

November 2005

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Ashford Local Development Framework

Landscape Character Study

for Ashford Borough Council & English Partnerships

ASSESSMENT & DATA SET : Stour Gap

November 2005

122/doc/016

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Preface

The Landscape Character Study was carried out following guidelines set out by the Countryside Agency. The landscape was divided into Landscape Description Units (LDUs), based on the Historic landscape characterisation study for Kent 2001. The Study Area was divided up into sectors from A - G the order was the priority at the time for looking at areas concerned with GADF to feed into the planing of those areas - F and G being landscapes that would not be considered for development.

Each LDU parcel was assessed from an average of 3 points - larger LDUs had more reference points than smaller ones - by two surveyors. Landscape Description Units were based on the Kent Historic Landscape Character Study 2002; Landscape Character Areas of Kent were taken from the Babtie/KCC report 2004.

All sites were viewed from public rights of way using a combination of transport by car and walking footpaths and bridleways. Site notes were recorded on a two-sided A4 record sheet by hand and later transferred to the word documents contained in this data set.

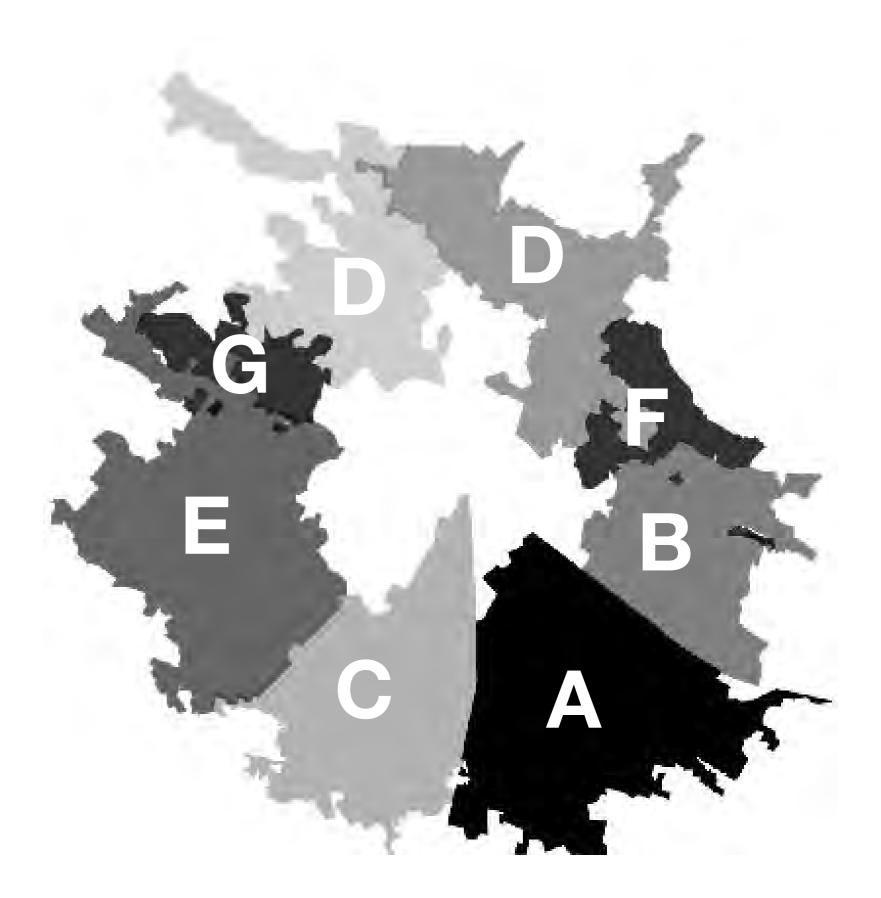
Each LDU is numbered, each filed photograph carries the LDU reference and a photograph location number reference - e.g. D1.3 for LDU D1, third photograph location. The photographs have been saved as jpegs and were generally taken at 1Gb resolution. This data set includes the location maps for the key photographs taken of each LDU. The photographs plus a digital set of the data sheets are contained in a CD bound into the back cover of the data set.

Ordnance Survey maps have been used as a base for hand-drawn plans and scanned for location of photographs etc are reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Ashford Borough Council License No LA077038 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved.

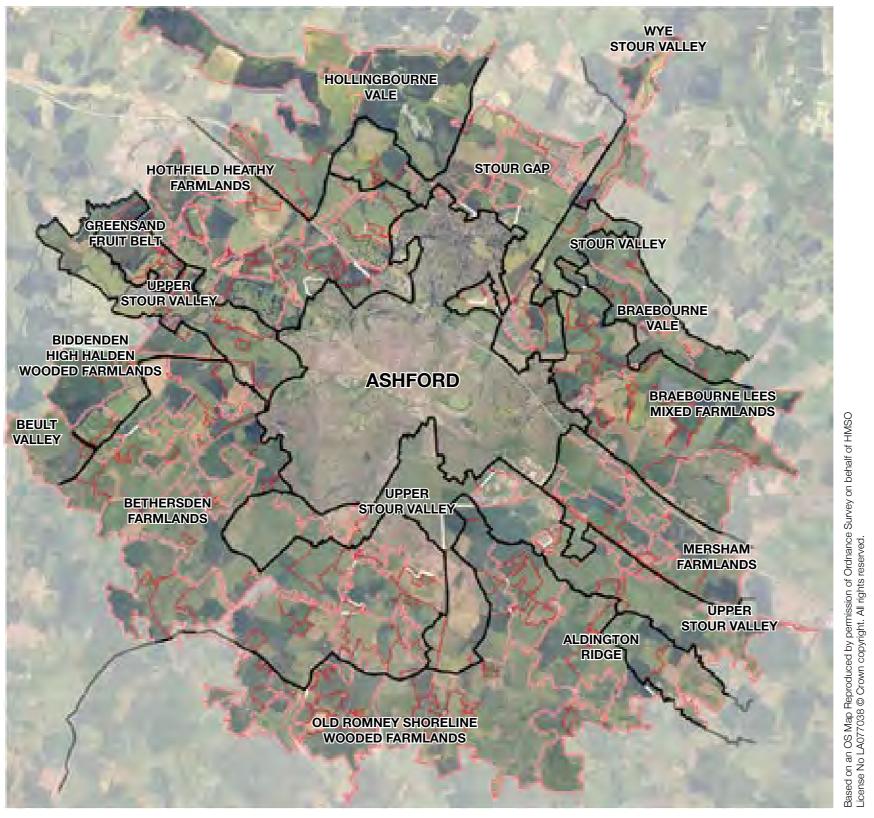
For the assessments the LDUs were grouped by similarity into large blocks we have called District Landscape types (DLT). The 58 DLTs were assessed to fall into one of nine categories used by the County Landscape Character Study. A team of four senior landscape architects and ecologists visited each area as a travelling collegium over a period of four days making on site assessements and checking these by return to specific areas. These first thoughts were then tested by the same team in the studio a few days later to check for consistency of appraisal. Then each area was check against the feild sheets. This work has been presented in these documents as tables.

All photographs © studio engleback . A read only CD of the photo database and maps are located in the back of landscape character report 122/doc/014

Studio Engleback November 2005



Study Area Fieldwork Sectors



The Ashford Character Study Area
Black line shows Kent County Landscape

Black line shows Kent County Landscape Character Areas
Red fine lines show Historic Landscape Character Parcels used as
a basis for the Landscape Description Units (LDUs) in this study
White lines show District Areas as defined in the assessment



Section 1 Introduction

Introduction

The Kent Lanscape Character Study

The Stour Gap is a low-lying, flat to gently undulating farmed landscape associated with the well-drained Head Brickearths west of the Great Stour to the north of Ashford. Most of the land use is a mix of cereal and field vegetables with a small percentage of orchards and grassland developed on the mainly deep high quality soils.

