settlement centres on the church, which is a Culturally Important Landmark (within the Conservation Area).
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Open views westwards to the ridges of the South Downs contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** An interconnected network of footpaths permeates the settlement, connecting it to the South Downs to the west and Hampden Park to the east.

6.8.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 6.2** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• The northern slopes of the South Downs (National Park), which slope downwards from south to north and encompass several linear patches of woodland and pocket of rough (species-rich) grassland. • Open views northwards
2	• The tops (ridges and combes) of the South Downs • Panoramic, open views in all directions across adjacent and distant landscapes; • Numerous archaeological sites, including tumuli and Neolithic camps.
3	• The eastern slopes of the South Downs (National Park), which slope downwards from south to north and encompass several linear patches of woodland and pocket of rough (species-rich) grassland. • Open views eastwards.
4	• A modern landscape of urban fringe land uses, including Hampden Park (which is a key valuable greenspace within Eastbourne), and school/college playing fields.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 200 400 Meters

N

Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 6.2
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF WILLINGDON

October 2014

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Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Strength of Place				
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Distinct
Continuity	Historic	Ancient	Ancient	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Very Strong	Very Strong	Moderate
Visibility				
Landform	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Enclosed	Enclosed
Visibility	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Very Low
Landscape Sensitivity				
Landscape Sensitivity	Very High	Very High	Very High	Low

Landscape Value

6.8.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High

Landscape Capacity

6.8.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area			
	1	2	3	4
Landscape Sensitivity	Very High	Very High	Very High	Low
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High
Landscape Capacity	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Moderate

6.8.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the South Downs National Park, encompassing a patchwork of species rich grassland and linear woodlands. This area is considered to have a very strong strength of place, as a result of open views from the area and strong inter-visibility between adjacent and distant landscapes.

6.8.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the South Downs National Park, encompassing a patchwork of species rich grassland and numerous valuable archaeological sites (including tumuli and Neolithic camps). This area is considered to have a very strong strength of place, as a result of panoramic open views in all directions from the area and strong inter-visibility between adjacent and distant landscapes. This area contains tops (ridges and combes) of the South Downs, which provide the skyline to views westwards from Willingdon and other more distant parts of Eastbourne urban area.

6.8.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the South Downs National Park, encompassing a patchwork of species rich grassland, resulting in its Very High Landscape Value. This area is considered to have a very strong strength of place, as a result of open views from the area and strong inter-visibility between adjacent and distant landscapes. The eastern slopes of the South Downs within this area (encompassing several linear patches of woodland) provide a visual backdrop to views westwards from Willingdon urban area.

6.8.13 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. Hampden Park and the playing fields are considered to be valuable landscape features/greenspaces, however overall Landscape Sensitivity is considered to be Low as a result of the urban fringe land uses and lack of historic continuity.

6.9 Landscape Setting of Stone Cross

Settlement Profile

6.9.1 Stone Cross is situated on an east-west ridge of the high ground at the cross roads of A27 and A22, four miles north of Eastbourne and four miles east of the eastern edge of the South Downs National Park.

6.9.2 It is a large residential settlement with many recent buildings and housing developments. The A27 bypass to the north reduces the traffic volume from the Dittons/Rattle road which runs east-west through the settlement and parallel to the A27. A train line cuts through the middle of the settlement, also running east-west. The Shinewater Lake area is a purpose built wetland area to the south-west. Built on a marshland dating back to the Bronze Age, this area provides an open amenity space.

Landscape Character

6.9.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastbourne Levels (24) - see **Section 6.3** for details
- Pevensey Levels (25) – see **Section 6.3** for details

6.9.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

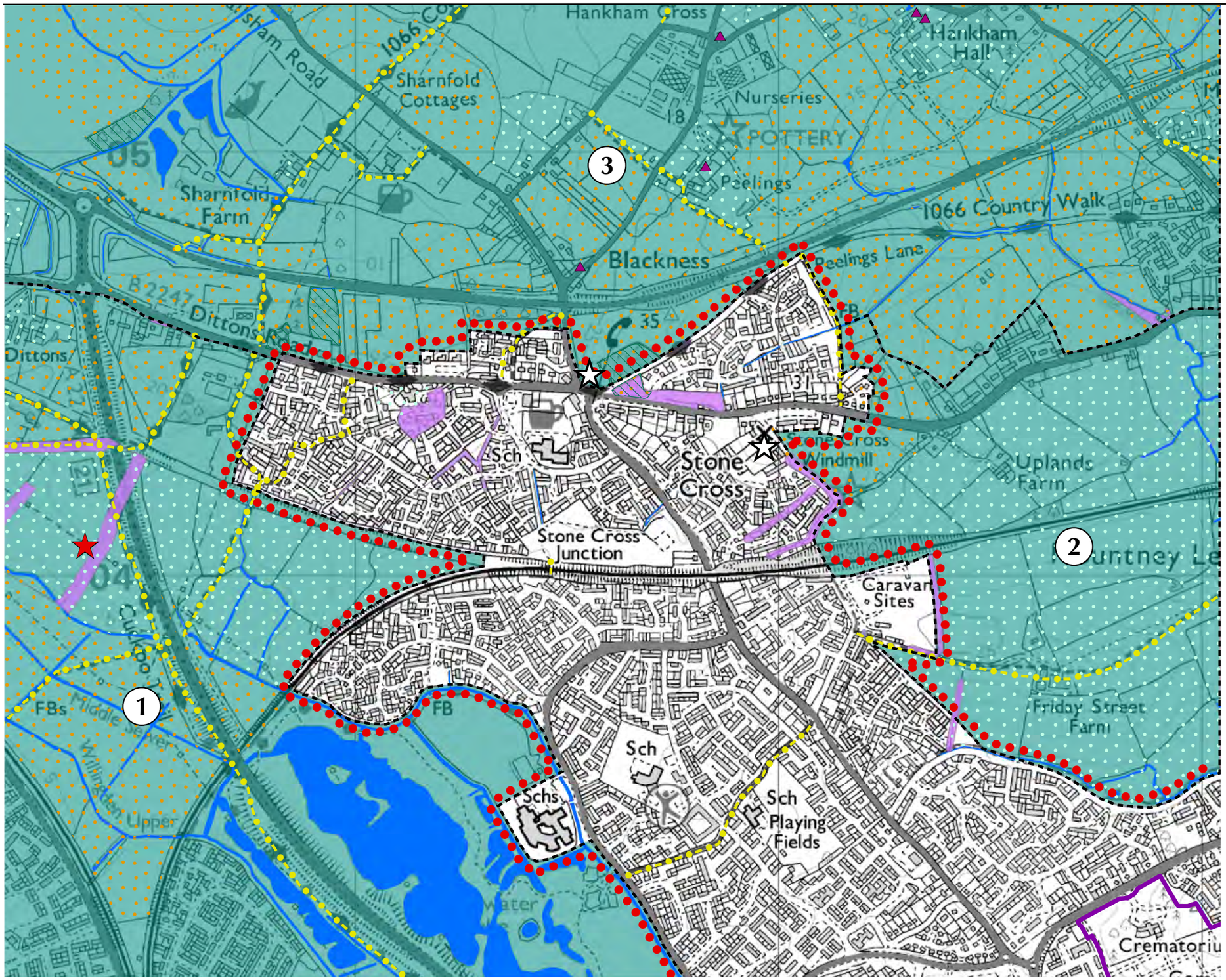
- F4: East Polegate Levels – see **Section 6.4** for details
- G1: Pevensey and Hankham – see **Section 6.5** for details

6.9.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Stone Cross are illustrated on **Figure 6.3** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Historic fieldscapes are scattered in the landscape setting of Stone Cross, primarily consisting of areas of ancient, regular piecemeal enclosure to the north, and areas of historic planned private enclosure to the east and west. Further away from the settlement edges towards Willingdon are found areas of brooks innings.
- **Urban Edges:** The town is lined by sensitive edges.
- **Culturally Important Landmarks:** Stone Cross Windmill is a restored windmill from 1875 and is part of the Sussex Mill Group. On high land it looks over the Pevensey Levels and can be seen from several locations within the landscape setting of the settlement.
- **Landscape Detractors:** The A22 is a visual detractor within views to Friston Forest and it also disturbs the sense of tranquillity of the Shinewater Park. Glimpses of the glasshouses or poly tunnels of the nurseries to the north can be seen but mostly they are hidden by lanes and mature treed hedgerows. Pylons are dominant in the south, west and north.
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The Cuckoo Trail traverses north south and provides a strong footpath/cycle way between Eastbourne and Heathfield. The 1066 Country Walk is another National route which bisects the Cuckoo trail. It is of historic landscape interest as it follows the steps of William the Conqueror, taking in historical sites through ancient towns and villages, over hillsides and through woodland, and passing Oast houses and windmills. The settlement is well connected to the surrounding countryside to the west and north by footpaths but there are fewer links to the east.

6.9.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 6.3** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Historic, drained alluvial marshland which is under agricultural use; • Strong presence of human influences, including the A22 and A27 main road corridors and the railway line; • Open views to the South Downs. • Shinewater Lakes, which are key landscape features. • Drainage ditches
2	• Large-scale, historic fields of alluvial drained marshland which are under agricultural use; • Low hedgerows are a feature in places. • Drainage ditches. • Views to the South Downs and Friston Forest (outside the Study Area) on the skyline.
3	• Pockets of small-scale, ancient, predominantly pastoral fields • Slightly higher landform than adjacent Landscape Setting Areas; • Numerous farmsteads and associated nurseries; • Single houses, situated along rural road corridors.



KEY

1 Landscape Setting Areas

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 200 400 Meters

N

Scale: 1:9,500 @ A3

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FIGURE 6.3
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF STONE CROSS

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Landscape Sensitivity

6.9.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Strength of Place			
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Distinct	Unique/rare
Continuity	Ancient	Historic	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong	Moderate	Very Strong
Visibility			
Landform	Insignificant	Apparent	Apparent
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate	High	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity			
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High

Landscape Value

6.9.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Landscape Capacity

6.9.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area		
	1	2	3
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

6.9.10 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Open views to the South Downs National Park are a key feature of this area, contributing to a strongly recognisable strength of place and increase the value of the landscape. There is a moderately strong landscape pattern and structure. The strong presence of human influences, including the A22 and A27 main road corridors and the railway line detract from the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

6.9.11 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The open fields and gentle slopes contribute to recognisable strength of place, with views to the South Downs and Friston Forest further contributing to the value of the landscape. There is a moderately strong landscape pattern and structure of trees and hedgerows (low hedgerows are a feature in places).

6.9.12 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Moderate Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. Mature tree canopies contribute to recognisable strength of place. There is a moderately strong landscape pattern and structure of small, irregular fields and predominantly rural lanes, with an overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity. Open views northwards across this area can be gained from the northern edge of the settlement, however built elements (including farmsteads, houses and nurseries) are visible within views.

