



Ashford Local Development Framework Landscape Character Study

for Ashford Borough Council & English Partnerships

ASSESSMENT & DATA SET : Stour Valley

November 2005

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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 woudl 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 Babbie/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.

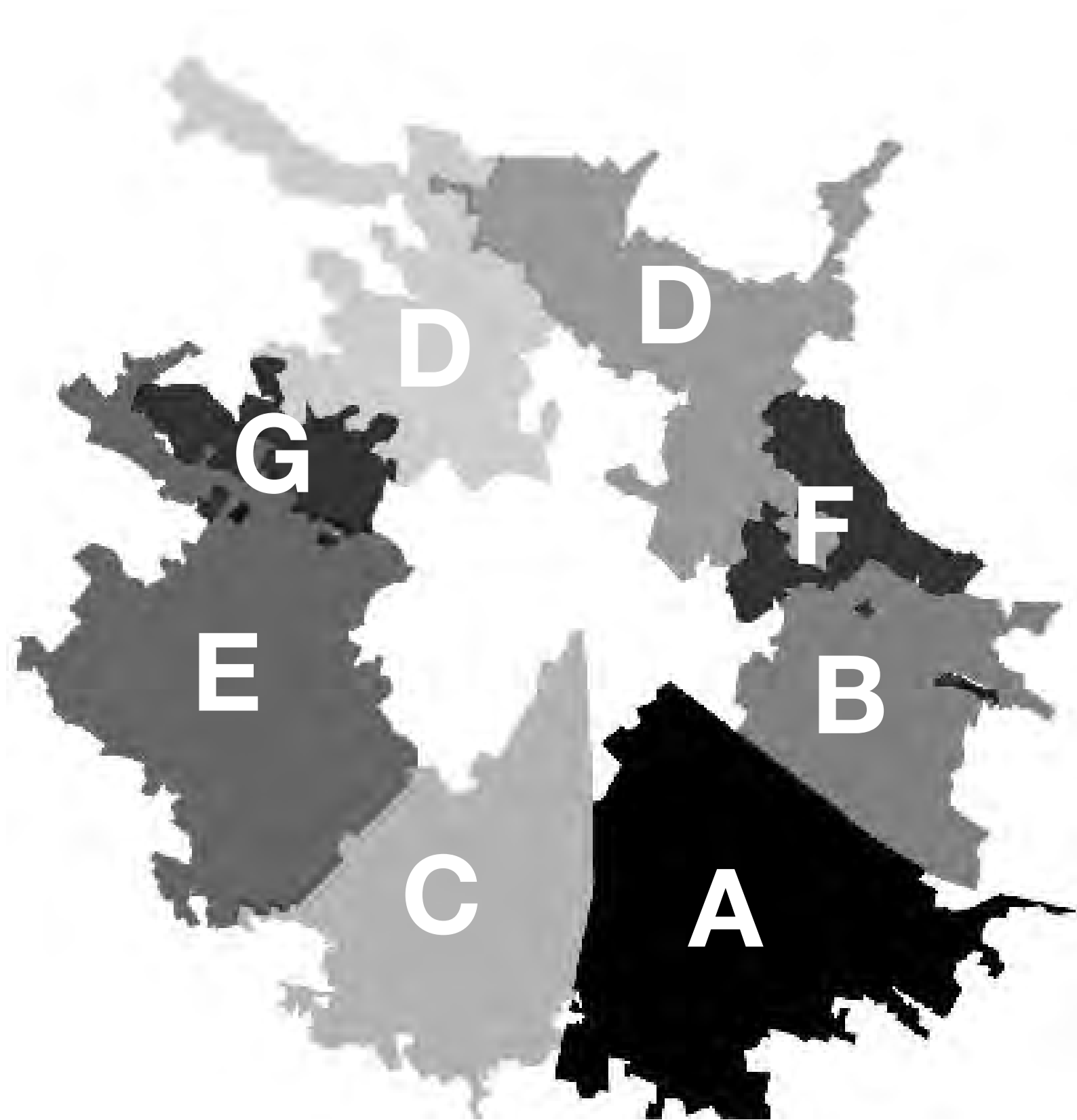
Each LDU is numbered, each filed photograph carries the LDU reference and a photograph location number reference - e.g. D1.3 for LDU D1, third photograph location. The photographs have been saved as jpegs and were generally taken at 1Gb resolution. This data set includes the location maps for the key photographs taken of each LDU. The photogrpahs 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.

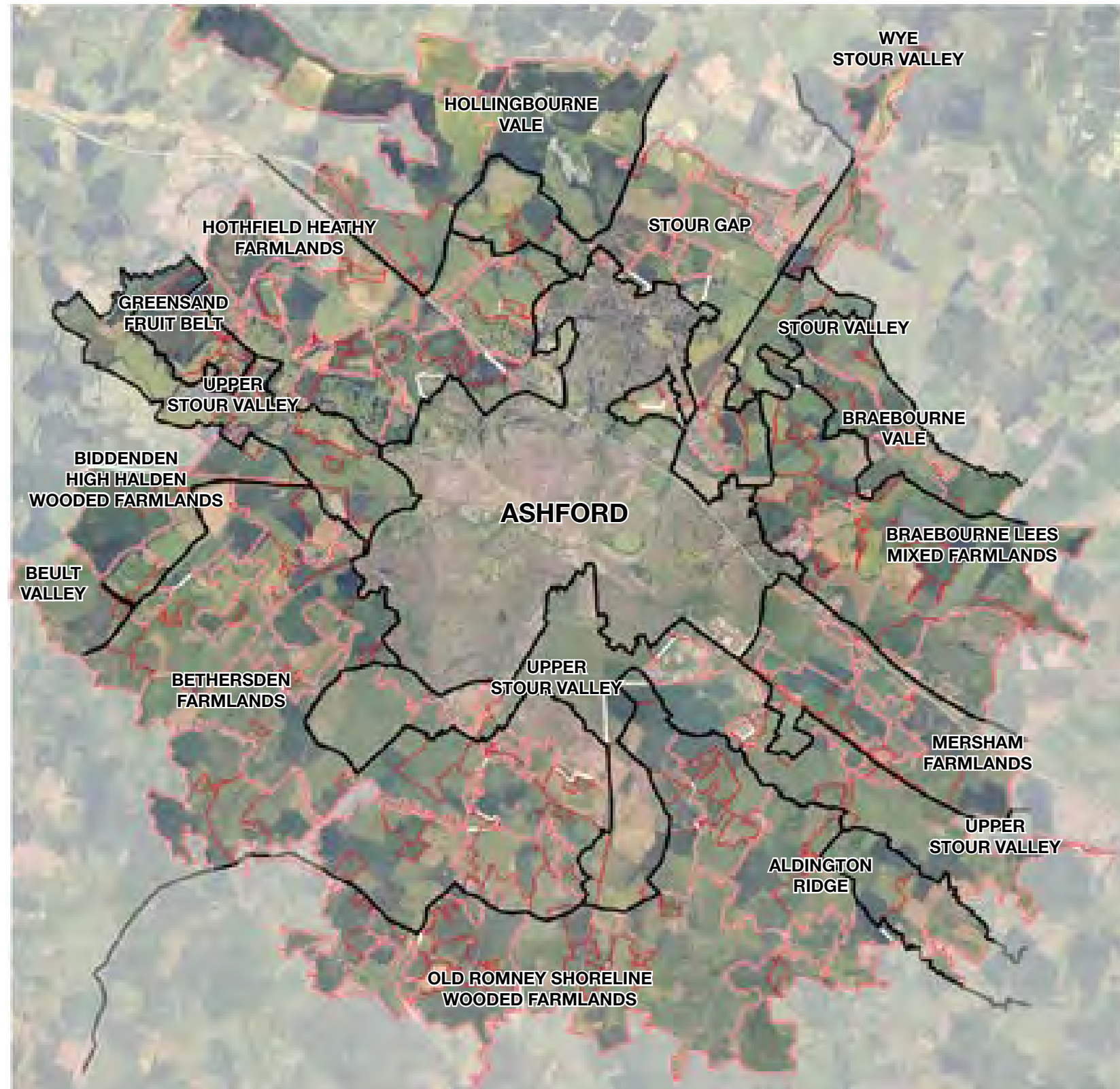
For the assessments the LDUs were grouped by similarity into large blocks we have called District Landscape types (DLT). The 58 DLTs were assessed to fall into one of nine categories used by the County Landscape Character Study. A team of four senior landscape architects and ecologists visited each area 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 ths 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.

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Studio Engleback November 2005



Study Area Fieldwork Sectors



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The Ashford Character Study Area

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 Valley incorporates the flat-bottomed floodplain of the Great Stour and Little Stour rivers. It is a narrow character area which runs from south west of Canterbury, then through the city itself and on to Grove at the edge of the Chislet marshes. The Little Stour drains a small area fromWickhambreaux and Wingham down to its outlet on the marsh of West Stourmouth.

The valley is well contained as the fertile, well cultivated sides rise resolutely on either side of the flat valley floor. Near Canterbury, the banks are steeper and accentuated by woodland on the tops. At Chartham and Stamford Street the slopes are dramatically steep.

The course of the river winds through wet, marshy and reed fringed land which has scrub and dense riparian vegetation along the river margins. Agriculturally, it is classified as poor, the alluvial soils being generally waterlogged with some peat.

Wetland pasture is still much in evidence although larger arable fields sweep up the valley sides, such as near Trenleypark Wood. The pasture still exists in small pockets either side of the meandering river, where it is drained by a close network of regular ditches. A variety of scrub vegetation and trees, including poplars and willows, line the ditches and enclose small spaces within the valley.

There are few routes which cross the two valleys, but busy feeder roads to the industrial units and the main routes out of Canterbury traverse the length of the Great Stour. A railway line enforces the impact of the transport corridor, and inhibits access across the valley. Near the urban areas, the valley is noisy and fragmented.

Both rivers are characterised by the old watermills which can be found along their courses. At Wickhambreaux, the tall weatherboarded mill house provides a striking feature at the edge of the picturesque village. Mill ponds and mill races are part of the watercourse, now redundant and overgrown in many cases, such as in Milner Close near Fordwich.

The much shorter course of the Little Stour runs through a banked canalised section through the tiny hamlet of Seaton. The river was diverted during the 18th century to serve a purpose-built mill and now follows a shallow depression through wetland pasture.

Gravel extraction has been a major influence on the valley landscape. Wet pits cover vast areas of the valley floor from Chilham to Upstreet. Old pits with open water, spits and islands, and the surrounding marshland, provide Kent's most extensive water and wetland habitats at Westbere Marshes, Stodmarsh and Preston Marshes.