Generally, because of the prevalence of arable farming, the fields are large and the landscape is open as a result. This contrasts with the Stour Valley itself, which is still pastoral on the wetter soils close to the river.

Woodland is not a feature of this character area, although small copses and clumps do occur. The railway to Canterbury runs along the eastern boundary to the site but does not impinge to any great extent. From most places the presence of the North Downs encloses views over the landscape to the north-east.

Considerable development is proposed south-east of Kennington at Little Burton Farm which could have an impact on farmland to the north as well as on the Stour Valley character area to the south. The Stour Gap has changed considerably since the 1960's when well over half the land use was either pasture or orchard. What must have been then a varied landscape of small hedged fields and flowery orchards has changed to one of open monocultures of cereals and vegetables. The landscape would be enhanced if some of the characteristic valley hedgerows or shelterbelts could be restored within the existing land uses.

The Ashford Landscape Character Study

- Approximately 75% of this County Landscape Character Area (CLA)
- There are 10 Landscape Description Units (LDUs) in this CLA lying within the study area
- The LDUs are based on the Historic Landscape Character map for Kent, there are 5 Historic landscape character types in this study area:
 - HLT 1 Field Patterns
 - HLT 3 Horticulture
 - HLT 4 Woodlands
 - HLT 9 Settlements
 - HLT 10 Parkland and designed landscape
- We have grouped these into 6 District Landscape Types (DLTs)

In carrying out the survey and discussing the results we find that there are a minor adjustment that should be made to the County Landscape Character Area Boundary:

 Removing D1, D3, D4, D6 and D14 from the Stour Gap CLT as these areas follow the Stour floodplain north of Ashford, and adding to the Stour Valley CLA

Assessment

Many of the judgements made about landscape are subjective but the process of landscape assessment provides a robust methodology based on current best practice.

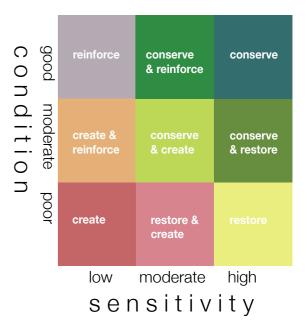
The physical attributes of the landscape are considered in conjunction with the historical and cultural influences, nature conservation interests and landuse. These factors are analysed further in the field to determine the key characteristics, aesthetics, visual unity, ecological integrity, condition of heritage features and impact of built development. The condition and sensitivity of each character area is then determined.

Condition describes the integrity and unity of the landscape such as its functional integrity and visual unity - for example an urban fringe with many detracting elements and loss of unifying features will be of poor condition.

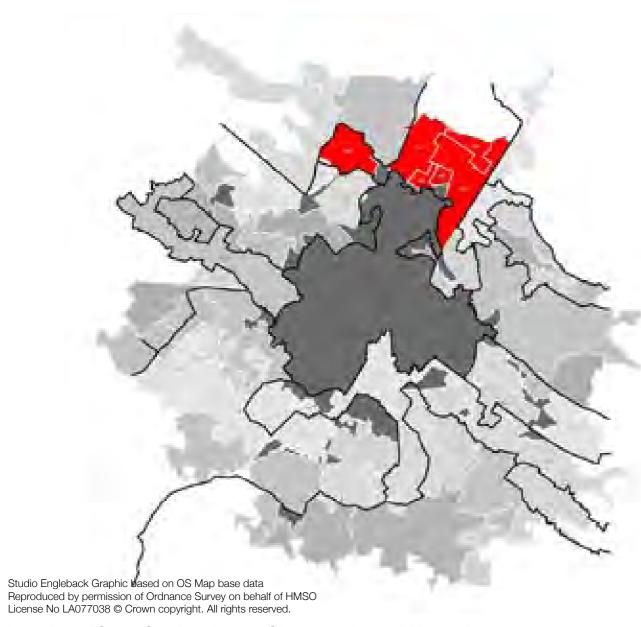
Sensitivity of the landscape refers to its overall character and quality and the extent to which these factors will be tolerant of change in general.

Capacity determines the ability of the landscape to accommodate change without causing loss of the essential character and local distinctiveness. Capacity will vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed.

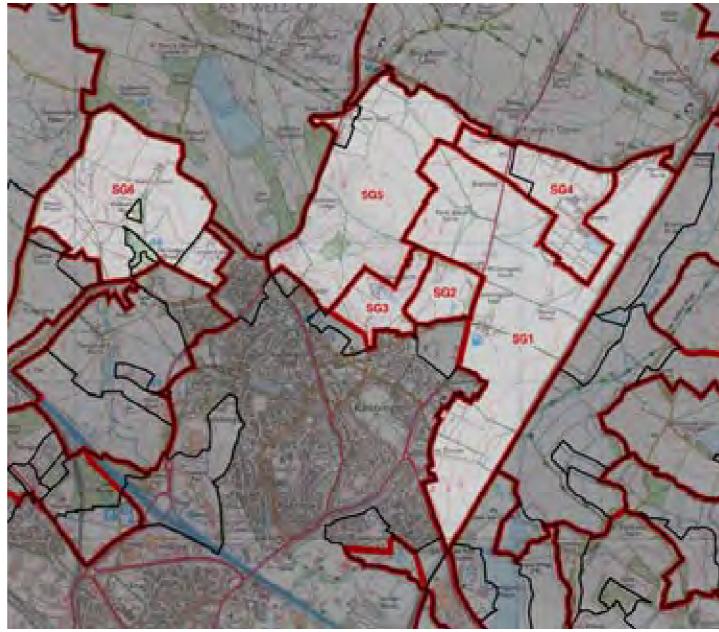
The matrix combines condition and sensitivity which indicates the area's ability to accommodate change and the appropriate land management or use, and will assist in the overall policies or development that might be appropriate to a particular area.



Location



Location of Stour Gap Landscape Character Area within study area



Location of Stour Gap District Areas

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Landscape context



Geology

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Flooding



Heritage

Geology

The area lies over alluvial soils associated with the river Stour, but the underlying rock is Wealden Greensand in the south, Gault Clay in the central area and chalk on the rising ground to the North Downs

Flooding

Stour and the tributaries from the east are all prone to flooding the high water table means that fields are crossed with characteristic drainage dykes, and natural vegetation in uncultivated areas reverts to willow carr, reedbeds and mire.

Heritage

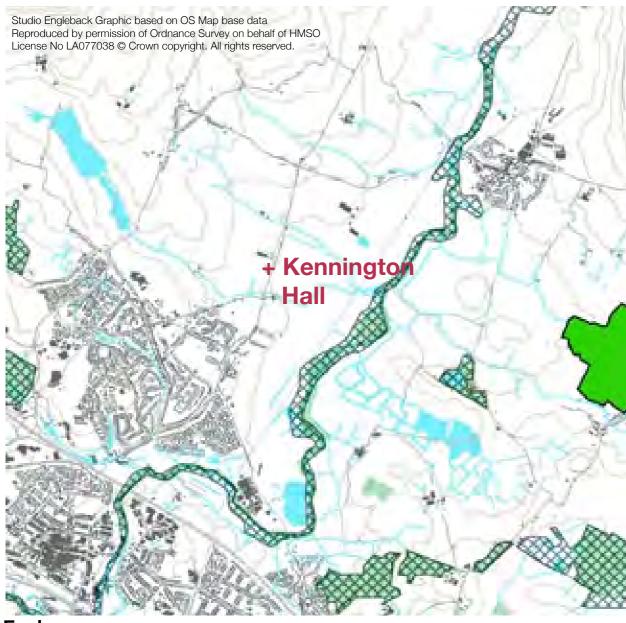
The North Downs Area of Outstanding natural Beauty (AONB) frames the area to the north. The old village of Kennington to the south and Boughton lees to the north are Conservation Areas. Kennington Hall is listed and is surrounded by a small area of 'parkland'.