6.10 Landscape Setting of Pevensey & Westham

Settlement Profile

6.10.1 Pevensey and Westham are adjacent settlements, situated approximately eleven miles to the north-east of Eastbourne. The settlement has grown around the Roman Anderita Fort and Norman Castle and also along the Rattle Road to Stone Cross. Pevensey and Westham are situated just to the south of the A27 main road corridor and north of the railway line that runs from Eastbourne to Hastings.

6.10.2 The two settlements lie on a slight ridge at the western end of Pevensey levels. They form a line of continuous settlement along the road corridor. Westham is more residential than Pevensey which contains the historic remains of the Roman Fort and Castle. Westham is slightly larger than Pevensey, has fewer historical features and more recent (predominantly post-war) housing estates.

Landscape Character

6.10.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Pevensey Levels (25) – see **Section 6.3** for details

6.10.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

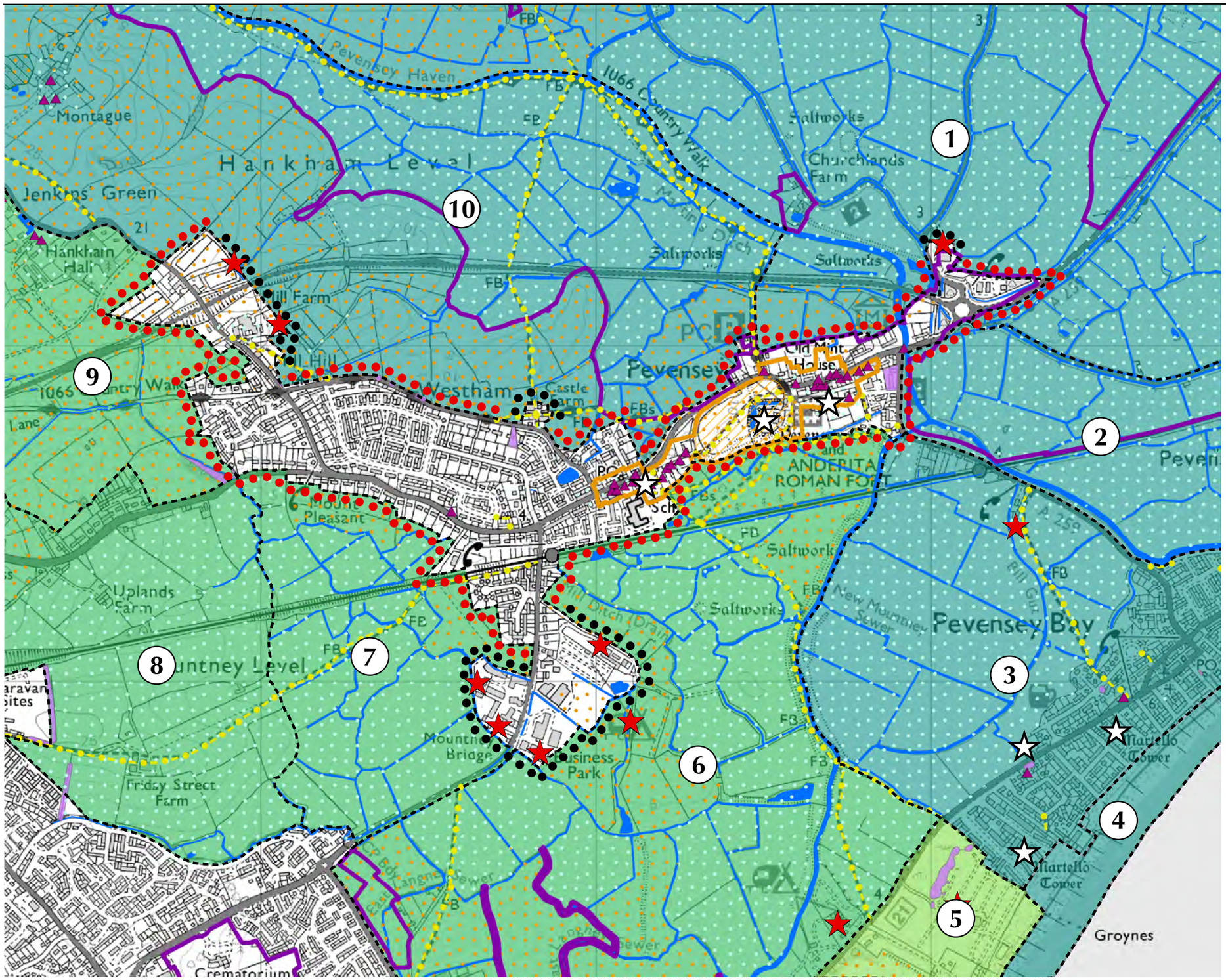
- G1: Pevensey and Hankham – see **Section 6.5** for details

6.10.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Pevensey and Westham are illustrated on **Figure 6.4** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** The settlement setting to Pevensey and Westham predominantly comprises a mix of historic and ancient field types associated with the low lying, levels landscape. The immediate landscape to the north, west and part of the south of the settlement is comprised of regular piecemeal enclosure, with some brooks innings adjacent to Pevensey Castle. The castle site includes a Saxon Shore fort with Norman defences, and an enclosure castle, and is designated as a Scheduled Monument. Much of the remaining settlement setting is historic saltmarsh innings, with some planned private enclosure and ancient irregular piecemeal enclosure. The 11th-century St Mary's church at Westham is reputed to be the first Norman church in England.
- **Landscape Detractors:** There are large farm buildings and business parks that are landscape detractors.
- **Urban Edges:** There is a mixture of sensitive and prominent edges (which line some farm buildings and business parks).
- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** The South Coast is found to the south east of this area. There are numerous watercourses as drainage ditches, following the edges of the fields throughout this part of the Levels.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** The slightly raised ridge allows for views all around to Stone Cross Windmill and to ridges in the north
- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** There are a series of footpaths that lead to the coast and also that join the 1066 country walk.

6.10.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 6.4** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches • A strong sense of openness throughout, with long views
2	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches • East-west mainline railway corridor from Eastbourne to Hastings introduces a source of noise and movement.
3	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches • Several footpaths connect the settlement at Pevensey Bay with its landscape setting.
4	• Coastal strip/pebbly beach, with panoramic, open views south-eastwards across an ever-changing seascape. • Wood and concrete groynes on the beach are key landscape features
5	• Distinctly recognisable pattern of rows of caravans within this tourist caravan park.
6	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches • Camping and caravan parks.
7	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches
8	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches
9	• Slightly higher land, supporting a small-scale patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields with isolated houses/farmsteads
10	• Slightly higher land, supporting a small-scale patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields with isolated houses/farmsteads in the southwest; • Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches in the northeast.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 200 400 Meters

N

Scale: 1:12,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 6.4
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF PEVENSEY & WESTHAM

Landscape Sensitivity

6.10.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Unique	Unique	Unique	Unique	Indistinct
Continuity	Historic	Historic	Historic	Historic	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Weak
Visibility					
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	High	Low

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Strength of Place					
Distinctiveness	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Unique
Continuity	Historic	Historic	Recent	Historic	Historic
Strength of Place	Moderate	Moderate	Weak	Moderate	Strong
Visibility					
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Apparent	Apparent	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Open	Intermittent	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity					
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

Landscape Value

6.10.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Low

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Landscape Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Very High

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

6.10.9 Pevensey and Westham has an existing Conservation Area.

6.10.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Major	Major	Limited	Limited

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area				
	6	7	8	9	10
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Major

6.10.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has a strong strength of place as a result of open views across this historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches; however there is limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

6.10.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has a strong strength of place as a result of the historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches. Open views to key historic buildings within the historic core (including the remains of the Castle) can be gained from the western edge of this area), resulting in strong inter-visibility between the settlement and its setting within the eastern part of the area.

6.10.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its strong strength of place and high inter-visibility with historic buildings within Pevensey (including the Castle) within its historic core.

6.10.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area does not abut the settlement edge and there is limited inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core.

6.10.15 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area does not abut the settlement edge and there is limited inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core.

6.10.16 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its strong strength of place and high inter-visibility with historic buildings within Pevensey (including the Castle) within its historic core. The strong sense of openness within this area results in open views from the settlement edge across this part of the Open Levels.

6.10.17 **Landscape Setting Area 7** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has a strong strength of place as a result of the historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches, however there is limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement. Open views southwards across this area can be gained from the southern edge of the settlement.

6.10.18 **Landscape Setting Area 8** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has a strong strength of place as a result of the historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches, however there is limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

6.10.19 **Landscape Setting Area 9** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. The area has a strong strength of place as a result of the historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches; however there is limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

6.10.20 **Landscape Setting Area 10** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its strong strength of place and high inter-visibility with historic buildings within Pevensey within its historic core. Open views northwards across this area of predominantly open Levels can be gained from the northern edge of the settlement.

6.12 Landscape Setting of Pevensey Bay

Settlement Profile

6.12.1 Pevensey Bay is situated in the south-eastern corner of Wealden District, approximately one mile to the east of Pevensey. The southern edge of the town faces the beach and coastal edge.

6.12.2 Pevensey Bay is a medium sized linear town, which has grown along a minor road corridor which extends eastwards from the A259 main road. The settlement faces the sea and overlooks a long stretch of shallow beach. Houses are predominantly arranged in post-war housing estates and along short terraces which face the sea at right angles. There are several shops along the main town centre road, a few restaurants and a pub.