The Ashford Landscape Character Study

- 100 % of this County Landscape Character Area (CLA), however we consider that the character extends into the neighbouring Wye Stour Valley CLT bounded by the Ashford Canterbury railway on the West
- There are 12 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 4 Historic landscape character types in this study area:
 - HLT 1 - Field Patterns
 - HLT 7 - Valley Floor and Water Management
 - HLT 11 - Recreation
 - HLT 12 - Extractive and other industry
- We have grouped these into 4 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:

- Adding D12 and D13 that follow the River and are bounded by the Canterbury railway line from the Wye Stour Valley CLT
- Adding D1, D3, D4, D6 and D14 from the Stour Gap CLA as these areas follow the Stour floodplain north of Ashford, and we read them as part of the Stour Valley Area
- D14 reduced in size to account for new development in its northern portion.
- Removing the Campbell's factory (D2) as this is clearly part of the town

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.

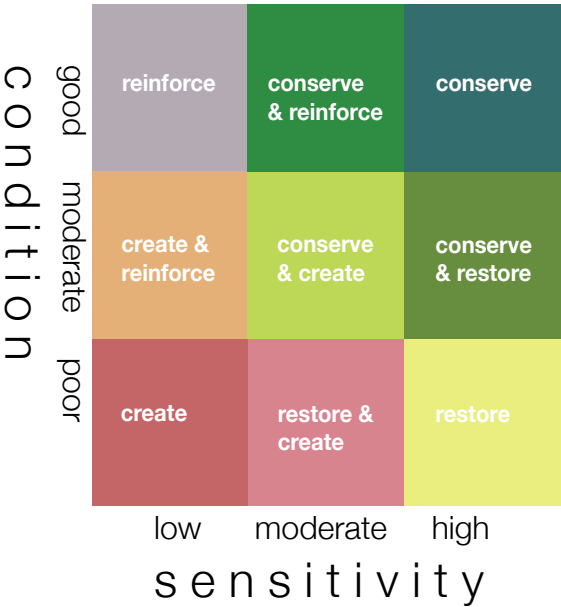
The physical attributes of the landscape are considered in conjunction with the historical and cultural influences, nature conservation interests and landuse. These factors are analysed further in the field to determine the key characteristics, aesthetics, visual unity, ecological integrity, condition 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



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Location of Stour Valley Landscape Character Area within study area



Location of Stour Valley District Areas

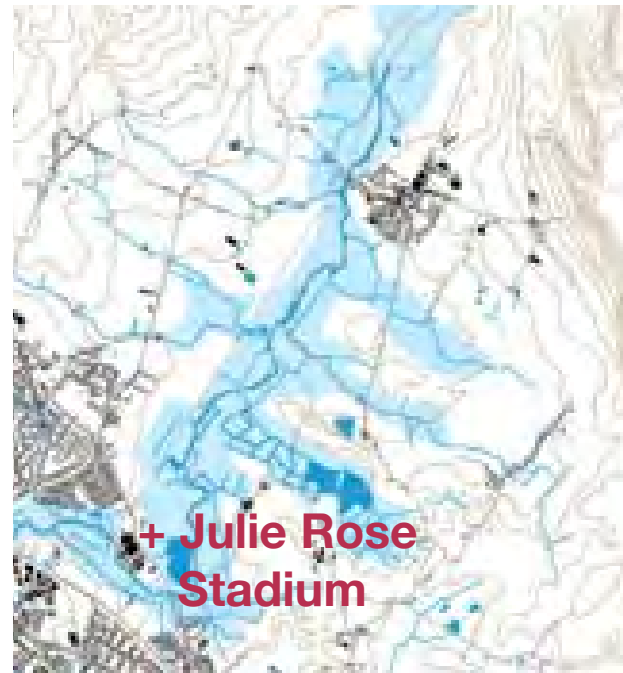
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Landscape context



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, corresponds to mineral workings now flooded in the bend of the river. Gault Clay in the central area as far as Wye 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

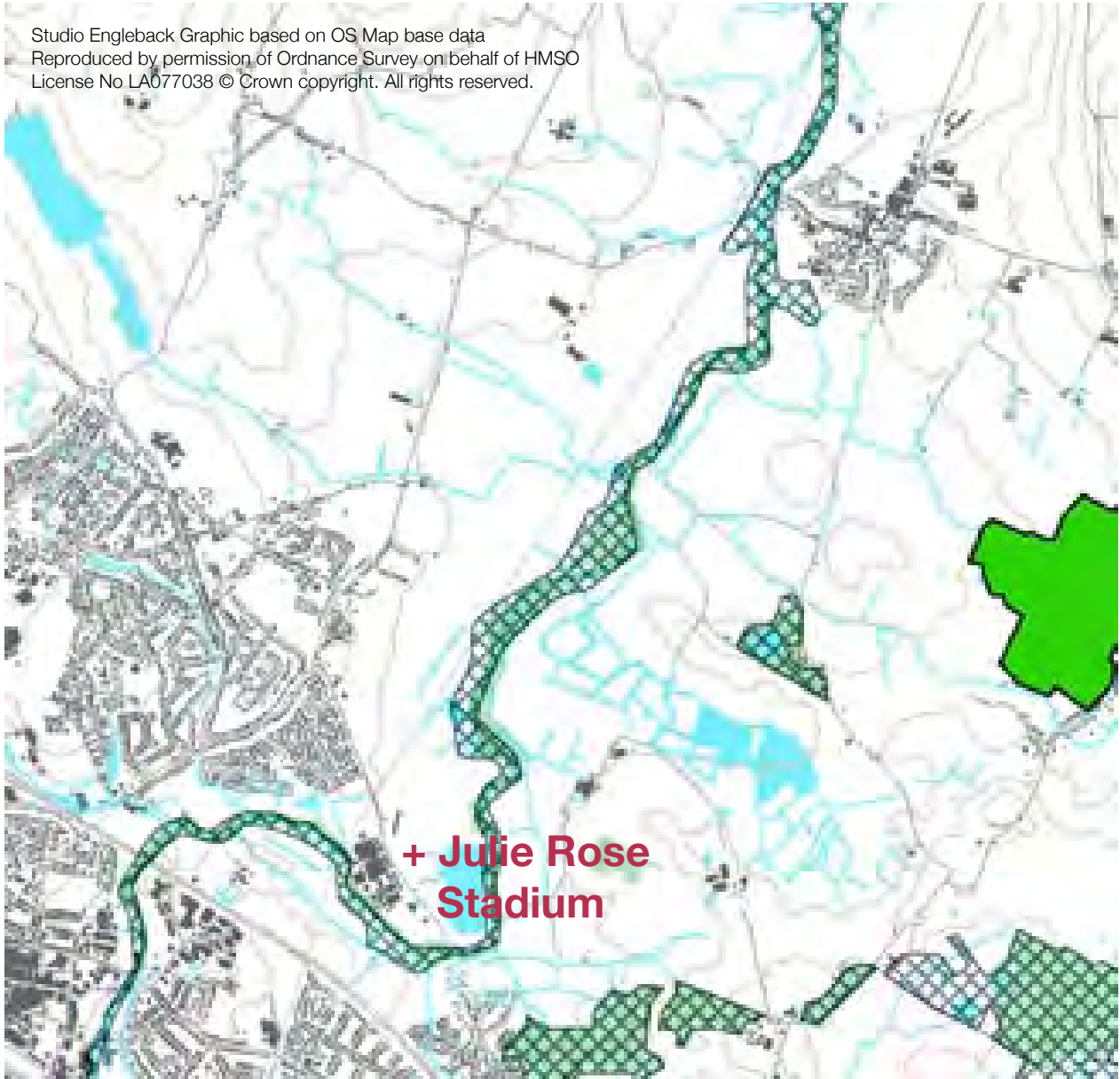
The North Downs Area of Outstanding natural Beauty (AONB) frames the area to the north. The old village of Kennington to the west is a Conservation Area.

Ecology

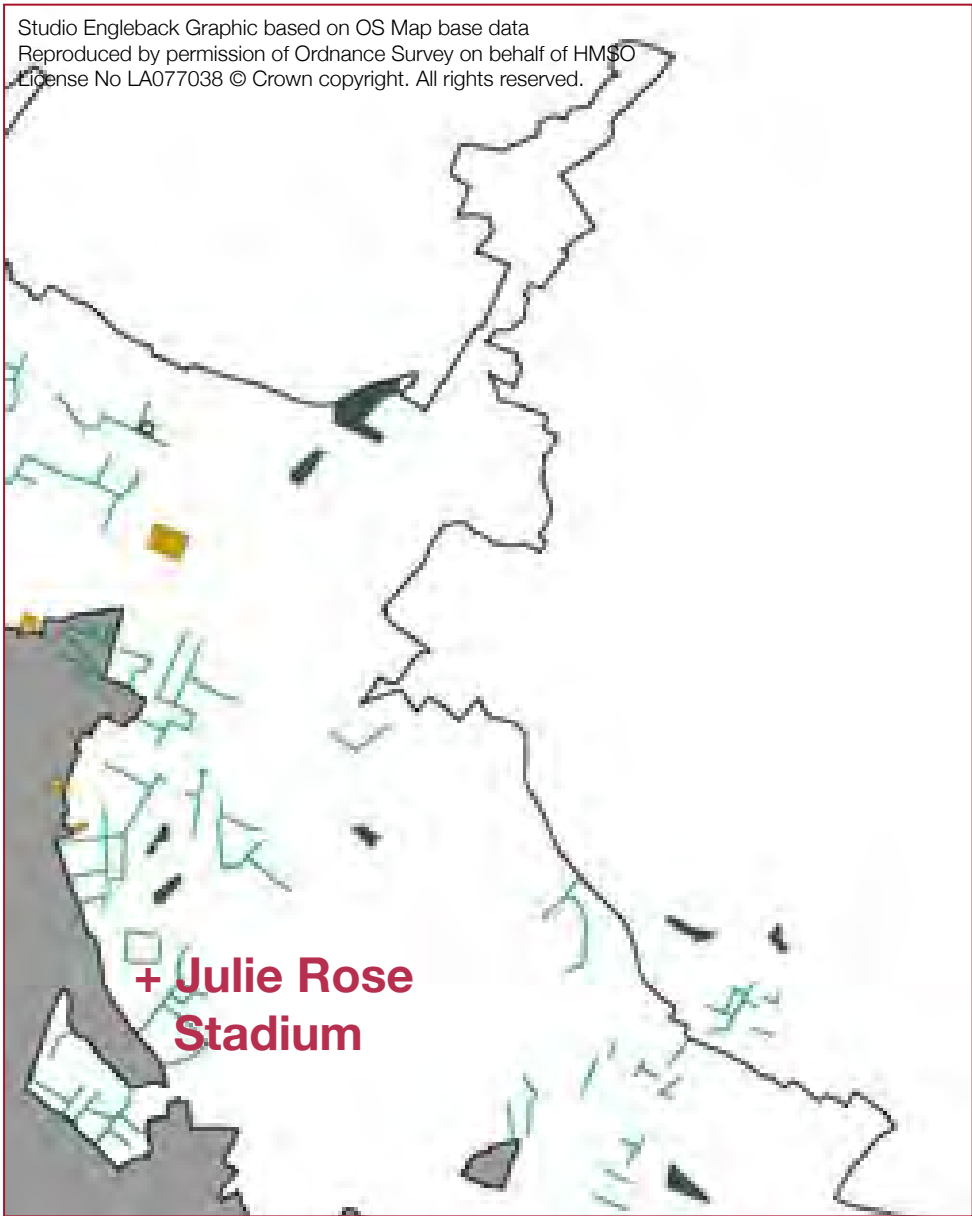
The river Stour corridor is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) with Otters and Water Voles noted. The flooded mineral workings, willow carr and reedbeds are becoming a significant resource around the Julie Rose Stadium.