Ecology

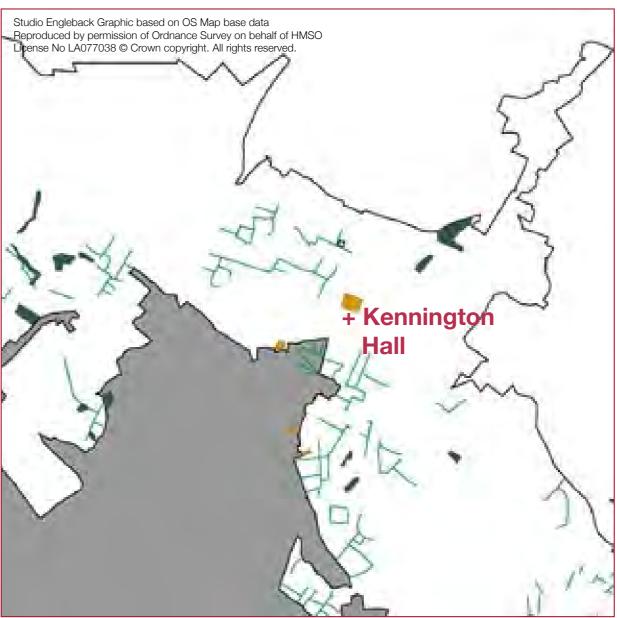
The river Stour corridor is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) with Otters and Water Voles noted. However We noted that this corridor is often very narrow with ploughing and weed control running very close to the top of the river bank in places.

Features lost since the 1870s

Hedgerow loss is evident around Kennington and Broughton Lees and woodland to the north of the nursery at the Pilgrims Way no longer remains. There were three small orchards in the vicinity of Spearpoint Corner and Kennington Hall with a larger orchard at Wilmington Farm on the gentle east facing slopes of the Gault Clay.



Ecology



Features lost since 1870's



Section 2 Assessment

Assessment Summary

This county area sits to the north of Ashford in a low lying gently undulating farmed landscape to the west of the Great Stour and bounded by the Ashford – Canterbury railway to the east. Kennington Hall, an old house with parkland and large plant nursery are situated within the eastern side.

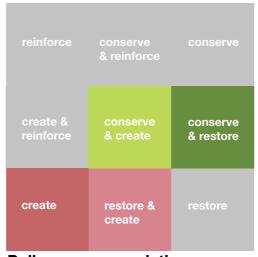
We have made some major adjustments to the Kent CLA boundary by excluding the lower lying areas within the Great Stour Valley, which relate better to the Stour Valley LCA.

The area is predominantly arable – hedgerows have been removed to give large prairie style fields with extensive views to the North Downs. Around Kennington Hall the parkland grounds and mixed plantations give a more wooded appearance and together with the mixed farming and rough grazing areas give some semi-natural habitats in an otherwise intensively farmed landscape. Similarly the Eastwell Farmlands are less intensively farmed with rolling arable and pasture enclosed in part by mature thick hedges and small isolated woodlands. To the north are poplar belts associated with the nursery.

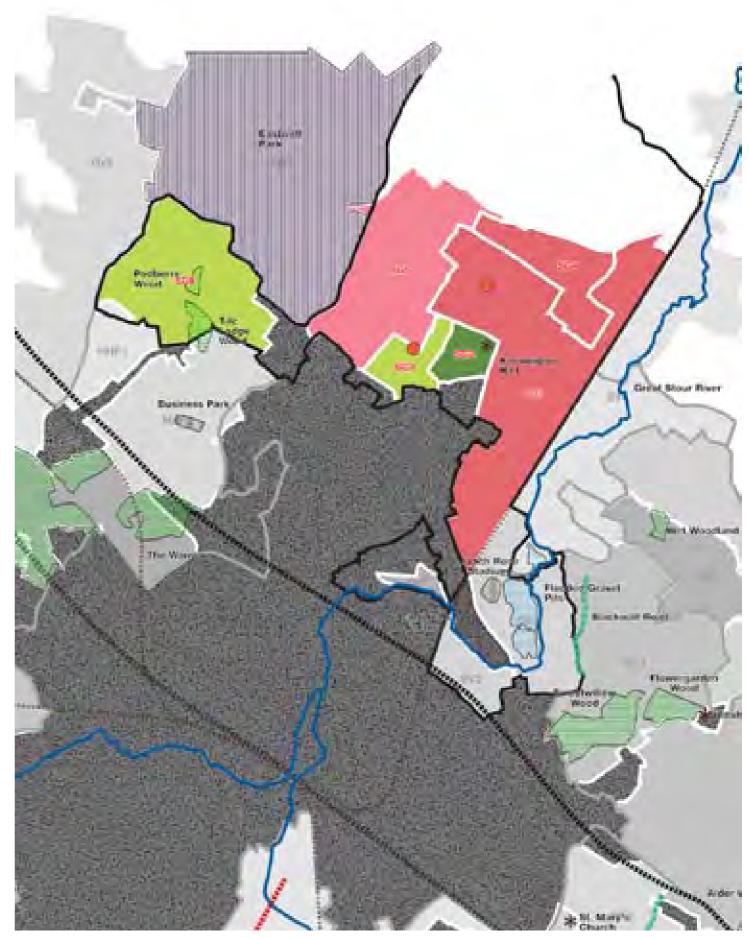
There are 2 oast houses suggesting that the area was once a varied landscape with orchards and pasture, probably enclosed by tall hedges and divided by shelterbelts.



Location of Stour Gap



Policy recommendation



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Open prairie style fields to the east of Kennington (D16.3)



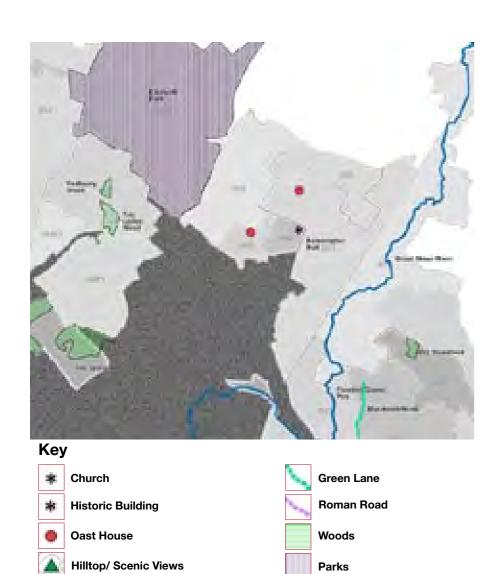
Pasture near Kennington Hall (D17.2)



Poplar belts near nursery to the south of Kempe's Corner (D18.3)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES	SG1	SG2	SG3	SG4	SG5	SG6
Landuse						
Farming Recreation Parkland	0	0	0		0	0
Woodland Business Park		8	0			0
Plant Nursery				0		
Topography						
Flat Gently undulating Rolling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steeply sloping Lakes/ ponds Streams/ dykes		0				
Vegetation cover						
Intact hedgerows			0			0
Hedgerow trees Feature trees Evidence of hedgerow clearance Evidence of woodland loss	0	0			0	0
Farming type						
Predominantly arable Mixed farming Mainly pasture Wet meadows	0	0	0		0	0
Local vernacular						
Ragstone, pegtiles, ship lap Oast house	0		0			
Visibility						
Open long distance Intermittent Restricted	0	•	0	0	0	0

Distinctive Elements



Flooded Gravel Pits



A stately hall with fine clock tower and ornate landscaped garden. Includes a small section of flat parkland with scattered mature oak and ash that is now grazed by cattle, aswell as a narrow stream

with alder and willow carr.