Landscape Character

6.12.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Pevensey Levels (25) – see **Section 6.3** for details

6.12.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

- H1: Pevensey Bay – see **Section 6.6** for details

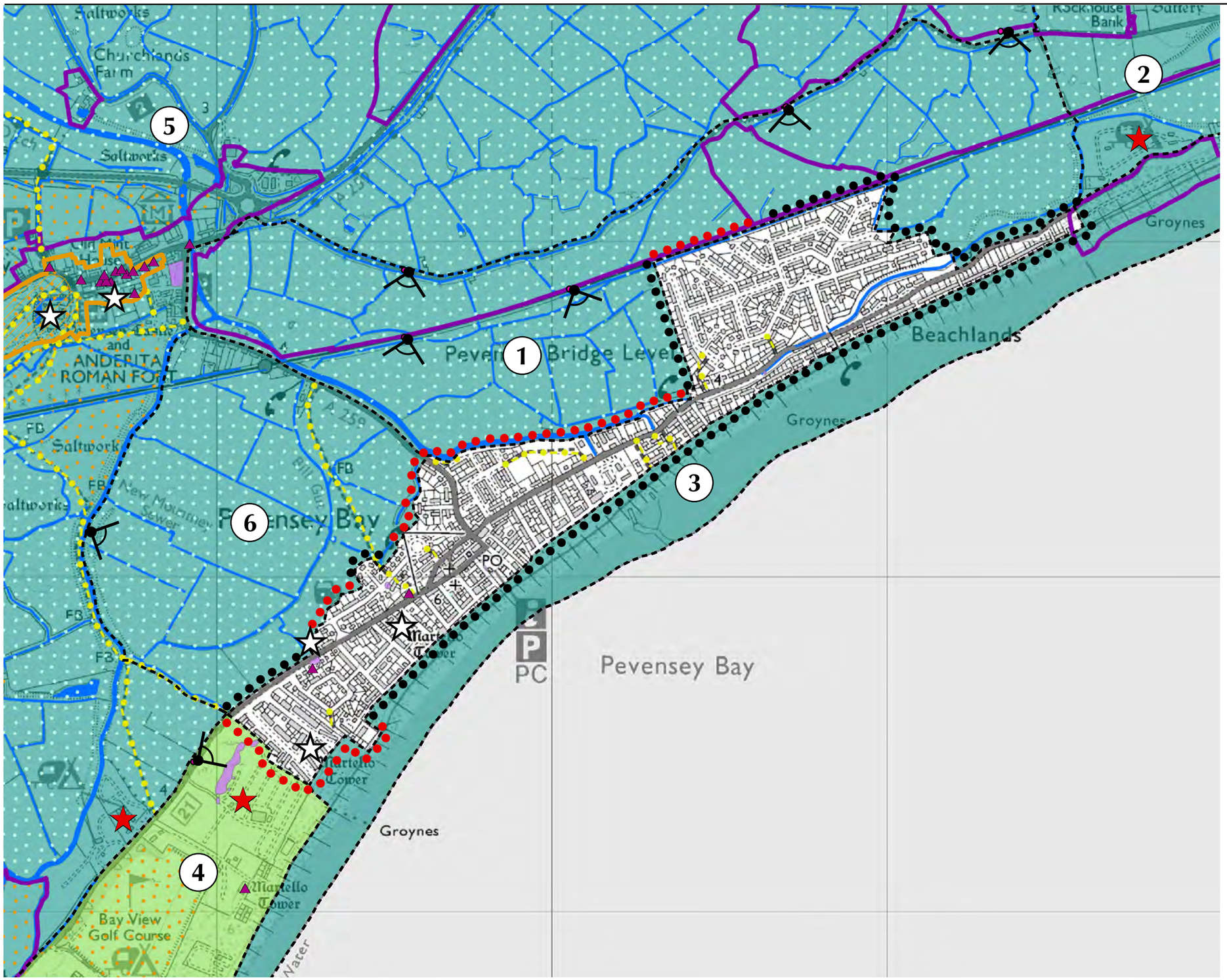
6.12.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Pevensey Bay are illustrated on **Figure 6.5** and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** Pevensey Bay is abutted to the north-west by the levels landscape, which in this region is predominantly comprised of historic saltmarsh innings. Small areas of brooks innings and regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure add ancient historic interest. Approximately one kilometre to the north-west, historic interest is added by the medieval Pevensey Castle, a scheduled monument that also comprises a Saxon shore fort and Norman defences.
- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Open views southwards across the beach and seascape. Open views northwards across the Open Levels.
- **Landscape Detractors**: Includes caravan parks at the eastern and western edges of the settlement.
- **Urban Edges:** Prominent urban edges surrounding the settlement, particularly to the north and south.

6.12.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 6.5** as 'Landscape Setting Areas', and are evaluated below in line with the objectives of the assessment.

6.12.7 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on **Figure 6.5** as 'Landscape Setting Areas'. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

Landscape Setting Area	Distinctive Characteristics
1	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches. • Railway line, which introduces a source of noise and movement.
2	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches. • A caravan park in the south of the area.
3	• Coastal strip/pebbly beach, with panoramic, open views south-eastwards across an ever-changing seascape. • Wood and concrete groynes on the beach are key landscape features.
4	• Distinctly recognisable pattern of rows of caravans within this tourist caravan park.
5	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches.
6	• Historic patchwork of alluvial drained marshes which are lined with reed-fringed drainage ditches. East-west mainline railway corridor from Eastbourne to Hastings introduces a source of noise and movement.



KEY

1 **Landscape Setting Areas**

Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:

- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

0 200 400 Meters

N

Scale: 1:12,000 @ A3

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FIGURE 6.5
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF PEVENSEY BAY

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Landscape Sensitivity

6.12.8 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Strength of Place						
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Unique/rare	Indistinct	Unique/rare	Unique/rare
Continuity	Historic	Historic	Historic	Historic	Historic	Historic
Strength of Place	Strong	Strong	Strong	Weak	Strong	Strong
Visibility						
Landform	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Tree Cover	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity						
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Low	High	High

Landscape Value

6.12.9 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	Low	Very High	Very High

Landscape Capacity

6.12.10 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Landscape Sensitivity	High	High	High	Low	High	High
Landscape Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	Low	Very High	Very High
Landscape Capacity	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low

6.12.11 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The area forms part of the Pevensey Levels which are considered to be rare and are designated for their ecological value. The drained alluvial marshland has a strong strength of place as a result of open, panoramic views and the recognisable pattern of reed-fringed drainage ditches, contributing to Very High Landscape Value. The historic pattern of marshland and drainage ditches results in High Sensitivity.

6.12.12 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The area forms part of the Pevensey Levels which are considered to be rare and are designated for their ecological value, resulting in Very High Landscape Value. Sensitive landscape features include the reed-fringed drainage ditches and the strongly recognisable strength of place as a result of open, panoramic views.

6.12.13 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The beach facilitates long distance, open panoramic views south-eastwards across the sea, contributing to a strongly recognisable strength of place.

6.12.14 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to have High Landscape Capacity as a result of its Low Landscape Sensitivity and Low Landscape Value. This area encompasses a caravan park, which has a weak landscape structure and a dominant human influence over the landscape. There is no historic continuity within this area and a weak overall strength of place.

6.12.15 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The area forms part of the Pevensey Levels which are considered to be rare and are designated for their ecological value, resulting in Very High Landscape Value. Sensitive landscape features include the reed-fringed drainage ditches and the strongly recognisable strength of place as a result of open, panoramic views.

6.12.16 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to have Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The area forms part of the Pevensey Levels which are considered to be rare and are designated for their ecological value, resulting in Very High Landscape Value. The drained alluvial marshland, with its highly sensitive reed-fringed drainage ditches has a strong strength of place as a result of open, panoramic views and the recognisable pattern of reed-fringed drainage ditches.

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

6.12.17 At present there is no Conservation Area within Pevensey Bay.

6.12.18 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within **Section 2.4**, is shown in the table below:

Criteria	Landscape Setting Area					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Contribution to Landscape Setting	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Limited	Major

6.12.19 **Landscape Setting Area 1** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Whilst this area has a strong strength of place, with panoramic open views from the edges of the settlement across the open Levels, there is limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

6.12.20 **Landscape Setting Area 2** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a strong strength of place resulting from panoramic open views across the Levels, but has limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.

6.12.21 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement, as a result of its strong strength of place (with panoramic, open views south-eastwards across an ever-changing seascape) and high inter-visibility with historic buildings at the eastern edge of the settlement (the Martello towers).

6.12.22 **Landscape Setting Area 4** is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Whilst this area abuts the southern edge of the settlement, and there are glimpsed views to historic buildings (the Martello towers), at the eastern edge of the settlement, the area encompasses a caravan park, which has a weak landscape structure and a dominant human influence over the landscape. There is no historic continuity within this area and a weak overall strength of place.

6.12.23 **Landscape Setting Area 5** is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a strong strength of place as a result of panoramic open views across the Levels, but has limited inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement and also does not abut the settlement edge.

6.12.24 **Landscape Setting Area 6** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. Panoramic, open views northwards across this area can be gained from the northern edge of the settlement, resulting in strong inter-visibility between the urban area and its landscape setting within this area. The area also has a strong strength of place and high inter-visibility with historic buildings at the western edge of the settlement.

7.0 LANDSCAPE CAPACITY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

7.0 LANDSCAPE CAPACITY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

7.1 General

7.1.1 Section 7.0 presents a strategic evaluation of the capacity of the District's landscapes outside of the AONB and National Park (the 'study area') to accommodate renewable energy development in the form of solar farms and wind turbines. This is separate from the assessments of landscape capacity for residential and commercial development around the identified settlements set out in Sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0.

7.1.2 The evaluation includes an assessment of the overall indicative capacity of the Local Landscape Character Types (LLCTs) within the study area for solar farm and wind turbine developments, and also assesses the indicative capacity of each LLCT's Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) to accommodate the respective types and scales of development.

7.1.3 The evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Section 2.4**, which should be read in conjunction with the evaluation. Paragraphs 2.4.16 to 2.4.24 set out the details of the landscape capacity methodology, including the assessment matrix (**Matrix 2.4)**, assessment category definitions (**Table 2.3**) and development scales definitions (**Table 2.4**) used in the evaluation.

7.1.4 The landscape capacity evaluation should also be read in conjunction with the LLCT and LLCA landscape character assessments provided in **Section 4.0**, **Section 5.0** and **Section 6.0,** and also **Figure 3.2**, which informed the assessment. It should be noted that the landscape capacity evaluation has been undertaken at a high level commensurate with the scale of the landscape character assessment (1:25,000).

7.1.5 The key landscape considerations that influence the general suitability of a particular LLCT and LLCA to accommodate renewable energy development are set out in **Table 7.1**. These considerations have been taken into account alongside the methodology set out in **Section 2.4** in making judgements about the overall indicative capacity of the LLCTs and LLCAs within the study area for renewable energy development.

Table 7.1: Key Landscape Considerations Influencing Suitability for Renewable Energy Development

Key Considerations	Description
Scale of the Landscape	The scale of the landscape can affect the perceived presence of renewable energy structures. Large-scale landscapes, where structures may be in proportion with the landscape, are likely to be less sensitive than small scale, intimate landscapes, where structures may dominate local landform and landcover elements.
Landform	Strong undulating landform may provide partial screening for renewable energy structures, whilst landform that is smooth and flowing or flat and uniform is less likely to provide effective screening.
Land/Tree Cover	Simple, regular, uncluttered landscapes with extensive areas of consistent ground cover are likely to be less sensitive to renewable energy development than areas with more complex, irregular or intimate landscape patterns (for example ancient, irregular field systems). The latter areas tend to be more vulnerable to physical disturbance, which is likely to have greater effects on landscape fabric and landscape condition (for example affecting the integrity of landscape patterns). Intensive farming or commercial forestry may also reduce sensitivity.
Built Environment	Landscapes already affected by contemporary built structures such as masts, pylons, chimneys, major transport infrastructure (or by influences such as quarrying or landfill) may be less sensitive to renewable energy development, provided care is taken to avoid visual conflicts where any existing structures are seen in close proximity. Conversely, areas with a more established, traditional or historic built character, are likely to be more sensitive.
Skylines and Settings	Landscapes with prominent, undeveloped skylines are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development than landscapes with skylines that are less prominent or that have already been affected by built development. The presence of distinctive landscape features, such as church spires or designed landscapes, may also heighten sensitivity where renewable energy structures would be seen in the same view and/or would adversely affect the setting of the feature concerned.
Visibility and Views	Landscapes that are visually contained by topography, buildings, trees or woodlands, and hence have limited inward and outward views, may be less sensitive for renewable energy development than areas with extensive inward and outward views. Such features may give screening for the lower parts of turbines and for access and infrastructure. However trees and woodlands should be a long term feature if their screening effects are to be relied upon. Extensive close or middle range views from scenic routes, well-known vistas or tourist viewpoints may increase a landscape's sensitivity to renewable energy development, as may close proximity to settlements.
Sense of Tranquillity and Wildness	A strong sense of tranquillity and/or wildness character (due to remoteness, freedom from human activity and disturbance, and factors such as openness and perceived naturalness) may make a landscape more sensitive to renewable energy development. The introduction of wind turbines may alter perceptions of wildness and tranquillity, introducing movement, sound and light effects, which may potentially give a landscape a more industrial character.
Cultural Associations and Continuity	Specific cultural (i.e. historical, folklore, literary or artistic) associations relating to the landscape may result in increased sensitivity to renewable energy development if the character or perceptions of the landscape concerned are likely to be significantly altered.
Amenity and Recreation	Areas offering access to high quality landscapes, memorable places, and special experiences, and to a range of opportunities for outdoor recreation, may be more sensitive to renewable energy development due to potential effects on accessibility and/or on the quality of the recreational experience. Sensitivity may be increased in proximity to important recreational features such as National Trails and other long distance routes.