Features lost since the 1870s

There were scattered hedgerow trees to the field boundaries to the north of Willesborough Lees and trees were shown dotted along the River Stour. A significant length of hedgeing has been lost north and south of the Julie Rose stadium, but it would appear that the floodplain either side of the river was not divided into fields and may have been an area of wet pasture.



Ecology



Features lost since 1870's



Section 2 Assessment

Assessment Summary

This county area sits to the north of Ashford covering part of the Great Stour Valley and bounded by the Ashford – Canterbury railway on the West. The M20 lies to the southern boundary.

We have made some major adjustments to the Kent CLA boundary by including the low lying areas on the edges of the Ashford fringe from the Stour Gap CLA as these areas follow the Stour floodplain north of Ashford, and read as part of the Stour Valley Area. Likewise we have extended the area northwards to include the valley which was part of the Wye Stour Valley CLA.

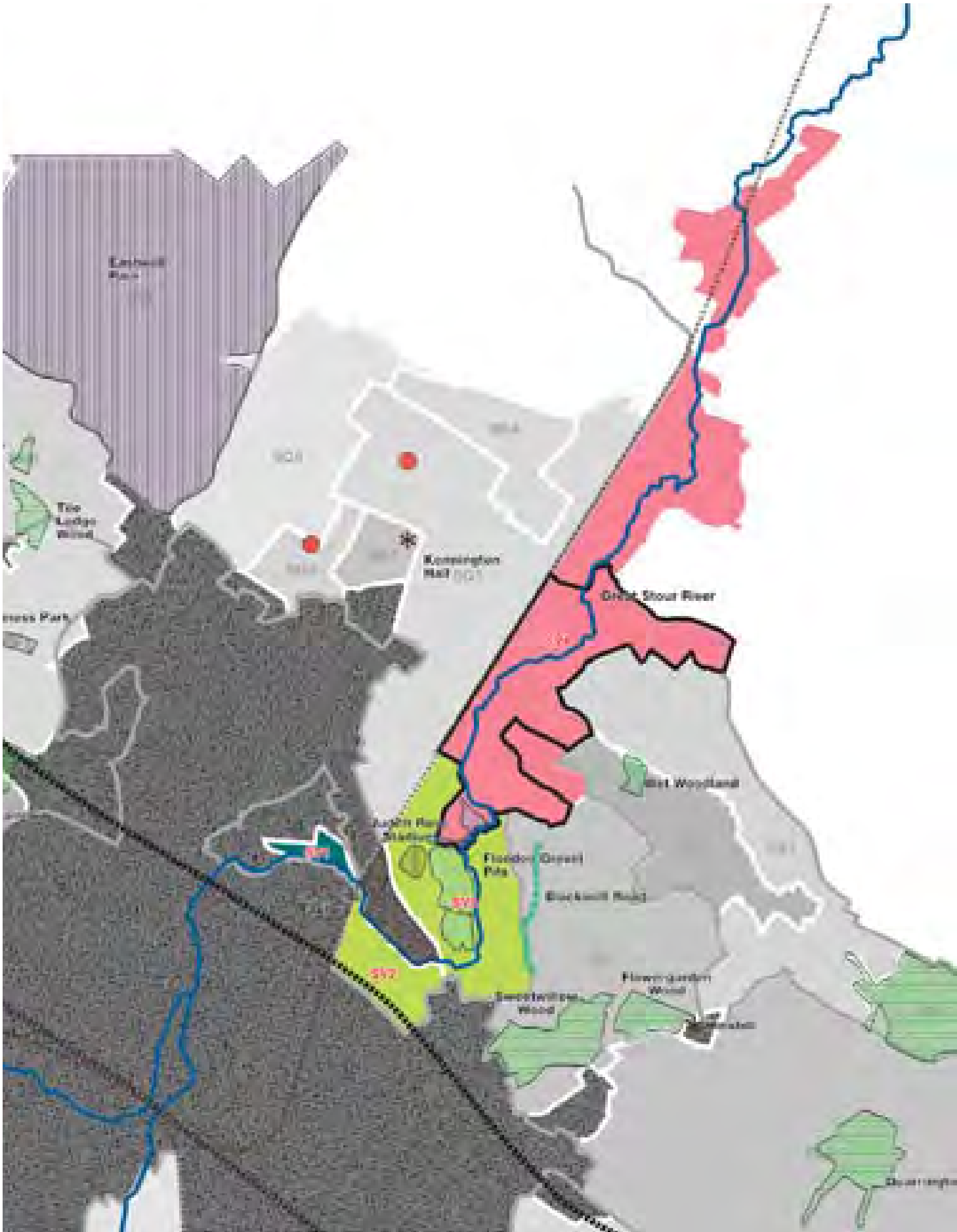
The amended Stour Valley area includes the whole of the Great Stour valley from the flooded gravel pits adjacent to the Julie Rose Stadium and northwards as the Stour meanders through farmland towards Wye. The landscape is drained by deep dykes with open large arable fields extending upto the river, which is delineated in places by mature willows. There are some discrete areas of pasture and damp alder woodland with willows and white poplar. Towards Ashford the flooded gravel pits with wet meadows and streams are an important wildlife habitat especially for over wintering birds, and the park at Bybrook is a local recreational area with pond. There are expansive views towards Ashford and the North Downs.



Location of Stour Valley

reinforce	conserve & reinforce	conserve
create & reinforce	conserve & create	conserve & restore
create	restore & create	restore

Policy recommendation



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View west towards Ashford from Blackwell Road



Meandering Great Stour near gravel pits looking towards Ashford




Flooded gravel pits adjacent to Julie Rose stadium


CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES	SV1	SV2	SV3	SV4
Landuse				
Farming		○	○	○
Recreation	○			
Parkland				
Woodland				
Business Park				
Plant Nursery				
Topography				
Flat			○	○
Gently undulating				
Rolling		○		
Steeply sloping				
Lakes/ ponds	○	○	○	○
River/ streams/ dykes		○	○	○
Vegetation cover				
Intact hedgerows				
Hedgerow trees				
Feature trees		○	○	○
Evidence of hedgerow clearance			○	○
Evidence of woodland loss				
Farming type				
Predominantly arable			○	○
Mixed farming				
Mainly pasture		○	○	
Wet meadows				
Local vernacular				
Ragstone, pegtiles, ship lap				
Oast house				
Visibility				
Open long distance		○	○	○
Intermittent	○			
Restricted				


Distinctive Elements





Key


**Church**


**Historic Building**


**Oast House**


**Hilltop/ Scenic Views**


**River Stour**

**Green Lane**

**Roman Road**

**Woods**

**Parks**

**Flooded Gravel Pits**



Flooded Gravel Pits
Former gravel pits restored to open water. Some (not much) reed fringe. Wide, gently sloping rough grass/meadow edges – docks and thistles very apparent. Many swans, coots, gulls, Canada geese.



Great Stour River
Open large fields in fertile flood plain. Very slight slope to river. Crossed by a series of deep dykes. Mainly open arable, with some pasture to north (west of the river). Scattered trees along river which is denuded of vegetation in places. Fine views to the North Downs.

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Detractors



Key

**CTRL/ Eurostar Rail Line**

**Railway Line**

**A2070(T)**

**M20**

**Detractor**



Campbells Factory and Julie Rose Stadium
The industrial buildings on the outskirts of Ashford are prominent within local views.

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Section 3 Field Work & Data Sheets

SV 1 Bybrook



Location of SV 1 within Stour Valley

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District Landscape Type: SV 1 Bybrook

Comprising: D24

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Floodplain between housing and the sewage works of parkland character with recreational fields and pond with new planting.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

A coherent pattern of elements with semi-natural habitats.

Sensitivity

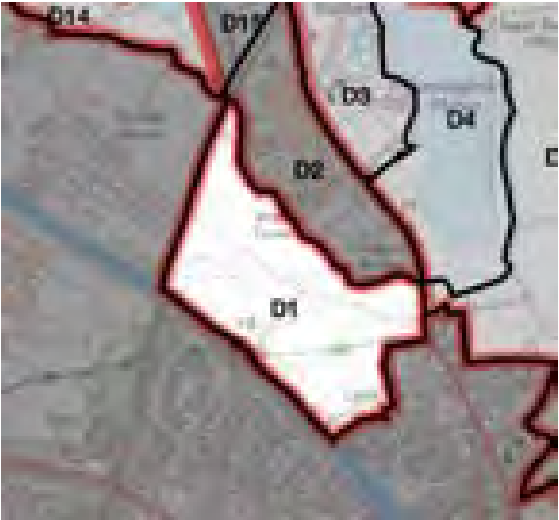
Sense of place:	moderate
Landform:	high
Extent of tree cover:	moderate
Visibility:	moderate

A recent landscape but with a peaceful established feel. Views are restricted and inward looking.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve

SV 2 Longport Bridge



Location of SV 2 within Stour Valley

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District Landscape Type: SV 2 Longport Bridge

Comprising: D1

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently rolling farmland with distinctive edge to floodplain and wet meadow adjacent to the Campbells Factory.
- A steep stream cuts through the area, lined with alders and some willows and ash. The M20 is screened by trees, but is audible.
- The Stour Valley Walk crosses the area.
- Long distance views to the North Downs.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

A coherent pattern of elements, interrupted slightly by the Campbells Factory. High ecological value with wet meadow, streams and waterside trees.