Situated within open arable farmland the oast house is distinctive in the landscape and especially in long views to the North Downs.

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River Stour

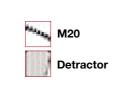
Detractors





CTRL/ Eurostar Rail Line
Railway Line

A2070(T)





The railway line

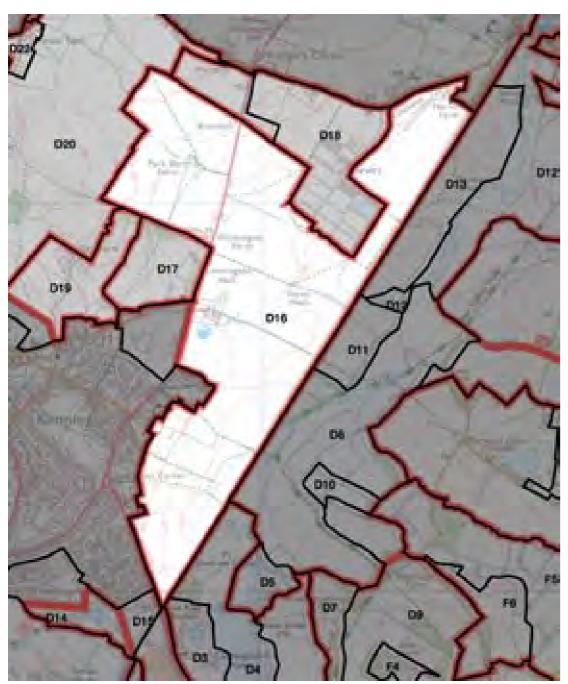
The Ashford to Canterbry railway line cuts through the valley. Situated on a slight embankment it is a noteable detractor in the open landscape, with noise carrying across the stour gap.

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Section 3 Field Work & Data Sheets

SG 1 Wilmington Farmlands



Location of SG 1 within Stour Gap

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District Landscape Type: SG1 Wilmington Farmlands

Comprising: D16

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large open arable fields gently sloping towards the Great Stour Valley.
- Remnant hedges with continuous hedges to north and west, ditches and shelter belts.
- Local railway line to east.
- Extensive panoramic views to North Downs.
- Oast House at Park Barn Farm.

ANALYSIS

Condition

Pattern of elements: low
Detracting features: moderate
Distinctiveness: low
Cultural heritage: low
Ecology: low
Functionality: high

Weak pattern of elements and extensive loss of hedgerows due to intensive farming. Railway impacts on lower area.

Sensitivity

Sense of place: low Landform: high Extent of tree cover: low Visibility: high

Indistinct and weak sense of place. Open plain with very few hedges and extensive panoramic views.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

create

SG 2 Kennington Place



Location of SG 2 within Stour Gap

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District Landscape Type: SG 2 Kennington Place

Comprising: D17

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Stately Kennington Hall and parkland grounds with mature parkland trees, topiary hedgerows and ornamental gardens and enclosed to north and east with mixed plantations.
- Cattle grazed pasture with stream and willow scrub, alders and poplars. Remnant orchard.

ANALYSIS

Condition

Pattern of elements: moderate

Detracting features: low

Distinctiveness: moderate
Cultural heritage: moderate
Ecology: moderate
Functionality: low

Coherent pattern of parkland elements that are still largely intact. Some noteable semi-natural habitats such as rough grazing, mature trees and stream.

Sensitivity

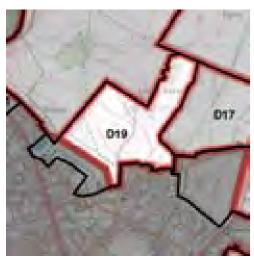
Sense of place: moderate
Landform: low
Extent of tree cover: moderate
Visibility: moderate

Historic parkland features give some sense of place. Variable tree cover and intermittent visibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & restore

SG 3 Ulley Farmlands



Location of SG 3 within Stour Gap

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District Landscape Type: SG 3 Ulley Farmlands Comprising: D19 (school playing fields have been omitted and included as part of the urban area)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Undulating mixed farmland with open arable fields, pasture and linear woodland strips (hornbeam), wetwoodland and hedges which give a wooded character.
- Long distance views to the North Downs.
- Oast House at Ulley Farm.

ANALYSIS

Condition

Pattern of elements: moderate

Detracting features: low

Distinctiveness: moderate Cultural heritage: moderate Ecology: moderate Functionality: high

Coherent pattern of landscape features and mix of semi-natural habitats.

Sensitivity

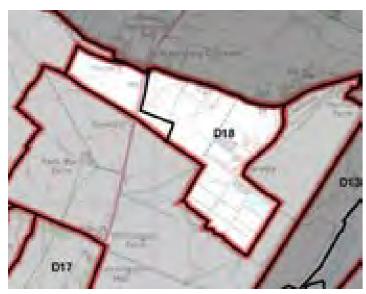
Sense of place: moderate Landform: moderate Extent of tree cover: moderate Visibility: moderate

The Oast House, mature hedges and wooded strips give an overall sense of place. The undulating slopes combined with tree cover give intermittent visibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & create

SG 4 Nursey



Location of SG 4 within Stour Gap

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District Landscape Type: SG 4 Nursery

Comprising: D18

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large scale plant nursery with glass houses, polytunnels and mature poplar shelter belts.
- Gently sloping ground with views to North Downs and south towards Ashford.

ANALYSIS

Condition

Pattern of elements: low

Detracting features: low

Distinctiveness: low
Cultural heritage: low
Ecology: low
Functionality: high

A working modern plant nursery.

Sensitivity

Sense of place: low

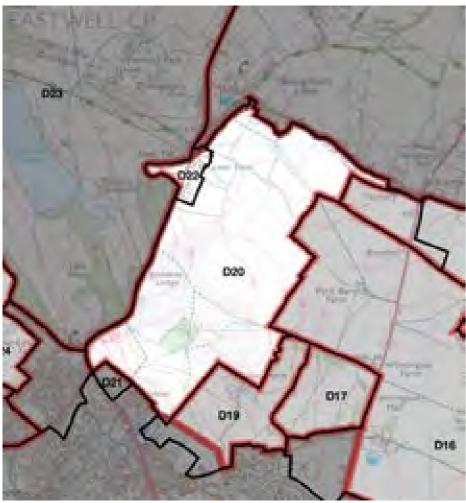
Landform: moderate
Extent of tree cover: low
Visibility: high

Long distance views and high visibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

create

SG 5 Broughton Lees Farmlands



Location of SG 5 within Stour Gap

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District Landscape Type: SG 5 Broughton Lees Farmlands

Comprising: D20

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large sloping prairie style open arable fields with remnant hedgerow trees.
- Discrete woodland block with stream.
- Open long distance views to North Downs to north and east.

ANALYSIS

Condition

Pattern of elements: low Detracting features: low Distinctiveness: low Cultural heritage: low Ecology: low Functionality: high

Many hedgerows have been grubbed up due to intensive farming with a loss of landscape features.

Sensitivity

Sense of place: low

Landform: moderate

Extent of tree cover: low Visibility: high

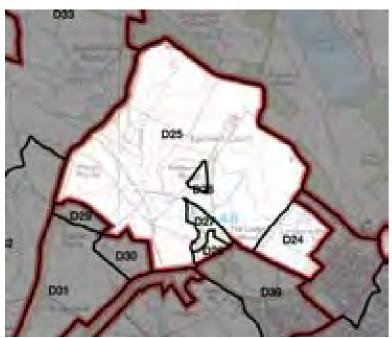
Sense of place is weak. Visibility is high.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

restore & create

- restore hedges and riparian framework with shaws

SG 6 Eastwell Farmlands



Location of SG 6 within Stour Gap

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District Landscape Type: SG 6 Eastwell Farmlands

Comprising: D24, D25, D26, D27, D29

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Rolling arable and pasture with medium sized fields generally divided by mature thick hedges, but which have in places disappeared leaving remnant mature oaks.
- Small hornbeam coppice (part pre-1810 woodland) and poplar plantation give a wooded feel to the valley.
- Noise from the M20 evident.
- Long distance views from elevated parts to Ashford to south.

