



Ashford Local Development Framework Landscape Character Study

for Ashford Borough Council & English Partnerships



ASSESSMENT & DATA SET : Upper 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.

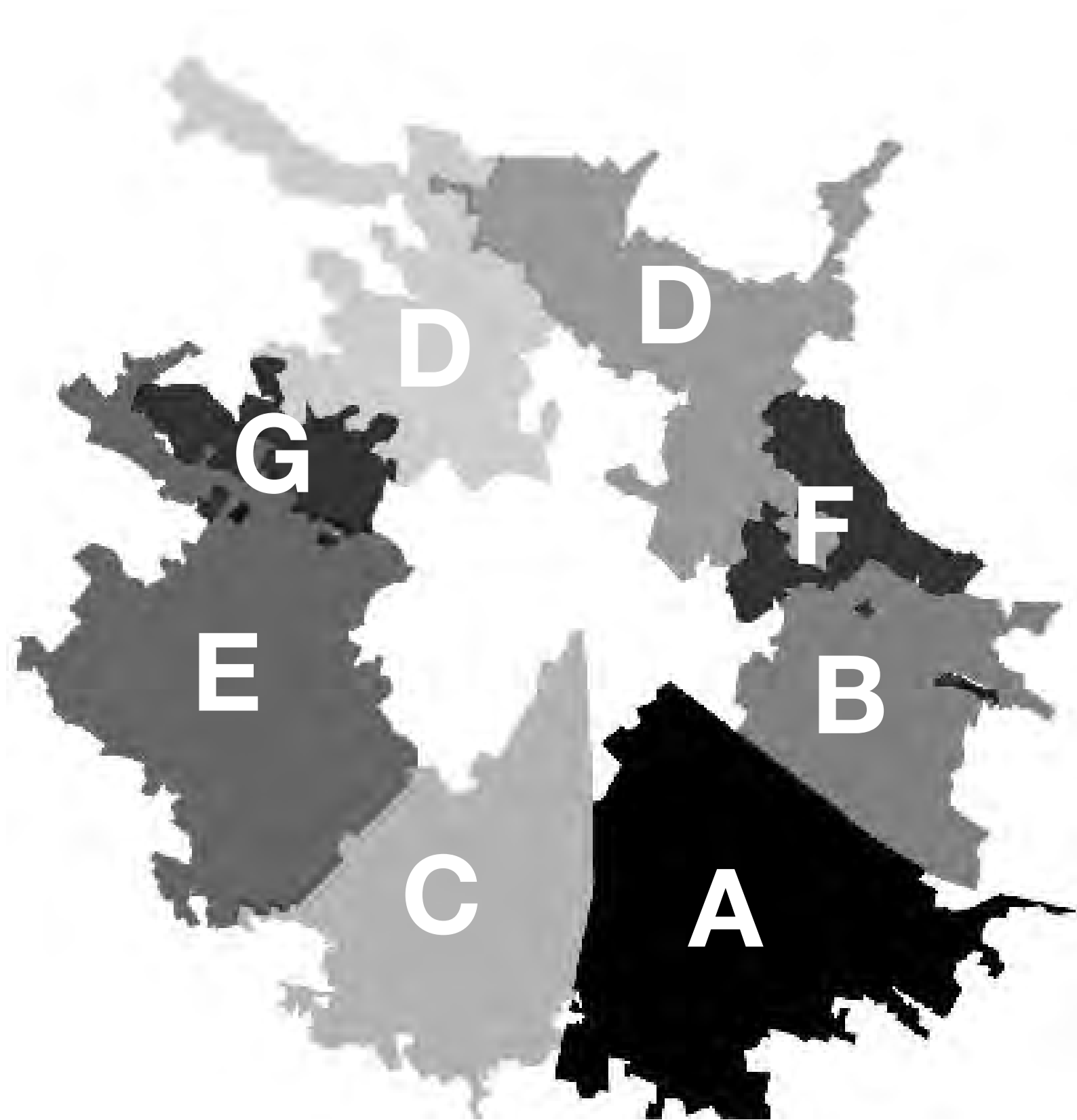
Each LDU is numbered, each filed photograph carries the LDU reference and a photograph location number reference - e.g. D1.3 for LDU D1, third photograph location. The photographs have been saved as jpegs and were generally taken at 1Gb resolution. This data set includes the location maps for the key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

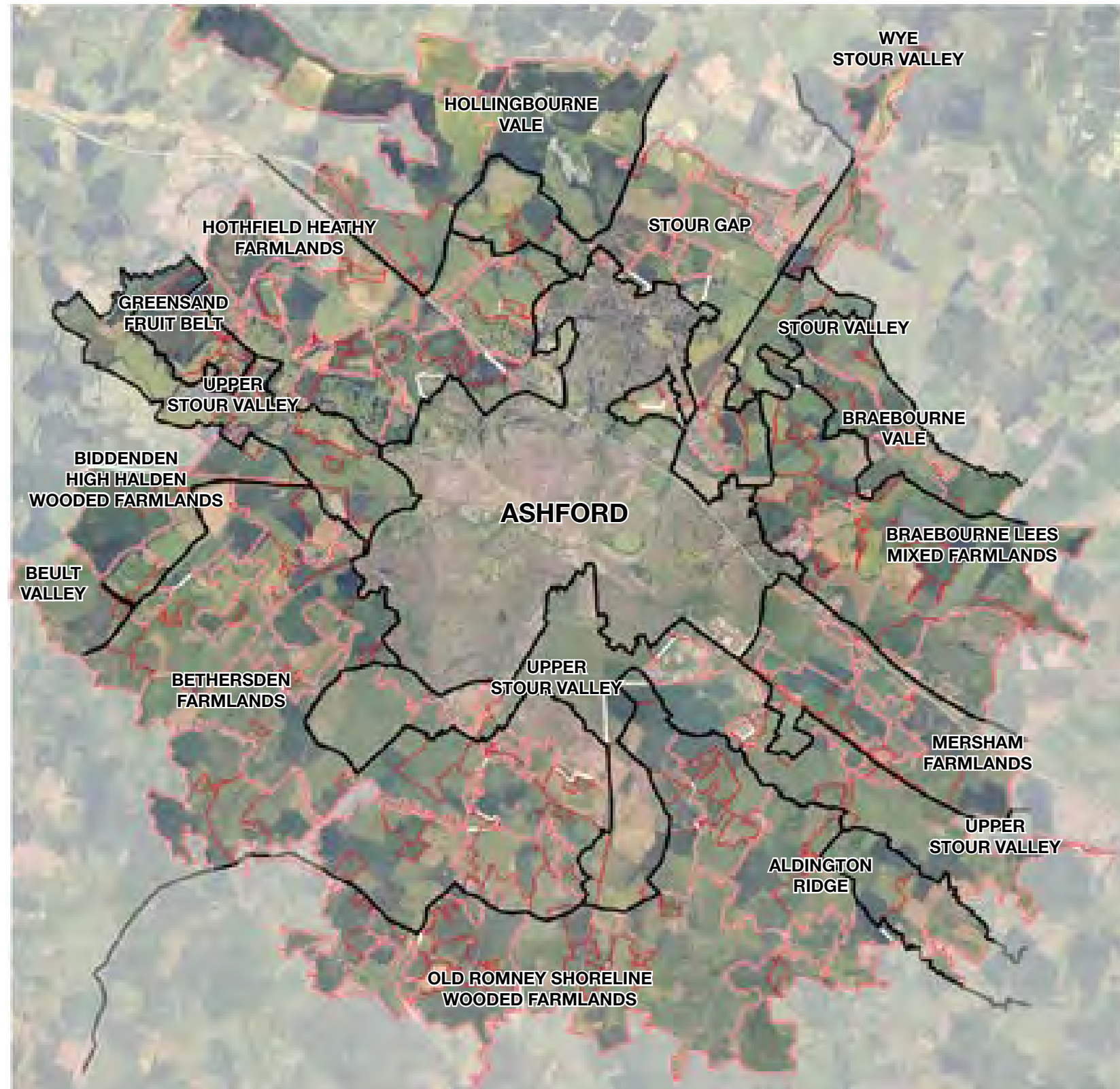
For the assessments the LDUs were grouped by similarity into large blocks we have called District Landscape types (DLT). The 58 DLTs were assessed to fall into one of nine categories used by the County Landscape Character Study. A team of four senior landscape architects and ecologists visited each area 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 Upper Stour Valley (east and west) are flat, generally open landscapes formed by the Great Stour and East Stour rivers. The land use is one of mixed farming with crest top woodlands, as at Godinton park, enclosing views in the middle distance. These hills are formed from Greensand outliers which intrude into the clay vale in this area. These low ridges also include Hothfield, the site of Godinton House itself, and the outlier that forms Hurst Hill, Clap Hill and that at Great Chart. Occasionally, east of Ashford, there are views NE over the low rise of the Greensand to the North Downs beyond.