Sensitivity

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

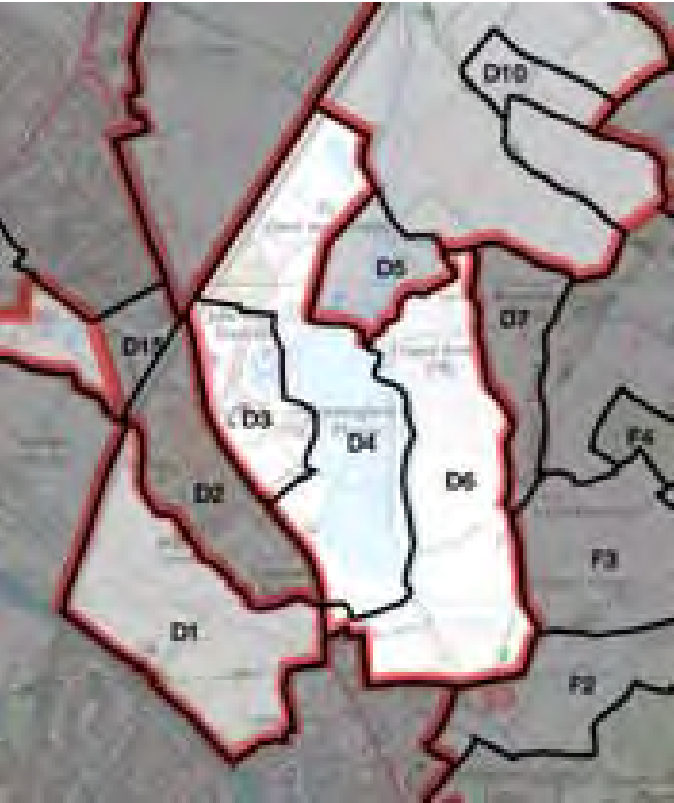
Some sense of continuity over time and sense of place, with high visibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & create

- create wetlands/ marshes as part of country park with good footpath links to town
- conserve existing ditches and wet meadows

SV 3 North of Conningbrook



Location of SV3 with Stour Valley

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District Landscape Type: SV 3 North of Conningbrook

Comprising: D3, D4, D6

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Flooded gravel pits with gently sloping rough grass/ meadow edges that are important for over wintering birds and mammals.
- Wide open arable fields within the floodplain of the Great Stour which is delineated in places by isolated willows.
- Many hedgerows have been lost.
- Open views to the Campbell's Factory, Julie Rose Stadium and North Downs.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

A variable pattern of elements with extensive arable fields and semi-natural lakes and river features.

Sensitivity

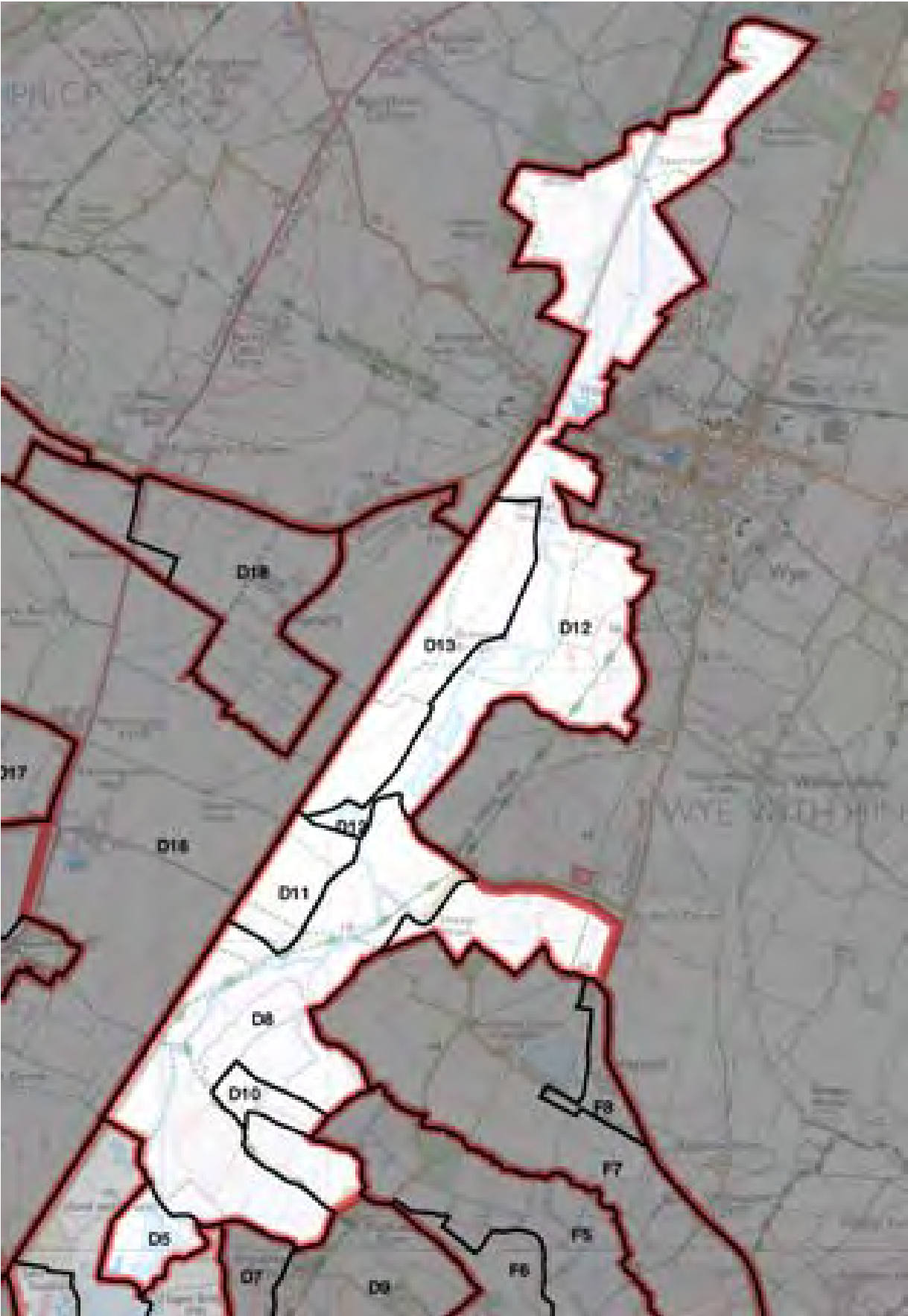
Sense of place:	moderate
Landform:	high
Extent of tree cover:	low
Visibility:	high

The river, wide open floodplain and long distance views to the North Downs gives some sense of place. The area is highly visible.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & create

SV 4 Wye Stour Valley



Location of SV 4 within Stour Valley

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District Landscape Type: SV 4 Wye Stour Valley

Comprising: D5, D8, D9, D10, D11, D12, D13

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- The wide open floodplain of the Great Stour Valley with large arable fields extending to the meandering river which is delineated in places by mature willows or discrete areas of alder carr.
- The fields are intensively cultivated drained by deep dykes and hedgerows have been cleared. Areas of pasture to the northwest of the river.
- Flooded gravel pit with damp alder woodland, willows and white poplar.
- The railway bounds the north western edge.
- Expansive views towards Ashford and the North Downs.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

Floodplain is intensively managed and few landscape signatures remain. The railway impacts into the area.

Sensitivity

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

The sense of place has been lost by intensive agriculture. High visibility with expansive open long distance views.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

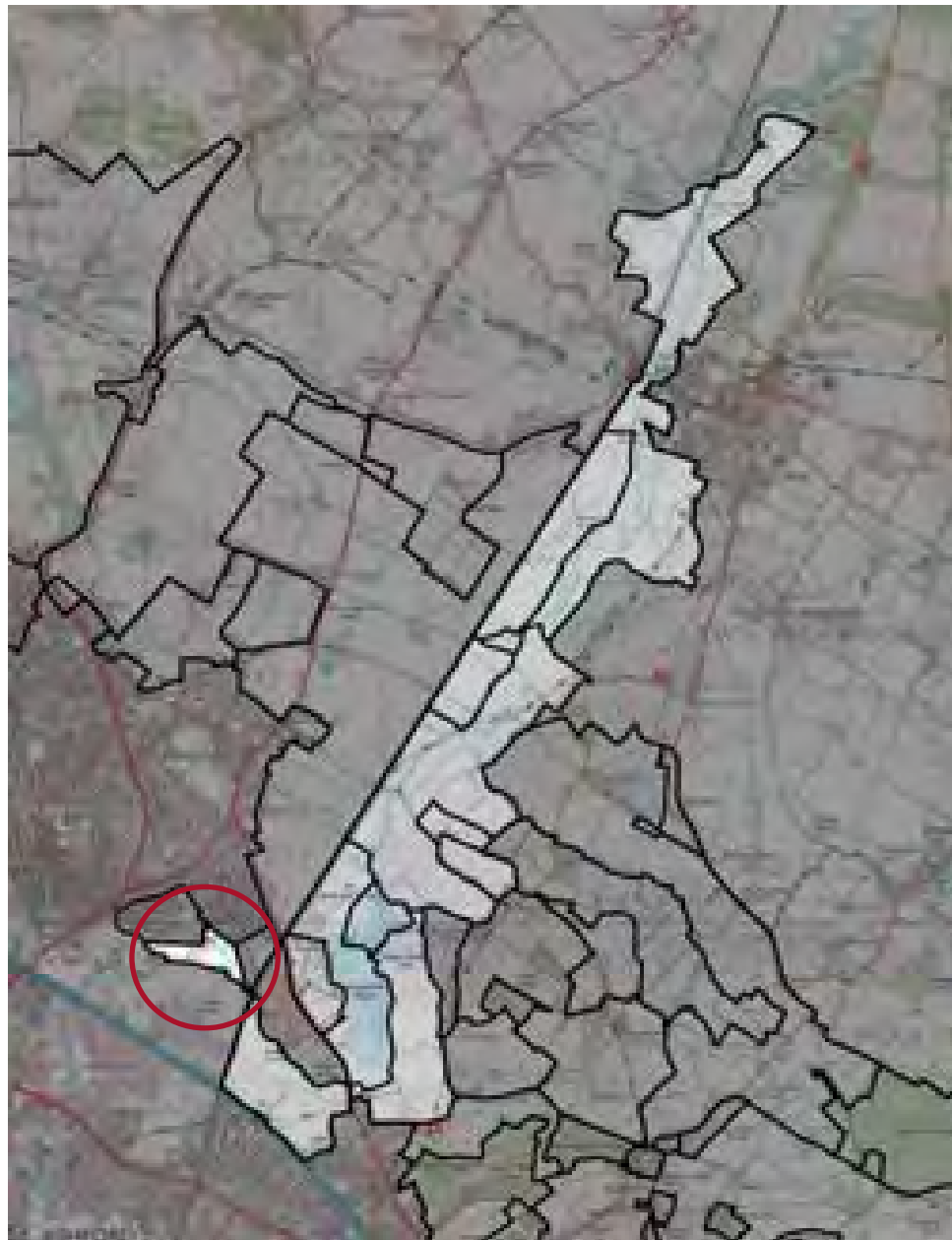
restore & create
- restore flood meadows

Stour Valley

SV1: Bybrook

Study Sector:		Kennington M (Map ref: TR022439)	
County Landscape Character Area:		The Stour: Stour Gap	
Historic Landscape Type:		7.1 miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures	
Boundaries:		New housing to north; D15 to east; sewage works to south; sports pitches to west	
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform floodplain	Views out (long/short/restricted) restricted, inward looking
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements boundaries, new planting	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted)
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern and scale
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements lighting, recreational features, urban edge	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Recreation	Seasonal variation
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds River at boundary, stream, pond		Species associations Willow, rushes
Landuse/farm type	Primary		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Small blocks of new planting		Species Willow, hazel, ash, oak, alder, viburnum, cherry, poplar
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt mature poplar and willow along river at parcel edge		Species
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access footpath and cycleways		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing Housing to north
Other features (such as moats)			