ANALYSIS

Condition

Pattern of elements: moderate

Detracting features: low

Distinctiveness: moderate
Cultural heritage: moderate
Ecology: moderate
Functionality: high

A fairly coherent pattern of elements with rolling arable fields and old coppiced woods in the valley, but with some loss of field boundaries.

Sensitivity

Sense of place: moderate
Landform: moderate
Extent of tree cover: moderate
Visibility: moderate

A fairly distinctive character which has undergone some alteration over time. Visibility is variable – confined where woodlands, and long distance from elevated parts to north.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & create

- plant more woodlands and reinstate hedges

Stour Gap SG1: Wilmington Farmlands

Location: D16 Wilmington Farm

Map reference: TR034453

Context:

Kent LCA: The Stour: Stour Gap

HLT: 1.11 Large regular with straight boundaries

Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?

TOPOGRAPHY	Apparent	Landform Falling towards river	North Downs prominent to north
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Limited to boundaries and hedgerows	Views within Open arable
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow clearance, especially to east, shelter belts	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable dominant Scattered farmsteads insignificant	Seasonal variation

Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?

Natural features		Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable and pasture	Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Tiny copse north of pub	Species Pine, alder, elm
Hedgerow frees	Heritage features Shelter belt, few standards	Species Beech, pine, poplar shelter belts. Scattered oak, ash, walnut, sycamore.
Other trees	Heritage features	Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Ditches, few remnant hedges, stronger to west	Species Hawthorn, ash, elder
Highways	Verges Bisected by A28	Other features Footpaths
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads Park Barn Farm, Wilmington Farm, pub and cottages
Other features	Oast at Park Barn Farm House	

D16 Wilmington Farm

D16 ctd. Brief description: Large open arable farmland with long views to the North Downs. Land falls away towards the river, otherwise mainly flat. Some linear shelter belts, hedgerows stronger to north and west, mainly hawthorn. Scattered farmsteads along A28 that bisects parcel. Visual unity - assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features **Detractors:** Interrupted A28 bisects parcel. Hedge clearance to south. **Ecological integrity –** how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife? Extent of semi-natural habit Ecological corridors Low Small copse Some continuous hedgerows

ASHFORD LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Intensity of land use High - arable

Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change

Tree Cover Extent Age structure Boundaries, shelter Mature Good

Boundaries, shelter belts, tiny copse

Field Boundaries

Ditch, some remnant hedges

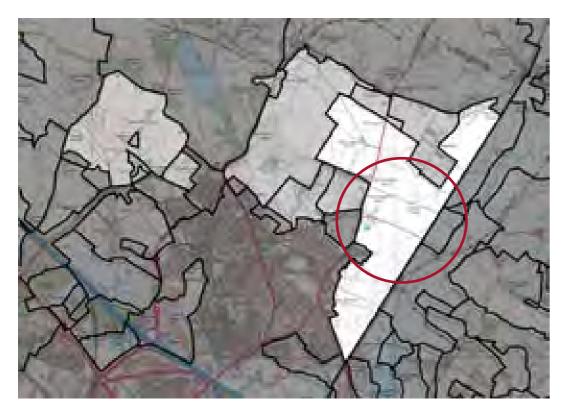
Variable

Other features

Oast at Park Barn Farm and pilgrim ways trackway

Good

Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place



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Photograph locations/ direction











Stour Gap SG2: Kennington Place

Location: Kennington Halll

Surveyors: MG/LE

Study Sector:		Kennington		(Map ref: TR028457)	
County Landscape Character Area: The Stour: Stour Gap					
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	10.2 19th Century and later parkland			
Boundaries:	undaries: A28 to east, farmland of D16 to north, farmland of D1 west, D16 and then Kennington urban area to south				
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Slight rise to west	ndform Views out (long/short/restricted)		
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent+ Insignificant	Key visual elements Very apparent scattered parkland trees, plantations to north and east boundaries	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open		
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Stock fencing	Pattern and scale Large paddocks		
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Kennington Hall	Pattern		
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Cattle grazed pasture	Seasonal v Deciduo		
KEY CHARACTERIS	TICS – in what v	l way do the following c	contribute to	o local distinctiveness?	
Natural features	Stream to south, dry in places		Species associations Alder, willow scrub		
Landuse/farm type	Primary Cattle grazin			Other None	
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Plantations to boundaries			Species Sycamore, horse chestnut, maple, ash, poplar, holly, hazel, hornbeam, birch, lime, yew	
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Topiary hedgerow and ornamentals at Kennington Hall; scattered in grounds; linear poplars to north Species Oak and ash, poplars				
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Chestnut paling/barbed wire fence to east, wall of Hall, stock fencing within, ditch to north			Species	
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access A28 major road to east, footpath runs north-south through grazed parkland		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes) Treed lane to south		
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Kennington Hall (clock tower), Rose cottage			Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing	
Other features (such as moats)					

D17 Kennington Hall

Brief summary description:

Reference: D17 ctd.

ASHFORD LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

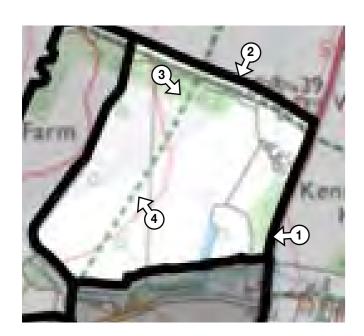
Small to medium sized parcel of mainly flat parkland grounds to the stately Kennington Hall. Comprises cattle grazed pasture with scattered mature trees. Bounded to east by major A28 (not apparent within parcel) and to farmland elsewhere. A stream runs through the parcel to the south with alder, and there is a small area of willow scrub at

•		of the parcel. Mixed plant g at Kennington Hall.	ation woodland	d strips to east	
	•	sess the views, outlook, adjo any detracting features and		•	
				Intact Interrupted Fragmented	
Ecological integrity wildlife?	-how we	ell does this area of country:	side function as	a habitat for	
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches Woodland strips, stream and willow scrub Ecological corridors and networks High Moderate - high					
Low					
Intensity of land use and Moderate Condition of heritage to change		es – assess current condition	and make not	e of vulnerability	
Tree Cover	Age str Mainl diebo	y mature parkland trees, soi	I	ood a riable oor	
Field Boundaries	1	ol of historic field pattern and condi internal stock fencing	-	ood a riable oor	
Other features	State	y hall		bod ariable bor	
Impact of built deve vernacular, charac	•	r – how well does modern de ense of place	evelopment res	spect local	

Type A28	Siting	Design Well screened	Extent	High
				Moderate
				Low



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Photograph locations/ direction









Stour Gap SG3: Ulley Farmlands

Location: Lilley Farm

Surveyors: AK/MG

Study Sector:		Kennington		(Map ref: TR023456)		
County Landscape	e Character	The Stour: Stour Go	Gap			
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	1.10 Medium regu	regular with straight boundaries			
Boundaries:		Arable of D20 to n	orth; Kennii	ngton to south; pasture of D17		
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Slopes towards farm	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long distance to north east and North Downs; restricted elsewhere			
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent+ Insignificant	Key visual elements Woodland strips, trees at farm, hedgerow trees, small wet woodland	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open arable field, filtered through tree			
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedgerow trees / linear wooded strips	Pattern and scale Medium size arable, regular, smaller pasture			
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Lilley Farm; playing fields for school	Pattern			
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal variation			
KEY CHARACTERIST		,	ontribute to	o local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Rivers/knolls/po Stream	onds		Species associations alder		
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable			Other Pasture		
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Linear strips to west and north east Small wet copse to south east			Species Field maple, oak, ash Alder, sycamore		
Tree cover	Groups/linear/ha Hedgerow tre	edgerow/scattered/shelterb ees	Ash, oak, sycamore, alder, horse chestnut, elder			
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Hedges			Species Hawthorn, yew, field maple, blackthorn, holly, dog rose, hazel, elder		
Highways and footpaths	access Footpath	ray/local road/footpath/no	Other features (such as tree-lined lanes) Well hedged lane to farm			
Built features	Villages/settlem Oast at Lilley	ents/farms/churches/oasts Farm		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing		
Other features (such as moats)						

D19 Lilley Farm

ASHFORD LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Reference: D19 ctd.

