



Ashford Local Development Framework Landscape Character Study

for Ashford Borough Council & English Partnerships

ASSESSMENT & DATA SET : Aldington Ridge

November 2005

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Ashford Local Development Framework

Landscape Character Study

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Aldington Ridge

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 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 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.

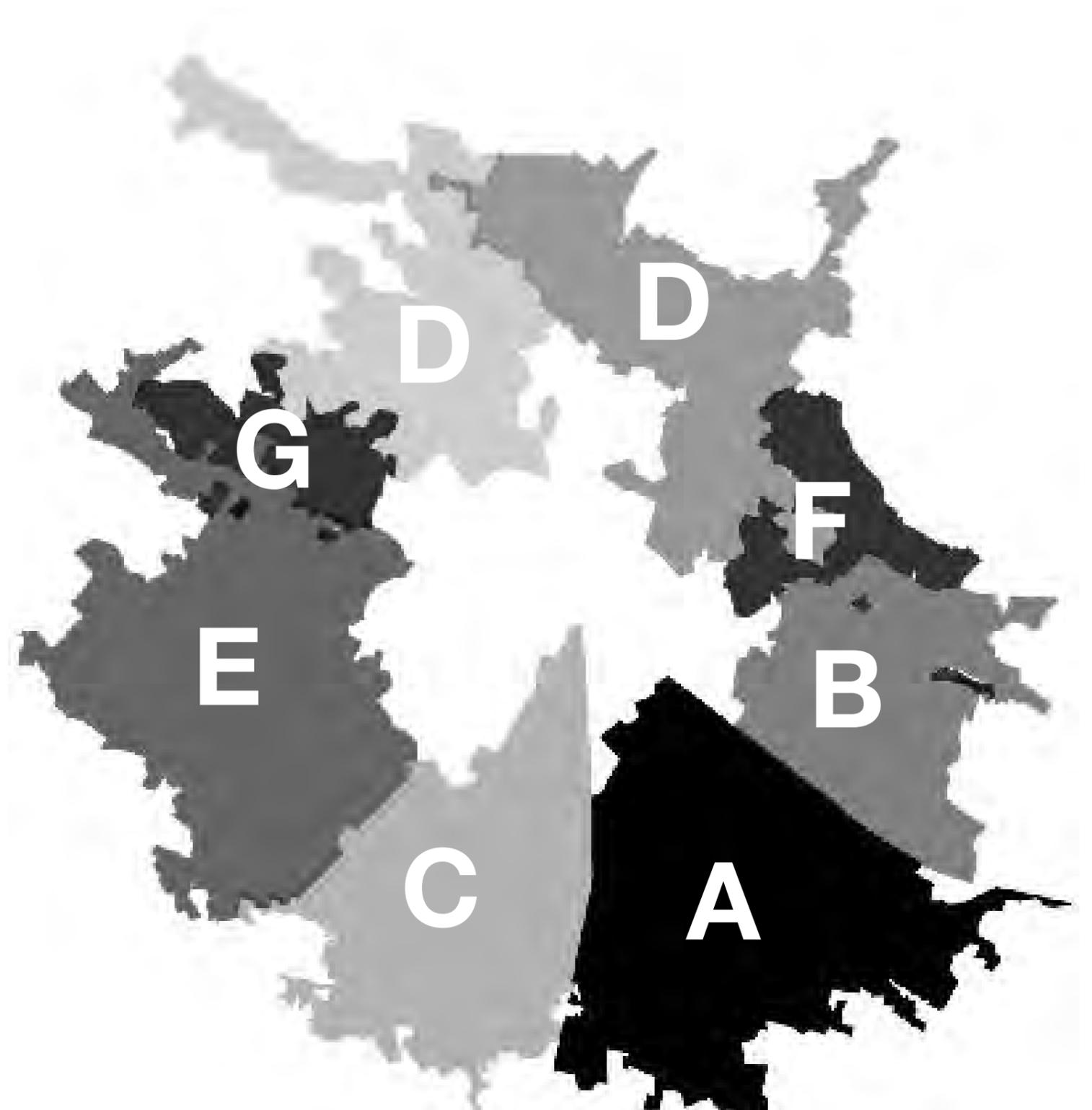
Each LDU is numbered, each filed photograph carries the LDU reference and a photograph location number reference - e.g. D1.3 for LDU D1, third photograph location. The photographs have been saved as jpegs and were generally taken at 1Gb resolution. This data set includes the location maps for the key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

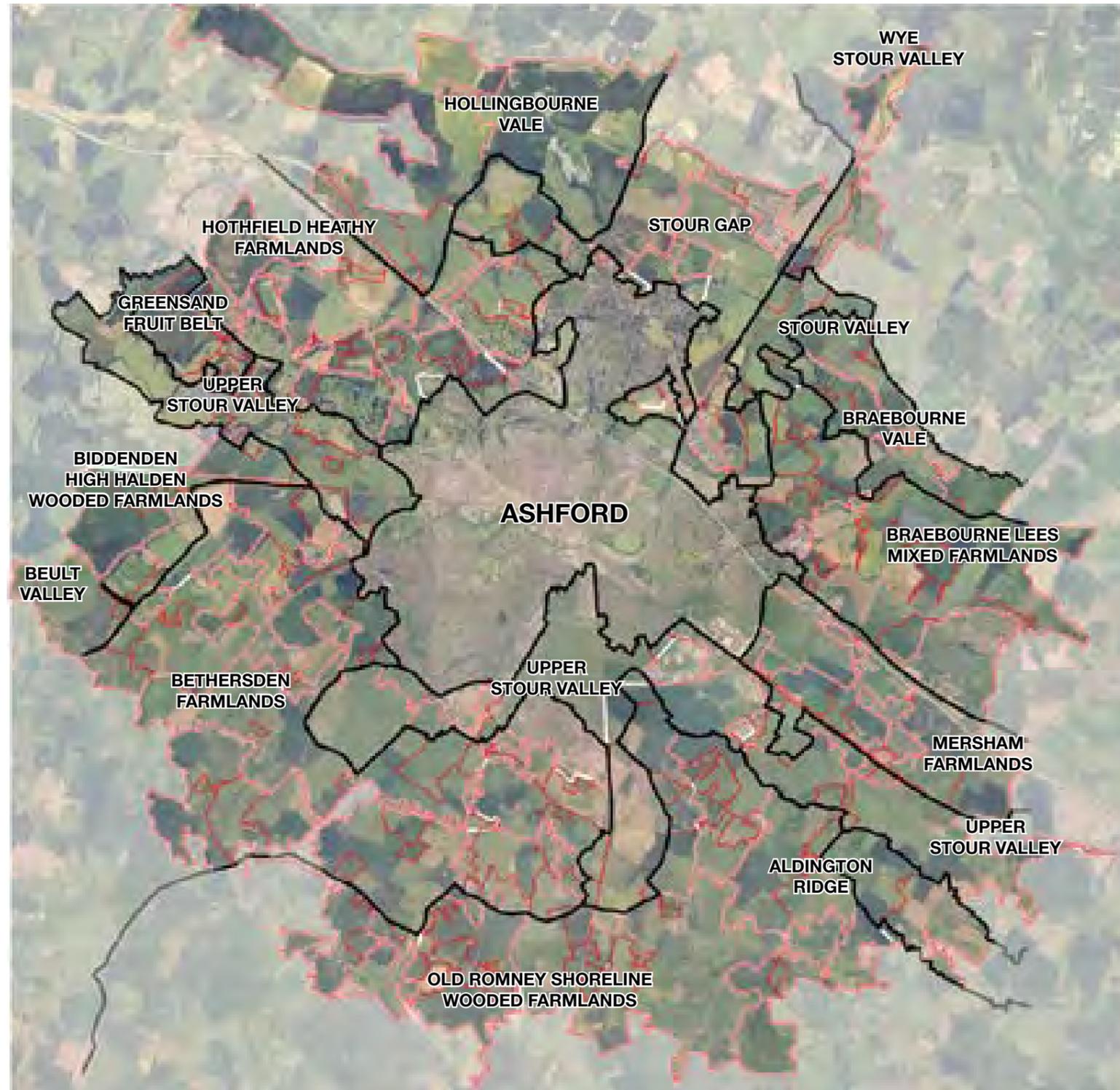
For the assessments the LDUs were grouped by similarity into large blocks we have called District Landscape types (DLT). The 58 DLTs were assessed to fall into one of nine categories used by the County Landscape Character Study. A team of four senior landscape architects and ecologists visited each area as a travelling collegium over a period of four days making on site assessments 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 checked against the field sheets. This work has been presented in these documents as tables.

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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 Landscape Character Study

The Aldington Ridge is high up on the Hythe Beds the Aldington Ridge stands out above the plain of the Low Weald. The good quality loam soils are generally well-drained and support a mixed land use ranging from large arable fields east of Aldington to the pastures north of the B2067 from Court-at-Street to Upper Otterpool. Along the edge of the ridge south-west of Aldington are distinctive irregular pastures developed on former landslips, that are characteristic of this junction between the Hythe Beds and the Atherfield Clay below.

Although essentially a rural landscape the settlements at Lympe and that north of Port Lympe introduce discordant elements in the landscape, their siting appearing unrelated to topography or other natural features. These developments grew up in association with the wartime airfield, however, sited to take advantage of the elevated position of this hinterland to the historic Old Romney Shoreline. This airfield is now closed, which also explains why the land locally appears disturbed where much of the fabric has been demolished. The village of Aldington too has spread haphazardly down its Roman road giving little sense of structure. It retains dramatic views over the Low Weald, however.

Court-at-Street is an attractive village, however, on the edge of the North Downs AONB. To the south there are fantastic views glimpsed through the often wooded AONB to Romney Marsh below. Along the B2067 in the vicinity of this village are bushy hazel hedges but locally these have been lost giving a gappy appearance. North of the B2067 the land falls away more gradually to the Sellindge plateau with the North Downs framing the views beyond.

The Ashford Landscape Character Study

- Approximately 25% of this County Landscape Character Area (CLA)
- There are 17 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 4 - Woodlands
 - HLT 7 - Valley Floor and Water Management
 - HLT 9 - Settlements
- We have grouped these into 4 District Landscape Types (DLTs)
- There is 1 historic settlement, Aldington Frith, which we have grouped with associated small fields in AR 4

In carrying out the survey and discussing the results we find that there are some significant adjustments that should be made to the County Landscape Character Area Boundaries. After careful consideration, we have added a large area to the Aldington Ridge CLA which extends from Aldington Frith, north to Cheesemans Green and Captains Wood, and including Colliers Hill from the Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands, as we feel this more accurately reflects the character of this spur between the East Stour and Ruckinge Dyke valleys for the following reasons:

- The Roman Road follows the high ground here which divided the Ruckinge Dyke Valley and the East Stour Valley
- The Environment Agency aerial photographs of the 2000 floods clearly show the Aldington Ridge extending much further towards Ashford
- Geologically, Colliers Hill is an outcrop of the Wealden Greensand that forms the Aldington Ridge and no-doubt underlies Cheeseman's Green
- The enclosure pattern and lack of woodlands, bar Captains Wood, in this area is more akin to the Aldington Ridge CLA than it is to the Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands

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 land use. 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.

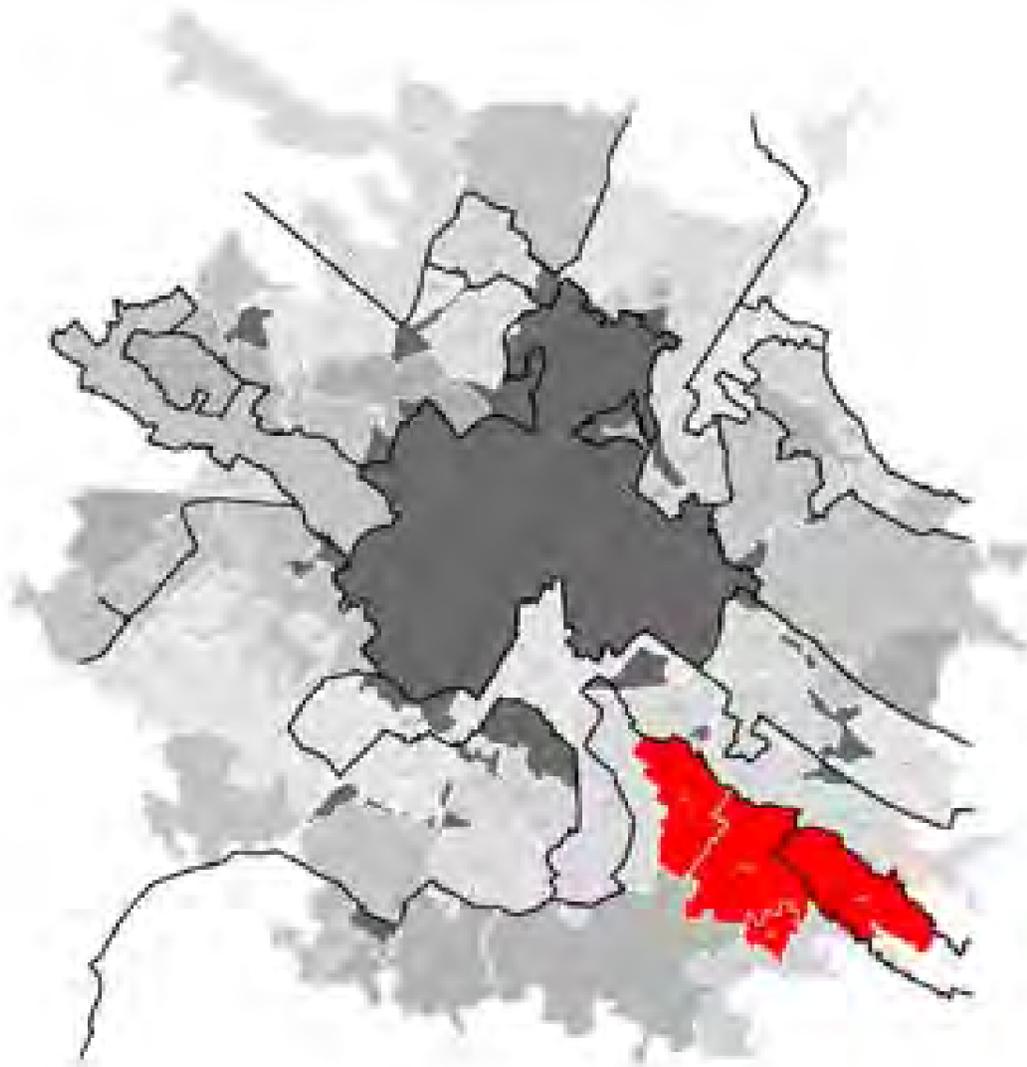
Sensitivity of the landscape refers to its overall character and quality and the extent to which these factors will be tolerant of change in general.

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.