Clumps of field trees and copses provide interest as does the irregular presence of riparian vegetation along the river. Where the river as lost its associated vegetation however it is often inconspicuous. Hedgerows are relatively infrequent and often gappy, with many of the field trees being of a similar age with no sign of renewal of the stock. The loss of hedgerows is associated with the conversion of unimproved pasture to vast, arable or improved pastureland and it is likely that the remaining pasture may be vulnerable to further conversion. The advent of under field drainage and improved mechanization has allowed the blurring of the traditional land use boundaries between the river floodplain, the clay soils and the freer-draining Greensand.

The loss of hedgerows and trees contributes to a loss of visual unity, and is eroding the traditional wildlife corridors along the river and between the fields.

Diversity is limited to the tree copses, hill top woodlands beyond the character area and residual riverside vegetation, but often the fragmentation of these elements contributes to a discordant sense of change, coupled with an increasingly bland picture, starved of variety, formed by the flat arable and improved grass fields.

The landscape around the South Willesborough dykes is similarly open but has long views to the suburbs of Ashford. Fingers of pasture and neglected farmland extend right up to the A2042 to the town centre. The Ashford to Folkestone railway line cuts across to the north of the area, rarely impinging on the landscape, but this may change significantly when the Channel Tunnel Rail Link is constructed. A major part of the remaining valley character is under pressure for a mixed development at Cheeseman’s Green and Conscience Farm that may be contributing to the sense of neglect and degradation.

The Ashford Landscape Character Study

- Approximately 90% of this County Landscape Character Area (CLA). This county type is split north west and south east of Ashford, and it is important to differentiate between the Upper Great Stour Valley to the north west of Ashford and the eastern Upper Stour Valley containing the East Stour, Ruckinge and White Water Dykes.
- There are 38 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 3 Historic landscape character types in this study area:
 - HLT 1 - Field Patterns
 - HLT 7- Valley Floor and Water Management
 - HLT 9 - Settlements
- We have grouped these into 6 District Landscape Types (DLTs)
- There are 2 ‘settlements’ the Waterbrook Freight Depot that projects into the floodplain, and the Forstal and Mill which are the extension of Mersham on the southern side of the CTRL and London to Dover Railway.

In carrying out the survey and discussing the results we find that there are some minor adjustments that should be made to the County Landscape Character Area Boundaries. These include:

- Removing LDU E33 from the Upper Stour Valley and including it with the Bethesden Farmlands and DLT BF 5 which is of a similar character divided only by Magpie Hall Lane.
- LDU A21 (South) has been added from the Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands as it is part of the historic Landscape Character type extending north along the Ruckinge Dyke valley up to the line of the Roman Road, the County Landscape Area boundary being drawn for convenience along the road crossing the railway and A2070.
- Due to development as a market and business park, LDU A1 is not included except for a narrow strip of floodplain linking LDU C1 with A2 (Aylesford Green)
- LDUs A4, A15(Hillcrest Farm), and A30, plus part of B12 south of the CTRL have been added to the Mersham Farmlands, as they appear to us as being part of the Greensand Ridge rather than the Floodplain Fields. Again the line of the CTRL provides a convenient edge at county scale, not is not always appropriate at local level.
- LDUs A2, A3, A21 (Bliby Corner and Bilham Farm) and A10 are within the floodplain and relate closely to adjacent LDUs within the Upper Stour Valley not 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.

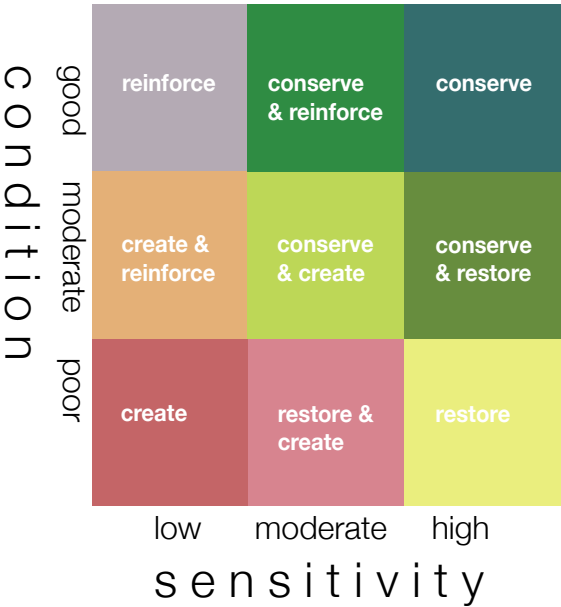
The physical attributes of the landscape are considered in conjunction with the historical and cultural influences, nature conservation interests and landuse. These factors are analysed further in the field to determine the key characteristics, aesthetics, visual unity, ecological integrity, condition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