Brief summary description:

Medium sized highly variable parcel of undulating mixed farmland, school playing fields and farmhouse with fine oast. Comprises open arable fields and smaller sections of pasture. Evident slope towards stream and farmhouse. Very strong linear woodland strips and hedgerows in addition to a small wet woodland give a well treed appearance. Fine long views to the North Downs.

Visual context and unity - assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance

School playing fields Intact Interrupted Fragmented

Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?

Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches	Ecological corridors and networks	High
Wet woodland, linear	Thick hedge, hedgerow trees, stream	Moderate - high
plantations		Low

Intensity of land use and habitat trend

Variable

Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change

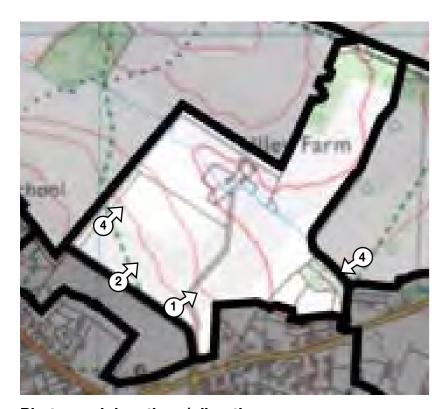
Tree Cover	Age structure Mainly mature	Good Variable Poor
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Some strong hedge and hedgerow trees, some stock fencing to east	Good Variable Poor
Other features	oast	Good Variable Poor

Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place

Туре	Siting	Design	Extent	High
Playing fields	Urban edge	Well screened		Moderate
				Low



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Photograph locations/ direction









Stour Gap SG4: Nursery

Low

Settlement/ Edge conditions Survey Date: 26/09/05 Reference: D18

Location: Nursery

Surveyors: LE/ AK

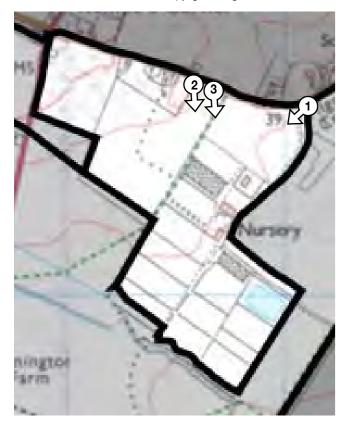
Study Sector:		Kennington	(Map ref: TR037461)
County Landscape	Character	The Stour: Stour Gap	
Area:		111e 31001. 31001 Gap	
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	1.9 Small reg with straight bou	undaries (NOW NURSERY)
Boundaries:		D16 to S, W & E	
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Apparent	Key visual elements plant nursery with glass house No public access to main bui	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform level	
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements mature poplar tree belts	
FORM & LAYOUT	Sprawling		
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	No public access to determine age	
KEY FEATURES – in v settlement?	what way do the	following contribute to the loc	al distinctiveness of the
Building style	Roof & materials/s Glasshouses ar		
Street Scene	Main road with	ooundaries/ materials native mix hedges	Planting/ signage/ lighting
Edge condition	New housing N/A		
Other features (include detractors)	-		
	•	quil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ ac vith restricted public access.	ccessible?

D 1	8	Nursery
		I TUI JUI Y

Reference: D18					
Brief summary deso landscape:	cription of se	ttlement/ edge con	ditions and it	s siting v	within the wider
Nursery growing tree gently to the south of					
		ss the views, outlook, detracting features			
Horticultural landhol that reads as a unit houses may be con and south towards A	and can be sidered unsig	seen from a distanc	e. Extent of (green	Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity	/ edge cond	dition – how well doe	es the settlen	nent ho	ld together
Extent of settlement	S	Not really a settleme to much as agricultu puildings	ral	gh oderate	
			Lo	W	
Intensity of built form and Agricultural use Condition of herita		- assess current cond	lition and mo	ake note	e of vulnerability
to change	_				,
Local vernacular	Survival of	features and condition			ood ıriable or
Tree Cover	Age struct older tre	ure es related to wind b	reaks	- 1	ood I riable or
Field Boundaries		historic field pattern and ndscape with poplo eaks			ood ıriable or
Other features	Low wel	I weathered brick w	ılla	•	ood nriable or
vernacular, charac		now well does mode se of place	ern developr	ment res	pect local
not applicable		- Davis			
Туре	Siting	Design	Extent		High



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Photograph locations/ direction







Stour Gap SG5: Broughton Lees Farmlands

Survey Date: 4.11.04 Reference: D20 Location: East of Brookies Lodge Surveyors: AK/MG

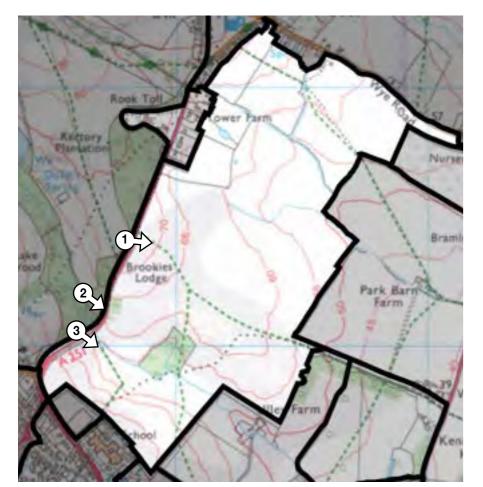
Study Sector:		Kennington		(Map ref: TR023463)	
County Landscape Area:	e Character	The Stour: Stour Go	r Gap		
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	1.13 Prairie fields (1 boundary loss)	9 th Century	enclosure with extensive	
Boundaries:				well estate to west; arable of arable of D16 to east	
TOPOGRAPHY	Apparent	Landform Gently undulating	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long distance to north and north ea short to south; restricted west		
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Woodland block Small strip of coppice	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open		
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Insignificant	Key visual elements Remnant hedgerow trees	Pattern and Large, pro		
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern		
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal vo	ariation	
KEY CHARACTERIS	TICS – in what v	way do the following c	ontribute to	local distinctiveness?	
Natural features	Rivers/knolls/p Wooded stre			Species associations Willow, alder, ash, field maple, elder, emergent vegetation	
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable			Other	
Woodlands	Coppice/planta Woodland bl Coppice adj chestnut		and sweet	Species Black poplar, willow, oak, goat willow	
Tree cover		edgerow/scattered/shelterb	elt	Species	
Field boundaries	Remnant, sco continuous h north	/stock fence/electric attered hedgerow tree edgerow along lane, h	nigh in	Species Hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, ash, hazel	
Highways and footpaths	access Footpath net Major road to	o west, local road to no		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)	
Built features	Villages/settlem	ents/farms/churches/oasts		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing Housing to south	
Other features (such as moats)					

Reference: D20 ctd.