Brief summary description:				
small, flat parcel on the valley floor north of the river. Comprises recreational fields, footpaths and cycleways. Pond with extensive new native planting around edges to create linear wooded blocks. Despite urban edge to north and industrial land use to south, the parcel has a peaceful feel and parkland character.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Modified landscape. Noise from Ashford, fringing housing				Intact - interrupted Interrupted Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches new woodland blocks and pond		Ecological corridors and networks Boundary river	High Moderate Low	
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Low - moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Age structure young		Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition		Good Variable Poor	
Other features	Pond		Good Variable Poor	
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High
Urban edge to north	Overlooking	New		Moderate Low



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Photograph locations/ direction



D14.1



D14.2



D14.3

Stour Valley

SV2: Longport Bridge

Date: 18/10/04

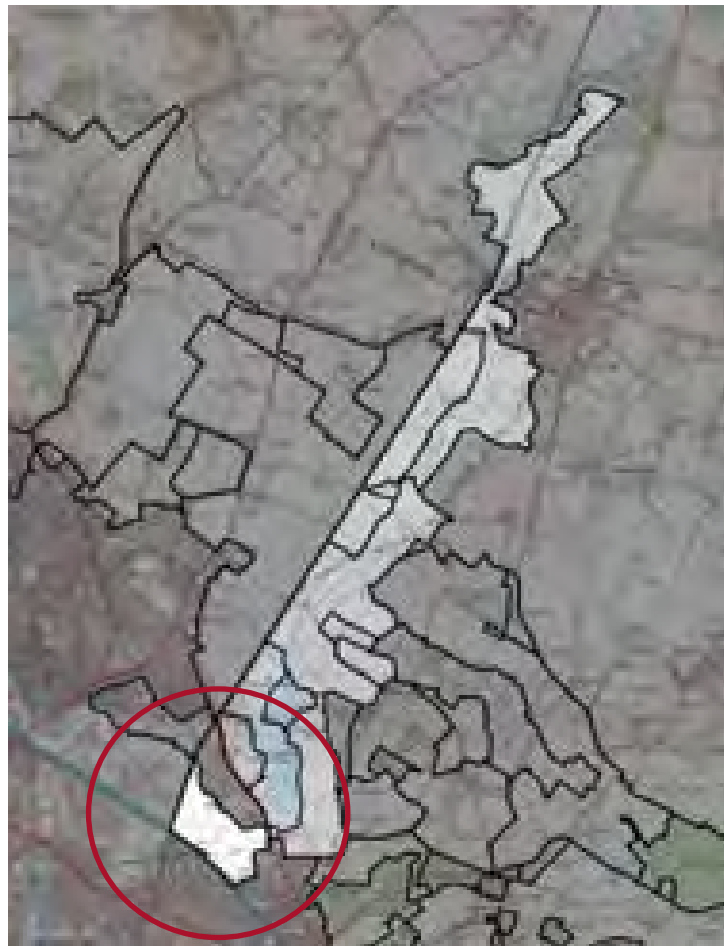
Location: D1 North of M20

Map reference: TR028429

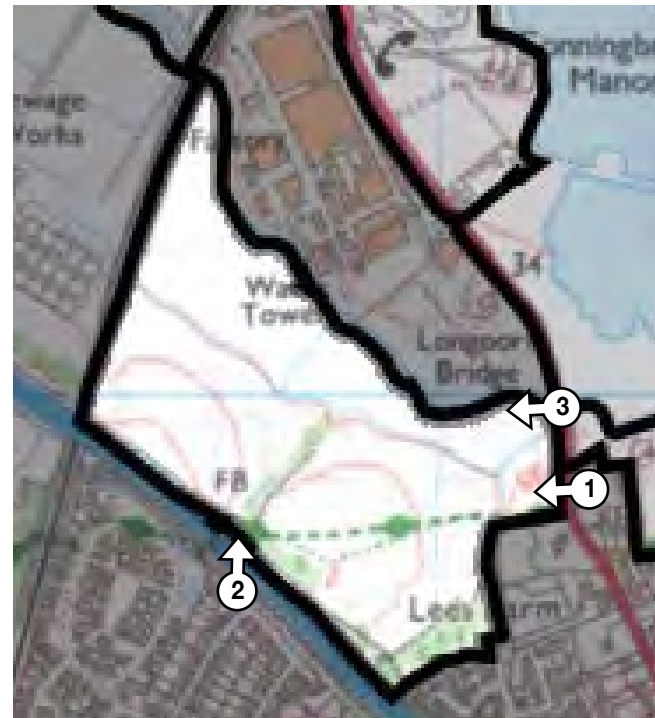
Context : Kent LCA: The Stour: Stour Gap HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Gently rolling fields to north and flood plain	Views Out To Campbells factory in D2 and North Downs
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Treed edges and isolated alders on river bank	Views within Yes – open fields divided by river and deep cut drains
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Edges and stream/ drain/river corridor	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements D2	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	River and streams		Species associations Alder, willow, isolated ash. Some rushes
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Wooded strip to M20 New planting by river 1-2yrs old		Species Pine, elder, ash, oak, birch, sycamore, hazel
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features On south side		Species Oak, ash
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Alder stand, high hedges near road/south on bank/change of level		Species Hawthorn, bullace, holly, hazel, dogwood, ivy
Highways	Verges Stour Valley Walk crosses parcel		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features			

D1 ctd.

Brief description: Gently rolling farmland bisected by steep stream with alder at lower end and sycamore near M20. No hedges but LDU boundary strong with 'wooded' appearance. Valley floor. Some willows and ash. Dominated by Campbells factory (D2). Good views to North Downs.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Noise from M20. Unattractive industrial buildings intrusive.				Intact Interrupted –(by alder carr on stream) Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Restricted to edges, alder carr and rivers		Ecological corridors Rivers and streams		High Moderate Low
Intensity of land use High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Alder carr, groups of willows, pines by M20	Age structure Young and mature	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Drains/rivers. No hedges within parcel			Good Variable Poor
Other features				Good Variable Poor
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Industrial buildings adjacent	Siting Valley floor	Design Industrial	Extent	High Moderate Low



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Photograph locations/ direction



D1.1



D1.2



D1.3

Stour Valley

SV3: North of Conningbrook

Date: 18/10/04 Location: D4 Conningbrook Manor Map reference: TR033436

Context : Kent LCA: The Stour: Stour Gap HLT: 12.2 Active and disused gravel and clay workings			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Valley floor – flooded gravel pit	Views Out To North Downs and Greensand ridge
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Lakes	Views within Yes
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedge to Willesborough Road	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species Willows (on site?)	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features River and hedge to Willesborough Road	Species Willows, bramble. Field maple, hawthorn, ash, hornbeam, oak, blackthorn, elm	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features			

D4 ctd.

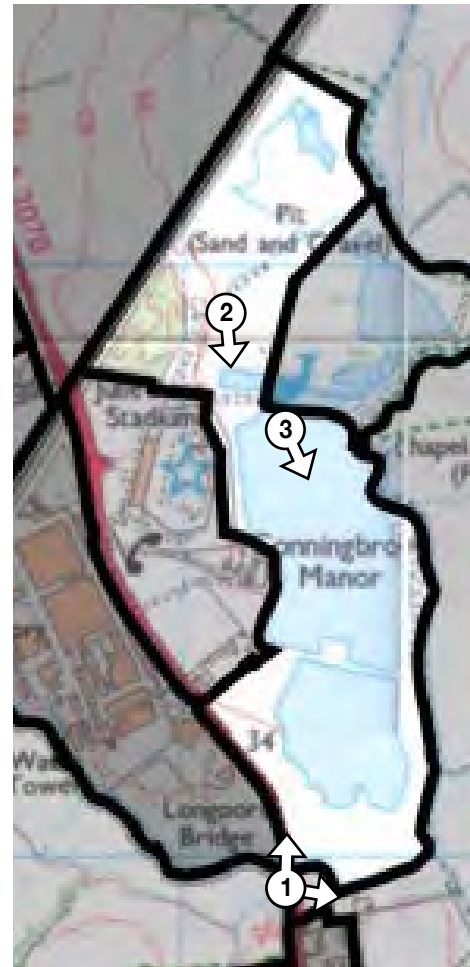
Brief description: Former gravel pits restored to open water. Some (not much) reed fringe. Wide, gently sloping rough grass/meadow edges – docks and thistles very apparent. Many swans, coots, gulls, Canada geese.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Busy Willesborough Road and view to factory				Intact <i>Interrupted</i> <i>Fragmented</i>
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habi Recreated habitat not yet mature	Ecological corridors Lakes in crook of Great Stour	High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>		
Intensity of land use Low				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Edges	Age structure Young/young and mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries				<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Lake			Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Factory and Julie Rose stadium	Siting Adjacent	Design	Extent	High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



D4.1



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Photograph locations/ direction



D4.2



D4.3

Date: 18/10/04

Location: D6 west of Goose Green

Map reference: TR036433

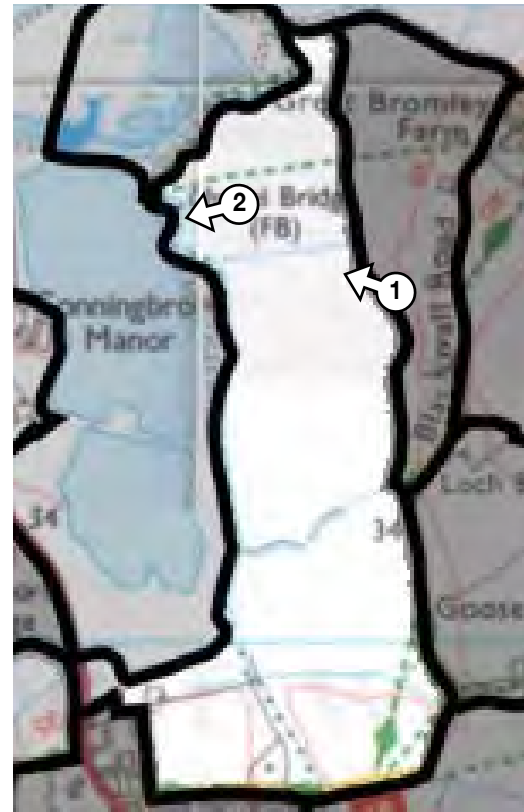
Context : Kent LCA: The Stour: Stour Gap HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Valley floor	Views Out Extensive: North Downs, Julie Rose Stadium and Campbells factory, woods to south
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Clump of willows on river near Willesborough Road	Views within Extensive: level arable fields
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Unenclosed	Key visual elements Low level electric cable, hedges to lane	Pattern Open
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Unsettled	Key visual elements	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Stream running down to the valley at the southtip of D7		Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features		Species
Other trees	Heritage features River bank		Species Willows, alder
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Removed or abscent		Species
Highways	Verges Narrow grass Footpath – part of Stour Valley walk		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features	Electric cables on timber posts.		

D6 ctd.