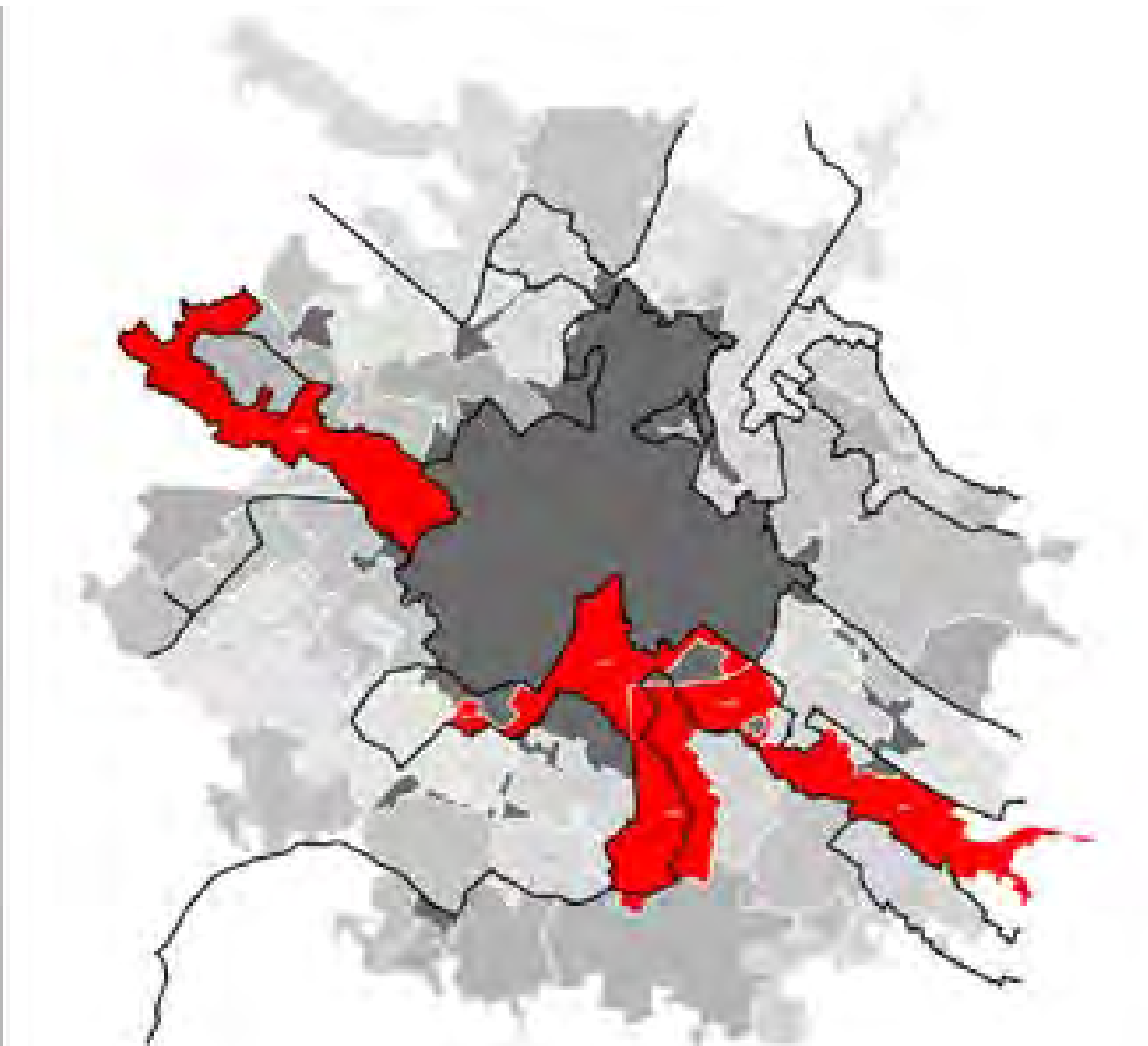
Sensitivity of the landscape refers to its overall character and quality and the extent to which these factors will be tolerant of change in general.

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.

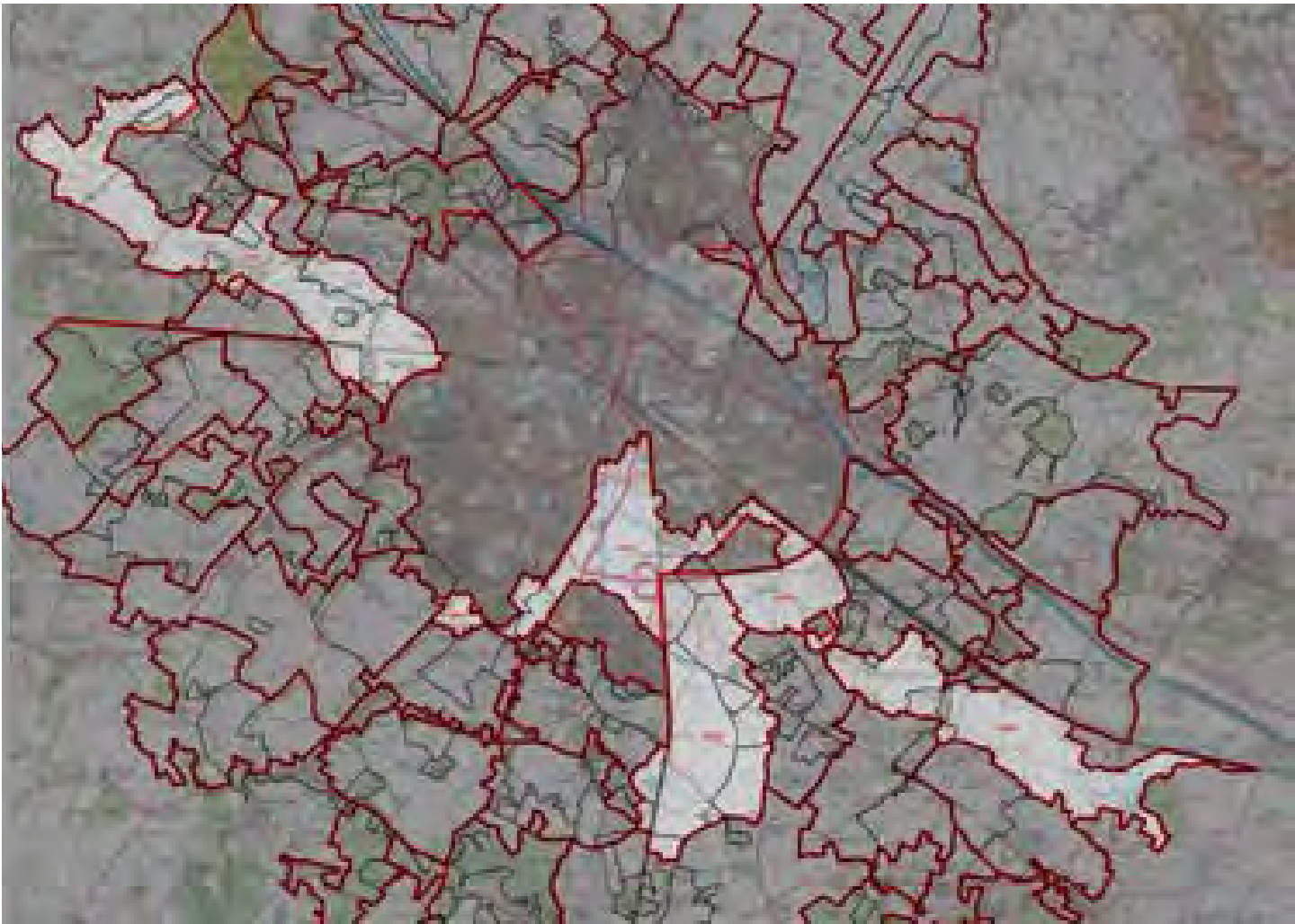


Location



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Location of Upper Stour Valley Landscape Character Area within study area