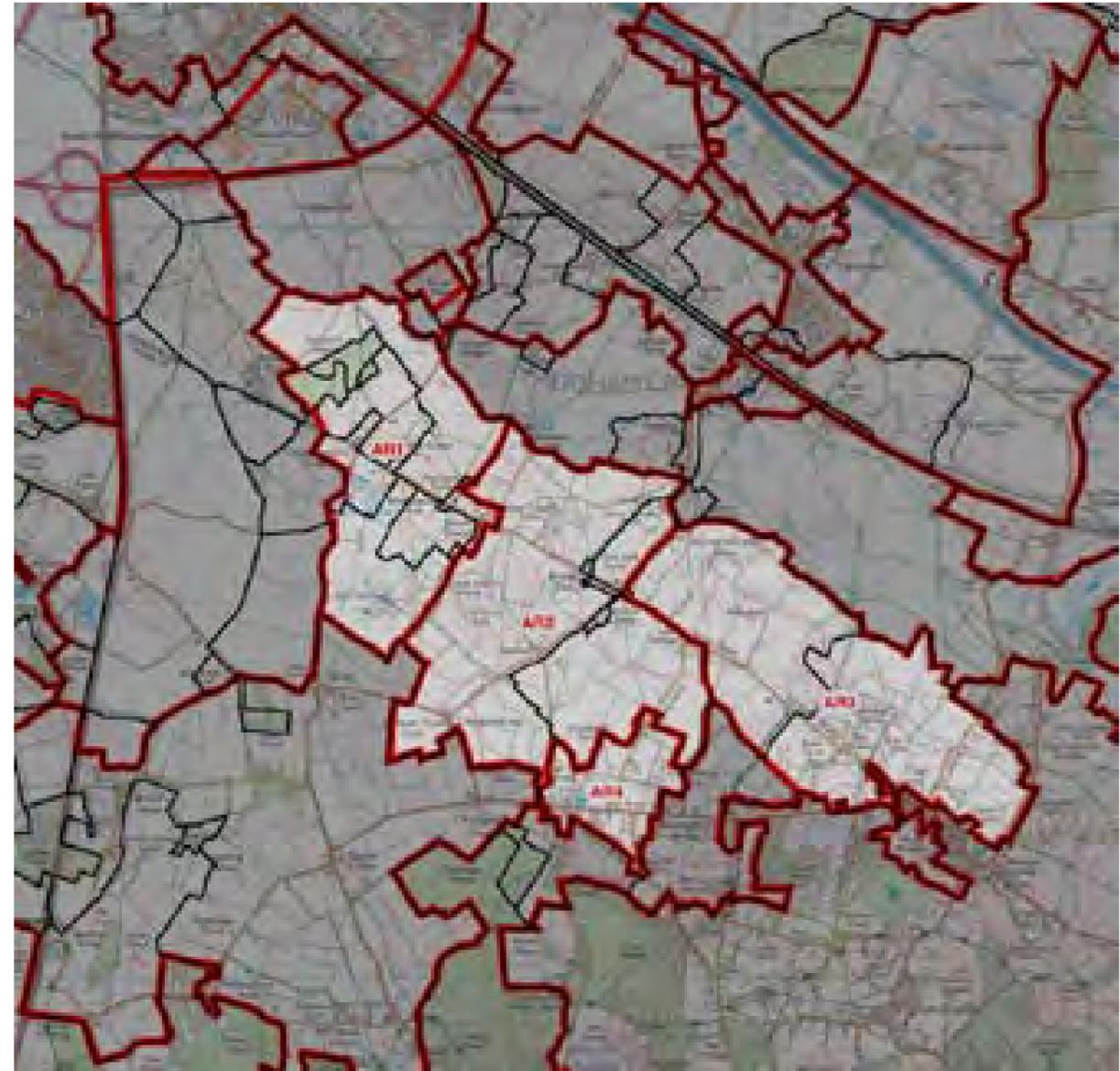
The matrix combines condition and sensitivity which indicates the area's ability to accommodate change and the appropriate land management or use, and will assist in the overall policies or development that might be appropriate to a particular area.

condition	good	reinforce	conserve & reinforce	conserve
	moderate	create & reinforce	conserve & create	conserve & restore
	poor	create	restore & create	restore
		low	moderate	high
		sensitivity		

Location

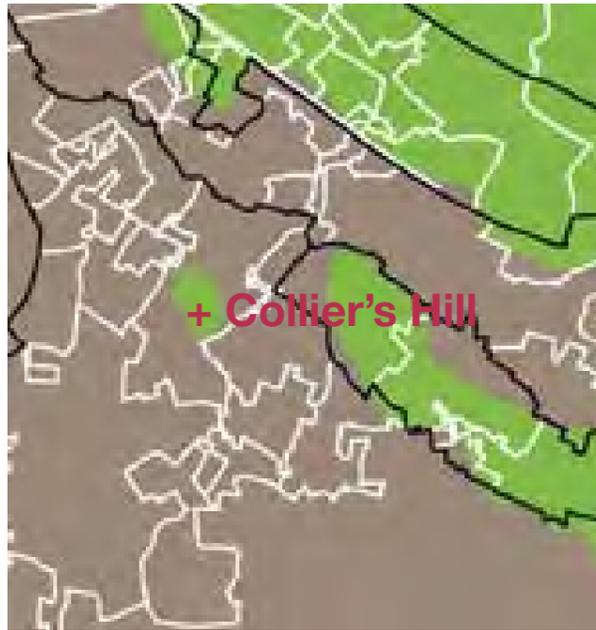


Location of Aldington Ridge Landscape Character Area within study area

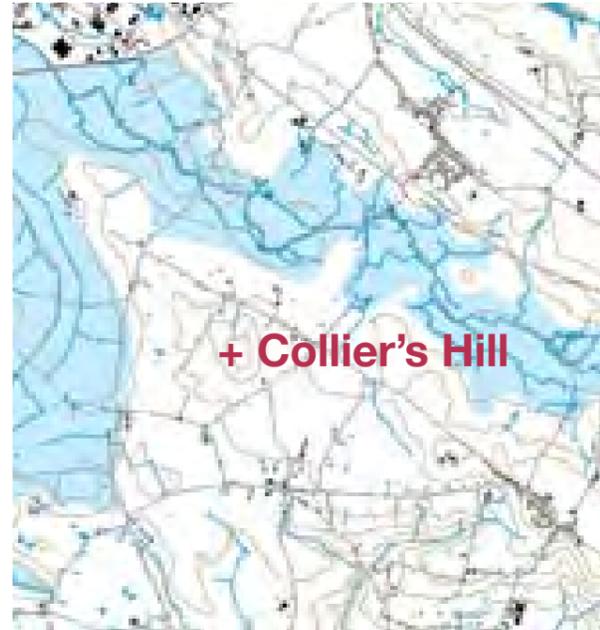


Location of Aldington Ridge District Areas

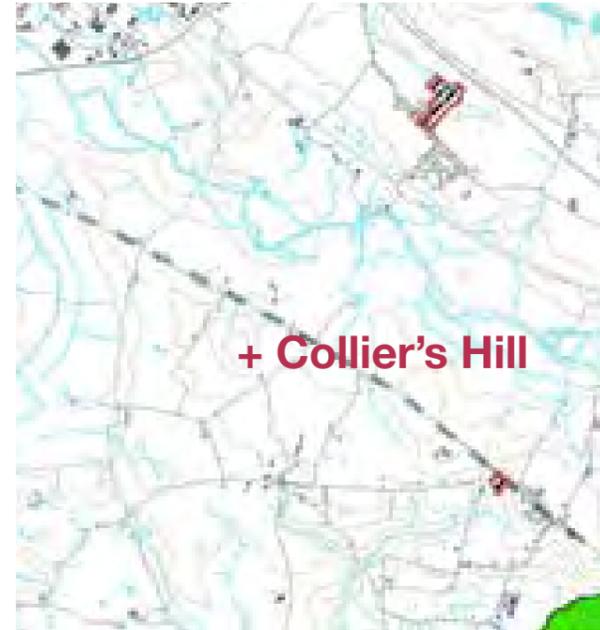
Landscape context



Geology



Flooding



Heritage

Geology

This ridge is part of the Wealden Greensand ridge with outcrops of sandstone in the Welden Clay, notable Colliers Hill, a local high point.

Flooding

The ridge and the areas around Cheesemans green to Captains Wood separate the floodplain of the Upper Stour Valley (east).

Heritage

The key heritage feature is the Roman Road that takes the high ground on the ridge from hythe to Ashford and beyond. It is likely that there may be archaeological remains associates with this feature.

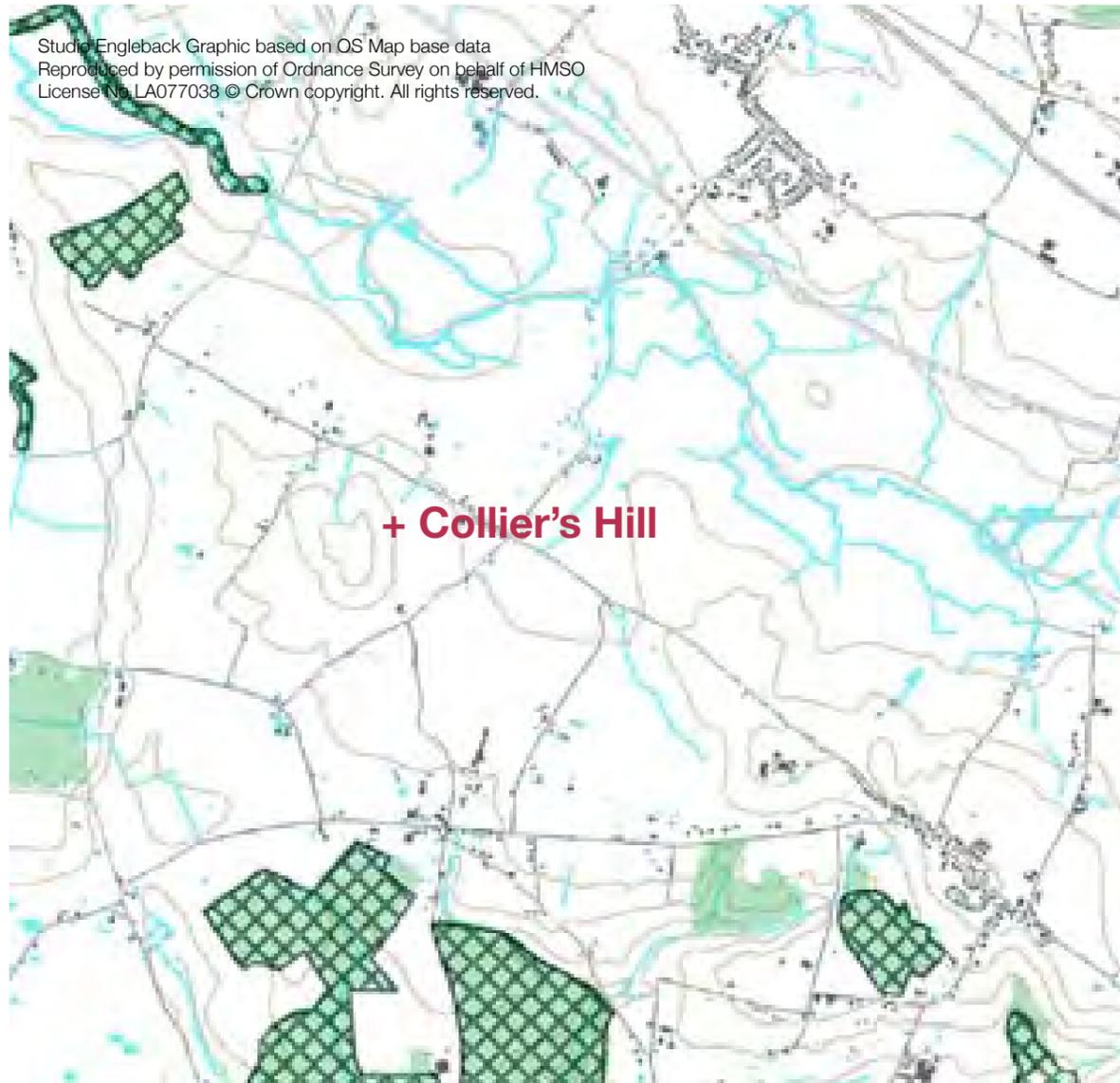
Ecology

There are no designated sites within this part of the county landscape area.

Features lost since the 1870s

Hedgerow loss is particularly marked around Collier's Hill and Cheeseman's Green.

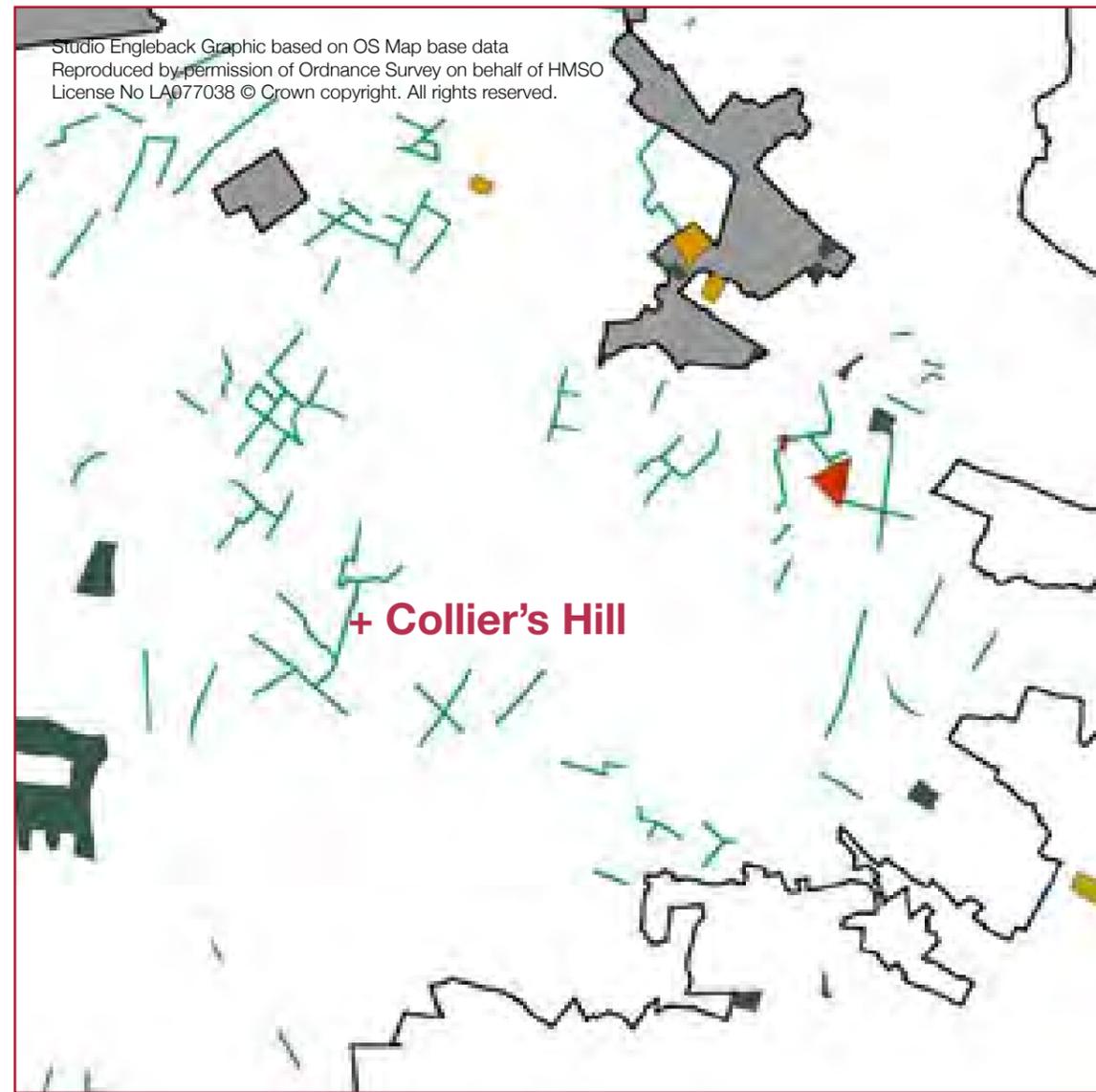
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+ Collier's Hill

Ecology

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+ Collier's Hill

Features lost since 1870's

Hedgerow loss is particularly marked around Collier's Hill and Cheeseman's Green.



Section 2 Assessment

Assessment Summary

This county area follows the greensand ridge to the south east of Ashford at Clap Hill which affords panoramic views over Romney Marsh to Dungeness.

We have made some major adjustments to the Kent CLA boundary by including the area extending from Aldington Frith, north to Cheesemans Green and Captains Wood, and including Colliers Hill an outlier of greensand. The Roman Road continues to follow this higher ground and the enclosure pattern is more akin to the Aldington Ridge CLA than it is to the Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands.

Closest to Ashford is the area around Cheeseman's Green with generally open, mainly flat arable land with cluster of farms around Cheeseman's Green, small hamlet at South Stour and high hedgerows to lanes. Captain's Wood, an ancient oak and ash woodland with some hornbeam coppice and associated semi-improved grassland is distinctive within the landscape. The ragstone, hung tile and shiplap buildings and lanes with high hedges contribute to the sense of place. Views are variable - to the north there are generally long distance views to Ashford fringe whereas to the south there are intermittent views to Colliers Hill and Aldington Ridge.