Brief description: Very open valley floor agriculture – arable – no remaining hedges. Evidence of former hedge mound along lane. Isolated willows along Great Stour.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Open views across site to Downs and wooded Greensand Ridge				<i>Intact</i>
Detractors: Campbells factory				
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Limited		Ecological corridors River Great Stour		<i>Low</i>
Intensity of land use Low				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Context Low		Context Young and mature	<i>Poor</i>
Field Boundaries	None			<i>Poor</i>
Other features				
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Industry	Siting Adjacent	Design Industrial	Extent	<i>Low</i>
Julie Rose stadium	Adjacent	Iconic tented roofs		



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Photograph locations/ direction



D6.1



D6.2

Stour Valley

SV4: Wye Stour Valley

Date: 18/10/04

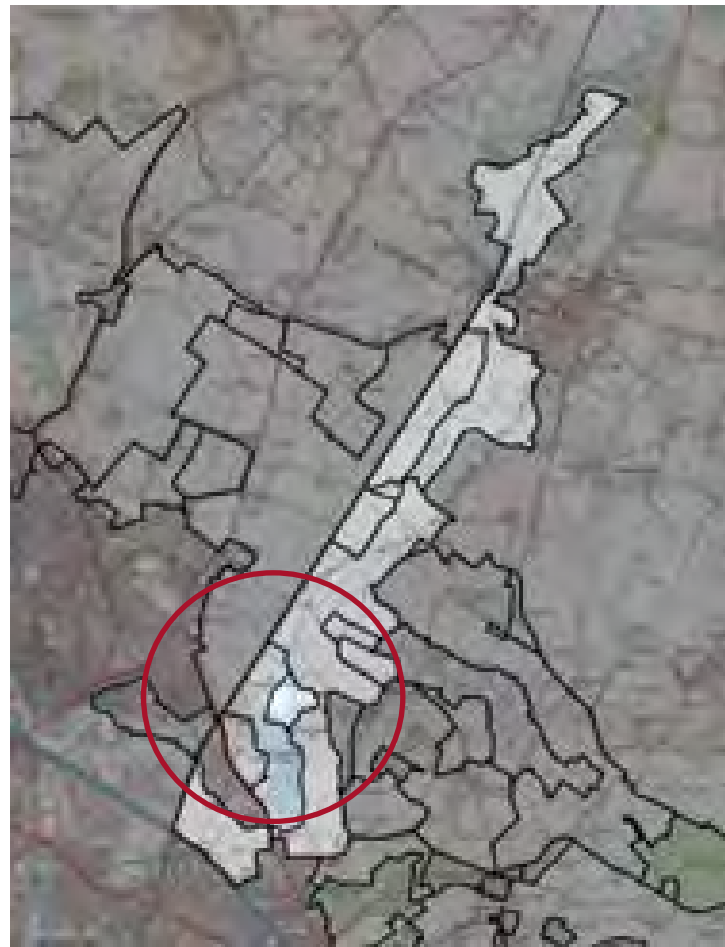
Location: D5 North of Chapel Bridge

Map reference: TR034438

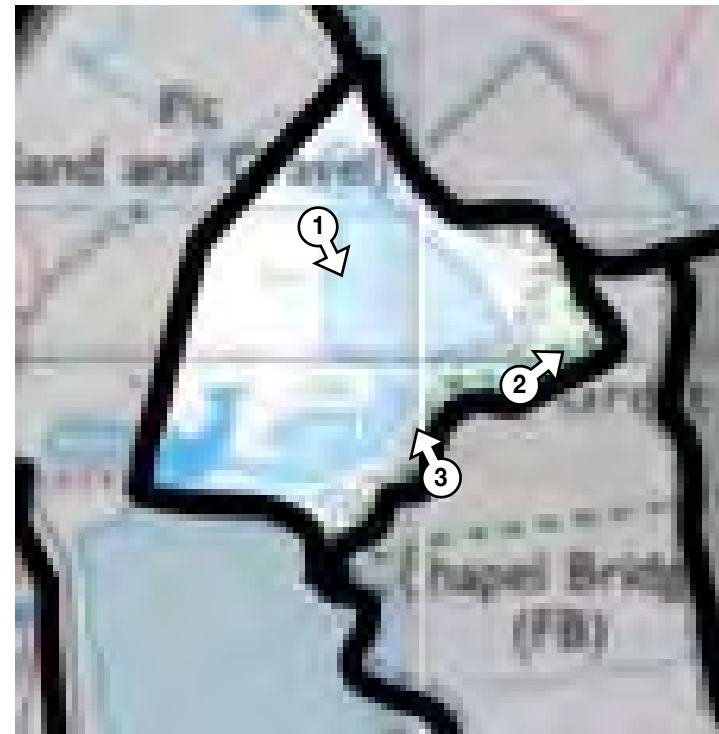
Context : Kent LCA: Stour – Stour Valley HLT: 12.2 Active and disused gravel and clay workings			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform flooded gravel pit	Views Out
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Surrounded by planting	Views within Yes
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Former pit	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Pond and typha stand. Deep dyke. Wet meadow edge		Species associations Juncus/Typha/Phragmites, willows, alders. Alder, ferns, rush, water mint, some Typha. Rose, alder, thistles, teasel
Farm type	Primary		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Planted damp woodland		Species Willows various, white poplar, alder
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features		Species
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features		Species
Highways	Verges		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features			

D5 ctd.

Brief description: Former pit in crook of Great Stour with drainage dyke at west end colonised with alders – dry with fern/rush in base. Lush growth of mixed willows and some white poplar and alder so no views from outside – large stands of Typha. Fishing club.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Noise from road and factory				Intact <i>Interrupted</i> <i>Fragmented</i>
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit 100%		Ecological corridors River Great Stour		High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>
Intensity of land use Low				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Dense periphery to lake	Age structure Young and mature		Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Field Boundaries				<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Flooded pit			Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



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Photograph locations/ direction



D5.1



D5.2



D5.3

Date: 18/10/04 Location: D8 Stour Valley Walk Map reference: TR036444

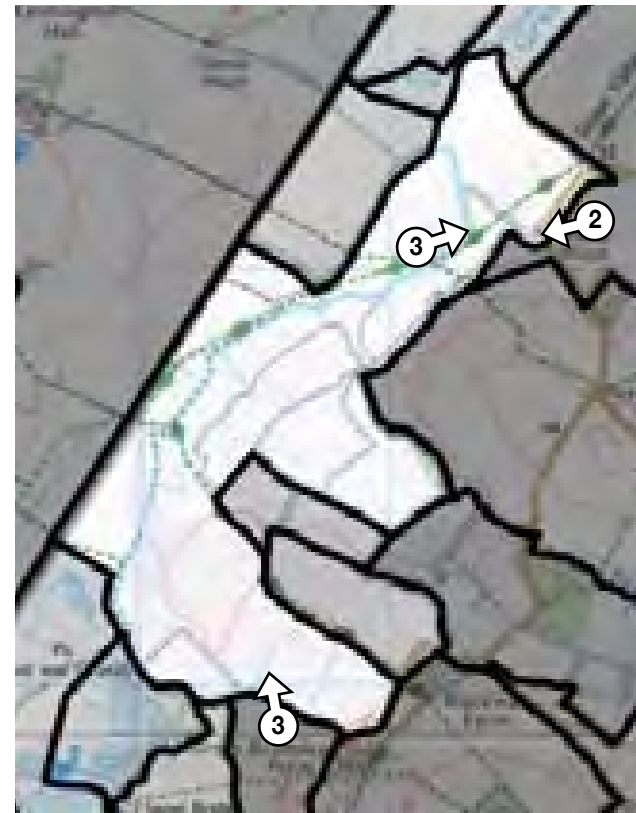
Context : Kent LCA: Stour: Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Apparent	Landform Falling to Great Stour	Views Out Extensive: North Downs
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Sporadic riverside trees. Some hedgerows	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Insignificant	Key visual elements Remnant hedges and drains	Pattern Open fields
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Apparent Unsettled	Key visual elements Arable floodplain	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Great Stour River		Species associations Willow, alder
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other Pasture
Woodlands	Heritage features Small wood to east – wet?		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features To edges with D7/D9/D10		Species Oak, ash, alder, field maple, dead elm
Other trees	Heritage features		Species Alder, willow
Field Boundaries	Heritage features With D7 road to river Dry ditch on NE boundary		Species Bullace, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, willow
Highways	Verges Grass verge along lane in east		Other features Stour Valley Walk
Buildings	Villages Small cottage in south-east		Farmsteads
Other features	Deep drains, some flowing		Typha/Juncus

D8 ctd.

Brief description: Open large fields in fertile flood plain. Very slight slope to river. Crossed by a series of deep dykes. Mainly open arable, with some pasture to north (west of the river). Scattered trees along river which is denuded of vegetation in places. Fine views to the North Downs.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Hedgerow and riverside tree clearance				<i>Intact</i>
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Small woodland to east		Ecological corridors River and drains		<i>Moderate</i>
Intensity of land use High - arable				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Scattered	Age structure Mature	<i>Good</i>	
Field Boundaries	Ditch, some remnant hedges			
Other features	Stour Valley Walk Tranquil			
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Ashford fringe – Charter House prominent. Any extension to Ashford would be very apparent	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>Low</i>



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Photograph locations/ direction