Location of Upper Stour Valley District Areas

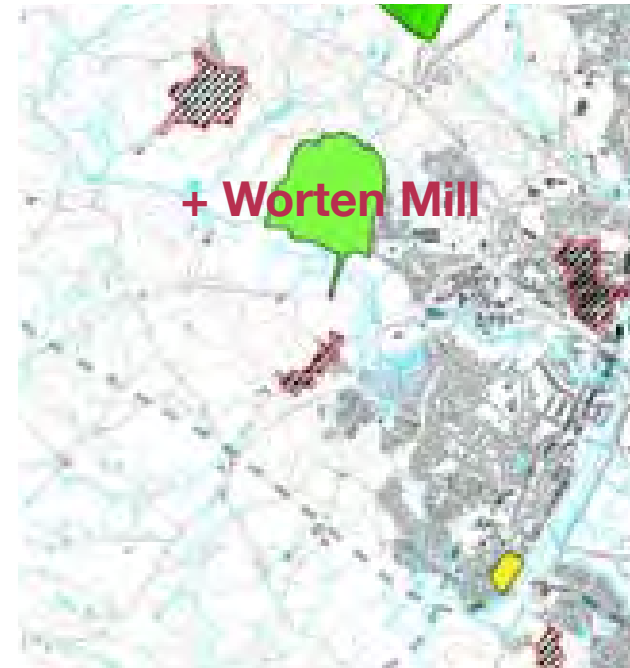
Landscape context - Upper Great Stour Valley



Geology



Flooding



Heritage

Geology

The Upper Stour Valley sits within the Wealden Clay with Greensand abutting to the north and around Worten Mill.

Flooding

The valley sits within the floodplain.

Heritage

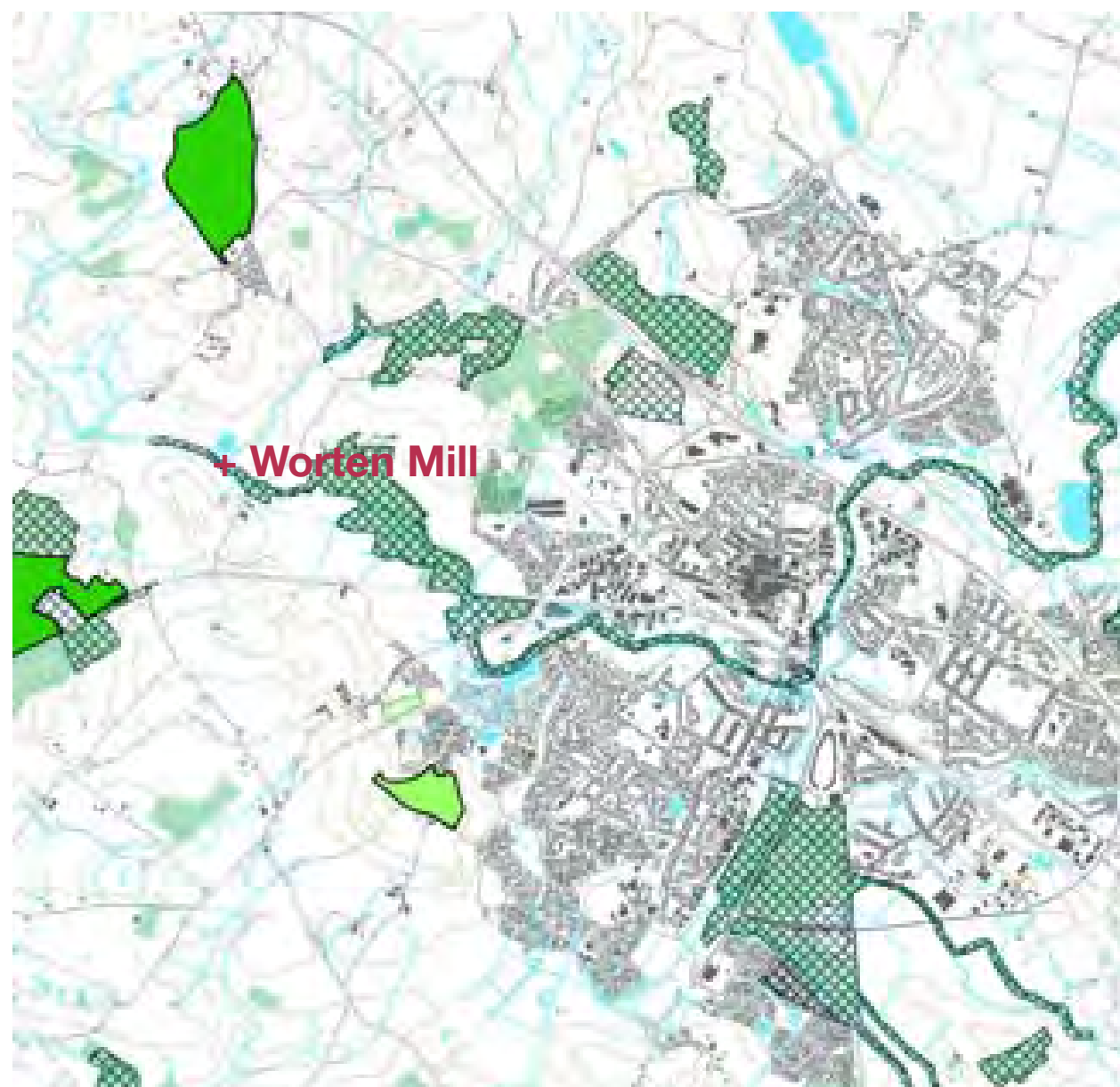
There are no listed buildings or conservation areas. Godinton Park is designated a Special Landscape Area.