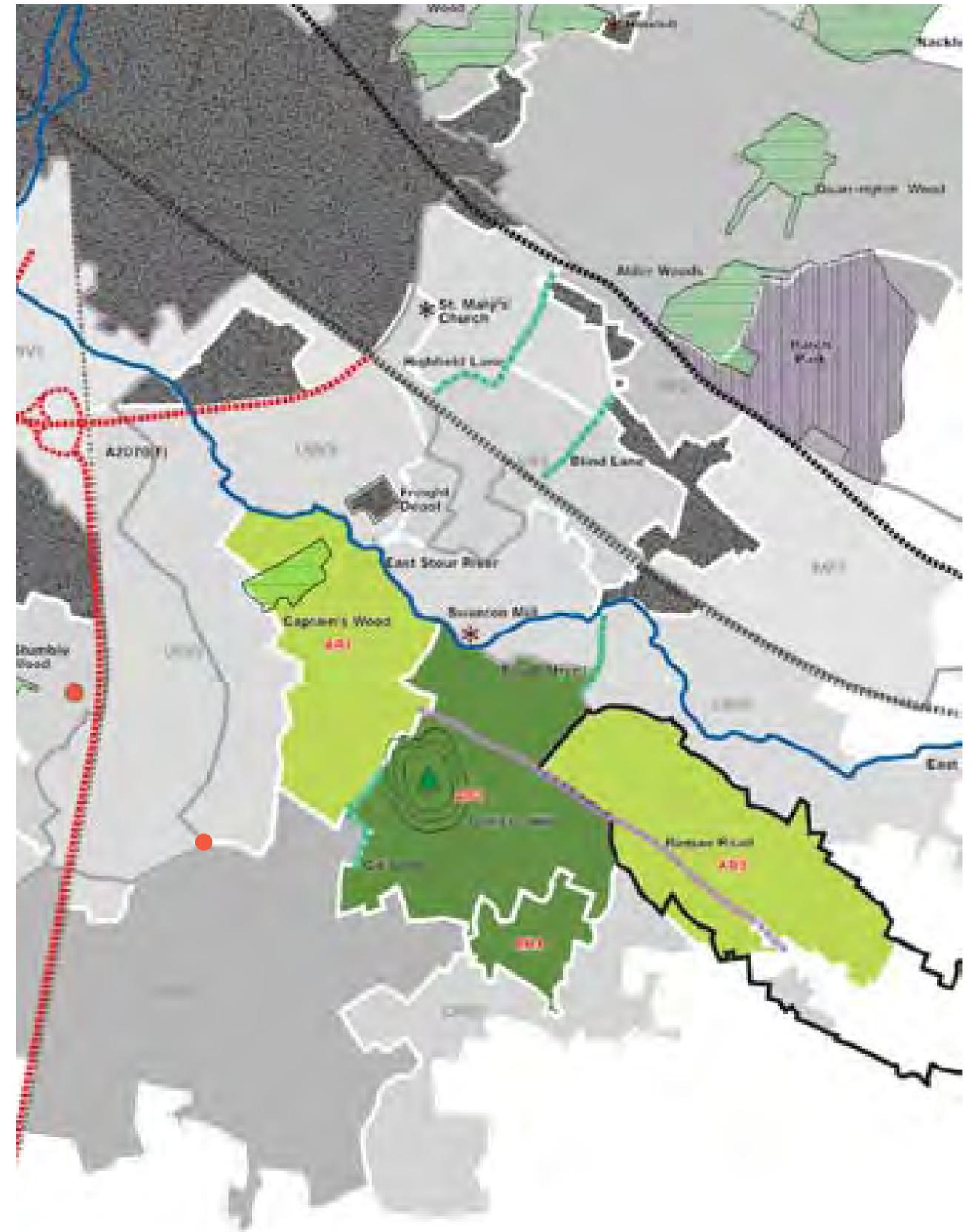
South of South Stour the arable farmland rises to distinctive knoll at Collier's Hill and falls to the East Stour river at Swanton Mill. The large fields have lost hedgerows and are intensively farmed and treecover is limited to the hedgerows along the Roman Road and farmsteads and pollarded willows at Swanton Mill.

Colliers Hill and the Roman Road give a distinctive feel and orientation to the area and a strong sense of place. From Colliers Hill there are panoramic views over greatly enlarged arable fields to the north to the East Stour floodplain and to the south views towards the Old Saxon ridgeline and woodlands. The Roman Road extends along the ridgeline with large arable fields and extensive views north to Mersham, west and north west to Ashford and the North Downs and south to Dungeness.

South of the Roman Road the farmland is a close grained landscape of gentle folds and sunken lanes contained with high hedges and trees which absorbs much of the development of Aldington Frith. The heart lies around the Frith Road/ Priory Road crossroads with a collection of traditional Kentish style buildings, with newer properties to the lanes and scattered farmsteads. The surroundings are mixed farmland with paddocks and hedges, and more open arable farmland. The sunken lanes, high hedges and traditional style ragstone, red brick and weather boarding buildings give distinctive character and strong sense of place. The rolling topography and high hedges restrict visibility and views are generally short and intermittent.



Location of Aldington Ridge



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

Policy recommendation



View northwest from Colliers Hill towards Cheeseman's Green (A13.1)



Typical view from lane near Cheeseman's Green towards Captain's Wood (A10.3)



Local vernacular at South Stour (A12.3) Lane near Aldington Frith (A26.10)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

	AR1	AR2	AR3	AR4
Landuse				
Farming	○	○	○	○
Recreation				
Parkland				
Woodland	○			
Business Park				
Industry				
Topography				
Flat	○			
Gently undulating				
Rolling				○
Steeply sloping		○	○	
Lakes/ ponds				
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	 Green Lane
 Historic Building	 Roman Road
 Oast House	 Woods
 Hilltop/ Scenic Views	 Parks
 River Stour	 Flooded Gravel Pits



Collier's Hill

Rising to 74 metres above sea level, the small outcrop of Greensand that forms Collier's Hill is the dominant feature in the flat valley floor landscape forming an outlier to the Aldington Ridge. From the crest of the hill expansive panoramic views in all directions take in the North Downs and Romney Marshes. Located to the south of the development area it has the potential to be an important and varied area of greenspace.



Captain's Wood

A fine tract of ancient woodland comprising unmanaged hornbeam coppice with oak standards, as well as a wealth of native deciduous tree species. Ash is particularly prevalent in places, and patches of birch and bramble occur in scattered open glades.

The wood is an extremely prominent feature in the impoverished surrounding valley floor landscape, forming a strong edge with the mixed farmland that bounds the wood on all sides. It is situated west of the River East Stour and north of the settlement at Cheeseman's Green. The proposed development extends to the southern edge of the wood and poses a great threat to the integrity of the woodland habitat.



Photograph courtesy of the Environment Agency

Captain's Wood from the air

Captain's Wood a major feature on a rise between two rivers. The floods of 2000 show clearly the floodplain element of the northern part of Cheeseman's Green, the low ridge between rivers, and the importance of Captain's Wood visually, as well as its isolation from other woods.



Roman Road

The Roman road is a distinctive linear feature within the landscape running to the north of Collier's Hill. It is bounded by managed and overgrown hedgerows with trees.



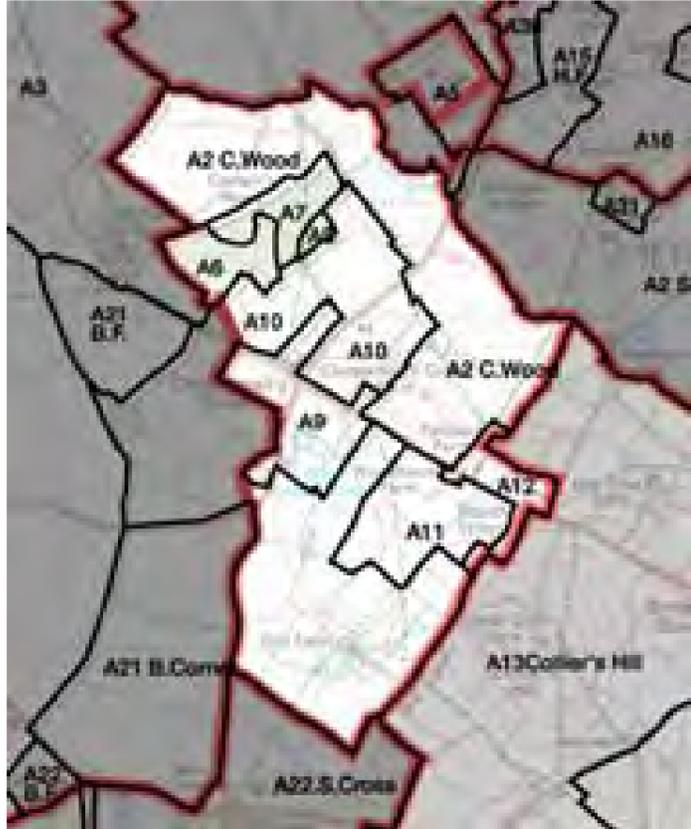
Gill Lane

Located on the south western edge of the dominant Collier's Hill, the southern section of this narrow, winding lane is cloaked by a green canopy of mature trees and hedgerows.



Section 3 Field Work & Data Sheets

AR 1 Cheesemans Green



Location of AR 1 within Aldington Ridge

District Landscape Type: AR 1 Cheeseman's Green

Comprising: A2 Captain's Wood, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10a, A10c, A11, A12

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Generally open, mainly flat arable land with cluster of farms around Cheeseman's Green and small hamlet at South Stour.
- Captain's Wood, an ancient oak and ash woodland with some hornbeam coppice and associated semi-improved grassland/ rush.
- Hedgerows are variable, and generally high to lanes but where arable there is evidence of hedgerow and ditch clearance, river and dyke dredging.
- Rising ground between the Stour floodplain with distant views to Ashford.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

Generally a coherent pattern of landscape elements, but with some loss of hedgerows, especially around Cheeseman's Green Farm. Elsewhere the high hedges and Captain's Wood are of ecological value.

Sensitivity

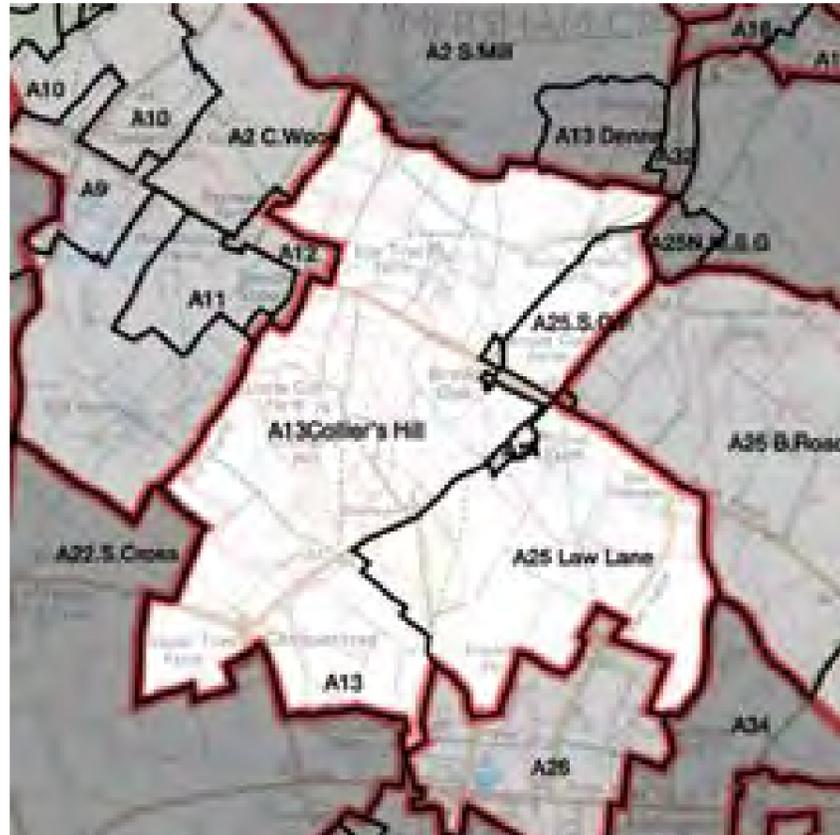
Sense of place:	moderate
Landform:	moderate
Extent of tree cover:	moderate
Visibility:	moderate

The ragstone, hung tile and shiplap buildings and lanes with high hedges contribute to the sense of place. Views are variable - to the north there are generally long distance views to Ashford fringe whereas to the south there are intermittent views to Colliers Hill and Aldington Ridge.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & create

AR 2 Colliers Hill



Location of AR 2 within Aldington Ridge

District Landscape Type: AR 2 Colliers Hill

Comprising: A13, A14, A25 (Law lane), A25 (Stone Green Farm)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Predominantly arable farmland rising to distinctive knoll at Collier's Hill and extending to East Stour river at Swanton Mill.
- Large fields intensively farmed and evidence of hedgerow clearance.
- Mature hedgerow to Roman Road and treecover limited to farmsteads and pollarded willows at Swanton Mill.
- Broad Oak on the Roman Road is a mix of bungalows and traditional farm cottages.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

A fairly unified pattern of elements with the landform being the overriding feature but with some loss of landscape features such as hedges and ditches and therefore ecological value.

Sensitivity

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

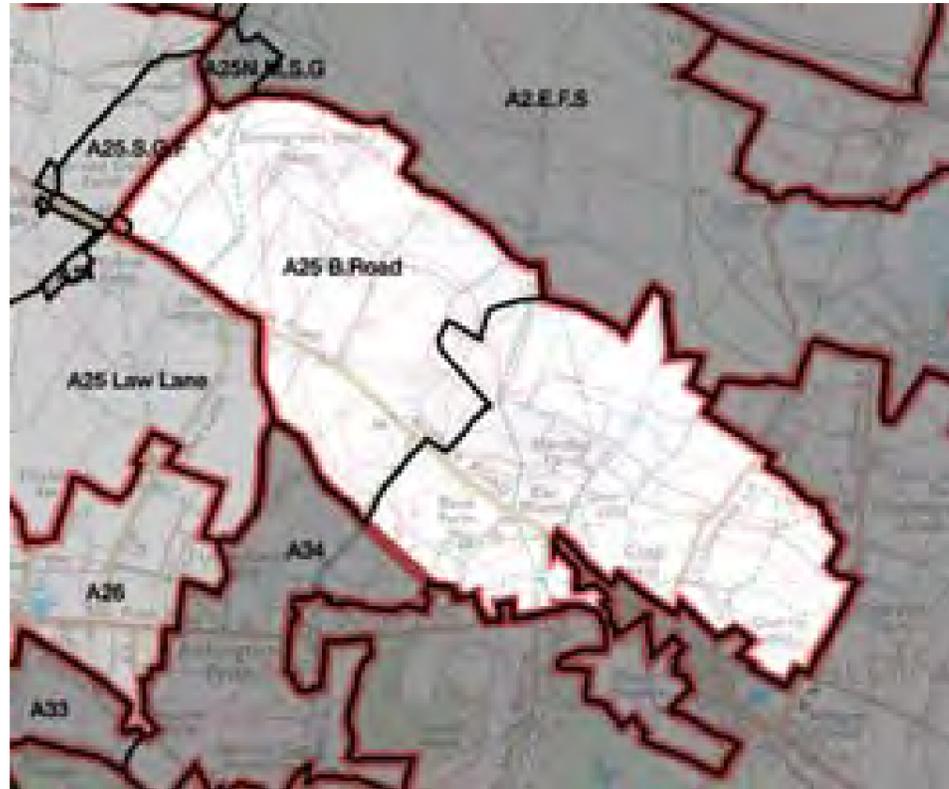
Colliers Hill and the Roman Road give a distinctive feel and orientation to the area and a strong sense of place. The higher ground of Colliers Hill which extends from the Aldington Ridge gives panoramic views over greatly enlarged arable fields to the north to the East Stour floodplain and to the south views towards the Old Saxon ridgeline and woodlands.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & restore

- conserve open views from Colliers Hill
- restore hedgerows and pastoral grasslands

AR 3 Clap Hill



Location of AR 3 within Aldington Ridge

District Landscape Type: AR 3 Clap Hill

Comprising: A25 (Bank Road), A34 (Handen Farm)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Large open arable fields along the Aldington Ridge.
- Traversed by Bank Road – a Roman Road with high hedges and localised tree cover.
- Extensive views north to Mersham, west and north west to Ashford and the North Downs and south to Dungeness.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

A coherent pattern of elements with open fields and prominent ridgeline giving panoramic views and distinctive character. The land is intensively farmed so the ecological value is limited to the high hedges.