Brief summary descri	ption:					
Continuous hedgerov chestnut coppice to v	v along A vest at ro	with woodland block a 251 road boundary. Si ad edge. Well woode roodland block. Open	mall str d strec	ip of ha am with	zel ar matu	nd sweet ire trees and
		ess the views, outlook, ny detracting features				
Noise from A251						Intact
Ecological integrity - wildlife?	how well	l does this area of cou	ntryside	e functio	on as	a habitat for
Extent of semi-natural hab patches Woodland	oitat and	networks Hedgerow and wood stream	ed	Mode	erate	
Intensity of land use and habitat trend High Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability						
to change	rieuloles	- assess correin conar	non ar	ia make	, 11016	Orvoinerability
Tree Cover	Age struc Mature				Go	ood
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Variable				riable	
Other features						
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place						
Type Siffi	ng	Design	Exter	nt		

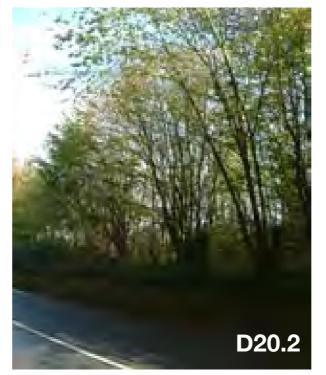


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Photograph locations/ direction







Stour Gap SG6: Eastwell Farmlands

Surveyors:	AK/M
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Study Sector:				(Map ref: TR010459)		
	County Landscape Character Area:		The Stour: Stour Gap			
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	1.9 Small regular	.9 Small regular with straight boundaries			
Boundaries:				parkland; west to D25 arable; nd; east to Goat Lees housing		
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Rise to north	From nor	(long/short/restricted) th: medium views to south, y restricted by boundary trees		
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow trees at boundary	Views withi Open	in (filtered/framed/open/restricted)		
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Mature hedgerows	Small, re			
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern			
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Rough pasture				
KEY CHARACTERIST	fICS – in what v	way do the following	contribute to	o local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Rivers/knolls/p	onds		Species associations		
Landuse/farm type	Primary Pasture			Other		
Woodlands	Coppice/planta	ition		Species		
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Hedgerow trees on three sides			Species Oak, poplar, ash		
Field boundaries	Hedge / sunken lane to south			Species Hawthorn, damson, field maple		
Highways and footpaths				Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)		
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing Housing to north and east			
Other features (such as moats)						

ASHFORD LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Brief summary description:
Small reatengular parcel of rough parture analysed on three sides by continuous
Small, rectangular parcel of rough pasture enclosed on three sides by continuous
hedgerows with standards, overlooked by housing to north. Slight rise to north gives
southerly aspect. Sunken lane to south? is well wooded. Western hedgerow forms a
strong boundary with the arable of D25 and gives the parcel a unique and separate

Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance

Intact Interrupted Fragmented

Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?

İ	Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches	Ecological corridors and networks	High
	Lightly grazed pasture	Good high hedges and mature hedgerow trees	Moderate
			Low

Intensity of land use and habitat trend

Low - moderate

Reference: D24 ctd.

character.

Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change

Tree Cover	Age structure	Good
	Mature	Variable
		Poor
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition	Good
		Variable
		Poor
Other features		Good
		Variable
		Poor
Improved of built days	lanear bowwell door modern develop	

Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place

Туре	Siting	Design	Extent	High
				Moderate
				Low



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Photograph locations/ direction



Location: Eastwell Court

Surveyors: AK/MG

Study Sector:		Kennington	(Map ref: TR003464)			
County Landscape Area:	e Character	The Stour: Stour Go	ap			
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	1.13 Prairie fields (boundary loss)	1.13 Prairie fields (19 th Century enclosure with extensive boundary loss)			
Boundaries:			d parcels of	and north; arable of D32 and f wetland, arable, woodland,		
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant	Landform Rolling	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long to south and east; partial views to north and east			
TREE COVER				n (filtered/framed/open/restricted) n restricts views slightly		
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow to north	Pattern and Large, irre			
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Apparent					
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements arable	Seasonal v	ariation		
KEY CHARACTERIS	TICS – in what v	way do the following c	ontribute to	o local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Rivers/knolls/pe Rolling landfo			Species associations		
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable			Other paddock		
Woodlands	Coppice/planta		Species			
Tree cover	Remnant isol	ated oaks	erow/scattered/shelterbelt Species d oaks Oak			
Field boundaries	Hedgerow – some clearin			Species Ash, oak, field maple, dog rose, damson, hawthorn, yew, hazel		
Highways and footpaths	access Footpath					
Built features	1	ents/farms/churches/oasts reened property		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing		
Other features (such as moats)				1		

D25 Eastwell Court

Reference:	D25 ctd.	

ASHFORD LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Brief	summar	y descri	ption:

Large irregular shaped parcel of open rolling arable farmland with long views to south and west. Strong boundaries with Eastwell Estate (D23) and the woodland of D28, D26 and D27. Apparent farm to north east, small paddocks and garden trees associated with property to north west. Isolated mature oaks are distinctive and characteristic. Parcel surrounds and encloses poplar plantation of D28.

Visual context and unity - assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance

Noise and views of M20 to SW. Intact Charter House on skyline to south

Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?

Extent of semi-natural habitat and | Ecological corridors and patches networks Hedgerows and woodland Low Small ponds? edges

Intensity of land use and habitat trend

High

Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change

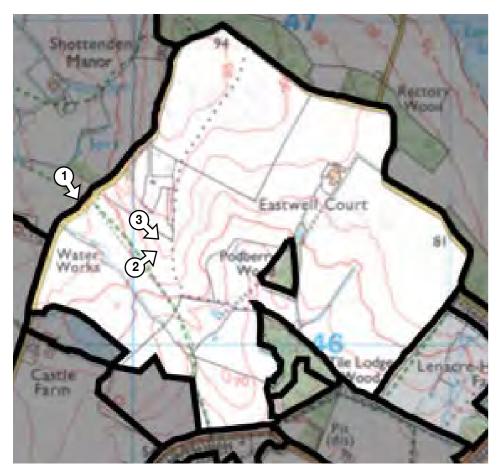
Tree Cover	Age structure Mature	Variable
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Hedgerow clearance	Variable
Other features		

Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place

Туре	Siting	Design	Extent	
Farm		Traditional farmhouse but modern farm sheds		Low



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Photograph locations/ direction







Survey Date: 4.11.04 Reference: TR 006458 Location: D26 Tile Lodge Wood S Surveyors: AK/MG

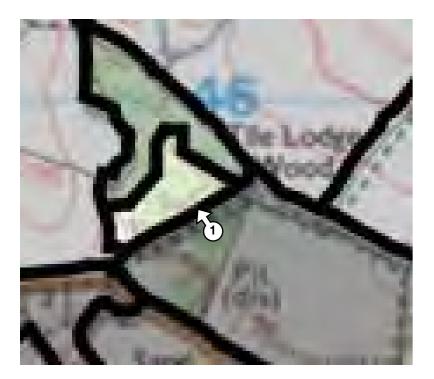
Development Are	a:	Sandyhurst				
County Landscape	e Character	The Stour: Stour C	The Stour: Stour Gap			
Area:						
Historic Landscap	е Туре:	4.9 Pre-19 th Cent	4.9 Pre-19 th Century coppices			
Boundaries:			Woodland of D27 to north and east; woodland strip in D39 to south; open arable of D25 to west			
TOPOGRAPHY		Landform	Views out ((long/short/restricted)		
	Insignificant	Slight fall to west		ws from edge only		
TREE COVER	Dominant	Key visual elements Coppice	Views withi Restricte	in (filtered/framed/open/restricted) d		
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern and	d scale		
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern			
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements Coppice	s Seasonal variation			
KEY CHARACTERIS	TICS – in what v	way do the following	contribute to	o local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ p	onds	Species associations			
Landuse/farm type	Primary			Other		
Woodlands	Coppice/planta	ition oppice, oak standard	ds	Species Hornbeam, oak		
_						
Tree cover	Groups/linear/h	edgerow/scattered/shelte	rbelt	Species		
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches	/stock fence/electric		Species		
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railw access	vay/local road/footpath/n	ay/local road/footpath/no public Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)			
Built features	Villages/settlem	ents/farms/churches/oast	Oasts Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing			
Other features (such as moats)				1		

Reference: D26 ctd.