Ecology

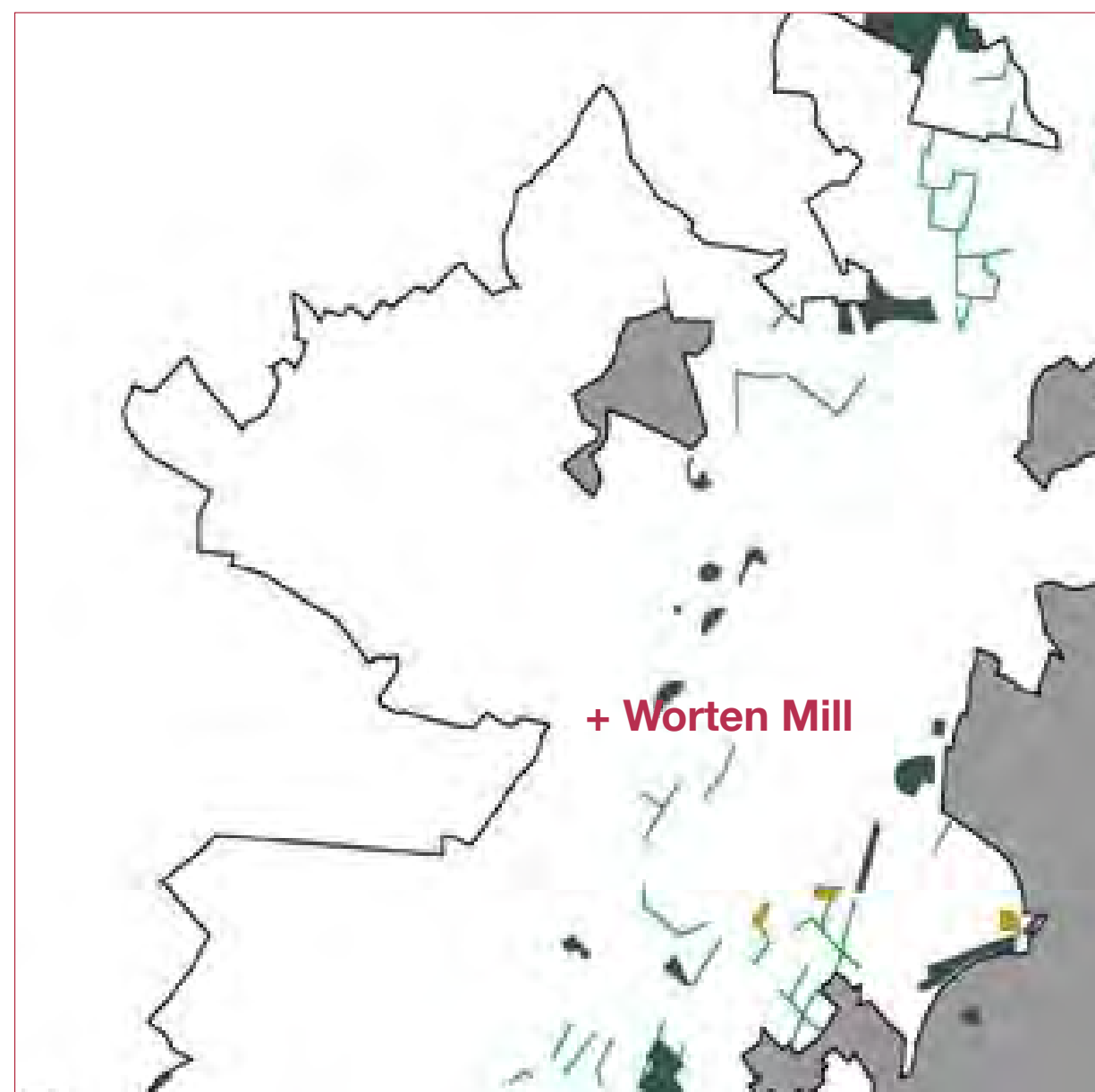
Parts of the floodplain, wet grazing areas and woodlands around Godinton are designated Sites of Nature Conservation Interest.

Features lost since the 1870s

The old maps suggest that there has been negligible change in this area.