D8.1



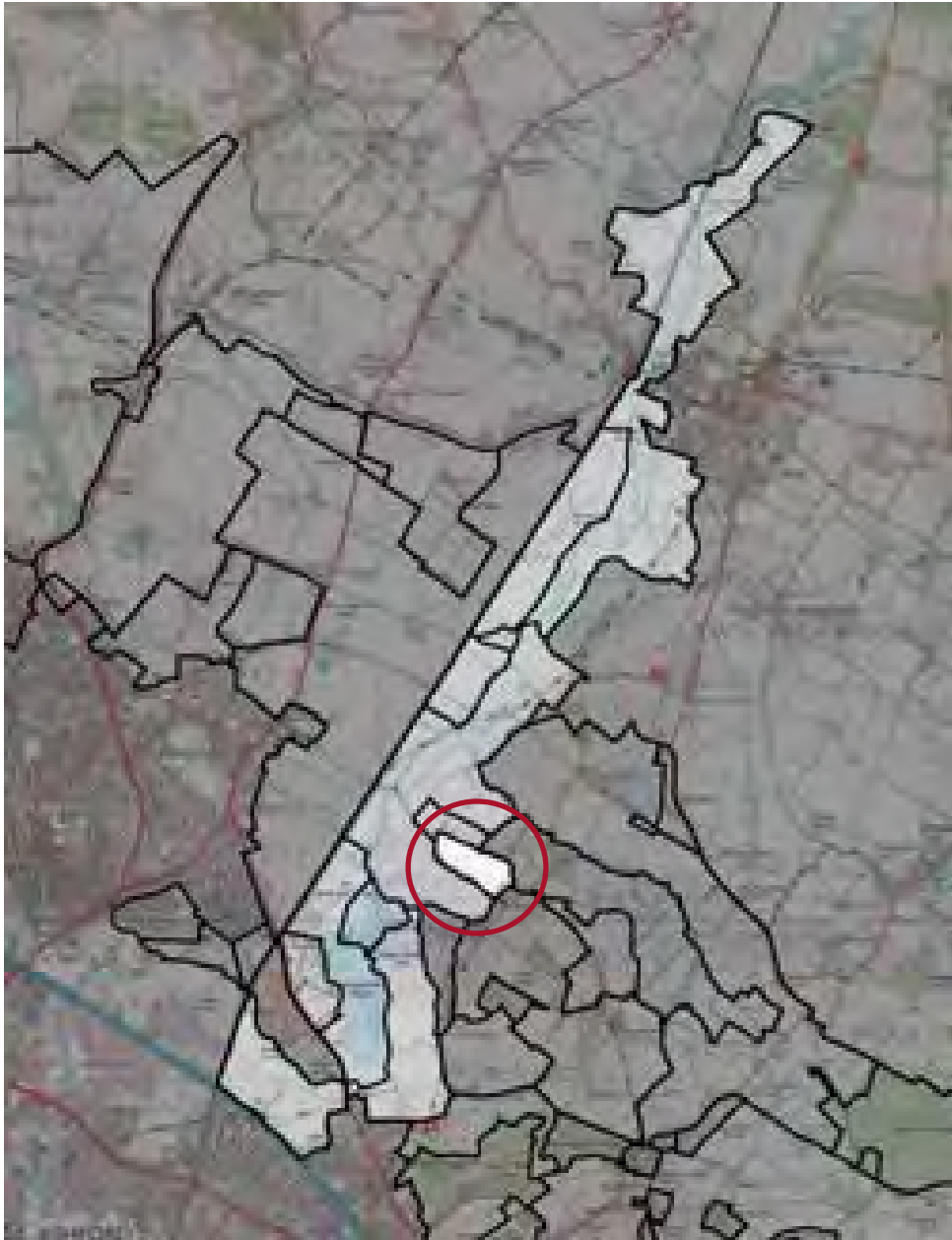
D8.2



D8.3

Study Sector:		Kennington (Map ref: TR038443)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Brabourne Lees Mixed Farmlands	
Historic Landscape Type:		1.15 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries	
Boundaries:		Outside of study area to east; pasture of D10 north; D8 arable to south and west.	
TOPOGRAPHY	Apparent	Landform Gentle rolling slopes	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long views to north and west to North Downs, restricted by trees to south and east
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Linear woodland belts and blocks	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Framed in places by woods and the topography
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Apparent	Key visual elements Hedgerows and streams	Pattern and scale Mix of small to large enclosures. Large arable fields west of Sales wood
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Insignificant	Key visual elements Farms and farm outbuildings, isolated	Pattern
LANDUSE	Apparent	Key visual elements Arable, rough pasture, horse and sheep pasture, poultry kept in woods, paths for recreation, shooting.	Seasonal variation Yes
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds Pond and some ditches, streams		Species associations
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable		Other Fallow fields, farms and woods
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Sales wood is coppice. Linear wood to south looks similar (no access)		Species Oak, Elder, Hornbeam, Hazel, Holly. Mature stools, poor field layer.
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Linear tree belt on boundary and ditches, some mature standards in some hedgerows		Species Ash, field maple, oak, elder, poplar, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Fence, verges and hedgerow. Some absent boundaries		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpath to southern boundary, local road bisects.		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Isolated farms with farmhouse, garden and outhouses		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing
Other features (such as moats)			

Brief summary description: Large irregular parcel of gentle rolling hills, dominated by large arable crop fields with blocks of mature woodland. There are ecological corridors linking the woods to each other and surrounding habitat areas beyond the parcel. Wetland vegetation in places. There are three main, isolated farm settlements with various large outbuildings. Fine panoramic views to North Downs and rolling hills in most direction. An attractive old church is visible over the horizon looking towards Hinxhill. Other land uses include shooting, poultry keeping, a horse paddock and paths for recreation.				
Visual context and unity – <i>assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance</i>				
Long, fine views to North Downs. Glimpses of urban area to south, framed by trees to south. Several fine panoramas of rolling hills.				Intact
Ecological integrity – <i>how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?</i>				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches Blocks of semi-natural mature woodland with coppice and some ditches and hedgerows found to south.		Ecological corridors and networks Woods connected to each other and surrounding parcels by hedgerows		Moderate +
Intensity of land use and habitat trend High				
Condition of heritage features – <i>assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change</i>				
Tree Cover		Age structure Mature woods and some young scrub. A few isolated veterans in hedges		Good
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition Mixed quality. No longer small scale. Some hedgerows, some large open expanses of crops		Variable
Other features		Church with spire in Hinxhill forms part of horizon, lane with tree tunnel to west.		Good
Impact of built development – <i>how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place</i>				
Type Goodchea(t) farm Bromley farm Blackwell farm	Siting south west west	Design Large range of farm buildings Smaller buildings Smaller buildings	Extent	Moderate



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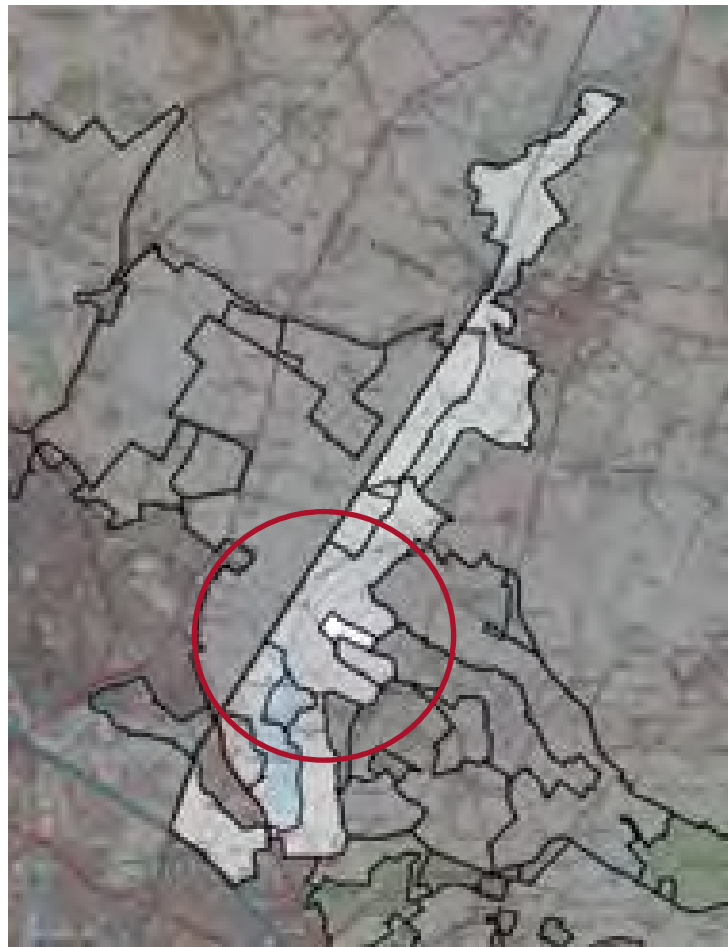


Survey Date: 3.11.04 Reference: D10 Location: East of Spearpoint Corner Surveyors: AK/MG

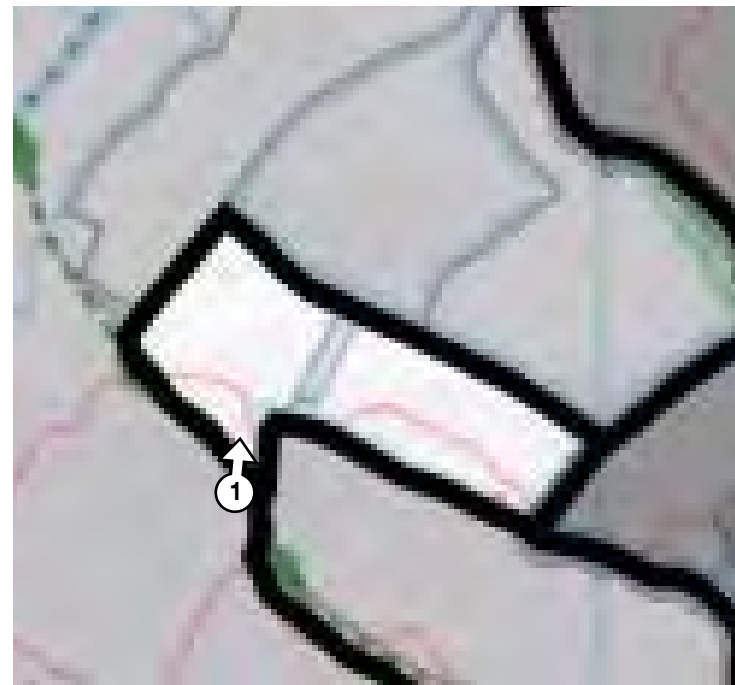
Study Sector:		Kennington (Map ref: TR037445)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Brabourne Lees Mixed Farmlands	
Historic Landscape Type:		7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures	
Boundaries:		D9 arable to south; D8 floodplain farmland elsewhere	
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Flat	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long views north and west to North Downs, south to Ashford, restricted east by tree cover
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Scattered scrub along boundary	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Post and wire stock fencing	Pattern and scale Large pasture
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Grazing pasture	Seasonal variation
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds		Species associations
Landuse/farm type	Primary Pasture		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation		Species
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Scattered scrub along boundary (remnant hedge)		Species Hawthorn, oak
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Stock fence		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpath to southern boundary		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing
Other features (such as moats)			

Reference: D10 ctd.

Brief summary description:				
Small parcel comprising single open pasture, remnant hedgerow scrub to east, post and wire fencing. Fine long views to North Downs. Bounded by D8 and D9.				
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 from A2070				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 Moderate Low	
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Low				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Age structure Remnant hedge			Good Variable Poor
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition			Good Variable Poor
Other features				Good Variable Poor
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



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Photograph locations/ direction



Survey Date: 3.11.04 Reference: D11 Location: East of Kennington Hall Surveyors: AK/MG

Study Sector:		Kennington (Map ref: TR038453)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Stour – Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		1.11 Large regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)	
Boundaries:		D16 arable to west over railway; D8 floodplain to south and east; D12 and D13 to north	
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Largely flat	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long, fine views north to North Downs
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Boundary hedges	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Ditch and mature hedge to east	Pattern and scale Large, regular arable field, smaller pasture to north
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal variation Crop, deciduous trees
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds		Species associations
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable		Other Grazing pasture
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation		Species
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Isolated hedgerow trees to boundaries		Species Oak
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Hedge and ditch to east		Species Hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble, oak, elder, dog rose. Emergents in ditch.
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpath to south		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing
Other features (such as moats)			

D11 East of Kennington Hall

Reference: D11 ctd.