Brief summary description:						
Small woodland comprising hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Joins to woodland of D27 and wooded section of D39, as well as wooded sunken lane? to east, to form an important feature. Noise from M20 evident.						
1	•	ss the views, outlo detracting featu	•			•
M20 noise						Intact
Ecological integr wildlife?	ity – how well (does this area of o	countrysid	e functio	on as	a habitat for
patches 100%	IIICIMOIK2					
Low Condition of heri		- assess current co	ondition ar	nd make	note	of vulnerability
to change	lage lealores	assess contin et	mamon ar	ia make	. 11010	. Or voirierability
Tree Cover	Age struct Unmana	rure aged coppice			Go	ood
Field Boundaries	Survival of	historic field pattern c	ind condition	1		
Other features						
	Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place					
Туре	Siting	Design	Exte	nt		
M20 - noise						Low



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Photograph locations/ direction



Location: Tile Lodge Wood N

Surveyors: AK/MG

Study Sector:		Kennington	Kennington (Map ref: TR005459)			
County Landscape	e Character	The Stour: Stour (Gap			
Historic Landscape	е Туре:	4.3 Other pre-18	4.3 Other pre-1810 woodland			
Boundaries:		Woodland of D2 and west	Woodland of D26 to south; open arable of D25 to north, east and west			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Flat woodland	1.0.00 000 (1.0.00, 1.0.00, 1.0.00)			
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Coppice	Views with Restricte	in (filtered/framed/open/restricted) d		
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern and scale			
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern			
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Coppice	Seasonal variation			
KEY CHARACTERIS	TICS – in what v	way do the following	contribute to	o local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ p	onds		Species associations		
Landuse/farm type	Primary			Other		
Woodlands		oppice, oak standar	e, oak standards Species Hornbeam, oak, ash, hawthorn, field maple, ho			
Tree cover	Groups/linear/h	edgerow/scattered/shelte	erbelt	Species		
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches Ditch and fer	/stock fence/electric nce to east		Species		
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railw access Footpath to S	vay/local road/footpath/n SE	o public	Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)		
Built features	Villages/settlem	ents/farms/churches/oast	is	Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing		
Other features (such as moats)						

Reference. D24 C1	u.							
Brief summary d	Brief summary description:							
Small, narrow strip of hornbeam coppice with oak standards adjoining similar woodland of D26. Dense understorey within gives very restricted views. Surrounded on three sides by open arable farmland of D25. Traffic noise of M20 apparent.								
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance								
M20 noise Interrupted Fragmented								
Ecological integ wildlife?	rity – how w	ell doe	es this area of cour	ntryside	functio	on as	a habitat for	
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches 100% Ecological corridors and networks Joins woodland of D2 and D39, sunken lane SE					High Moderate Low			
Low Condition of her to change			sess current condit	tion and	d make	note	e of vulnerability	
Tree Cover	1 -	ructure anage	d coppice				riable or	
Field Boundaries	Survivo	al of hist	of historic field pattern and condition			Good Variable Poor		
Other features		V				ood riable or		
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place								
Туре	Siting		Design	Exten	ł		High	
M20 - noise							Moderate	
							Low	



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Photograph locations/ direction



Location: Castle Farm

Surveyors: LH/MG

Study Sector:		Kennington	(Map ref: TQ998460)			
County Landscap Area:	e Character	The Stour: Stour Go	The Stour: Stour Gap			
Historic Landscap	е Туре:	1.6 Rectilinear with	1.6 Rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Boundaries:		North and east to and lane to west.	North and east to arable of D25; south to arable of D31; D32 and lane to west.			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Lake, man-made bund, slopes towards lane	Views out (long/short/restricted) From boundaries, long views in all directions			
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Planted boundaries to lake and scrub	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open across water, otherwise filtered			
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Fenced pond	Pattern and scale			
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Castle Farm on lane	Pattern			
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements	Seasonal variation			
KEY CHARACTERIS	TICS – in what v	way do the following c	ontribute to	o local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Rivers/knolls/ponds Naturalised pond			Species associations Alder, some marginal vegetation		
Landuse/farm type	Primary		Other			
Woodlands	Coppice/planta	tion	Species			
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Linear planted trees around pond, scrub and young trees			Species Alder, field maple, hawthorn, dog rose		
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric stock fence			Species		
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access No public access			Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)		
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Farm			Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing		
Other features (such as moats)	Naturalised p	oond		1		

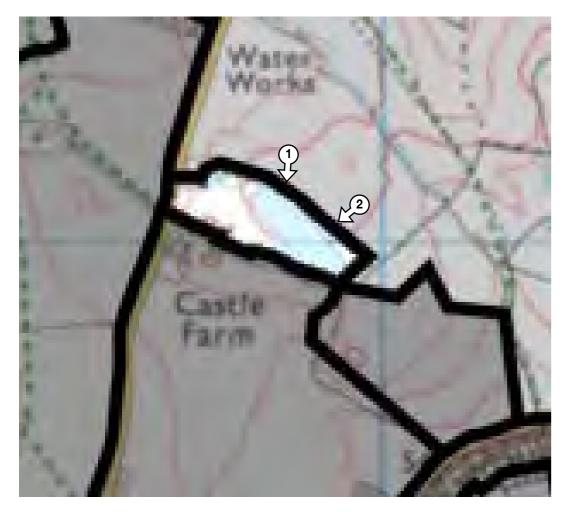
D29 Castle Farm

Reference: D29 ctd.

Brief summary description:						
brief summary a	escription:					
shooting or fishing	g. Planted a	rising a naturalised mo t edges with alder, scr and well screened in	ub regenerating.	Land slopes west		
	•	ssess the views, outlool any detracting feature		•		
Interrupted by no	Intact Interrupted Fragmented					
Ecological integ wildlife?	rity – how w	ell does this area of co	ountryside functio	n as a habitat for		
Extent of semi-nature patches	al habitat and	Ecological corridors and networks	High	High		
Pond and scrub			Mode	Moderate		
			Low			
Intensity of land use Low Condition of her to change		nd es – assess current con	dition and make	note of vulnerability		
Tree Cover	Ago st	ructuro		Good		
nee Cover	1 -	Mixed – mainly young		Variable Poor		
Field Boundaries		al of historic field pattern and ical pattern lost	Good Variable Poor			
Other features	Pond	Pond G				
Impact of built d		l – how well does mod ense of place	lern developmen	t respect local		
Туре	Siting	Design	Extent	High		
M20 - Noise				Moderate		
				Low		

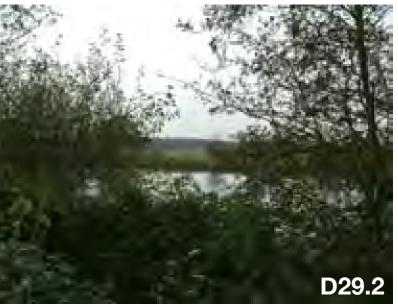


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