Sensitivity

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

The Roman Road following the ridgeline with open views has a strong sense of place. Visibility is high with panoramic views north to Mersham, west and north west to Ashford and the North Downs and south to Dungeness.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & create

- conserve views from the ridgeline
- plant new hedges on the slopes

AR 4 Aldington Frith



Location of AR 4 within Aldington Ridge

District Landscape Type: AR 4 Aldington Frith

Comprising: A26

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- A close grained landscape of gentle folds and sunken lanes contained with high hedges and trees which absorbs much of the development of Aldington Frith.
- Frith Road/ Priory Road crossroads has a collection of traditional Kentish style buildings, with newer properties to the lanes and scattered farmsteads.
- Mixed farmland with paddocks and hedges, and more open arable farmland.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

Generally a unified pattern of a rural settlement within a farmed landscape, however there is some fragmentation of character with suburbanisation of the rural scene, for example planting of leylandii hedges.

Sensitivity

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

The sunken lanes, high hedges and traditional style ragstone, red brick and weather boarding buildings give distinctive character and strong sense of place. The rolling topography and high hedges restrict visibility and views are generally short and intermittent.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & restore
- restore grassland

Aldington Ridge

AR1: Cheeseman's Green

Date: 22.09.04

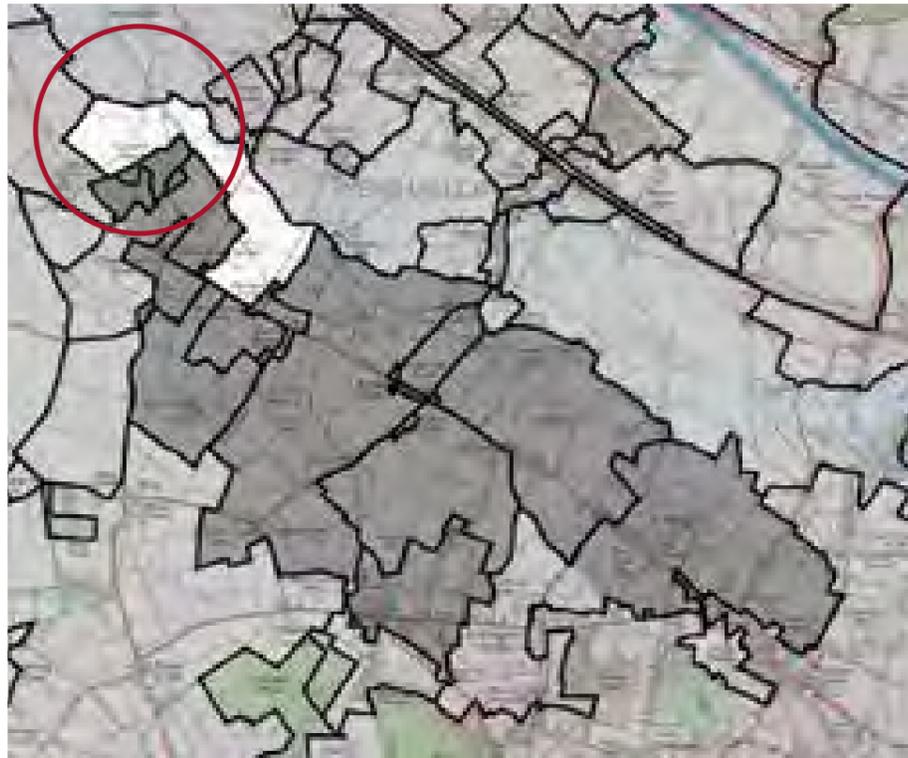
Location: A2 Captains Wood

Map reference: TR034393

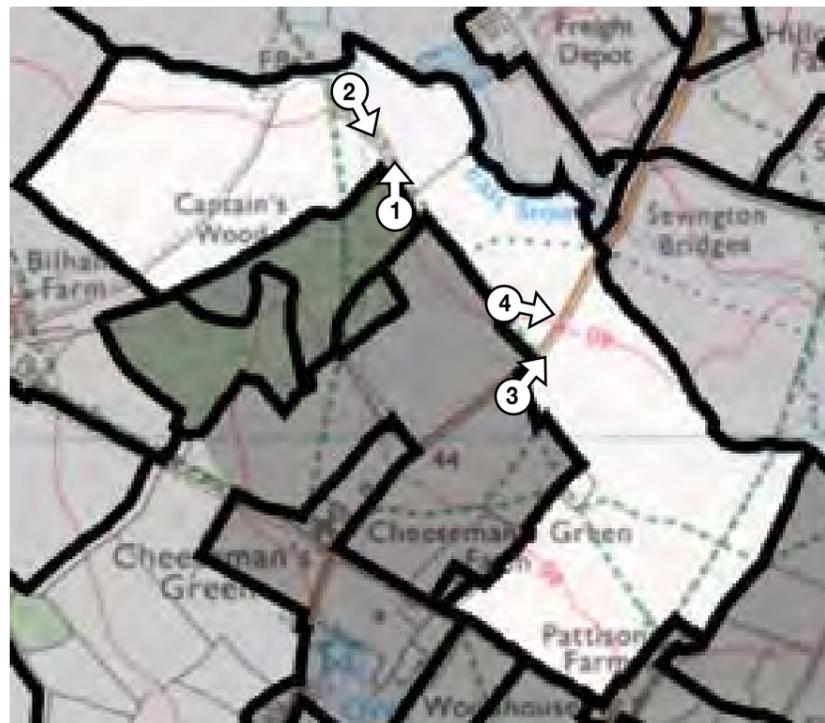
Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney shoreline wooded Farmlands. HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Arable valley floor rising to North West	Views Out To north Ashford fringe. A2070 to North-North East. West past Captain's wood to North only, restricted by rising ground. South filtered through hedges down Stour valley
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Captain's wood on west edge scattered willow pollards along river	Views In Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedge ditch and river	Pattern large scale arable, hedge clearance
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Scattered veteran oaks some tagged to North		Species Oak
Other trees	Heritage features Willow along river dykes		Species Willow
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Gappy hedgerows, post and rail fences, ditches, river		Species Hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and field maple
Highways	Verges		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features			

A2 Captain's Wood ctd.

Brief description: Horseshoe shaped parcel from of north Captain's wood to Cheeseman's Green in south. Very open, mainly flat arable, slight rise to North of Captain's wood, evidence of hedgerow and ditch clearance, river and dyke dredging. Intermittent hedgerow and riverside trees.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Urban fringe and power line with freight centre to North and East. Hedge clearance				<i>Intact</i> Interrupted <i>Fragmented</i>
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit None	Ecological corridors River, ditches, gappy hedges	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low		
Intensity of land use: High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Very intermittent	Age structure Old/Dead	<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> Poor	
Field Boundaries	Gappy, macerated			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Other features				<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Urban fringe and A2070 do impact from outside	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>



A2 Captain's Wood.1



A2 Captain's Wood.2



A2 Captain's Wood.3

Photograph locations/ direction

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A2 Captain's Wood.4

Date: 16.09.04

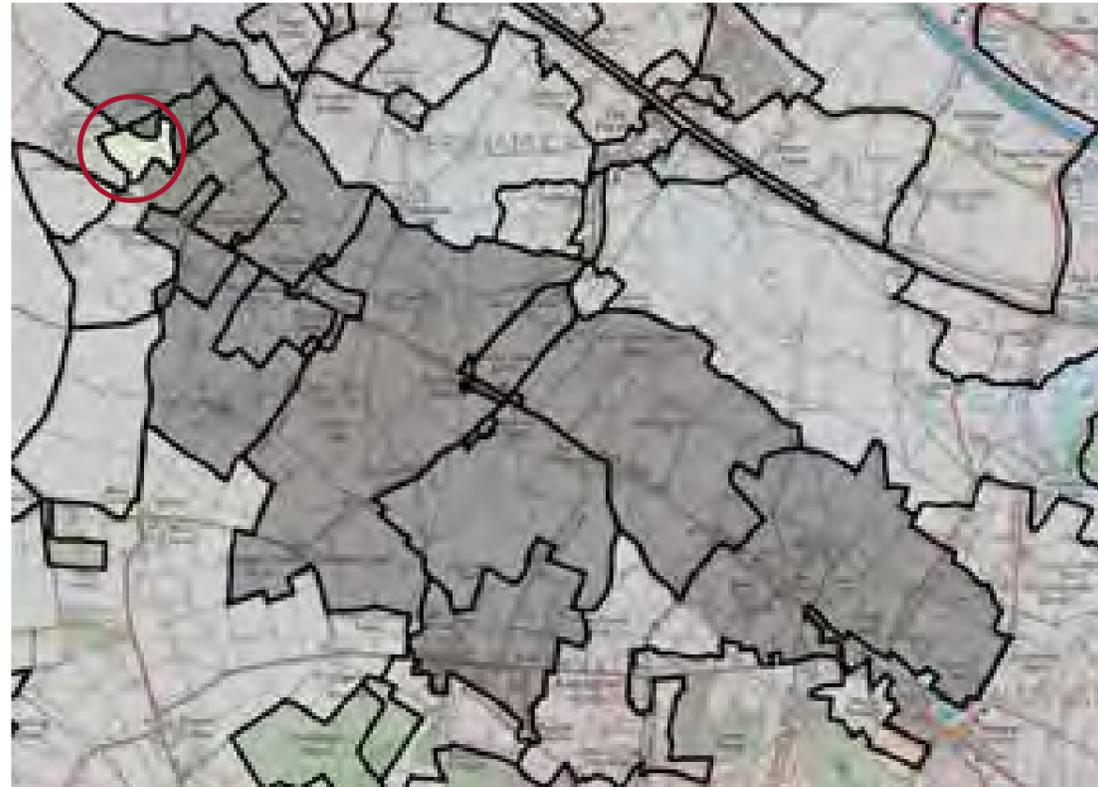
Location: A6 Captain's Wood

Map reference: TR027391

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 4.9: Pre-1801 coppices			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Appears mainly flat shallow dry ditches	Views Out From woodland edge across open farmland of A3 to North and West and A10 to South
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Ancient Oak woodland	Views Within none
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Strong woodland edge, stock proof remnant fencing in wood	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Woodland	Seasonal variation Yes
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Woodland	Species associations	
Farm type	Primary N/A	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features Strong edge open glades open floor	Species Oak dominant and ash, hornbeam, coppice some birch	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Open coppice	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features	Species	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features	Some dumping of farm machinery, scrap etc. Pheasant rearing		

A6 ctd.

Brief description: Fine tract of ancient woodland, oak standards and abandoned hornbeam coppice. Very strong woodland edge and Ash, Thorn, sloe, elder, hazel, bramble.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features Strong feature in the landscape.				
				Intact <i>Interrupted</i> <i>Fragmented</i>
Detractors: Dumping in few locations on B'ham Farm side				
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Continuous		Ecological corridors N/A		High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>
Intensity of land use: Low - abandoned coppice. Pheasant rearing and shooting. Dumping.				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Continuous	Age structure Mixed	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Rusty stock fence perimeter - woodland edge generally strong some areas of bramble and clearing			<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> Poor
Other features				<i>Good</i> <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> Low



Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 16.09.04

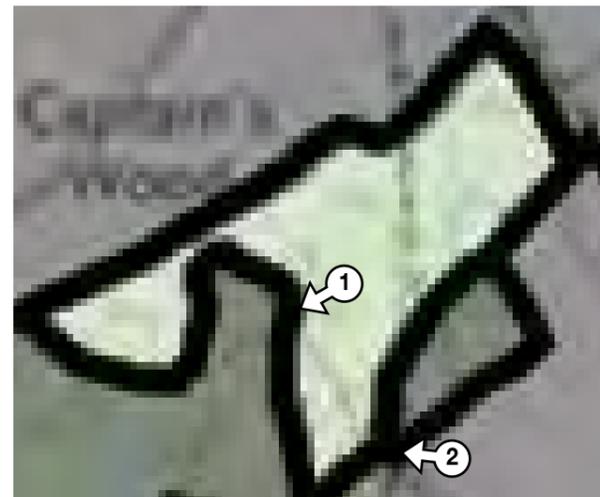
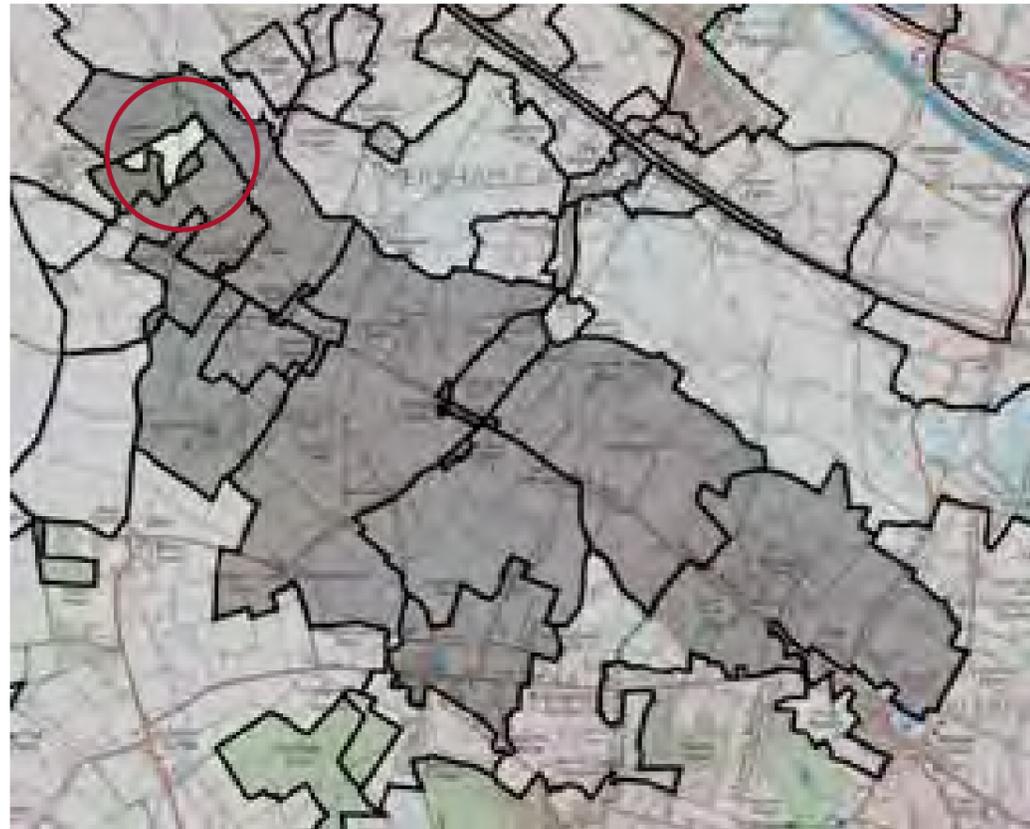
Location: A7 Captain's Wood

Map reference: TR029393

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 7.2 Valley floor woodland			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform generally flat	Views Out North across farmland to Ashford fringe and south to Aldington and Colliers Hill
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Woodland	Views within Some open glades
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Old stock fence boundary	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 oak standards and birch, elder, hazel, bramble, chestnut, thorn	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features	Species	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features	Pheasant rearing		

A7 ctd.