7.2 Indicative Landscape Capacity for Solar Farms

7.2.1 The indicative capacity of LLCTs and LLCAs within the study area to accommodate solar farm development is summarised in **Table 7.2**.

Indicative Landscape Capacity of LLCTs for Solar Farm Development

7.2.2 Overall, with the exception of LLCT H (Coastal Levels), the indicative Landscape Capacity of the LLCTs within the study area to accommodate solar farm developments is generally assessed as Very Low or Low due to their predominantly Very High or High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High or High Landscape Value. No LLCTs within the study area are assessed as having Very High or High Landscape Capacity to accommodate solar farms.

7.2.3 The **Ridges and Valleys (LLCT A)** is assessed as having **Very Low Landscape Capacity for any scale of solar farm developments** due to its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value resulting from the prominent topography, small-scale ancient, irregular field pattern and numerous large areas of Ancient Woodland. The visually prominent, undeveloped skylines of the ridges are considered to be highly sensitive. The introduction of new structures associated with solar farm development within these small-scale landscapes, may dominate local landform and land cover elements. The intimate landscape pattern of this LLCT is vulnerable to physical disturbance, which would affect the integrity of the ancient, irregular field pattern. The strong sense of remoteness throughout much of this LLCT results in higher landscape sensitivity than some of the other LLCTs within the study area where human influences are more prominent.

7.2.4 The prominent topography of the **Ridges and Slopes (LLCT B),** with their visually prominent, undeveloped skylines, and close proximity to and intervisibility with the adjacent High Weald AONB, is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale solar farm developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The predominantly small-scale, ancient field pattern of pastoral fields, often lined with mature hedgerows and interspersed with pockets of Ancient Woodland is unlikely to be able to accommodate large or medium-scale solar farm developments without dominating the land cover and pattern. The visually prominent, undeveloped skylines of the ridges and slopes are considered to be highly sensitive to inappropriately sited large or medium-scale solar farm developments. The intimate landscape pattern of this LLCT is vulnerable to physical disturbance from large or medium-scale solar farm developments, which would affect the integrity of the ancient, irregular field pattern. The strong sense of remoteness throughout much of this LLCT further contributes to the landscape's sensitivity.

7.2.5 The **Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys (LLCT C)** is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale solar farm developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The visually prominent, undeveloped valley sides, and higher areas of landscape between the valleys, are considered to be highly sensitive to inappropriately sited large or medium-scale solar farm developments, which would dominate local landform and land cover elements. The small-scale and intimate landscape pattern of this LLCT is vulnerable to physical disturbance from large or medium-scale solar farm developments, which may affect the integrity of the ancient, irregular field pattern. The strong sense of remoteness throughout much of this LLCT, further contributes to high landscape sensitivity.

7.2.6 The **Wooded Clay Vales (LLCT D)** is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale solar farm developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value, which results from the gently rolling patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, interspersed with small areas of Ancient Woodland; and the small-scale pattern of rural hamlets, villages and farmsteads/houses. The introduction of new structures associated with large or medium-scale solar farm developments within the small-scale, intimate nature of landscapes of this LLCT would dominate local landform and land cover elements, and may result in physical disturbance to the landscape fabric of mature hedgerows and Ancient Woodland. In the east of this LLCT, large or medium-scale solar farm developments would be highly visible from the adjacent highly sensitive Open Levels LLCT. The strong sense of remoteness throughout much of this LLCT further contributes to high landscape sensitivity.

7.2.7 The small-scale pattern of the **Open Clay Vales (LLCT E)**, with their rural villages, hamlets and farmsteads, predominantly flat fields and wide skies, is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale solar farm developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The introduction of new structures associated with large or medium-scale solar farm developments within this predominantly flat landscape may dominate local landform and land cover elements. The generally undeveloped skylines within this predominantly rural LLCT are considered to be highly sensitive to large or medium-scale solar farm developments.

7.2.8 The **Open Levels (LLCT F)** and **Settled Levels (LLCT G)** are both assessed as having **Very Low Landscape Capacity for any scale of solar farm developments** due to their Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value, resulting from the unique patchwork of open, drained levels, with a strong landscape pattern, which support nationally and locally important wildlife habitats. Whilst these landscapes have a predominantly open, large-scale character, they are assessed as having Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of the overall very strong sense of remoteness, their predominantly undeveloped skylines and strong intervisibility with the South Downs National Park.

7.2.9 In contrast, the busy seaside character of the **Coastal Levels (LLCT H)** with their low lying topography, strong urban influences and fragmented/limited sense of remoteness and tranquillity is assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity for medium and small-scale solar farm developments** due to its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The character of the LLCT is affected by built structures and major transport infrastructure influences, which may make some parts of the landscape less sensitive to large-scale solar farm developments.

Table 7.2: Indicative Landscape Capacity for Solar Farm Development

Local Landscape Character Type (LLCT) Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA)	**LLCT Landscape Sensitivity**	**LLCT Landscape Value**	**LLCT Landscape Capacity for Solar Farm Development**	**LLCA Landscape Sensitivity**	**LLCA Landscape Value**	**LLCA Landscape Capacity for Solar Farm Development**
A: Ridges and Valleys	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Very Low**			
A1: Fletching and Maresfield				High	High	Low
A2: Budlett's Common & Five Ash Down				High	High	Low
A3: Buxted				High	Moderate	Low
A4: Blackboys and Framfield				High	High	Low
A5: Hawkhurst Common				High	High	Low
A6: Horam				High	High	Low
B: Ridges and Slopes	**High**	**Very High**	**Low**			
B1: Cowbeech Hill				High	High	Low
B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green				High	Moderate	Moderate
B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling				High	High	Low
B4: Ninfield and Hooe				High	Moderate	Moderate
C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys	**High**	**High**	**Low**			
C1: Fletching and Piltdown				High	Moderate	Moderate
C2: Uck Valley				High	Moderate	Moderate
C3: High Cross				High	Moderate	Moderate
C4: Little Horsted				High	High	Low
D: Wooded Clay Vales	**High**	**High**	**Low**			
D1: East Hoathly and Halland				High	Moderate	Moderate
D2: Laughton				High	Moderate	Moderate
D3: Upper and Lower Vert Wood				Moderate	High	Low
D4: Golden Cross				High	Moderate	Moderate
D5: Chiddingly				High	Moderate	Moderate
D6: Upper Dicker				High	Moderate	Moderate
D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood				Moderate	High	Low
E: Open Clay Vales	**High**	**High**	**Low**			
E1: Laughton Place				High	Low	Low
E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe				High	Low	Low
E3: Arlington				High	Moderate	Low
E4: Wilmington Green				High	Moderate	Low
E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge				High	Low	Low
E6: Hellingly				High	Low	Low
F: Open Levels	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Very Low**			
F1: Down and Whelpey				High	Very High	Low
F2: Waller's Haven				High	Very High	Low
F3: Manxey and Hooe				High	Very High	Low
F4: East Polegate Levels				High	Very High	Low
G: Settled Levels	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Very Low**			
G1: Pevensey and Hankham				High	Very High	Low
H: Coastal Levels	**Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate**			
H1: Pevensey Bay				Moderate	Low	Moderate

Indicative Landscape Capacity of LLCAs for Solar Farm Development

7.2.10 Overall, the indicative Landscape Capacity of the LLCAs within the study area to accommodate solar farm developments is assessed as Low or Moderate due to the patchwork of small-scale, ancient landscapes, interspersed with mature woodlands; the prominent pattern of predominantly undeveloped ridges and slopes and strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of the study area. No LLCAs within the study area are assessed as having Very High or High Landscape Capacity to accommodate solar farms.

7.2.11 Subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation, medium and small-scale solar farm developments could potentially be accommodated within the following LLCAs without significantly eroding positive key features and characteristics which are considered desirable to safeguard:

- **LLCAs B2 (Magham Down and Flowers Green)** and **B4 (Ninfield and Hooe)** are assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity for medium and small-scale solar farm developments** due to the small to medium-scale historic field patterns, the strongly undulating landform and strong sense of enclosure as a result of the hedgerows and small patches of woodland which would provide visual screening and limit inward and outward views of potential solar farms. Human influences are apparent in the landscape in the form of small hamlets and farmsteads, often with associated nurseries. Pylons are also a feature of these LLCAs, resulting in less sensitive landscapes with the potential to accommodate solar farm developments.

- **LLCAs C1 (Fletching and Piltdown), C2 (Uck Valley)** and **C3 (High Cross)** are assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity for medium and small-scale solar farm developments** as a result of the gently rolling topography within these areas, which could provide visual screening. The patchwork of small pockets of woodland, arable and pastoral fields, often lined with mature hedgerows and gently meandering stream corridors, results in a simple landscape, which is less sensitive. New structures or land uses associated with medium and small-scale solar farm developments are unlikely to dominate local landform and land cover elements.

- **LLCAs D1 (East Hoathly and Halland), D2 (Laughton), D4 (Golden Cross), D5 (Chiddingly)** and **D6 (Upper Dicker)** are assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity for medium and small-scale solar farm developments**. The intermittent sense of enclosure, resulting from the patches of Ancient Woodland and gently rolling landform could provide screening for new structures and land uses associated with medium and small-scale solar farm developments.