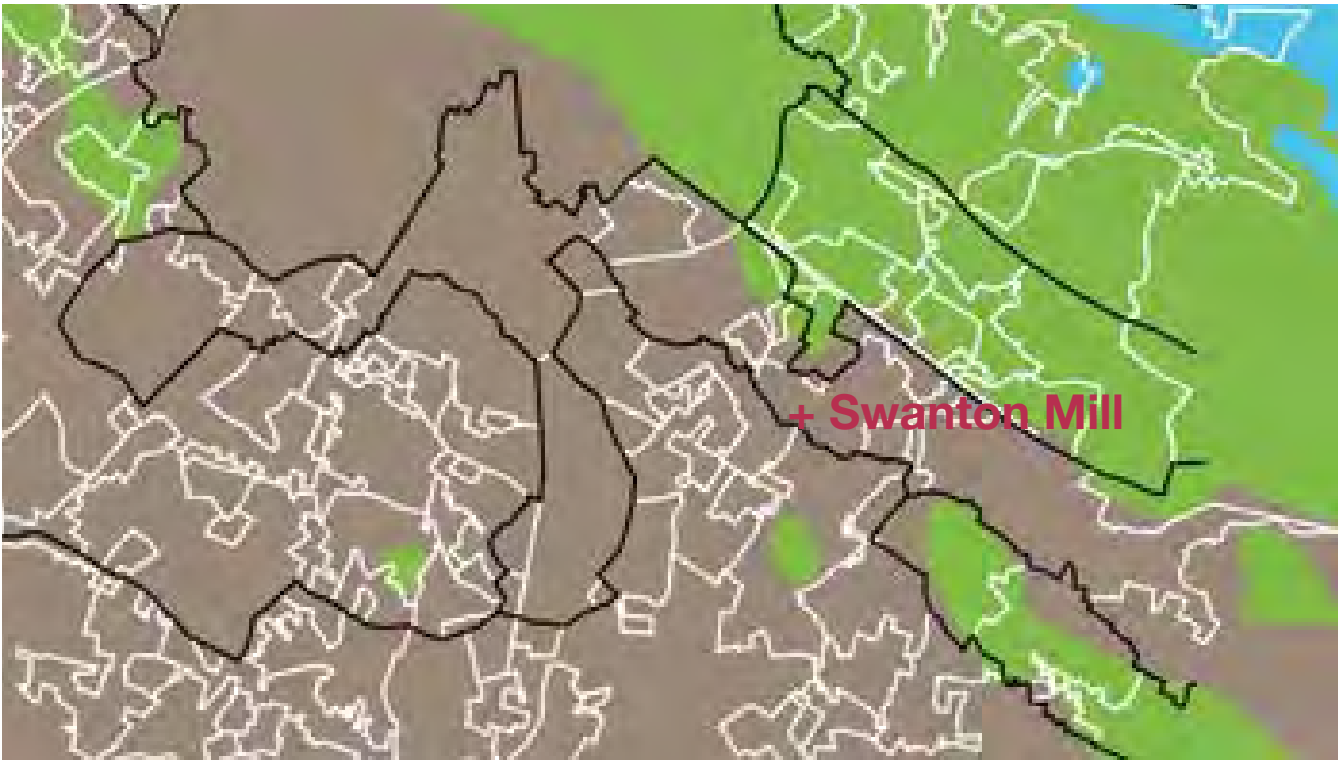


Ecology

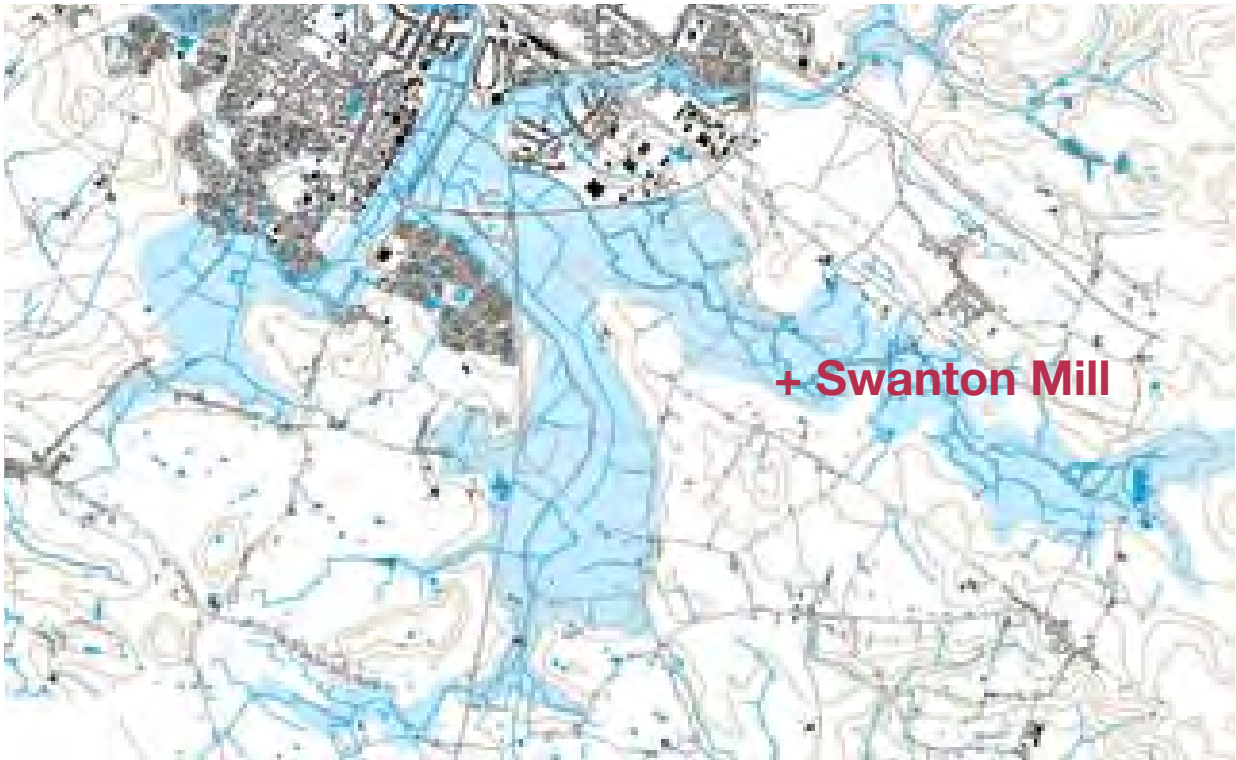


Features lost since 1870's

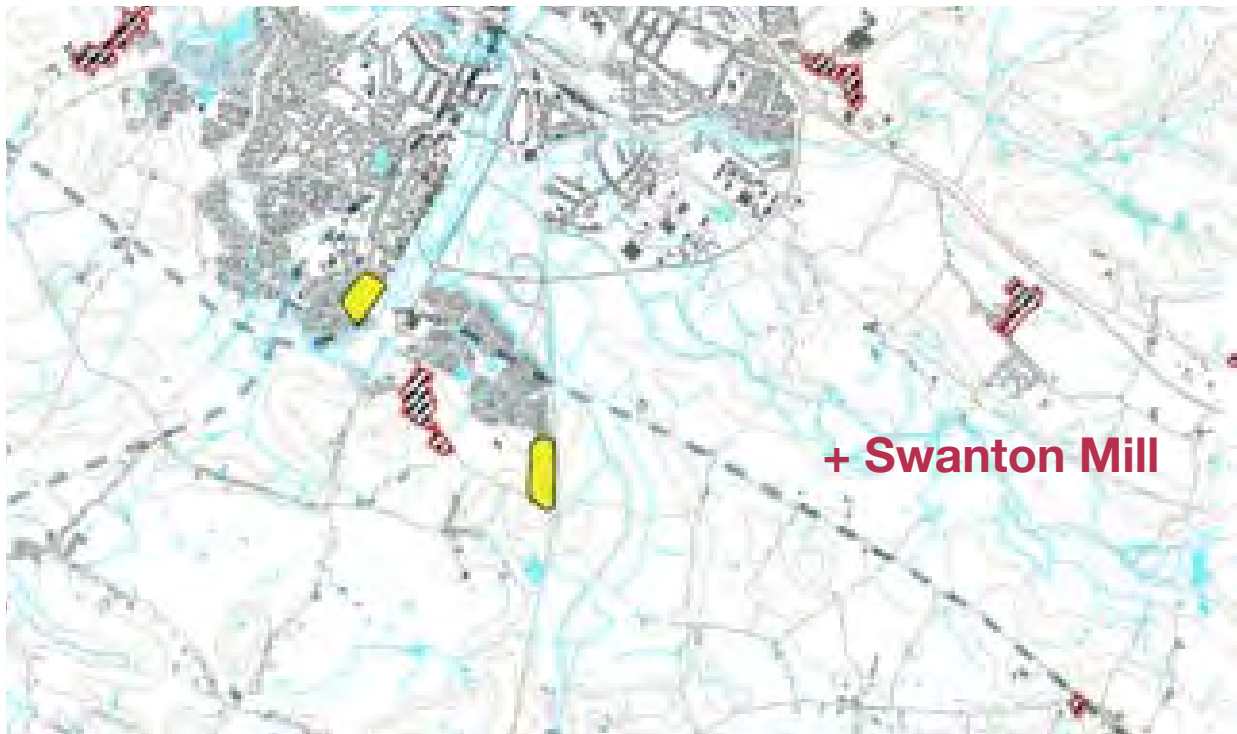
Landscape context - Eastern Upper Stour Valley



Geology



Flooding



Heritage

Geology

The Eastern Upper Stour Valley sits within the Wealden Clay with Greensand encroaching on the area around Mersham.

Flooding

The valley sits within the floodplain, and is subject to flooding.

Heritage

There are two Archaeological Sites, marked yellow, to the south of Park Farm and south of Stanhope.