Brief description: Valley floor mixed woodland, good regeneration. Oak, Ash and Hornbeam are dominant, patches of Birch and bramble where light levels permit. More open than coppice (A6), so richer woodland floor habitat				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors:				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Continuous	Ecological corridors		High Moderate Low	
Intensity of land use: low				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Continuous	Age structure Varied	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries				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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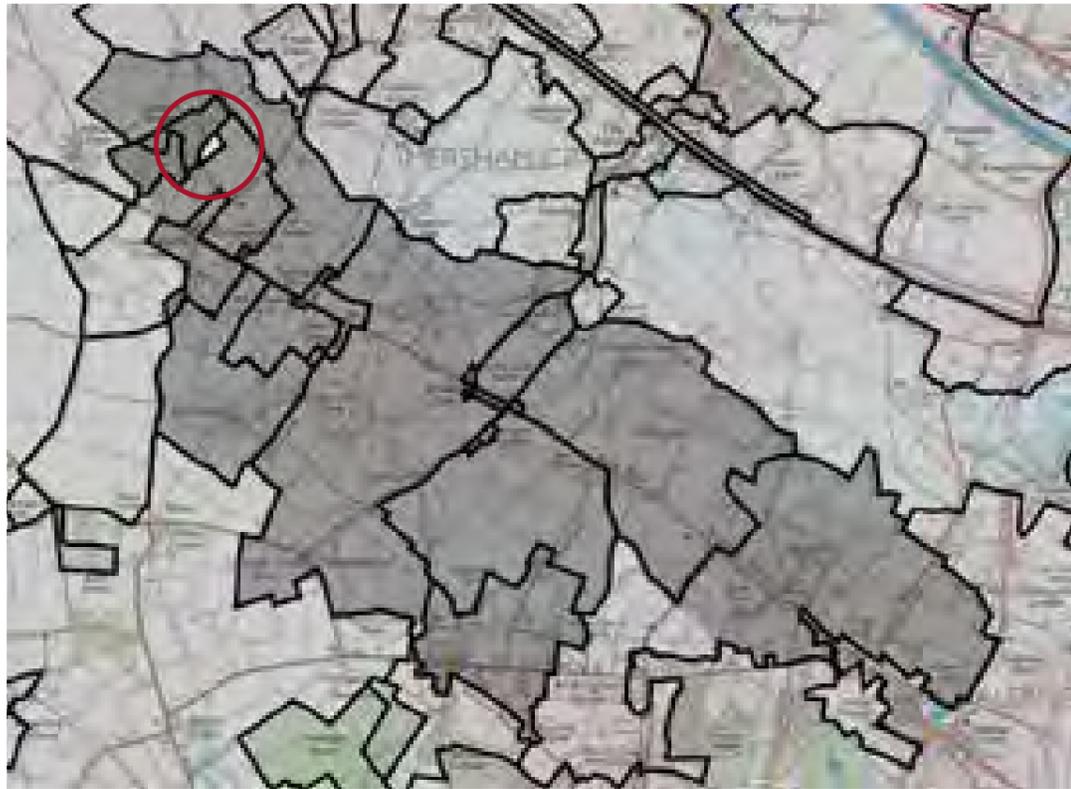
Location: A8 Captain's Wood

Map reference: TR031392

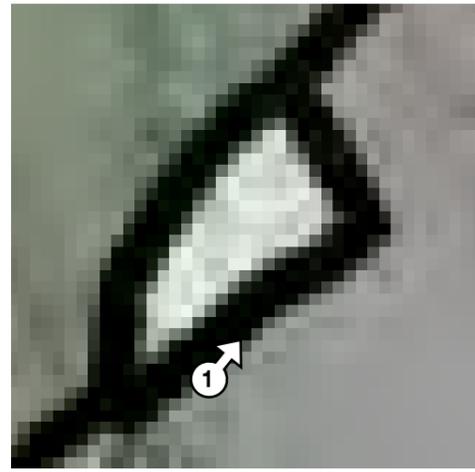
Context: Kent Landscape Character Area: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 4.9 Pre-1801 coppices			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Mainly flat	Views Out From woodland edge South across farmland of A10
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Ancient oak woodland	Views within
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Strong woodland edges	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Woodland	Seasonal variation Yes
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Woodland		Species associations
Farm type	Primary		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Strong edge	Species Hornbeam coppice with oak standards	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features	Species	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features			

A8 ctd.

Brief description: Small area of former hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Strong woodland edge with Ash, thorn, Sloe, Elder, hazel and bramble. Similar to A6				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Part of larger Captain's Wood that is a dominant feature of the landscape				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Continuous woodland	Ecological corridors		High Moderate Low	
Intensity of land use: Low - abandoned coppice, pheasant rearing				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Continuous	Age structure Mixed mainly mature	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Stock fence perimeter			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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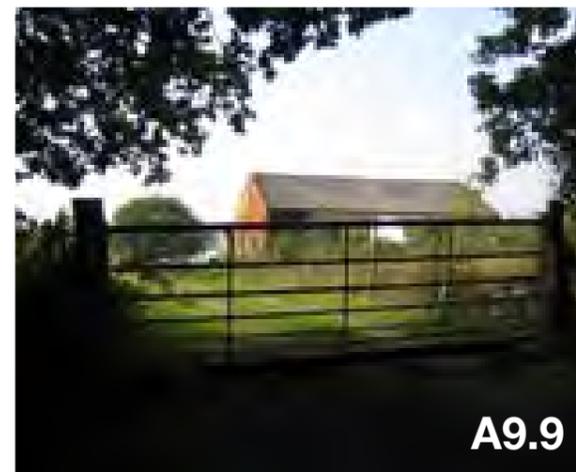
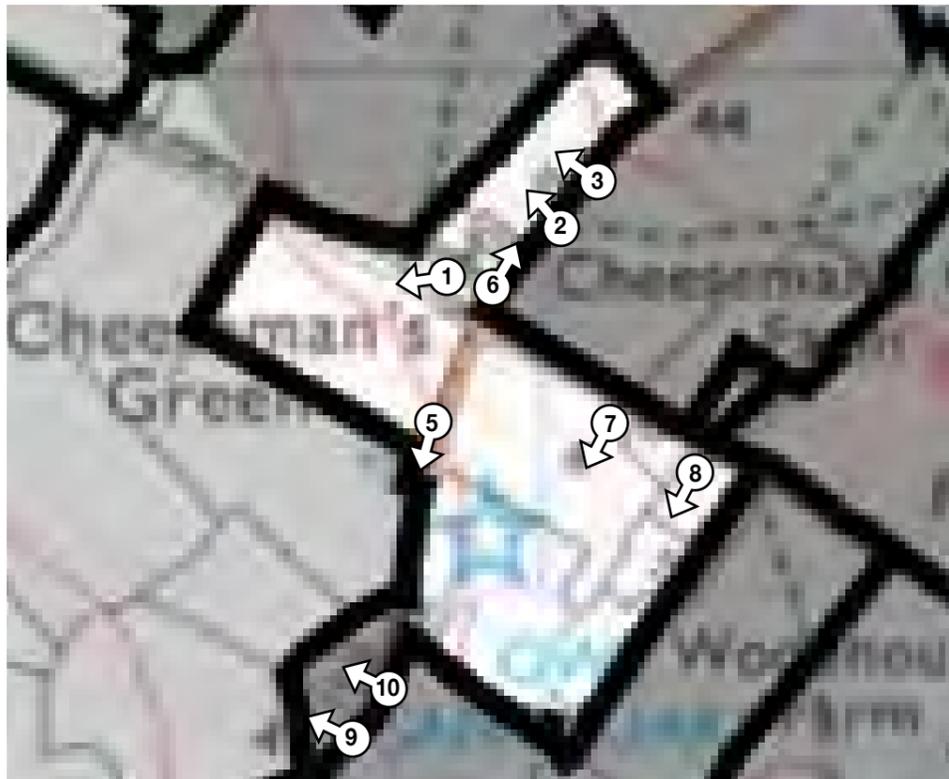
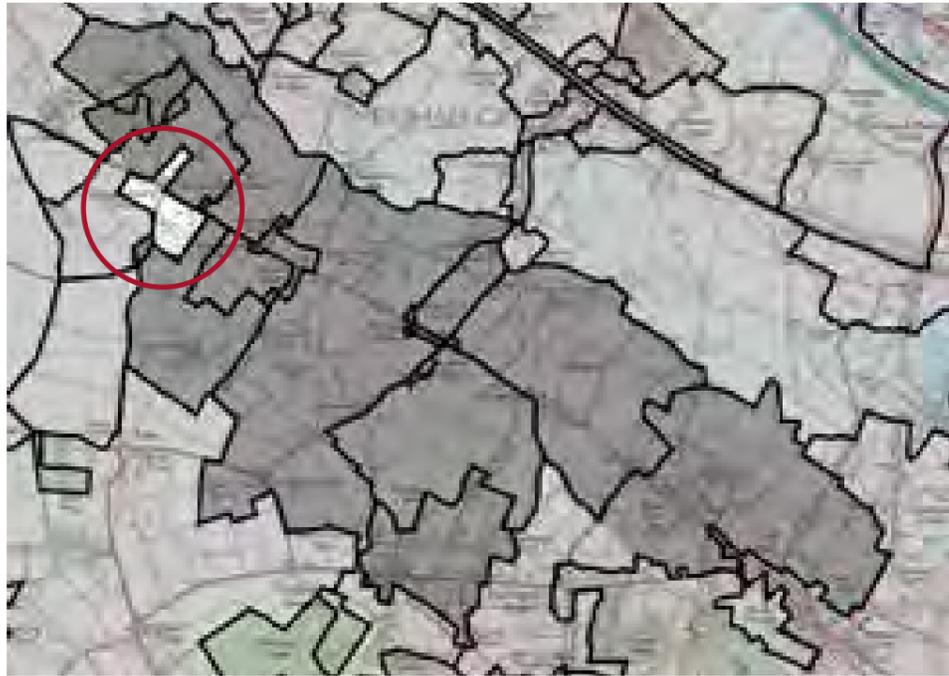


Photograph locations/ direction



Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR029388)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands	
Historic Landscape Type:		9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (1810 extent)	
Boundaries:		A10 encloses A9	
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Apparent	Key visual elements Farms and cottages set behind mature hedges includes: -Owl sanctuary with bungalows -Farm cottages -Cheeseman's Green Farm with farmhouse and old barns -Detached houses set within gardens -Munday Manor	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Gentle slope	
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Mature oak , ash, willow and ornamental trees within gardens including mature leylandii. Mature native hedges.	
FORM & LAYOUT	Clustered	clustered	
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	Mix of ages	
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?			
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale Farmhouse/ cottages with red brick, pegtiles and tiled roof Old timber barns with shiplap and corrugated iron roofs White painted cottage		
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Lane bounded with hedgerows and mature trees – mainly oak and ash Low ragstone wall with brick and mortar coping White picket fencing	Planting/ signage/ lighting	
Edge condition	New housing N/A		
Other features (include detractors)	-		
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Overall a country feel with cluster of farm dwellings behind mature hedges.			

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Cheesemans Green Farm and associated cottages front the western side of the lane characterised by well maintained and high thorn / bullace hedges with ash and oak standards and wide verges. Heavily fruiting bullaces (wild damson) appear to be a particular feature of this area. Farmhouse set behind well constructed low ragstone wall. 'Settlement' also includes the owl sanctuary – a modern brick built bungalow, as well as an old cottage and paddock on the south side of the Roman Road.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
Surrounding arable fields with distant views to Ashford on rising land between two arms of the flood plain.				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement Divided between groups of buildings around Cheesemans Green farm, the owl sanctuary and tatty farm buildings on the opposite side of the lane, Munday Manor and an old cottage fronting the Roman Road. Groups separated by paddocks - typical scattered settlement.	Hedges 2-4m high, filled with sloes and bullaces, give an enclosed feel to the lanes and effectively holds together this rural settlement.		High	
			Moderate	
			Low	
Intensity of built form and trend Traditional forms max 2 floors				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition Hung tile, peg tile roofs, ragstone, brick and white painted shiplap weather boarding. Old timber framed kentish barns with ship lap cladding and replacement old corrugated steel sheet roofs.			Good Variable Poor
Tree Cover	Age structure Young mature oaks, ash and some willows in the hedgerows.			Good Variable Poor
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Well maintained mixed species hedges, some have been left to grow quite broad and tall. Spp inc. hawthorn, blackthorn, bullace, rose, hornbeam, elm, field maple, dogwood and hazel – ancient.			Good Variable Poor
Other features	Low ragstone walls at front of property White painted low timber picket fence Old orchard to Munday manor			Good Variable Poor
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Bungalow – Owl Sanctuary	Siting set back from the the lane behind hedges	Design Post 1960	Extent discrete	High Moderate Low



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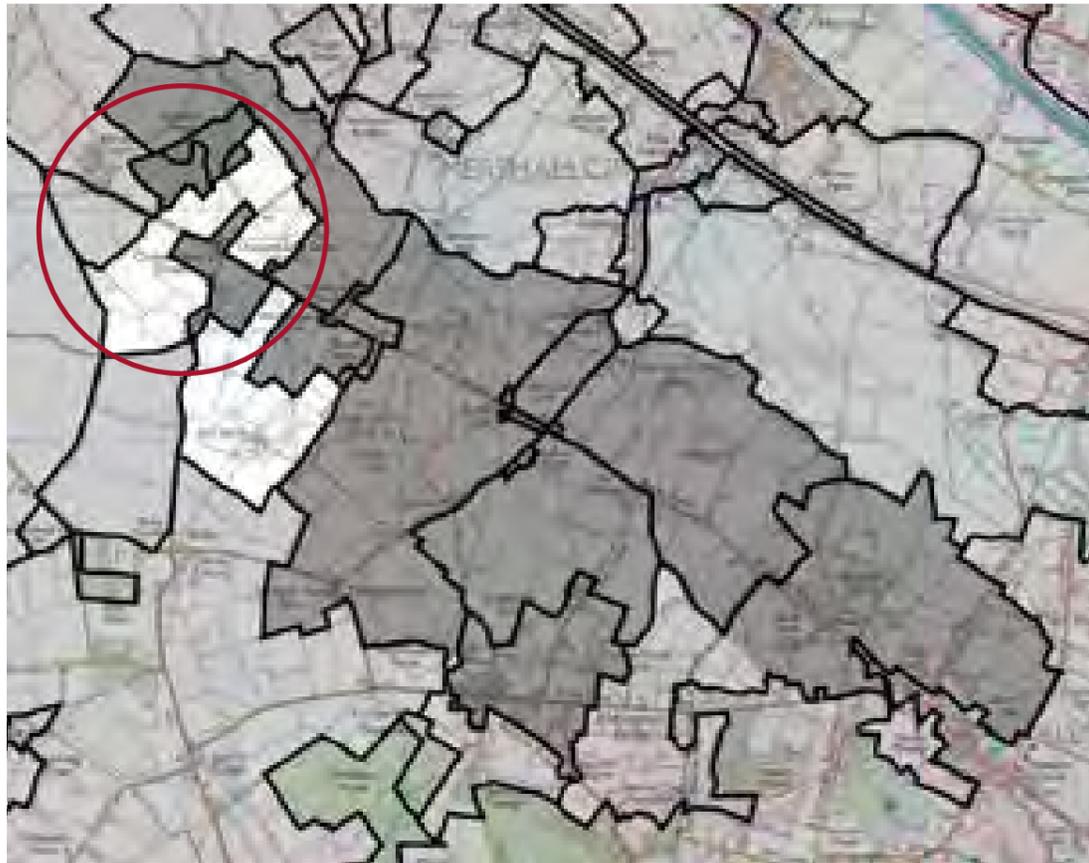
Date: 23.09.04

Location: A10 Cheeseman's Green Map reference: TR030384

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 1.7 Irregular straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Gently undulating	Views Out Panoramic east to Colliers Hill, N to Captain's Wood
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements 2 blocks of oak woodland. High hedgerows with mature standards.	Views In Open, restricted in places by hedgerows
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Mature trees and hedges, paddocks/gardens around Gill Farm	Pattern Irregular, mainly large
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable fields dominant	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features		Species associations	
Farm type	Primary Arable	Other Grazing pasture	
Woodlands	Heritage features 2 woodland blocks, some veteran pollards	Species Oak, hornbeam	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Some veteran	Species oak, hornbeam	
Other trees	Heritage features Veteran oak pollard on boundary with A13	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features High hedgerows	Species Hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, elm	
Highways	Verges Narrow grass, ditch	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads Gill Farm, Little Gill Farm	
Other features			

A10 ctd.