- **LLCA H1 (Pevensey Bay)** is assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity for medium and small-scale solar farm developments** due to the insignificant landform within this predominantly flat landscape, which has limited historic continuity, resulting from predominantly post-war residential development within Pevensey Bay town. There is a strong sense of openness and few features of landscape value are present. New structures or land uses associated with medium and small-scale solar farm developments are unlikely to dominate local landform and land cover elements, and would be in proportion with the existing scale of the landscape and its component features.

7.3 Indicative Landscape Capacity for Wind Turbines

7.3.1 The indicative capacity of LLCTs and LLCAs within the study area to accommodate wind turbine development is summarised in **Table 7.3**.

Indicative Landscape Capacity of LLCTs for Wind Turbine Development

7.3.2 Overall, with the exception of LLCT H (Coastal Levels), the indicative Landscape Capacity of the LLCTs within the study area to accommodate wind turbine development is generally assessed as Very Low or Low due to their predominantly Very High or High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High or High Landscape Value. No LLCTs within the study area are assessed as having Very High or High Landscape Capacity to accommodate wind turbines.

7.3.3 The **Ridges and Valleys (LLCT A)** is assessed as having **Very Low Landscape Capacity for any scale of wind turbine development** due to its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value resulting from the prominent topography, small-scale ancient, irregular field pattern and numerous large areas of Ancient Woodland. The visually prominent, undeveloped skylines of the ridges are considered to be highly sensitive to wind turbines. The introduction of new structures within these small scale landscapes, would dominate local landform and land cover elements. The intimate landscape pattern of this LLCT is vulnerable to physical disturbance, which would affect the integrity of the ancient, irregular field pattern. The strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of this LLCT results in higher landscape sensitivity than some of the other LLCTs within the study area where human influences are more prominent.

7.3.4 The prominent topography of the **Ridges and Slopes (LLCT B),** with their visually prominent, undeveloped skylines, and close proximity to and intervisibility with the adjacent High Weald AONB, is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale wind turbine developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. The predominantly small-scale, ancient field pattern of pastoral fields, often lined with mature hedgerows and interspersed with pockets of Ancient Woodland is unlikely to be able to accommodate large or medium-scale wind turbine development without dominating the land cover and pattern. The visually prominent, undeveloped skylines of the ridges and slopes are considered to be highly sensitive to large or medium-scale wind turbine developments. The intimate landscape pattern of this LLCT is vulnerable to physical disturbance from large or medium-scale wind turbine developments, which would affect the integrity of the ancient, irregular field pattern. The strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of this LLCT further contributes to the landscape's sensitivity.

7.3.5 The **Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys (LLCT C)** is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale wind turbine development** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The visually prominent, undeveloped valley sides, and higher areas of landscape between the valleys, are considered to be highly sensitive to large or medium-scale wind turbine developments, which would dominate local landform and land cover elements. The small-scale and intimate landscape pattern of this LLCT is vulnerable to physical disturbance from large or medium-scale wind turbine developments, which may affect the integrity of the ancient, irregular field pattern. The strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of this LLCT, further contributes to high landscape sensitivity.

7.3.6 The **Wooded Clay Vales (LLCT D)** is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale wind turbine developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value, which results from the gently rolling patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, interspersed with small areas of Ancient Woodland; and the small-scale pattern of rural hamlets, villages and farmsteads/houses. The introduction of new structures associated with large or medium-scale wind turbine developments within the small-scale, intimate nature of landscapes of this LLCT would dominate local landform and land cover elements, and may result in physical disturbance to the landscape fabric of mature hedgerows and Ancient Woodland. In the east of this LLCT, large or medium-scale wind turbine developments would be highly visible from the adjacent highly sensitive Open Levels LLCT. The strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of this LLCT further contributes to high landscape sensitivity.

7.3.7 The small-scale pattern of the **Open Clay Vales (LLCT E)**, with their rural villages, hamlets and farmsteads, predominantly flat fields and wide skies, is assessed as having **Low Landscape Capacity for small-scale wind turbine developments** due to its High Landscape Sensitivity and High Landscape Value. The introduction of new structures associated with large or medium-scale wind turbine developments within this predominantly flat landscape may dominate local landform and land cover elements. The generally undeveloped skylines within this predominantly rural LLCT are considered to be highly sensitive to large or medium-scale wind turbine developments. The introduction of large or medium-scale wind turbine developments within this LLCT would give the landscape a more industrial character and result in the dilution of the predominantly rural character and overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

7.3.8 The **Open Levels (LLCT F)** and **Settled Levels (LLCT G)** are both assessed as having **Very Low Landscape Capacity for any scale of wind turbine developments** due to their Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value, resulting from the unique patchwork of open, drained levels, with a strong landscape pattern, which support nationally and locally important wildlife habitats. Whilst these landscapes have a predominantly open, large-scale character, they are assessed as having Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of the overall very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, their predominantly undeveloped skylines and strong intervisibility with the South Downs National Park.

7.3.9 In contrast, the busy seaside character of the **Coastal Levels (LLCT H)** with their low lying topography, strong urban influences and fragmented/limited sense of remoteness and tranquillity is assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity for medium and small-scale wind turbine developments** due to its Moderate Landscape Sensitivity and Moderate Landscape Value. The character of the LLCT is affected by built structures and major transport infrastructure influences, which may make some parts of the landscape less sensitive to large-scale wind turbine developments.

Table 7.3: Indicative Landscape Capacity of LLCAs for Wind Turbine Development

Local Landscape Character Type (LLCT) Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA)	**LLCT** **Landscape Sensitivity**	**LLCT** **Landscape Value**	**LLCT** **Landscape Capacity for Wind Turbines**	**LLCA** **Landscape Sensitivity**	**LLCA** **Landscape Value**	**LLCA** **Landscape Capacity for Wind Turbines**
A: Ridges and Valleys	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Very Low**			
A1: Fletching and Maresfield				High	High	Low
A2: Budlett's Common & Five Ash Down				High	High	Low
A3: Buxted				High	Moderate	Low
A4: Blackboys and Framfield				High	High	Low
A5: Hawkhurst Common				High	High	Low
A6: Horam				High	High	Low
B: Ridges and Slopes	**High**	**Very High**	**Low**			
B1: Cowbeech Hill				High	High	Low
B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green				High	Moderate	Low
B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling				High	High	Low
B4: Ninfield and Hooe				High	Moderate	Low
C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys	**High**	**High**	**Low**			
C1: Fletching and Piltdown				High	Moderate	Low
C2: Uck Valley				High	Moderate	Low
C3: High Cross				High	Moderate	Low
C4: Little Horsted				High	High	Low
D: Wooded Clay Vales	**High**	**High**	**Low**			
D1: East Hoathly and Halland				High	Moderate	Low
D2: Laughton				High	Moderate	Low
D3: Upper and Lower Vert Wood				Moderate	High	Low
D4: Golden Cross				High	Moderate	Moderate
D5: Chiddingly				High	Moderate	Low
D6: Upper Dicker				High	Moderate	Low
D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood				Moderate	High	Low
E: Open Clay Vales	**High**	**High**	**Low**			
E1: Laughton Place				High	Low	Low
E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe				High	Low	Low
E3: Arlington				High	Moderate	Low
E4: Wilmington Green				High	Moderate	Low
E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge				High	Low	Low
E6: Hellingly				High	Low	Low
F: Open Levels	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Very Low**			
F1: Down and Whelpey				High	Very High	Low
F2: Waller's Haven				High	Very High	Low
F3: Manxey and Hooe				High	Very High	Low
F4: East Polegate Levels				High	Very High	Low
G: Settled Levels	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Very Low**			
G1: Pevensey and Hankham				High	Very High	Low
H: Coastal Levels	**Moderate**	**Moderate**	**Moderate**			
H1: Pevensey Bay				Moderate	Low	Low

Indicative Landscape Capacity of LLCAs for Wind Turbine Development

7.3.10 Overall, with the exception of LLCA D4 (Golden Cross), the indicative Landscape Capacity of the LLCAs within the study area to accommodate wind turbine developments is predominantly assessed as Low due to the patchwork of small-scale, ancient landscapes, interspersed with mature woodlands; the prominent pattern of predominantly undeveloped ridges and slopes and strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout much of the study area. No LLCAs within the study area are assessed as having Very High or High Landscape Capacity to accommodate wind turbines.

7.3.11 Subject to appropriate siting, design and landscaping mitigation, medium and small-scale wind turbine developments could potentially be accommodated within the following LLCA without significantly eroding positive key features and characteristics which are considered desirable to safeguard:

- **LLCA D4 (Golden Cross)** is assessed as having **Moderate Landscape Capacity to accommodate medium and small-scale wind turbine developments** due to the presence of visually intrusive human influences, including two caravan parks, a sewage works and nursery, which are existing landscape detractors, affecting the landscape character of the area and cluttering skylines. Patches of woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure and could provide partial screening for new structures. There is a strong sense of visual containment provided by the strong network of hedgerows at field boundaries and mature trees lining road corridors, which could limit views to potential new structures within this LLCA.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1 - LIST OF SETTLEMENTS

Settlements within the High Weald Landscape	Landscape Capacity to Accommodate Development Evaluated		Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement Evaluated	
	With Development Boundaries	With Housing Allocations	With Existing Conservation Areas	With Potential New Conservation Areas
Bolebroke				
Boreham Street				
Buxted				
Cade Street				
Cousely Wood				
Cowbeech				
Cross-in-hand				
Crowborough				
Danehill				
Fletching				
Forest Row				
Foxhunt Green				
Framfield				
Frant				
Groombridge				
Gun Hill				
Hammerwood				
Catts Hill				
Hartfield				
Heathfield				
Herstmonceux				
Horam				
Maresfield				
Mayfield				
Ninfield				
Old Heathfield				
Rotherfield				
Rushlake Green				
Splaynes Green				
Wadhurst				
Warbleton				
Withyham				
Waldron				

Settlements within the Low Weald Landscape	Landscape Capacity to Accommodate Development Evaluated		Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement Evaluated	
	With Development Boundaries	With Housing Allocations	With Existing Conservation Areas	With Potential New Conservation Areas
Arlington				
Berwick Station				
Chalvington				
Chiddingly				
East Hoathly				
Hailsham				
Hellingly				
Laughton				
Muddles Green				
Ripe				
Selmeston				
Uckfield				
Upper Dicker				

Settlements within the Pevensey Levels Landscape	Landscape Capacity to Accommodate Development Evaluated		Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement Evaluated	
	With Development Boundaries	With Housing Allocations	With Existing Conservation Areas	With Potential New Conservation Areas
Polegate				
Willingdon				
Stone Cross				
Westham				
Pevensey & Westham				
Pevensey Bay				

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2 - GLOSSARY

Landscape Character
Landscape character is the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how these are perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape.

Characterisation
Characterisation is the value-free process of identifying areas of similar character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character.

Evaluation
Evaluation is the subjective process of making judgements about the sensitivity, value or capacity of a landscape, which may use one or a combination of approaches depending on the purpose of the exercise.

Characteristics
Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a particular contribution to distinctive character.

Elements
Individual components which make up the landscape, such as trees and hedges.