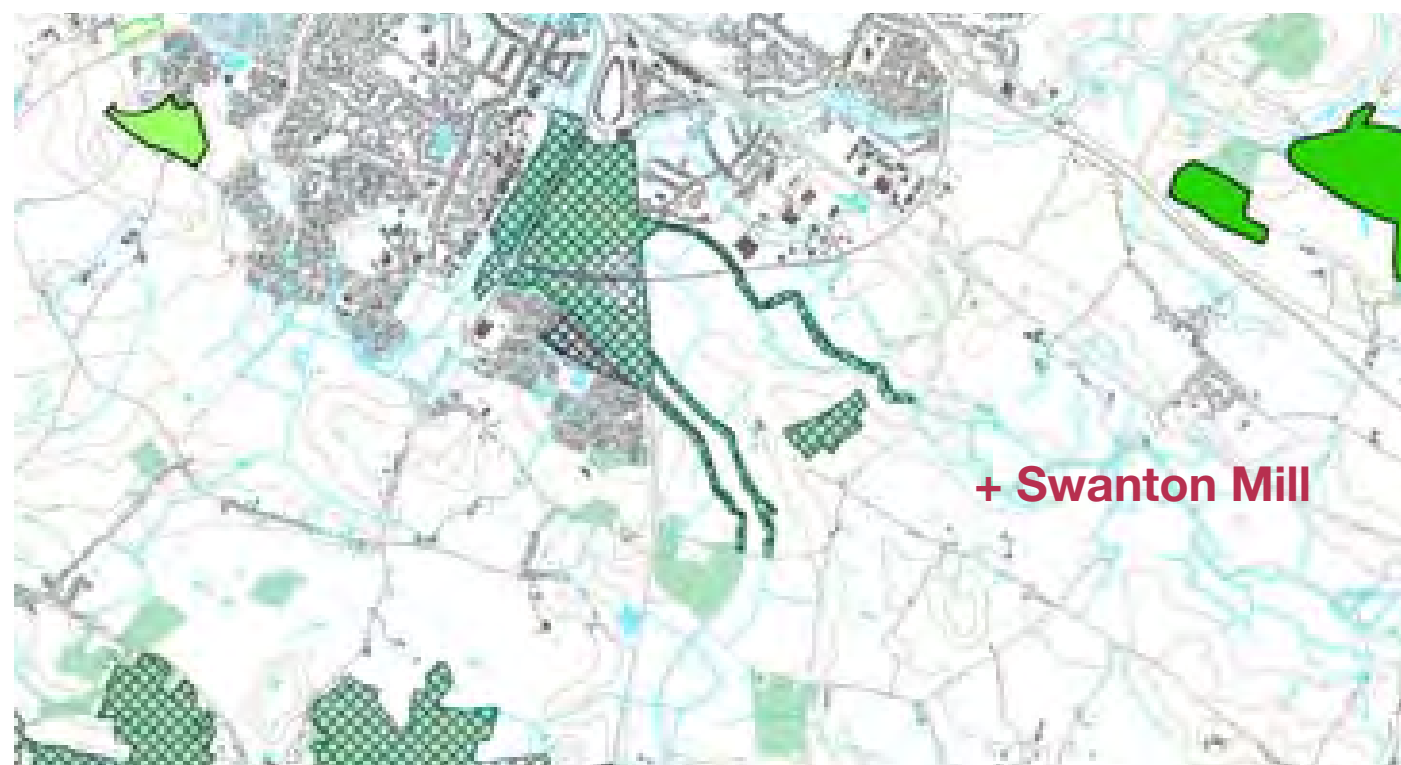
Ecology

An extensive area of the floodplain around Park Farm and Captain's Wood are designated Sites of Nature Conservation Interest.

Features lost since the 1870s

There has been some loss of hedgerows to the area south of the CTRL. The 1908 plan revealed an extensive wooded area to the east of the A2070(T) on the slightly higher ground known as Calves Wood, Buttesland Wood and Ruffets Wood which have since completely disappeared.

There were notable hedgerow trees around Swanton Mill and along the course of the East Stour River.



Ecology



Features lost since 1870's



Section 2 Assessment

Assessment Summary

This county area is split north west and south east of Ashford – the Upper Great Stour Valley to the north west of Ashford and the eastern Upper Stour Valley containing the East Stour, Ruckinge and White Water Dykes to the south east.

There are 2 ‘settlements’ the Waterbrook Freight Depot that projects into the floodplain, and the Forstal and Mill which are the extension of Mersham on the southern side of the CTRL and London to Dover Railway.

We have made adjustments to the Kent CLA boundary to exclude the area to the south east of Chilmington and to include a greater extent along the Ruckinge Dyke valley lying within the floodplain.

The Upper Stour Valley is an extensive open valley floor landscape of predominantly arable farming where hedgerows have been removed during the conversion to unimproved pasture and riparian vegetation lost as cultivation extends close to the river banks. This intensification with loss of vegetation and wildlife corridors is particularly evident at the East Stour Valley and Ruckinge Dyke. At Waterbrook and Willesborough Dykes there is a mix of neglected farmland, wasteland and major transport corridors which give an interrupted and fragmented character and open views to the suburbs of Ashford.

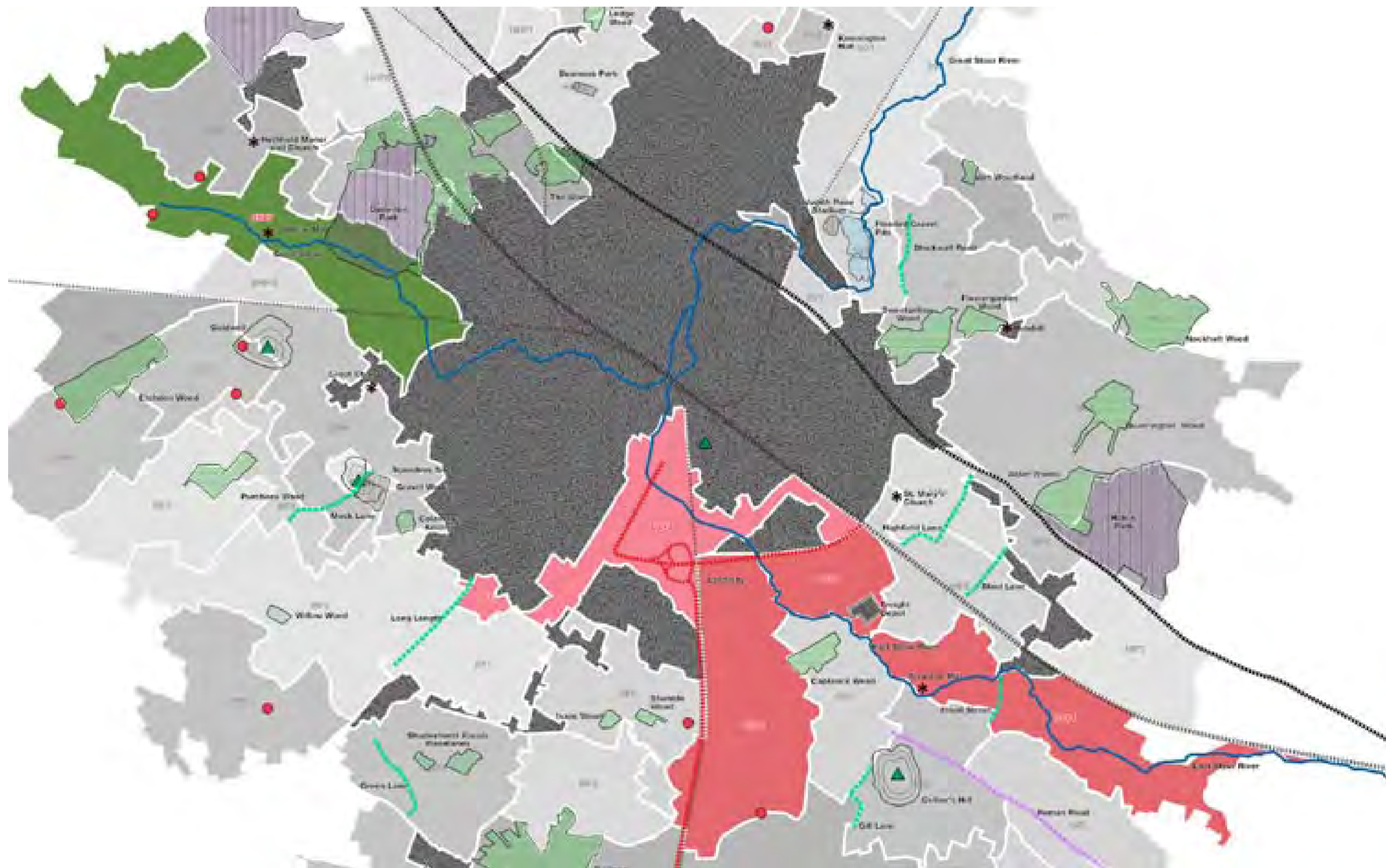
Occasionally the Great Stour tributaries and wet areas are delineated by flushes of willows or wet alder woodland which is more marked to the Upper Great Stour Valley. Here the mixed farming and strong hedgelines with discrete poplar plantations give a reticulated and more distinctive landscape.