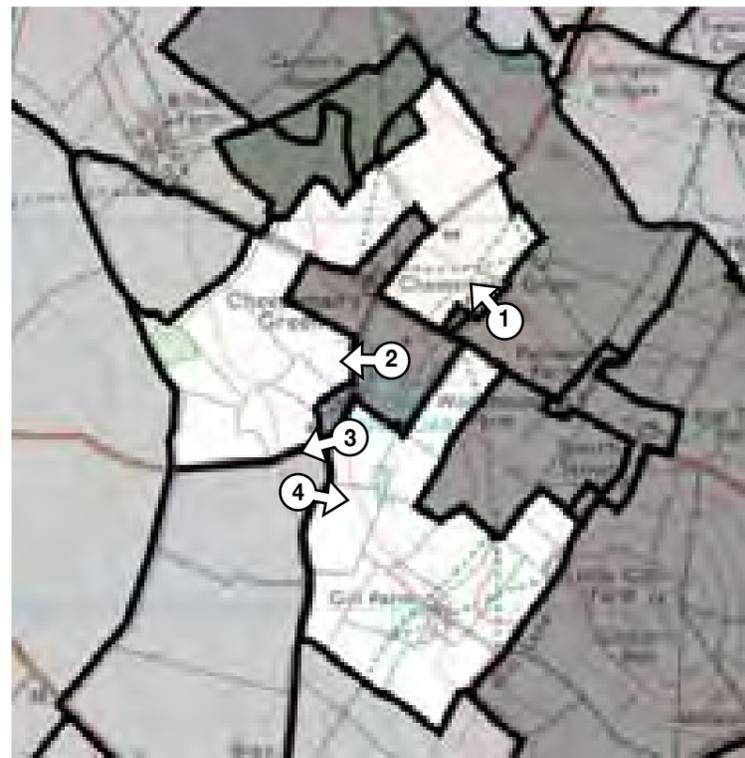
Brief description: Large, highly variable horseshoe shaped parcel, dominated by open arable fields with tall hedges and abundant standards. Two blocks of probably ancient semi-natural oak-hornbeam woodland and a semi-improved grassland with rush immediately south of Captain's Wood.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Road – traffic and noise, occasional power lines				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Set aside, pond at Gill Farm, 2 woodland blocks, small semi-improved grassland	Ecological corridors High hedgerows		High	Moderate
Intensity of land use High - moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent 2 blocks, high hedgerows	Age structure mainly mature	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Hedgerows		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 N/A				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



A10.3

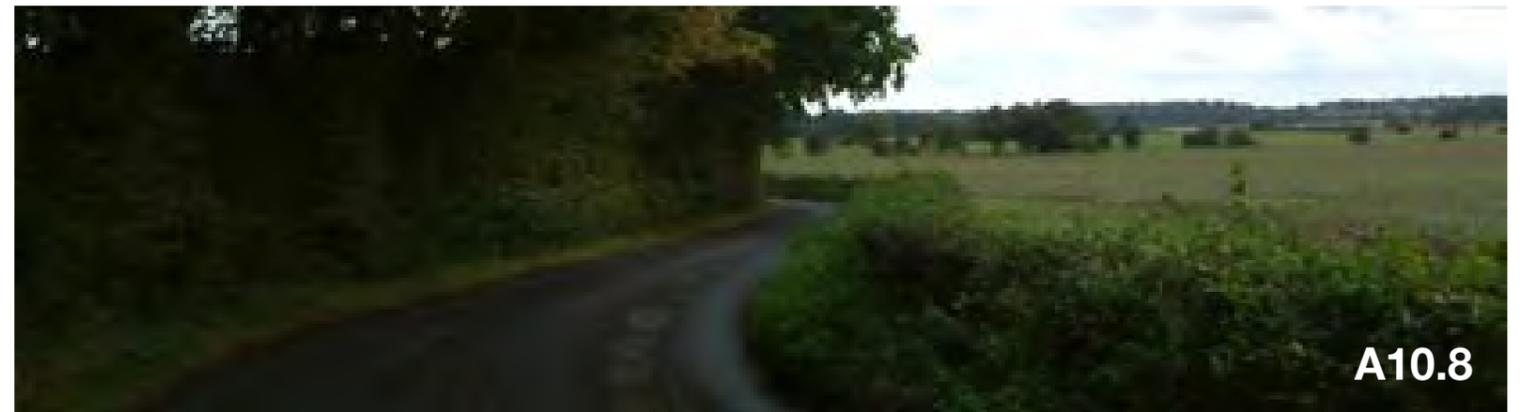


A10.6



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A10.8



A10.9

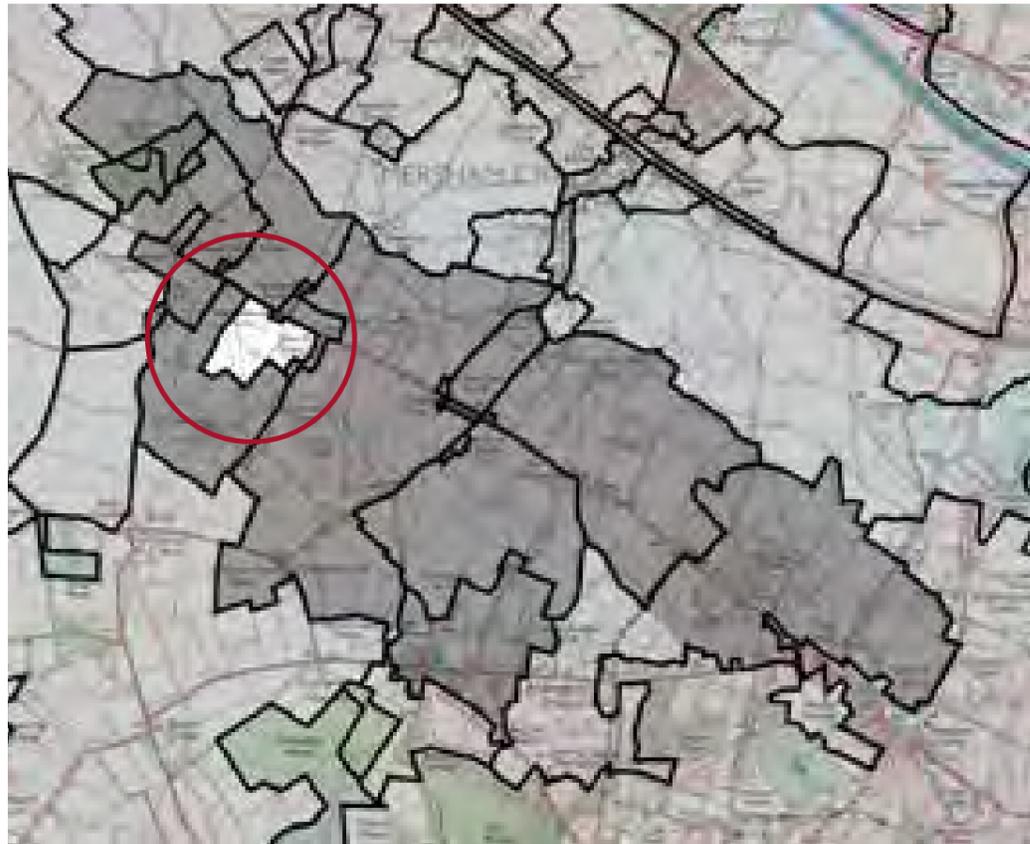
Date: 22.09.04

Location: A11 Woodhouse farm Map reference: TR034383

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 1.10 Medium regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Gently rising to South West	Views Out North – filtered distant glimpses to urban fringe across farmland; West limited by tree cover South and south east towards Colliers Hill, East screened by trees to A12
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Woodhouse farm and parcel boundaries to West to East	Views In Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Settlement along Roman rd to North and South Stour to East, otherwise stock fencing and boundary hedges	Pattern Med-large rectilinear with straight boundaries
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Woodhouse Farm Arable	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Scattered, concentrated around settlement		Species oak, ash, poplar
Other trees	Heritage features Garden trees at woodhouse farm		Species White poplar, oak, hawthorn
Field Boundaries	Heritage features hedge, ditch, barbed wire fence		Species Blackthorn, hawthorn, bramble and rose
Highways	Verges		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads Woodhouse farm – brick bungalow, two tin sheds
Other features			

A11 ctd.

Brief description: Small parcel of arable farmland with Woodhouse farm and Roman Rd to North. Thick hedgerows with oak standards forms powerful western boundary, open to south, small farmsteads of south Stour to North- North East				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Power lines running North to South, neglected corrugated tin barn at woodhouse farm				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	Ecological corridors		<i>High</i>	
	Boundaries - thick hedgerow with standards to West		<i>Moderate</i>	
			Low	
Intensity of land use: High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Localised to boundaries and farm	Age structure Mainly mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Hedgerow good, barbed wire fence poor especially around farm		Good Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Other features			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>

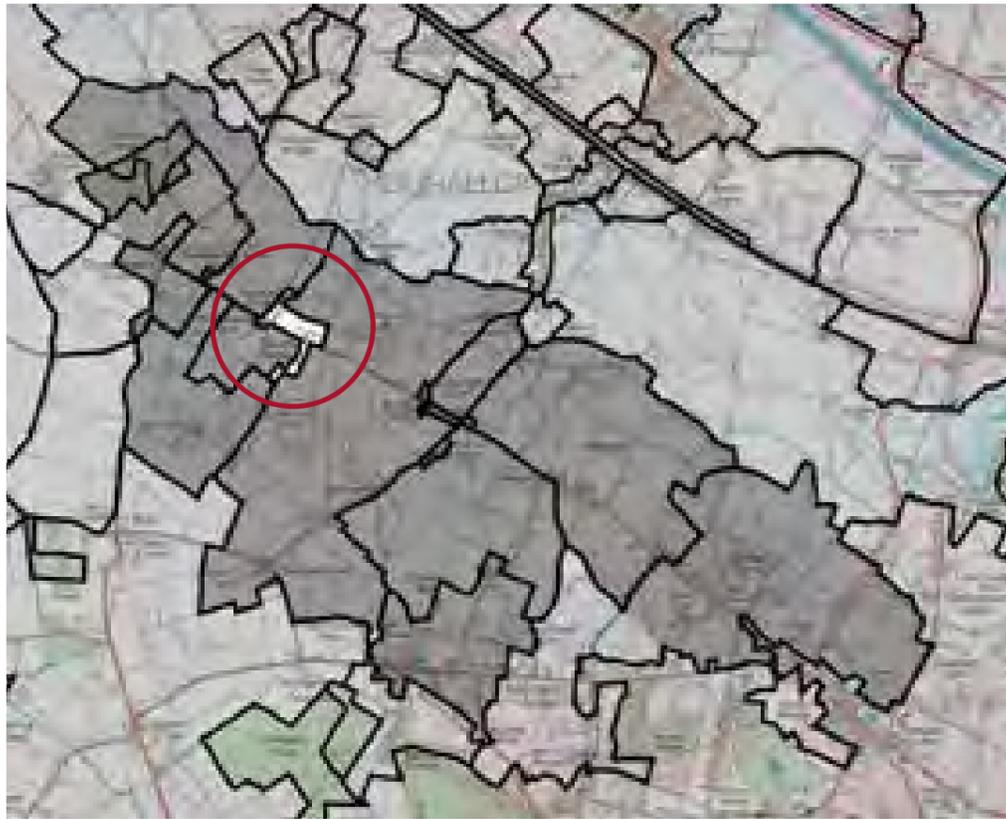


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Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR035385)
County Landscape Character Area:		Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands
Historic Landscape Type:		9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (1810 extent)
Boundaries:		A11 to W, A13 to S & E, A2 to N
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements A string of properties including: The Grange – farmhouse Beaucamp nurseries with outbuildings Woodhouse Farm Colliers Hill farm
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Gentle slope rising to south
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements mature oaks within hedgerows, single row of mature horsechestnut along verge mature ornamental trees to gardens, including orchards
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear Clustered Sprawling	Ribbon along lane
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	Pre 19 th century to mid 20 th century
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale Red brick cottage with red tiles Farmhouse with white shiplap and tiled roof Bungalow conversion from farm buildings –white render Colliers Hill Farm – brick farmhouse and shiplap barns with roof hip	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Wide lane with wide grassy verge and clipped hawthorn and sloe hedges. Hornbeam and yew hedges adjacent to properties. Ragstone walls with brick quoins Timber rail fencing	Planting/ signage/ lighting
Edge condition	New housing N/A	
Other features (include detractors)	-	
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? A tranquil country lane		

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: A string of properties mainly on the north side of the Roman Road, but also including some dwellings along Gill Lane. The road follows higher ground which is effectively an extension of the Aldington ridge giving long range views northwards over greatly enlarged arable fields to the east Stour flood plain, the greensand ridge between Sevington and Mersham, with the north Downs beyond that. To the south are views towards the Old Saxon Shoreline ridge and woodlands. The roman road is a narrow lane with wide verges and high mixed spp ancient hedges (large diversity of species). The ribbon development comprises a mix of old buildings such as the Grange set back from the road beyond an orchard, and some associated cottages and modern garaging set behind a hedge. Beauchamps Nursery is characterised by large agricultural building and some polytunnels and ancillary sheds with an interwar bungalow adjacent to Swanton Mill lane. South of the lane is Woodhouse farm essentially a single storey building with a mix a vernacular materials – brick in various bonds, ragstone, white weather boarding. Colliers Hill Farm on Gill Lane comprises two floor house in trad style with Kentish barn with hipped gables – black weatherboard, brick to house, peg tile roofs both.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
Long range views				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement	A loose collection of homes reads as a 'place' Held together by high, well maintained hedges.	High Moderate Low		
Intensity of built form and trend Low intensity due to size of gardens. Traditional forms and materials				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition Ragstone garden walls and parts of buildings, brick, hung tile, white painted weather board	Good Variable Poor		
Tree Cover	Age structure Low number of young standards in hedgerows, and trees in gardens including Oak and Hornbeam + fruit trees and exotics such as large conifer	Good Variable Poor		
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Ancient hedgerows with multiple species. Well maintained hornbeam hedge to the Grange. Spp inc. hawthorn, blackthorn, bullace, rose, hornbeam, elm, field maple, dogwood and hazel	Good Variable Poor		
Other features	Weather vane on corner of Roman Road and Gill Lane	Good Variable Poor		
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place Not Applicable				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



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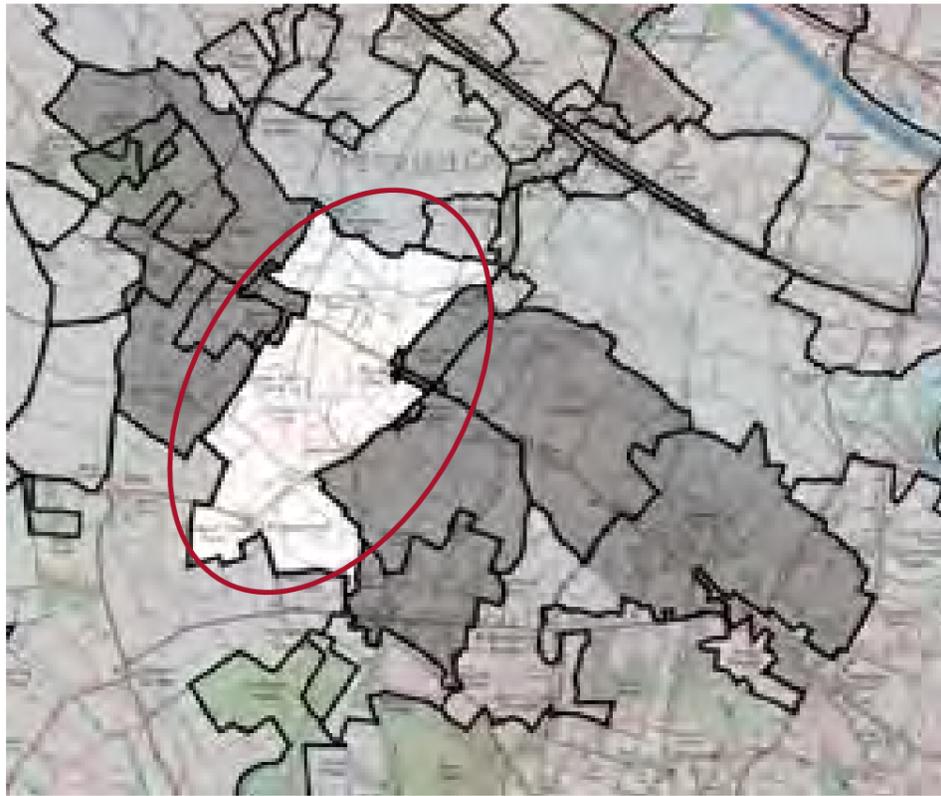