Features
Particularly prominent or eye-catching elements, like tree clumps, church towers, or wooded skylines.

Local Landscape Character Types
Local Landscape Character Types are distinct types of landscape defined at 1:25,000 scale within the study area that exhibit a relatively homogenous pattern of physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, historical evolution and land use. They are *generic* in nature and may reoccur in different parts of the study area, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of landscape characteristics.

Local Landscape Character Areas
Local Landscape Character Areas are discrete geographical areas of distinctive character defined at 1:25,000 scale within a Local Landscape Character Type. They are *unique* areas that comprise a particular pattern of physical and cultural characteristics that combine to create a distinctive sense of place, even though they may share some generic landscape characteristics with other areas encompassing the same Local Landscape Character Type.

Landscape Setting Areas
Landscape Setting Areas are discrete geographical areas of distinctive character defined at 1:10,000 scale that provide the landscape setting for a settlement. They are unique areas that comprise a particular pattern of physical and cultural characteristics that combine to create a distinctive sense of place.

Landscape Condition
Landscape condition refers to the physical state of the landscape, and its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.

Landscape Sensitivity
Landscape sensitivity is a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape resource (in terms of both its character as a whole and the individual elements contributing to character); and the visual sensitivity of the landscape, assessed in terms of a combination of factors such as views, visibility and the number and nature of people perceiving the landscape (visual receptors). For the purposes of this study, the term 'overall landscape sensitivity' is used to refer primarily to the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, irrespective of the type of change or development that may be under consideration.

Landscape Value
Landscape value is concerned with the relative value that is attached to different landscapes. In a policy context the usual basis for recognising certain highly valued landscapes is through the application of a local or national landscape designation. A landscape may also be valued by different communities of interest for many different reasons without any formal designation, recognising, for example, perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness; special cultural associations; the influence and presence of other conservation interests; or the existence of a consensus about importance, either nationally or locally.

Landscape Capacity
Landscape capacity refers to the ability of a landscape to accommodate change or development without significant adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity reflects the inherent sensitivity of the landscape resource and its visual sensitivity, and the value attached to the landscape or to specific elements. For the purposes of this study, the term 'indicative landscape capacity' is used to refer to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate a specific type and nature of change or development within defined parameters.

GLOSSARY FOR THE KEY ON THE SETTLEMENT SETTING ASSESSMENT PLANS

Landscape Setting Areas:
Discrete geographical areas of distinctive character defined that provide the landscape setting for the settlement.

Landscape Sensitivity:
Overall landscape sensitivity evaluated using the methodology given in **Section 2.4** and presented as a 5 point scale 'very high' to 'very low'. (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

Landscape Features and Characteristics:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:**
  Landscapes with surviving features dating from before 1800. (Source: Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation, August 2010). Sub-divided into 'Historic' and 'Ancient' categories as per methodology given in **Section 2.4**.

- **Culturally Important Landmarks:**
  Prominent features (man-made or natural) which are of cultural/historical importance, such as churches/historic manor houses/villages halls. They form the focus of views and contribute to the character of the adjacent landscape. (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

- **Landscape Detractors:**
  Features (usually man-made) which may detract from the character of the landscape/townscape, or disrupt views, such as modern industrial buildings, pylons and other forms of infrastructure or discordant land uses (e.g. solar panels, field divisions for equestrian uses/poly-tunnels etc). (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

- **Sensitive Urban Edge:**
  A settlement edge which is well-screened in views from the surrounding landscape by a strong landscape buffer of mature vegetation, including woodland, hedgerows or trees (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

- **Prominent Urban Edge:**
  A settlement edge which is highly prominent in views from the surrounding landscape due to a lack of a strong landscape buffer/screening (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:**
  Rivers or major streams/ponds or lakes. (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

- **Significant Views:**
  Important views from the settlement to the open countryside, or from the countryside to specific landmarks in the settlement. Only views that contribute to the character or quality of the landscape and would be a consideration when determining the acceptability of new development in the area have been recorded. (Source: field observations June/July 2014).

- **Key Ridgelines:**
  Prominent ridgelines that dominate the skyline in views from the settlement. (Source: field observations June/July 2014)

- **Footpaths/Bridleways**:
  The routes of public rights of way providing access to the open countryside around the settlement. (Source: Wealden District Council, June 2014).

Conservation Designations:

- **Conservation Areas:**
  The boundaries of Conservation Areas (Source: Wealden District Council, May 2014).

- **Listed Buildings:**
  The location of Grade I, II, and II* Listed Buildings. (Source: English Heritage, May 2014).

- **Locally Listed Buildings:**
  The location of locally listed buildings. (Source: Wealden District Council, May 2014).

- **Historic Parks and Gardens:**
  The boundaries of registered parks and gardens of historic interest. (Source: English Heritage, May 2014).

- **Scheduled Monuments:**
  The boundaries of Scheduled Monuments (Source: English Heritage, May 2014).

- **Statutory Wildlife Designations/Local Wildlife Sites:**
  International, European and Nationally important wildlife designations (including SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites and SSSIs). Local wildlife sites include non-statutory wildlife areas. (Source: Natural England, May 2014; Wealden District Council, May 2014).

- **Ancient Woodlands:**
  The boundaries of Ancient Woodland. Ancient Woodland is defined by Natural England as "land that has had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and may be ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), which retains a native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally, or plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, often with conifers, and usually over the last century". (Source: Natural England, May 2014).

- **Tree Preservation Orders:**
  Individual trees or boundaries of areas containing trees that are covered by Tree Preservation Orders. (Source: Wealden District Council, May 2014).

- **South Downs National Park:**
  Boundary of the South Downs National Park as designated in 2009. The South Downs National Park Authority is responsible for the management of the National Park and delivery of its statutory purposes. (Source: Natural England, May 2014)

- **High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:**
  Boundary of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as designated in 1983. Four counties (Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent) and eleven district authorities (including Wealden District Council) are responsible for coordinating the management of the AONB and delivery of its statutory purposes. (Source: Natural England, May 2014)

APPENDIX 3

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A1: Fletching and Maresfield

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Fletching

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 429235

Photograph No: 5985

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches	X	Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	X
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Small, rural village of Fletching;**
- **Stone church with tower and mature trees in churchyard are a key feature;**
- **Minor rural road corridors;**
- **Gatehouse building associated with Sheffield Park to the west is a landmark feature;**
- **Mature trees and hedgerows line road corridors within settlement, with picket fences at property boundaries;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A1: Fletching and Maresfield

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Splayne's Green

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 431244

Photograph No: 5989

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Small rural hamlet of Splayne's Green, with small village green;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Predominantly pastoral fields adjacent to hamlet, with strong landscape structure of mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A1: Fletching and Maresfield

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: East of Splayne's Green

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 439246

Photograph No: 5991

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Pastoral fields lined with mature hedgerows, often containing trees;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Small pockets of mature woodland;**
- **Narrow, tree-lined rural road corridors.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A2: Budlett's Common and Five Ash Down

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: A272

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 454235

Photograph No: 5997

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious		Balanced		Discordant	X	Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented	X	Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Traffic on A272 road corridor disturbs overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Views to the fire training centre;**
- **Dominant transport infrastructure (roundabouts);**
- **Small patches of woodland provide intermittent sense of enclosure;**
- **Hedgerows line road corridors (often containing hedgerow trees).**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A3: Buxted

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Buxted Park

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 485230

Photograph No: 5999

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes	X	Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley	X	Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches	X	Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	X
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved		Sinuous	X

Key Characteristics:

- **Buxted Park – with associated parkland and mature parkland trees;**
- **The church and Buxted Park hotel are key landmarks;**
- **Busy foothpaths through the parkland (especially at evenings and weekends);**
- **Relatively strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Estate architecture (i.e. entrance gates);**
- **Rolling parkland, interspersed with large areas of woodland and dissected by a relatively narrow stream corridor.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A3: Buxted

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: west of Buxted station

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 494232

Photograph No: 6004

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	x	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted	X	Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Busy road corridor (A272), disturbs overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Medium-scale arable fields, lined with mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees;**
- **Mature, isolated field trees.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A3: Buxted

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: Potter's Green (south of Buxted)

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 501229

Photograph No: 6005

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks	X	Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Narrow, strongly rural lanes, lined with mature trees;**
- **Lanes are often sunken and usually unmarked;**
- **Very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, despite proximity to Buxted;**
- **Rolling topography.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A4: Blackboys and Framfield

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: north of Framfield

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 500218

Photograph No: 6007

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Undulating pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows and fences in places;**
- **Minor, rural road corridors;**
- **A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Pockets and belts of woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A4: Blackboys and Framfield

Viewpoint No: 2 **Location:** Framfield

Direction of view: Looking south **Grid Reference:** TQ 495204

Photograph No: 6010 **Date:** 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches	X	Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented	X	Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Framfield church is a key historic landmark;**
- **Small village of Framfield with many vernacular brick and red tile houses;**
- **Busy main road corridor, connecting with Uckfield to the west;**
- **Village pub is another key landmark.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A4: Blackboys and Framfield

Viewpoint No: 3 **Locations:** Blackboys

Direction of view: Looking west **Grid Reference:** TQ 522208

Photograph No: 6011 **Date:** 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep	X	Plateau		Hills	X	Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley	X	Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream	X	Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Strongly rural character, with narrow (often steep), rural unmarked lanes (sometimes sunken);**
- **Views across undulating, predominantly pastoral fields towards wooded ridges;**
- **Pockets of woodland and mature field trees/hedgerows create a strong sense of enclosure;**
- **Vernacular architecture within Blackboys (houses have white painted lower levels and red tile upper floors).**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A5: Hawkhurst Common

Viewpoint No: 1 **Location:** Hawkhurst Common

Direction of view: Looking north **Grid Reference:** TQ 528184

Photograph No: 6014 **Date:** 10-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	

Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small	X	Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented	X	Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved		Sinuous	X

Key Characteristics:

- **Trimmed, wide hedgerows and adjacent grass verges;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors;**
- **Views across adjacent pastoral fields are limited by hedgerows.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A5: Hawkhurst Common

Viewpoint No: 2 **Location:** South of Hawkhurst Common

Direction of view: Looking south **Grid Reference:** TQ 529180

Photograph No: 6016 **Date:** 10-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved		Sinuous	X

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors;**
- **Undulating topography, hedgerows and pockets of woodland limit long distance views;**
- **Strong hedgerow network, delineating predominantly pastoral fields.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A6: Horam

Viewpoint No: 1 **Location:** Horam

Direction of view: Looking southeast **Grid Reference:** TQ 576171

Photograph No: 200 **Date:** 11-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath	X		
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious		Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	X
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful		Garish	X
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented	X	Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Suburban housing within the small settlement of Horam;**
- **Busy traffic on the A26 road corridor disturbs sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Urban fringe land uses including nurseries and paddocks;**
- **Tall hedgerows line road corridors.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A6: Horam