Brief summary description:				
Small, regular shaped parcel comprising an open, flat arable field and a peripheral smaller section of pasture. Notable mature strip of continuous hedgerow and ditch to east, otherwise hedge clearance and barbed wire fencing. Railway line bounds site to western edge, mixed farmland bounds elsewhere.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Railway line at boundary				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 Strong continuous section of hedge and ditch to east		High Moderate Low	
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Moderate - high				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Age structure Mature			Good Variable Poor
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Single continuous hedge to east, otherwise hedge clearance			Good Variable Poor
Other features				Good Variable Poor
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



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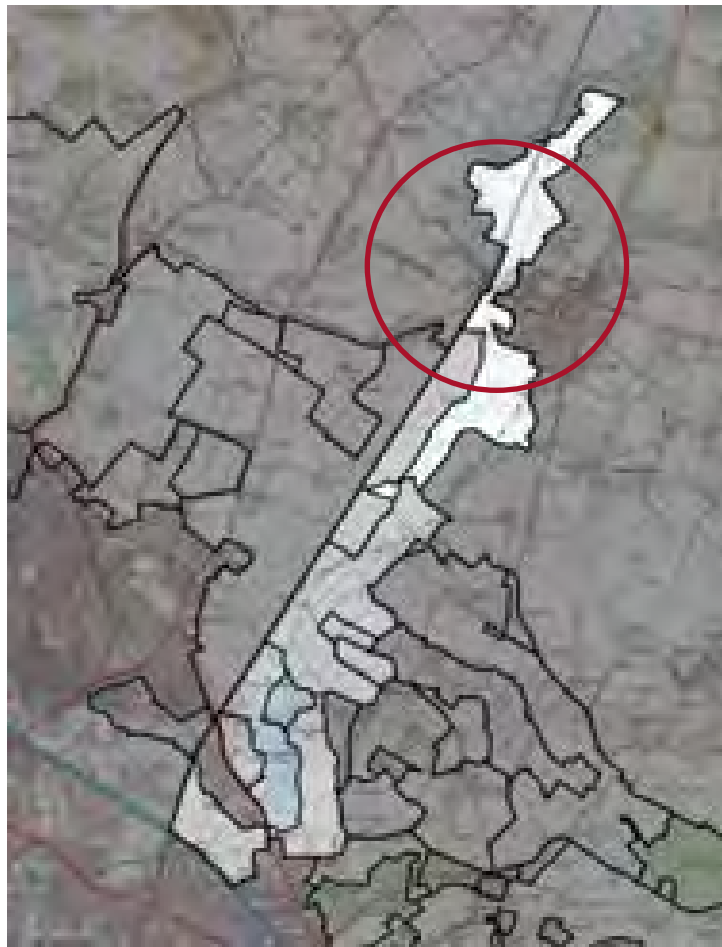


Survey Date: 3.11.05 Reference: D12 Location: South of Browning Bridge Surveyors: AK/MG

Study Sector:		Kennington (Map ref: TR041454)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Wye: Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures	
Boundaries:		NE/NW open countryside beyond development area; Wye in centre; D13 SW; D8 to S.	
TOPOGRAPHY	Apparent	Landform Flatt valley floor, two small slopes on E.	Views out (long/short/restricted) From edges, long towards North Downs to north and east, towards Ashford fringe to south.
TREE COVER	Insignificant	Key visual elements Apparent on boundaries beyond north section only Few isolated scrub areas.	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open over valley floor, across fields to houses in centre and North Downs
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Apparent	Key visual elements Absent boundary with D13, Ditches between fields, verges	Pattern and scale Tall herbs at many field boundaries on south half
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Apparent	Key visual elements few isolated houses at boundary. Train station and railway. Urban in Wye	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements Arable and hay meadows, floodplain, recreation.	Seasonal variation deciduous trees
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds Stream on E boundary Great Stour river.		Species associations Typha, rush, herbs, willow, alders, water lilies.
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable		Other Recreation, fishing, hay meadows
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Willow carr in south, Conifer plantation beyond NE border, Semi-natural wet woodland along NW boundary		Species Goat willow, hawthorn, blackthorn
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Few isolated small trees/scrub		Species Alder, elder, ash
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric South-> Stream in grassy embankment at E and N North-> Streams and wetwoodland.		Species Poppy, pineappleweed, mayweed, willowherb, nettle, reeds
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Great Stour valley path through south half. Other unmanaged cross the SW border and the NW and NE areas. Roads crosses the railway line at Wye, with old style railway gates. Railroad crosses area in N		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Concrete bridge over the railway at Wye station		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing
Other features (such as moats)			

Reference: D12 ctd.

Brief summary description: A long large parcel of valley bottom flood plain characterised by the Great Stour River and its many associated streams. A mainly flat landscape where the drier lands are mainly used for arable, hay meadows and/or possibly pasture. Several pathes cross or borders the oarcell, offering recreation. An urban impact in the middle zone at Wye plus a railway station and line bisecting the north zone. High ecological value due to wetland corridors.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Views across valley bottom in south section. Fields are arable and meadows. Long view to north downs. Views framed by boundary woodlands in north section Railway station with line and Wye settlement has an impact to north and centre area				Interrupted
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches Stour river, slow, wide with good vegetated banks. Possible vulnerability from sewage works to west.		Ecological corridors and networks Streams with high earth banks, tall herbs, scrub and trees. Wetland corridors and Stourvalley walk with wildflowers (important for arable wildflowers)		High
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Moderate, locally high				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover		Age structure Mixed, regeneration		Variable
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition Individual fields have stram boundaries		Good
Other features		The Stour valley walk is a colourful attractive tall wildflower path with poppy, butter- and dragonflies and fragrant spear thistle etc. Weir and stone bridge at Wye		Good
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Housing	Siting N. Border	Design 1960-70	Extent Visible impact	Moderate
Railway line	Centre	Vernacular	- moderate	
Railway station	Bisects N. section		Moderate	
Scattered houses	Along border	Mixed	Mixed impact	



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Photograph locations/ direction



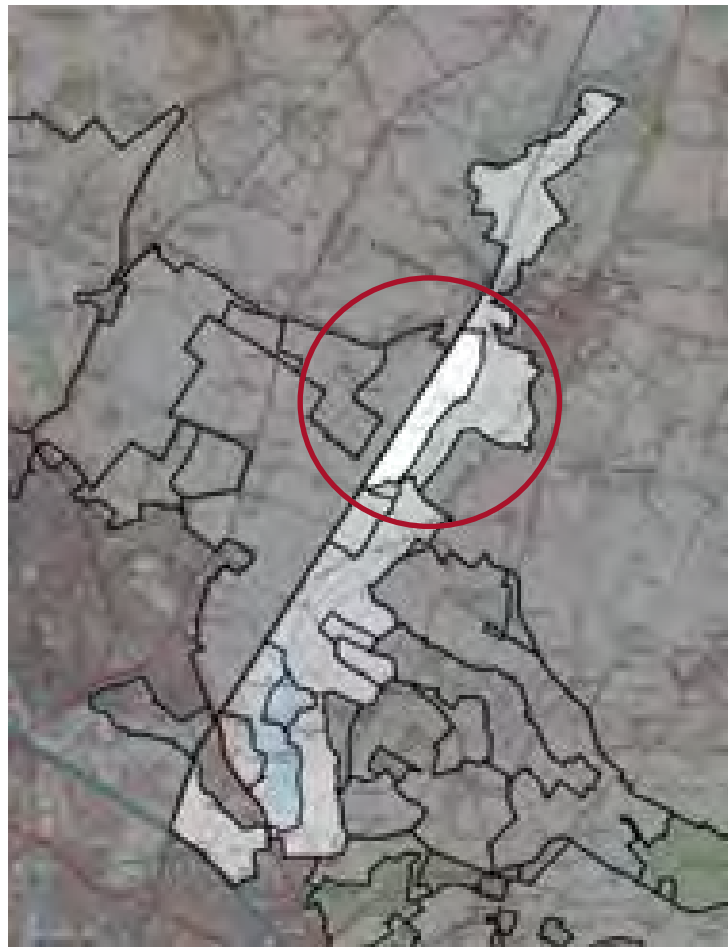
D12.1

Survey Date: 3.11.04 Reference: D13 Location: East of Wilmington Farm Surveyors: AK/MG

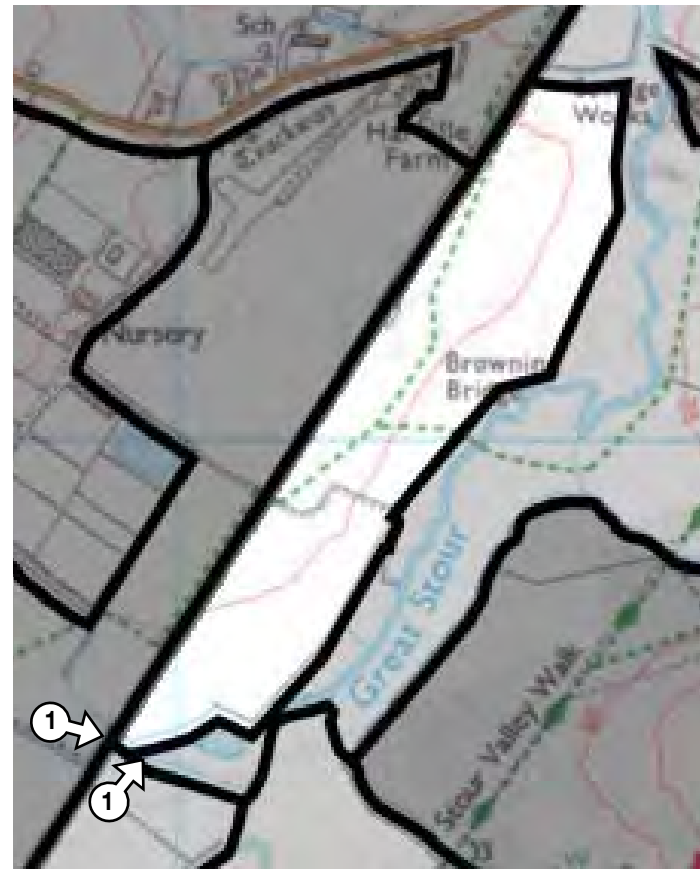
Study Sector:		Kennington (Map ref: TR040456)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Wye: Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		1.11 Large regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)	
Boundaries:		Across railway to D16 farmland to west; D11 pasture to south; D12 wetland to east; remainder of parcel outside study area to north	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Slight slope to east	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long, specially to north to Wye and North Downs.
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Boundary hedgerows	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Insignificant	Key visual elements Boundary hedge / trees, none on east edge. Stream to north	Pattern and scale Large, regular
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal variation
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds		Species associations
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation		Species
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Hedgerow trees along railway		Species Hawthorn, oak, goat willow
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Over mature gappy hedge along railway in south. Verges in north		Species Hawthorn, oak, goat willow
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Railway at boundary		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Small building adjacent to railway		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing
Other features (such as moats)			

Reference: D13 ctd.

Brief summary description:				
Long patch between Stour River and railway. Arable use, poor ecological value, no good verges. Fine long views to west, north and east towards 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				
Railway to western boundary				Intact
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 Verges and some hedges along railway. Poor herblayer.		Low	
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Moderate				
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 Gappy over mature hedge to west Poor on east edge.			Variable
Other features				
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Railway with small house	Siting west edge	Design	Extent	Low



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Photograph locations/ direction



D13.1



D13.2



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