Aldington Ridge

AR2: Colliers Hill

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 1.1.5 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Undulating, rising steeply to Colliers Hill	Views Out Panoramic from top of Colliers Hill, more restricted at valley floor to North
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Mature hedgerow standards; trees associated with settlement; boundary at Gill Lane	Views In Open across farmland but restricted by rising ground at lower altitude
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements High hedges	Pattern Huge unenclosed arable field, smaller paddocks associated with farmsteads
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable field dominant at colliers hill, farmsteads and paddocks less dominant	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Colliers Hill – very significant in flood plain landscape	Species associations Arable	
Farm type	Primary Arable	Other Grazing pasture	
Woodlands	Heritage features Thin strip along gill lane	Species Oak, Blackthorn, hawthorn, damson, willow	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Mature standards	Species Ash, oak, willow, hornbeam	
Other trees	Heritage features Scattered at farmsteads and pollarded willows	Species Pine , poplar, leylandii, lime, fruit trees	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features High hedgerows	Species Hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, ash, hornbeam, elm, oak, willow, field maple	
Highways	Verges Narrow mown	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads Elm tree farm – whitewashed farm house corrugated tin barn. Chequer Tree Farm - brick farmhouses, redeveloped barns, new barn under construction	
Other features			

Brief description: Large parcel dominated centrally by Collier's hill offering fine panoramic views. The hill itself rises in a huge open arable field while farmsteads to the North and South consist of smaller scale grazing paddocks and pastures.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Evidence of hedge clearance on Colliers hill, farmsteads and paddocks more intact. Some power lines, corrugated tin barns at Elm Tree farm, garages etc. at Chequer Tree farm				<i>Intact</i> Interrupted <i>Fragmented</i>
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Scattered small ponds at farmsteads. Thin strip of woodland along Gill lane	Ecological corridors Boundary hedgerows, notable boundary with A22 and A10 at Gill Lane	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low - moderate		
Intensity of land use High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Localised to farmsteads and boundaries	Age structure Mixed, mainly mature hedgerow trees	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Hedgerows, post and wire fencing			Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Colliers Hill – monument at top with evidence of soil erosion			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type reconstructed barn at Chequer tree farm with breeze blocks	Siting alongside road	Design stained weatherboards, breeze blocks, garage.	Extent Localised	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>
New barn under construction at Chequertree Farm	Visible from road	Brick base, iron frame, open at either end	Large – high impact	



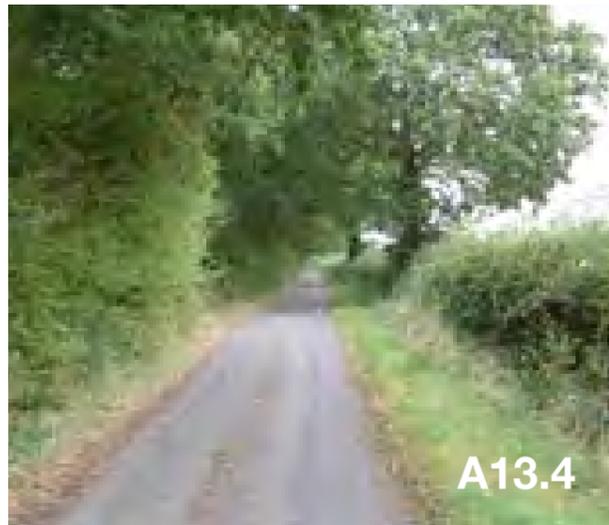
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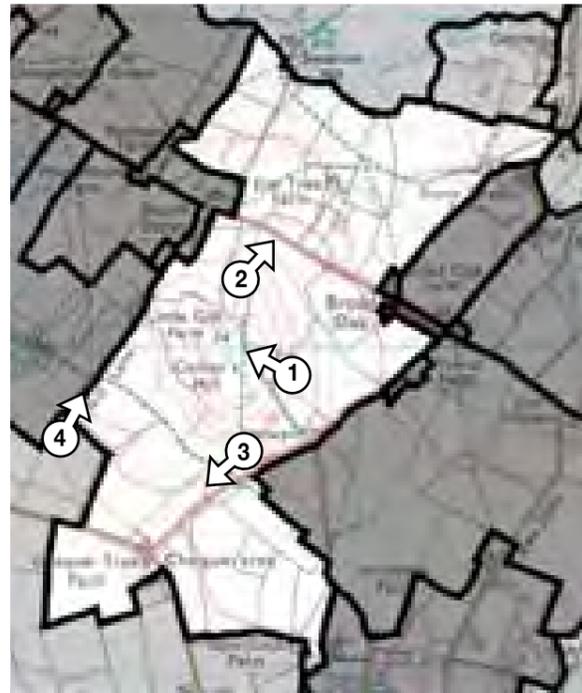
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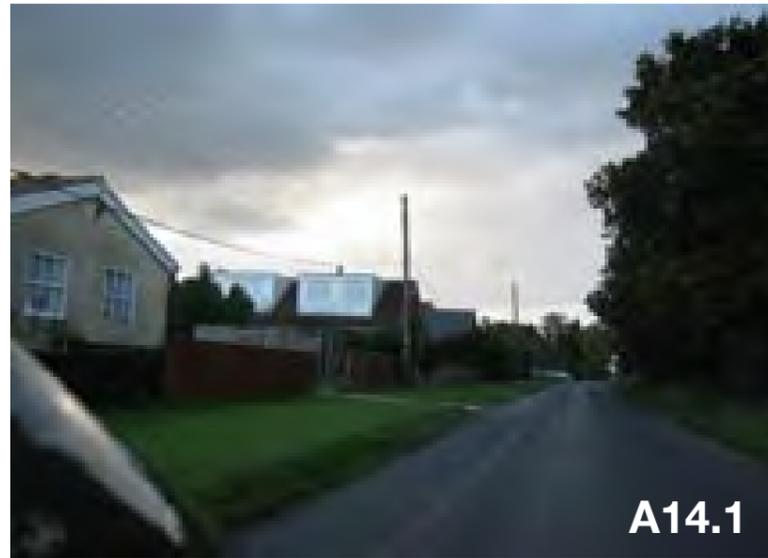
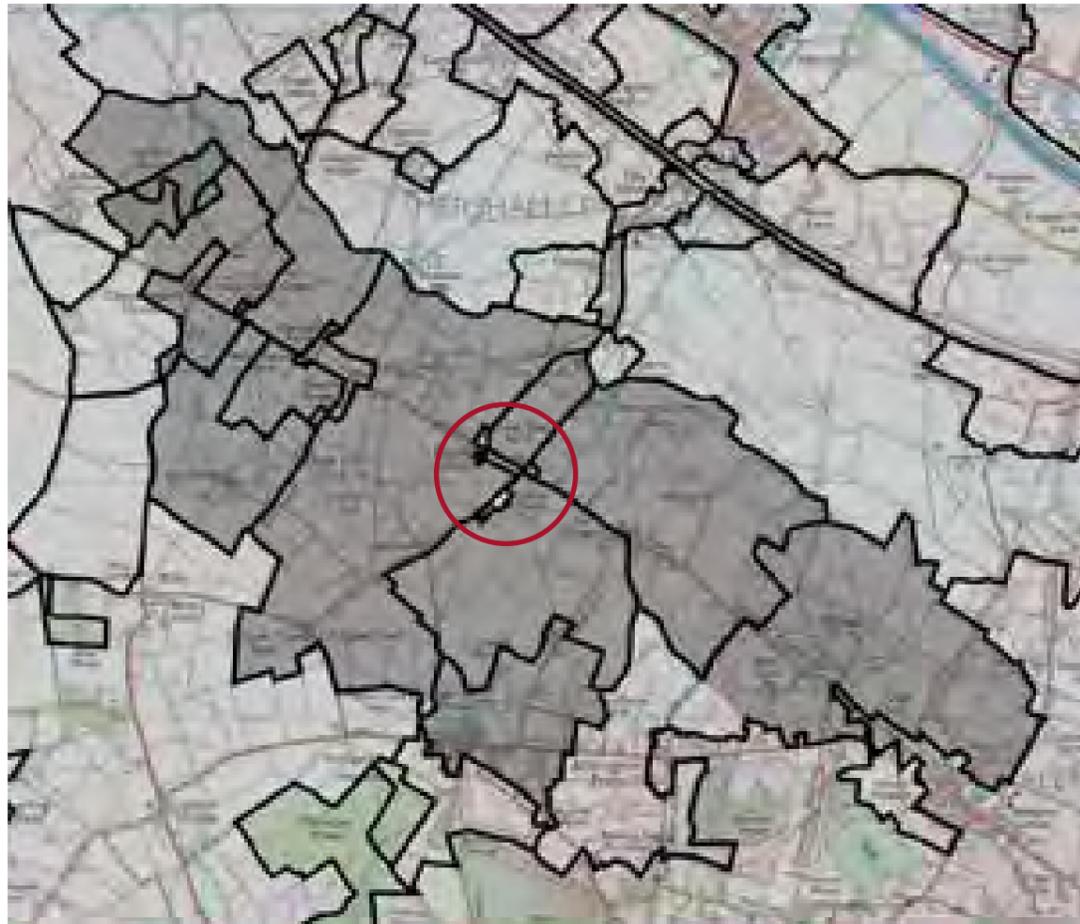


Photograph locations/ direction

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Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR042382)
County Landscape Character Area:		Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands
Historic Landscape Type:		9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (1810 extent)
Boundaries:		A13 to w and A25 to E
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Apparent	Key visual elements Walnut Farm and Broad Oak Farm 1920's bungalows & semi-detached housing Isolated farm buildings Scattered cottages
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Gentle slope
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Some clipped hedges around properties Dense vegetation with mature trees & conifers to properties to southern extent of parcel. To north of parcel gardens with ornamental cherry trees and mature oaks in native mix sloe/ field maple hedgerow.
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear	Ribbon development
AGE & CONDITION		Interwar development
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale Bungalows with pebbledash, shiplap, brick & slate tiles. Cottages with peg tile roofs brick and hung tile walls. Semi-detached housing with dorma-windows	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Wide lane with wide grassy verges to front of properties. Low closeboard fencing and low clipped hedges.	Planting/ signage/ lighting Telegraph poles with power cables.
Edge condition	New housing N/A	
Other features (include detractors)	N/A	
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Random mix of bungalows and traditional farm cottages on country lane.		

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Ribbon development along NE corner of Colliers Hill that has developed between Broad Oak Farm north of the Roman Road and Walnut Farm. The frontage to the Roman Road is of small front gardens with mainly low timber fences and hedges with a wide mown verge onto the lane. The frontages adjacent to Walnut Farm are more discrete hidden behind thorn hedging and hedgerow trees.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance Views to open country from the lanes are obstructed by hedge boundaries. Where the cottages and bungalows front on to the lane they provide a sense of place in the rural scene.				
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement Ribbon development bounded by hedges around gardens				High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>
Intensity of built form and trend Low density ribbon inter-war development (bungalows) between existing farm clusters				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition Existing cottages with peg tile roofs brick and hung tile walls.			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Tree Cover	Age structure Mature Oaks in the hedgerows. A variety of small to medium sized ornamental trees in the gardens.			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Well maintained mixed species hedges.			Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Line of Roman Road followed by the lane, although this is not dead straight.			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type N/A	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



Photograph locations/ direction

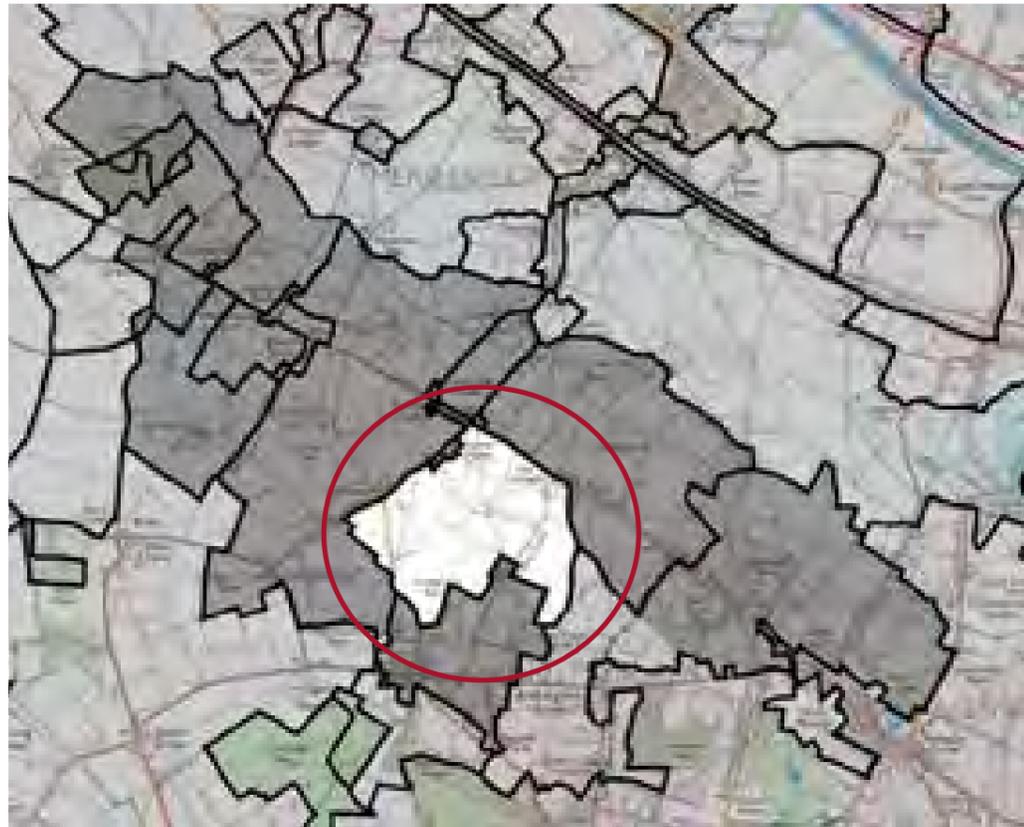
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Date: 23.09.04 Location: A25 Laws Lane Map reference: Map ref: TR044376

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney shoreline wooded farmlands HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Falls slightly to North East and South West	Views Out Distant to north east, limited by trees and landform
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow trees	Views In
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Remnant hedge and stock	Pattern Medium
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Settlement is outside parcel Mixed arable and sheep	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features		Species associations	
Farm type	Primary Mixed	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features intermittent	Species Ash, Oak, Thorn	
Other trees	Heritage features Group to west of chicken farm	Species Oak, thorn, new trees around chicken barn	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Hedge and stock	Species Thorn , field maple, hazel	
Highways	Verges High hedges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages Chicken farm	Farmsteads	
Other features			

A25 Laws Lane ctd.