Viewpoint No: 2 **Locations:** Southeast of Horam

Direction of view: Looking southeast **Grid Reference:** TQ 594155

Photograph No: 197 **Date:** 11-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable	X	Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious		Balanced	X	Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted	X	Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Pylons are a dominant feature;**
- **Minor, narrow rural road corridors, often lined with high hedgerows containing hedgerow trees;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Strong landscape structure of hedgerows and small to medium scale woodlands provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: A: Ridges and Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: A6: Horam

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: West of Gun Hill

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 560152

Photograph No: 204

Date: 11-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			

Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious		Balanced	X	Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted	X	Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Large areas of woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure;**
- **Narrow minor rural road corridors, often lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Trees often form a canopy over the road;**
- **Pockets of pasture fields interspersed amongst the woodland.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B1: Cowbeech Hill

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: North of Park Wood

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 594129

Photograph No: 194

Date: 15-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable	X	Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Isolated mature field trees punctuate arable fields;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Views to wooded skylines;**
- **Minor rural road corridors.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B1: Cowbeech Hill

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Cinderford Lane

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 607140

Photograph No: 196

Date: 15-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Pasture fields, dotted with mature field trees;**
- **A strong landscape structure of hedgerows and hedgerow trees;**
- **Minor rural road corridors and a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B1: Cowbeech Hill

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: Cinderford Lane (east)

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 613138

Photograph No: 195

Date: 15-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Pastoral fields lined with mature hedgerows, often containing trees;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Views to treed and wooded skylines;**
- **Ridgetop location, facilitating dramatic panoramic views.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Cricklewood Lane

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 624118

Photograph No: 101

Date: 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Distant views to the scarp slopes of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place;**
- **Strong sense of remotness and tranquillity;**
- **Mature landscape structure;**
- **Minor rural road corridors, often lined with mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Lower Road

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 630111

Photograph No: 99

Date: 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small	X	Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved		Sinuous	X

Key Characteristics:

- **Minor rural road corridors lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Views southwards to the scarps and ridges of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place;**
- **Rolling pastoral fields interspersed with clumps of woodland and isolated trees.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green

Viewpoint No: 3 **Location:** Butler's Lane

Direction of view: Looking south **Grid Reference:** TQ 632113

Photograph No: 96 **Date:** 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted	X	Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Minor rural road corridors lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Views southwards to the scarps and ridges of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place;**
- **Rolling pastoral fields interspersed with clumps of woodland and isolated trees;**
- **Mature trees line road corridors, with species-rich wide grass verges.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Herstmonceux observatory

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 652103

Photograph No: 93

Date: 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks	X	Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious		Balanced		Discordant	X	Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular	X	Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **The green domes of the observatory are a dominant landmark within the area and also within views from adjacent areas;**
- **Large areas of mown grassland and car parking;**
- **Strong sense of enclosure provided by adjacent woodland;**
- **Unmarked roads;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Boreham Street

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 666112

Photograph No: 94

Date: 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Small village of Boreham Street, situated on a ridge;**
- **Vernacular white timber weatherboarded houses;**
- **Minor, tree-lined rural road corridors leading off the busy main road (High Street);**
- **Panoramic views north and south from the village across adjacent landscape setting.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B4: Ninfield and Hooe

Viewpoint No: 1 **Location:** Hooe

Direction of view: Looking east **Grid Reference:** TQ 683092

Photograph No: 87 **Date:** 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches	X	Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt	X	Telecomms Mast	X	Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Historic church is a key landmark;**
- **Panoramic across undulating, predominantly pastoral fields, to wooded/treed skylines;**
- **Very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Mature landscape structure;**
- **Pylons visible within distant views.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: B: Ridges and Slopes

LLCA Ref/Name: B4: Ninfield and Hooe

Viewpoint No: 2 **Location:** South of Hooe

Direction of view: Looking west **Grid Reference:** TQ 677087

Photograph No: 84 **Date:** 06-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep	X	Plateau		Hills	X	Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream	X	Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Strongly rural character, with narrow (often steep), rural unmarked lanes (sometimes sunken);**
- **Dramatic, open panoramic views across the adjacent low-lying open levels.**
- **Pockets of woodland and mature field trees/hedgerows create a strong sense of enclosure.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C1: Fletching and Piltdown

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Pierpoint's Wood

Direction of view: Looking northwest

Grid Reference: TQ 451209

Photograph No: 5981

Date: 17-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small	X	Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Enclosed canopy of mature trees over the road corridor;**
- **Strong sense of enclosure;**
- **Minor rural road corridor, with an associated strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C1: Fletching and Piltdown

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Southeast of Fletching

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 434230

Photograph No: 5983

Date: 17-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Panoramic open views across adjacent lower landscapes;**
- **Absence of woodland, however, a strong landscape structure comprising mature hedgerows;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Ridge of higher land;**
- **Minor rural road corridors, often lined with mature hedgerows.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C2: Uck Valley

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: South of Isfield

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 452170

Photograph No: 5976

Date: 17-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	X
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Lavender Line and associated station buildings are key historic landmarks, contributing to recognisable sense of place;**
- **Minor rural road corridors, lined with mature trees and hedgerows which create enclosure;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C2: Uck Valley

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: North of New House Farm

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 449193

Photograph No: 5978

Date: 17-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast	X	Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable	X	Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Views to wooded skylines;**
- **Blocks of woodland create an intermittent sense of enclosure;**
- **Minor rural road corridors lined with mature trees and hedgerows;**
- **A patchwork of arable fields lined with hedgerows and woodland.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C2: Uck Valley

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: South of Buckham Hill

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 450202

Photograph No: 5980

Date: 17-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small	X	Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved		Sinuous	X

Key Characteristics:

- **Minor rural road corridors lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Wooden picket fences at the boundaries of predominantly pastoral fields;**
- **Rolling pastoral fields interspersed with clumps of woodland and isolated trees.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C3: High Cross

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Palehouse Common

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 499187

Photograph No: 0208

Date: 19-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Predominantly pastoral fields, lined with trimmed hedgerows;**
- **A mature landscape structure of hedgerows lining road corridors and field boundaries;**
- **Minor, rural roads;**
- **Overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C3: High Cross

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: High Cross Park

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 489185

Photograph No: 0209

Date: 19-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks	X	Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable	X	Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Arable and pastoral fields interspersed with small/medium-sized blocks of woodland;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **A mature landscape structure of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodland.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C4: Little Horsted

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Crump's Corner

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 475166

Photograph No: 0210

Date: 19-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Mature hedgerow and field trees;**
- **Hedgerows along road corridors tend to be trimmed;**
- **Strong sense of enclosure as a result of small patches of woodland;**
- **Predominantly rural road corridors, lined with mature hedgerows.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys

LLCA Ref/Name: C4: Little Horsted

Viewpoint No: 2 **Location:** Little Horsted

Direction of view: Looking southeast **Grid Reference:** TQ 470184

Photograph No: 0207 **Date:** 19-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches	X	Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt	X	Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Historic church and entrance gates to Horsted Place estate are key historic features;**
- **Overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity disturbed by traffic on the busy A26 road corridor;**
- **Dominant signage associated with the road corridor;**
- **Mature trees along road corridor and within the Horsted Place estate.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D1: East Hoathly and Halland

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: East Hoathly

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 520164

Photograph No: 6019

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Small, rural village of East Hoathly;**
- **Minor rural road corridors, often lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Mature trees and large areas of woodland provide a sense of enclosure.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D1: East Hoathly and Halland

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Honey's Green

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 504172

Photograph No: 0211

Date: 16-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge	X	Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Traffic on the busy B-road corridor disturbs overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Mature landscape structure of trees and hedgerows;**
- **Large houses/farmsteads set back from the road corridor;**
- **Open views from gaps in hedgerows across adjacent pastoral fields.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D2: Laughton

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: North of Laughton

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 500133

Photograph No: 0212

Date: 16-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Buildings									
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Pastoral fields lined with mature hedgerows, often containing isolated trees;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Strong landscape structure of trees and hedgerows;**
- **Narrow, tree-lined rural road corridors.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D2: Laughton

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Laughton church

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 501125

Photograph No: 0213

Date: 16-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches	X	Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Buildings									
Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Church is a key historic landmark within this predominantly rural area;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Mature trees within the churchyard.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D3: Upper and Lower Vert Wood

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Brickhurst Wood

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 501141

Photograph No: 0214

Date: 16-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	X
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River	X	Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track	X		
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of enclosure as a result of large areas of woodland and mature tree canopies;**
- **A minor rural road corridor passes north-south through the woodland;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D4: Golden Cross

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Golden Cross

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 538121

Photograph No: 0215

Date: 16-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	x	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		

Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted	X	Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Busy road corridor (A22), disturbs overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Medium-scale pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees;**
- **Mature, isolated field trees.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D4: Golden Cross

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Broad Oak Farm

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 531126

Photograph No: 0216

Date: 16-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X	X	
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Mature hedgerows and 5-bar gates;**
- **Minor road corridors, however proximity to A22 road corridor disturbs overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Mature landscape structure of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D5: Chiddingly

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Chiddingly

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 540145

Photograph No: 205

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating	X	Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track	X		
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Rolling pastoral fields, delineated with wooden picket fences;**
- **Wooden barns and agricultural buildings;**
- **Minor, rural road corridors;**
- **A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Pockets and belts of woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D5: Chiddingly

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Nash Street

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 549125

Photograph No: 0217

Date: 19-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Narrow rural lanes, lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Predominantly pastoral fields, lined with a strong landscape structure of trees and hedgerows;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout;**
- **Isolated farmsteads and detached houses set back from the road corridors.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D6: Upper Dicker

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Upper Dicker

Direction of view: Looking southeast

Grid Reference: TQ 552098

Photograph No: 175

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls	X	Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road			
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Small village of Upper Dicker with vernacular white painted buildings and red tile roofs;**
- **Predominantly rural character, despite the busy main road running through the village;**
- **St Bede's school.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D6: Upper Dicker

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Michelham Priory

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 556091

Photograph No: 178

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins	X	Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small	X	Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved		Sinuous	X

Key Characteristics:

- **Mature trees and woodland associated with Michelham Priory provide an intermittent sense of enclosure;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors;**
- **Views across adjacent pastoral fields are limited by hedgerows.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood

Viewpoint No: 1 **Location:** Stadium north of Wilmington Wood

Direction of view: Looking south **Grid Reference:** TQ 567089

Photograph No: 181 **Date:** 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular	X	Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Mature woodland canopy with a strong sense of enclosure;**
- **Dense woodland understorey of ferns, with footpaths running through the woodland;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors (outside the woodland).**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: D: Wooded Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: North of Gilridge Wood

Direction of view: Looking southeast

Grid Reference: TQ 578087

Photograph No: 184

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles	X	Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious		Balanced	X	Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented	X	Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Large pastoral fields delineated by mature hedgerows;**
- **Blocks of woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure;**
- **Overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity is disturbed by the proximity of the A22 road corridor.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E1: Laughton Place

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Close to Colbran's Farm

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 486128

Photograph No: 0218

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable	X	Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Minor rural road corridors, often lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Strongly rural landscape, which is predominantly flat.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Ripe

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 512104

Photograph No: 0219

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **A Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity within this predominantly rural area;**
- **Straight, narrow, rural road corridors, often lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **A mature landscape structure of hedgerows, which often contain trees.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: North of Chalvington

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 522096

Photograph No: 0220

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			

Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Pastoral fields lined with mature hedgerows, often containing isolated trees;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Strong landscape structure of trees and hedgerows;**
- **Narrow, tree-lined rural road corridors.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E3: Arlington

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Arlington Reservoir

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 529074

Photograph No: 0170

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir	X	Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Arlington reservoir is a key landscape feature which contributes to recognisable sense of place;**
- **The reservoir is fringed in places by mature woodland/trees;**
- **Car park adjacent to the reservoir;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E3: Arlington

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: North of the reservoir

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 531084

Photograph No: 172

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	X
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River	X	Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track	X		
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Relatively large scale pastoral fields, with a strong sense of openness in places;**
- **Field boundaries are lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Rural, narrow minor road corridors, lined with mature trees and hedgerows.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E4: Wilmington Green

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Northeast of Wilmington Green

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 550055

Photograph No: 186

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	x	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium	X	Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined	X	Enclosed		Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted	X	Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Busy road corridor (A27) and railway corridor, disturb the overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Medium-scale pastoral fields, lined with mature hedgerows, often containing hedgerow trees;**
- **Mature, isolated field trees.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E4: Wilmington Green

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Southwest of Abbot's Wood

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 553071

Photograph No: 187

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of enclosure provided by mature hedgerows lining road corridors (with wide grass verges) and woodland to the north.**
- **Mature landscape structure of hedgerows and hedgerow trees;**
- **A predominantly rural landscape, with a strong overall sense of remoteness and tranquillity.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Bramley Farm (north of A27)

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 582059

Photograph No: 190

Date: 18-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track	X		
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Rolling pastoral fields, delineated by mature hedgerows;**
- **Minor, rural road corridors, lined with mature trees and hedgerows;**
- **Pockets and belts of woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure;**
- **Sense of remoteness and tranquillity is disturbed by proximity to the A27 and A22 road corridors.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E6: Hellingly

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: South of Hellingly

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 585120

Photograph No: 192

Date: 20-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture		River		Footpath	X		
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Narrow rural lanes, lined with mature hedgerows;**
- **Predominantly pastoral fields, lined with a strong landscape structure of trees and hedgerows;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout;**
- **The cuckoo trail (National Trail) providing a mature landscape corridor.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: E: Open Clay Vales

LLCA Ref/Name: E6: Hellingly

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Northeast of Hellingly

Direction of view: Looking west

Grid Reference: TQ 580125

Photograph No: 193

Date: 20-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling	X	Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels					

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls	X	Woodland	X	Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings	X	Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement	X	Pasture		River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Open views across rolling pastoral fields, delineated by mature hedgerows;**
- **Treed or wooded skylines are often a key feature of the view;**
- **A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Panoramic views from higher locations;**
- **A mature landscape structure of trees and hedgerows.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F1: Down and Whelpey

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: New Bridge

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 626098

Photograph No: 0105

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Flat, drained levels, with numerous drainage channels and ditches at field boundaries;**
- **Strong sense of openness, remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Minor, rural road corridors,**
- **Absence of trees/hedgerows;**
- **Tufts of grassland create texture;**
- **Sheep grazed pastoral fields.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F1: Down and Whelpey

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Horse Eye Level

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 630090

Photograph No: 0107

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Flat, drained levels, with numerous drainage channels and ditches at field boundaries;**
- **Strong sense of openness, remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Minor, rural road corridors,**
- **Tall reeds within drainage ditches limit views from road corridors and footpaths;**
- **Sheep grazed pastoral fields.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F1: Down and Whelpey

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: Down Level

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 627081

Photograph No: 0108

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Flat, drained levels, with numerous drainage channels and ditches at field boundaries;**
- **Strong sense of openness, remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Minor, rural road corridors,**
- **Absence of trees/hedgerows;**
- **Tufts of grassland create texture;**
- **Views south-westwards to the scarps of the South Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place;**
- **Cattle grazed pastoral fields.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F2: Waller's Haven

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Horse Bridge

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 669090

Photograph No: 089

Date: 07-06-2014



Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Relatively narrow river valley/drainage channel, lined with mature trees in places along its route;**
- **Reed-fringed river edges;**
- **A narrow, minor rural road corridor crosses the river, running east-west (on a small bridge crossing);**
- **Intimate-scale river corridor.**

Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley	X	Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F2: Waller's Haven

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: West of Horse Bridge

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 667091

Photograph No: 091

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley	X	Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Relatively narrow river valley/drainage channel, lined with mature trees in places along its route;**
- **Open views across adjacent Levels landscapes, with pastoral fields delineated by low picket fences.**
- **Pylons feature in some views;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridor**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F3: Manxey and Hooe

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Minor road from Pevensey to Norman's Bay

Direction of view: Looking northeast

Grid Reference: TQ 659049

Photograph No: 080

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of openness, with large skies and open views in all directions;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Large scale landscape of pastoral levels, with occasional single trees and tree clumps forming focal points within views;**
- **Reed-fringed drainage ditches;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors with views across adjacent Levels.**

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WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F3: Manxey and Hooe

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: A259, south of Pevensey Bay Railway station

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 652046

Photograph No: 079

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of openness, with large skies and open views in all directions;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity (however some intermittent noise associated with the railway corridor);**
- **Large scale landscape of pastoral levels, with occasional single trees and tree clumps forming focal points within views;**
- **Reed-fringed drainage ditches;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors with views across adjacent Levels;**
- **Sheep-grazed pasture.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F3: Manxey and Hooe

Viewpoint No: 3

Location: A259 (edge of Pevensey Bay settlement

Direction of view: Looking north

Grid Reference: TQ 651037

Photograph No: 077

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	X
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			
Settlement		Pasture	X	River	X	Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote	X	Vacant		Peaceful		Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Strong sense of openness, with large skies and open views in all directions;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;**
- **Large scale landscape of pastoral levels, with occasional single trees and tree clumps forming focal points within views;**
- **Reed-fringed drainage ditches;**
- **Narrow, minor rural road corridors with views across adjacent Levels**
- **Cattle grazed pastoral fields;**
- **Low, trimmed hedgerows at settlement edge (Pevensey Bay).**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: F: Open Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: F4: East Polegate Levels

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Industrial Estate south of B2247

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 600045

Photograph No: 0113

Date: 07-06-2014



Landform:

Flat		Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland	X	Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls	X	Woodland		Pond		Railway	X
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	X
Pylons	X	Banks	X	Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry	X	Shelterbelt	X	Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open		Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active	X
UNITY:	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented	X	Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved		Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Sense of remoteness and tranquillity disturbed by busy road corridors and settlement within Polegate/along the B2247 road corridor;**
- **Major road corridors introduce noise and movement;**
- **Urban fringe land uses;**
- **Views southwestwards to treed/wooded scarps of the South Downs provide a sense of orientation and contribute to recognisable sense of place.**
- **Grazed pasture fields and playing fields.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: G: Settled Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: G1: Pevensey and Hankham

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: North of Hankham

Direction of view: Looking southeast

Grid Reference: TQ 620064

Photograph No: 109

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees		Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate	X	Small		Medium		Large	
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed	X	Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured	X	Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse	X	Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Flat to gently undulating topography, supporting large pastoral fields;**
- **Mature trees/hedgerows and picket fences form field boundaries;**
- **Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout;**
- **Open views;**
- **Field trees are a feature.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: G: Settled Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: G1: Pevensey and Hankham

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Hankham

Direction of view: Looking east

Grid Reference: TQ 619053

Photograph No: 111

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings	X	Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences	X	Tree clumps	X	Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges	X	Hedgerow trees	X	Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons	X	Banks		Drainage ditches	X	Beach			
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement		Pasture	X	River		Footpath			
Built-up		Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open	X	Exposed	
TEXTURE:	Smooth	X	Textured		Rough		Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted	X	Colourful		Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple	X	Diverse		Complex	
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight	X	Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Open views to the scarp slopes of the Downs contribute to recognisable sense of place;**
- **Strong sense of openness with wide skies;**
- **Isolated trees and hedgerows contribute to landscape structure;**
- **Pylons are dominant in the background of views.**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: H: Coastal Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: H1: Pevensey Bay

Viewpoint No: 1

Location: Beachlands

Direction of view: Looking southwest

Grid Reference: TQ 669046

Photograph No: 71

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	X
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach	X	Car Park	X
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open		Exposed	X
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured		Rough	X	Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Open views across a wide, ever changing seascape, with large skies;**
- **Pebble beach with groynes;**
- **Houses overlook the seafront, often with front gardens;**
- **Relatively strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, despite the popularity of the beach (particularly in summer).**

WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

LLCT Ref/Name: H: Coastal Levels

LLCA Ref/Name: H1: Pevensey Bay

Viewpoint No: 2

Location: Pevensey Bay

Direction of view: Looking south

Grid Reference: TQ 663043

Photograph No: 75

Date: 09-06-2014



Landform:

Flat	X	Steep		Plateau		Hills		Coast	X
Undulating		Plain		Slopes		Scarp		Estuary	
Rolling		Rolling Lowland		Ridge		Cliff		Broad Valley	
Narrow Valley		Ghyll		Levels	X				

Landcover and Landscape Elements:

Farm Buildings		Walls		Woodland		Pond		Railway	
Churches		Fences		Tree clumps		Canal		Parkland	
Masts, poles		Hedges		Hedgerow trees		Waterfall		Scrub	
Pylons		Banks		Drainage ditches		Beach	X	Car Park	X
Industry		Shelterbelt		Telecomms Mast		Dune			
Vernacular Buildings		Arable		Marsh		Mudflat			

Settlement	X	Pasture	X	River		Footpath	X		
Built-up	X	Orchards		Stream		Track			
Mineral working		Plantation		Lake		Road	X		
Ruins		Isolated trees	X	Reservoir		Motorway			

Aesthetic Factors:

BALANCE:	Harmonious	X	Balanced		Discordant		Chaotic	
SCALE:	Intimate		Small		Medium		Large	X
ENCLOSURE	Confined		Enclosed		Open		Exposed	X
TEXTURE:	Smooth		Textured		Rough	X	Very rough	
COLOUR:	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful	X	Garish	
DIVERSITY:	Uniform		Simple		Diverse		Complex	X
MOVEMENT:	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful	X	Active	
UNITY:	Unified	X	Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic	
FORM:	Straight		Angular		Curved	X	Sinuous	

Key Characteristics:

- **Channelled views southwards towards the beach/sea from properties within Pevensey Bay settlement;**
- **Post-war and 1960's housing.**