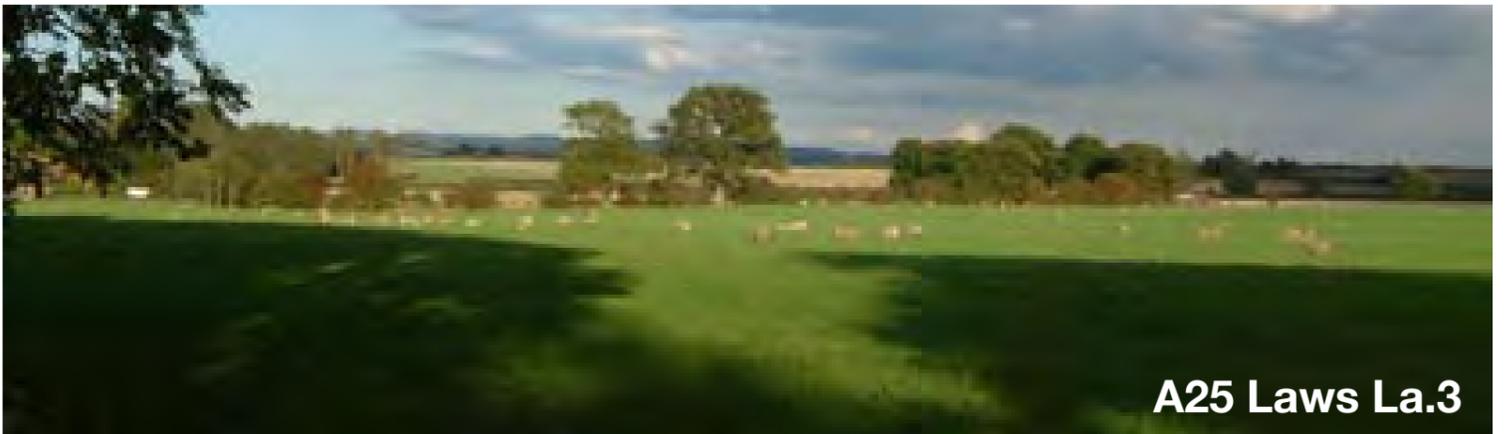
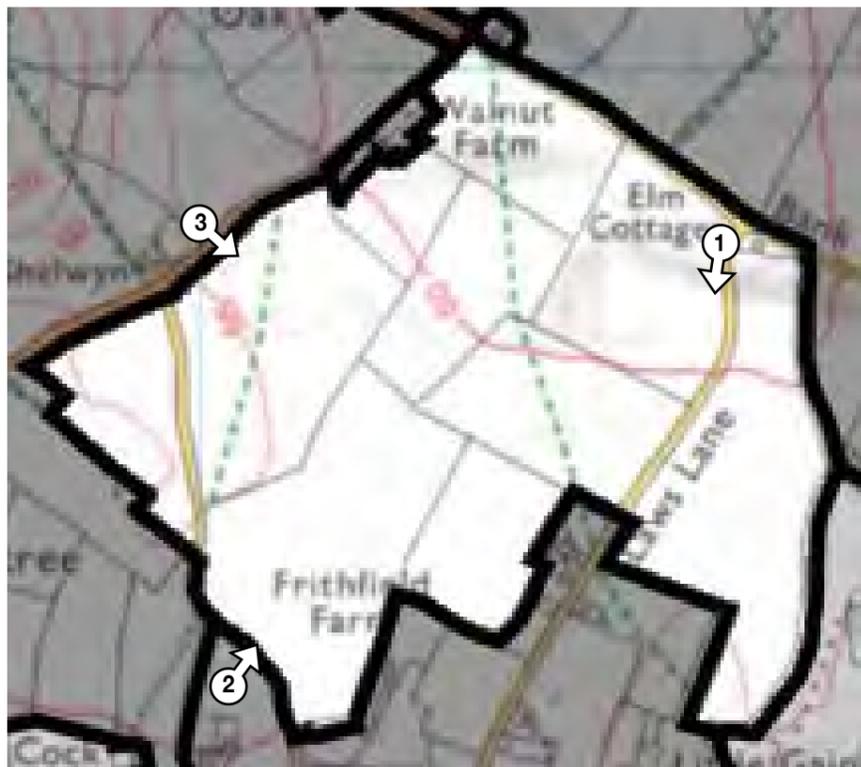
Brief description: Gently rolling mixed lowland farmland. Views to Colliers Hill and Aldington Ridge, generally open within parcel, good views to North East, high hedges along surrounding lanes and trees restrict views				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Chicken farm				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit	Ecological corridors Thick hedges and oak clumps	High Moderate Low - moderate		
Intensity of land use: Moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent	Age structure Varied	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Good			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 Chicken farm	Siting	Design Steel roof timber cladding, new trees with screen in time	Extent	High Moderate -low Low



A25 LawsLa.1



A25 LawsLa.2



A25 Laws La.3

Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 23.09.04

Location: A25 Stone Green Farm

Map reference: TR045383

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney shoreline wooded farmlands HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out Filtered North to Mersham Filtered East to Aldington Ridge
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements To boundaries	Views In Very open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedges to boundary, remnant only within parcel.	Pattern Now med to large scale
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Stone farm to North. Pasture – dominant	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features		Species associations	
Farm type	Primary Grazing paddock	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Some thorn, including hedge relics in former hedgerow	Species Poplars near Broadoak farm. Thorn, oak and ash near Stone Green Farm	
Other trees	Heritage features Groups near farms and settlements	Species Willow	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Hedge and stock fencing	Species Thorn and blackthorn	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages Brick and tile roof	Farmsteads	
Other features			

A25 Stone Green Farm ctd.

Brief description: Small parcel comprising single large paddock and farmstead and occasional settlement, good tree cover on boundaries.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Broad oak hamlet (A14) to south, Aldington ridge and more A25 to East, Colliers Hill (A13) to West, The Forstal to North				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Detractors: minor detractor – polytunnels. Signs of hedgerow clearance				
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit	Ecological corridors Boundary hedgerows	High Moderate Low		
Intensity of land use: Moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent	Age structure Mixed	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Good			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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A25 StoneGnFm.1



Photograph locations/ direction

Aldington Ridge

AR3: Clap Hill

Date: 23.09.04

Location: A25 Bank Road

Map reference: TR050379

Context: Kent LCA: Aldington ridge HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries.			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Aldington ridge	Views Out North to Mersham, West & North West to Ashford and North Downs
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Copse, lane to sheepfold and some hedgerows	Views In
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Few strong hedges but mainly stock fencing	Pattern Now medium to large scale
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent (LU) Insignificant (S)	Key visual elements Settlement: Stone green hall farm to North West. Mainly sheep grazing to West some arable land to East	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Ridge Line	Species associations	
Farm type	Primary Mixed	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features Copse	Species Oak and ash	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Stock fence and hedge	Species Ivy, hazel, thorn, elder, rose and field maple	
Highways	Verges High hedges to Bank rd and along farm lane to sheepfold	Other features Field maple, oak, ash, damson, thorn	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads Fine period farm house barns etc., newly restored	
Other features			

A25 Bank Rd ctd.

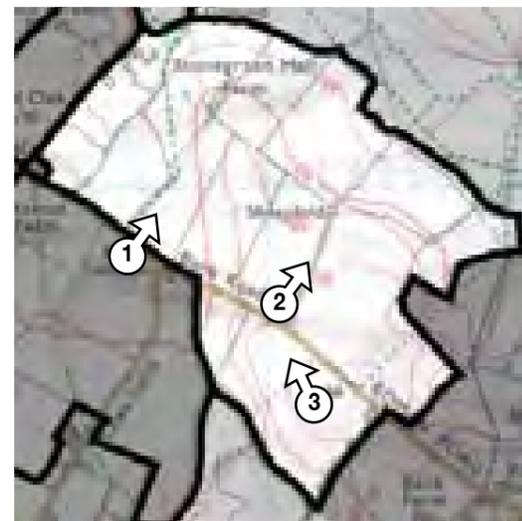
Brief description: Large parcel forming north west limit of Aldington ridge, landform is dominant. Elevated undulating tract of mixed farmland, characterised by narrow high hedged lane and track, good localised tree cover.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Dumping in farm lane				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Small copse	Ecological corridors High thick hedges	High Moderate Low		
Intensity of land use: Moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent	Age structure Varied	Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Well trimmed hedges			Good Variable Poor
Other features	Former Roman Rd. Farm Lane to sheepfold			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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A25 BankRd.1



Photograph locations/ direction



A25 BankRd.2



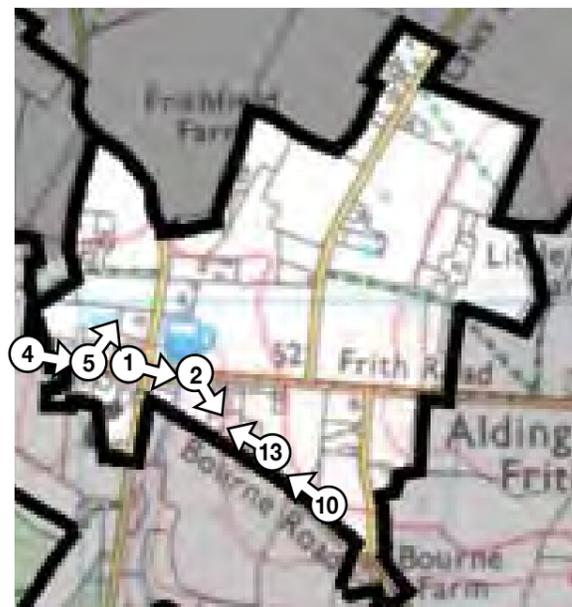
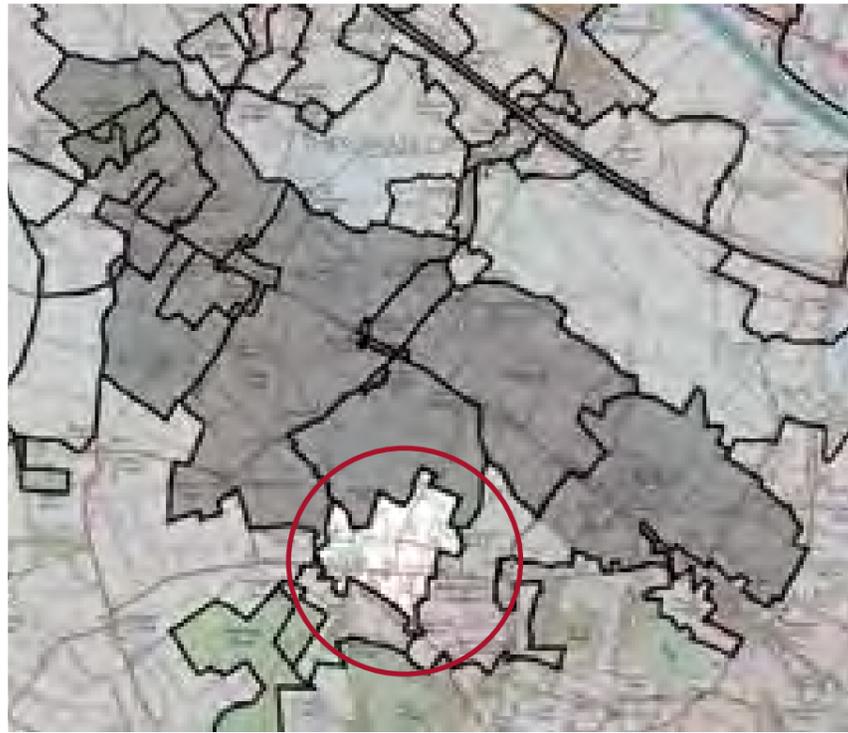
A25 BankRd.3

Aldington Ridge

AR4: Aldington Frith

Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR042369)
County Landscape Character Area:		Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands
Historic Landscape Type:		9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (1810 extent)
Boundaries:		A33 to S, A13, A34 to N
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Good Intent pub at crossroads with group of Kentish ragstone barn conversions and cluster of Kentish brick dwellings and cottages, including some bungalow and newer properties to lanes. Includes traditional Bourne Farm and Haslemere Farm on main road.
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform rolling
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements mature ash in hedgerows plus mature ornamental trees to gardens including weeping willow
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear Clustered Sprawling	fragmented
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	Key visual elements A mix of ages from pre 19 th century to present day
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale Traditional Kentish red brick with ragstone (sometimes painted white) White ship lap Modern housing with brick and hipped roof	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Main road - narrow mown grassy verge and native mix hedgerow. Lanes -wider mown grassy verges with ornamental evergreen planting and clipped leylandii hedging and roadside markers. Some loss of lane hedgerow adjacent to modern properties and replacement with split timber fencing.	Planting/ signage/ lighting
Edge condition	New housing Some newer infill along lanes	
Other features (include detractors)	Frith Business Centre – converted milking sheds	
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Traditional group of buildings around the crossroads gives some sense of place and cohesion, but the fringes have a fragmented feel due to the newer development.		

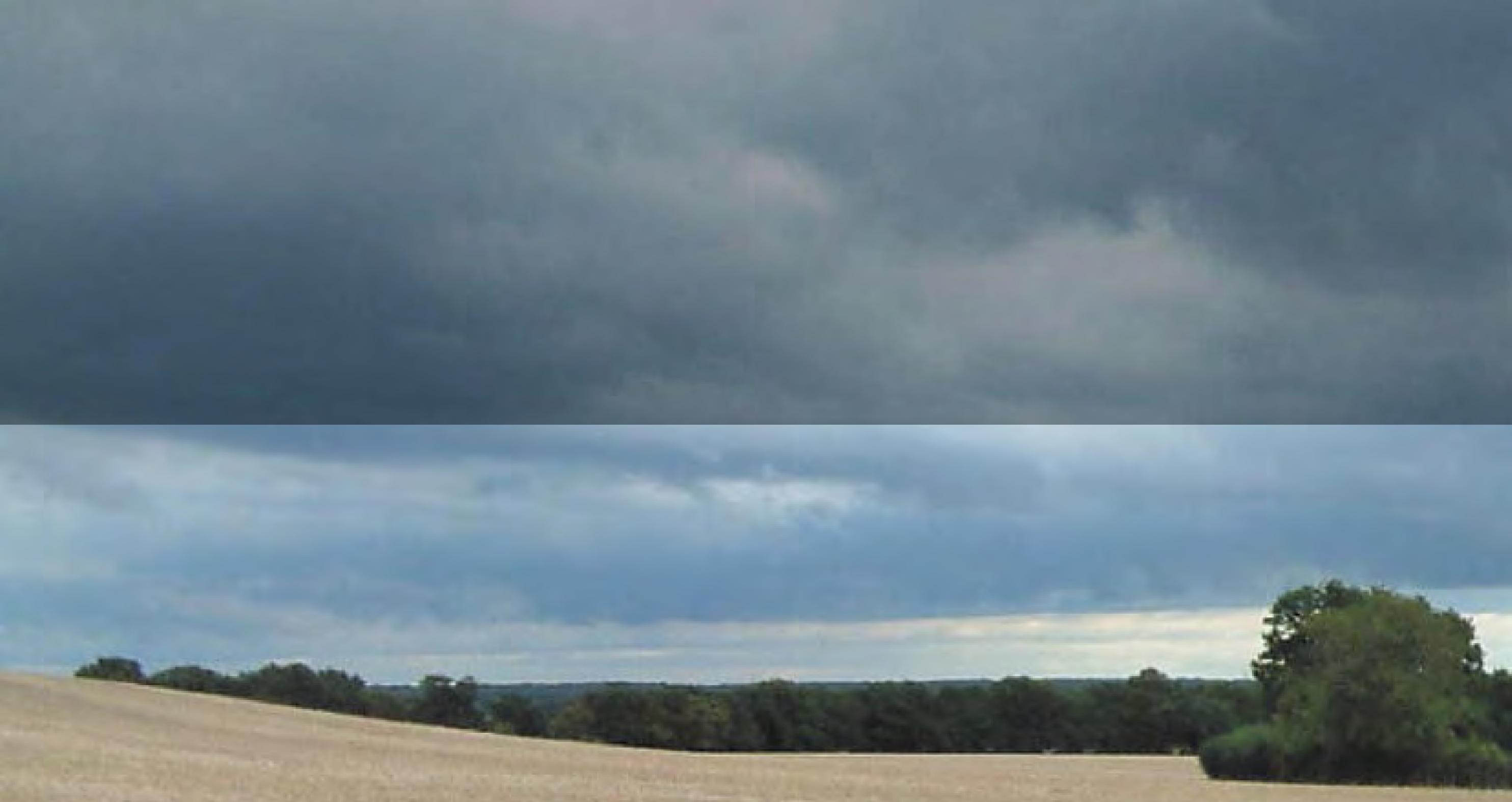
Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: A close grained landscape of gentle folds and lanes contained with high hedges and trees absorbing the impact of much of the development here. There is a variety of ages from 19 th century and earlier around the Frith Road /Priory Road crossroads – a collection of trad buildings comprising the Good Intent pub and 2 storey cottage all with peg tile roofs and a mix a brick and ragstone walls – pub being whitewashed (magnolia), weather boards timber frame houses. A selection of one and two floor dwellings built in each decade since the last war along Bourne Road. Hazelmere Farm on Frith road is a collection of farm buildings mixing new and old.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
Groups of buildings lining lanes, some set at rear of gardens fronting lane and all separated by paddocks. Lanes with high hedges contained in character.				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement	Around the cross roads the settlement is a 'place', but in the wider parcel it is more fragmented. High hedges and trees absorb much of the development.	High Moderate Low		
Intensity of built form and trend Unity of style in older buildings at cross roads with mix of local vernacular materials. Elsewhere a mix of styles and typologies – 1 and 2 storey. Suburbanisation of the rural scene caused by leylandii hedges, mowing verges, and frequent drives off lane. In centre of settlement topiary and floral plantings acceptable as part village character.				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition Older buildings in good condition. Use of ragstone characteristic of the Wealden greensand.	Good Variable Poor		
Tree Cover	Age structure This is a wooded character area with coppice woods adjacent, hedgerows with oak and ash standard etc.	Good Variable Poor		
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Mixed species hedges include hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, native privet, willow, ash, some hornbeam.	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 detached houses and bungalows	Siting off lanes	Design post 1960	Extent Infill development	High Moderate Low



Photograph locations/ direction
 Note: only locations for selected photos shown

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