Location of Upper Stour Valley

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

Policy recommendation





Near Mansion Copse to north of Worten Mill to the north west of Ashford (G17.3 & G 17.4)



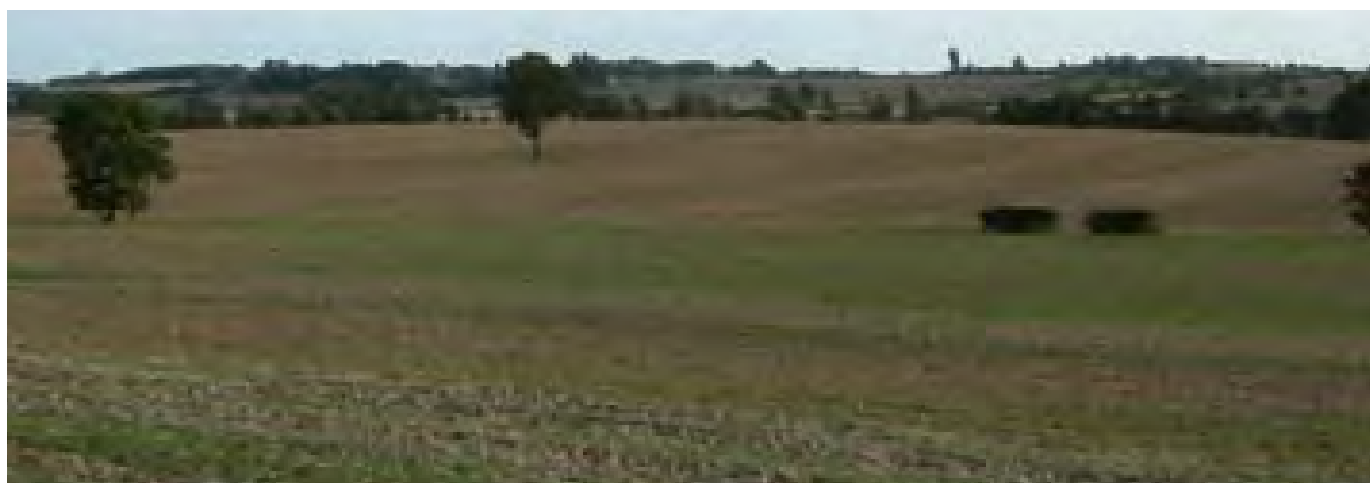
Moat at Aylesford Green (A2.2)



Looking south along East Stour near Outlet Village (C1.1)



Looking north towards Ashford from A2070(T) (C1.5)



East of Flood Street looking south (A2.1)













Open fields around Swanton Mill (A2.5)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES	USV1	USV2	USV3	USV4	USV5	USV6
Landuse						
Farming	○	○	○	○	○	○
Recreation						
Parkland						
Woodland						○
Former industrial use			○			
Freight Depot			○			
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
	Historic Building
	Oast House
	Hilltop/ Scenic Views
	River Stour
	Green Lane
	Roman Road
	Woods
	Parks
	Flooded Gravel Pits



Swanton Mill

Situated on the East Stour River this is a newly restored working mill, possibly dating back to the 16th century. Surrounded on all sides by large mostly featureless arable fields the mill and the small area of alder/ willow carr are important heritage and ecological features.



Flood Street (A32.2)

Flood Street is a distinctive feature within the open valley floor landscape. It comprises deep ditches, ancient pollarded willows, neat mown verges and a unique raised walkway. It provides a fine approach to the village of Mersham to the north.



East River Stour (A31.7)

The river and tributaries are in places channelled through a series of dykes and control weirs.



Detractors



Key

	CTRL/ Eurostar Rail Line		M20
	Railway Line		Detractor
	A2070(T)		

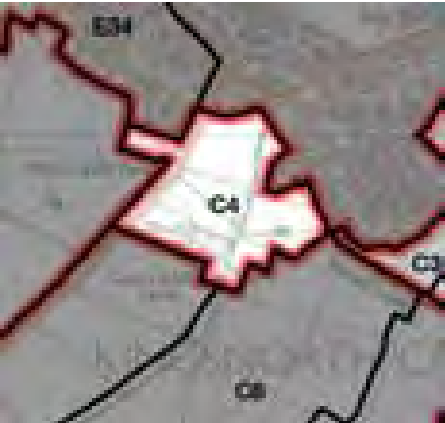


Freight Depot (A5.1)
Secluded location at the end of spur from the A2070(T), set within farmland. Public access restricted. Comprises ancillary structures including security kiosks, lighting and native shrub planting to western edge.



Section 3 Fieldwork & Data Sheets

USV 1 Court Lodge Farm



Location of USV 1 within Upper Stour Valley

District Landscape Type: USV 1 Court Lodge Farm

Comprising: C4

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Area of improved grazing crossed by dykes, dry ditches and gappy hedges with Court Lodge Farm and moated farmhouse with mature trees and poplars.
- Long Length forms a thick linear woodland to the road.
- The Greensand footpath cuts through the area.
- Housing at Stanhope overlooks the area to the north and east.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

Long Length with the deep drainage dykes and blackthorn hedges give a unified linear character to the landscape and provide a network of semi-natural habitats.

Sensitivity

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

Long Length is a valuable wildlife corridor and restricts views to the west. The recent improvements to the moated farmhouse are not in keeping with the local character, and the housing at Stanhope impinges onto the area. Overall the sense of character has been eroded.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

restore & create

USV 2 Willesborough Dykes



Location of USV 2 within Upper Stour Valley

District Landscape Type: USV 2 Willesborough Dykes

Comprising: C1, C2, C3, A1 (part of), A2 (Aylesford Green)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low lying area within the floodplain criss crossed by dykes, the East Stour and dominated by the A2042 road/ junction network and CTRL to the east.
- Mix of farmland, predominantly grazing and regenerating scrub surrounded by new housing, industry and retail development to the south of Ashford.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

An incoherent pattern of elements dominated by the road network with an interrupted character and generally degraded condition.

Sensitivity

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

The sense of place is weak, but visibility is high due to wide open floodplain generally devoid of hedgerows and with few isolated trees.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

restore & create

- restore moat by improved management
- create wetlands

USV 3 Waterbrook



Location of USV 3 within Upper Stour Valley

District Landscape Type: USV 3 Waterbrook

Comprising: A2 (Waterbrook), A5

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Gently undulating open valley floor with extensive tree, hedge and ditch clearance with mix of arable land, neglected grazing, gravel workings, freight depot and former railway sidings.
- Some remnant hedgerows, ditches and ponds.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

The area has a fragmented and degraded feel with many detracting features.

Sensitivity

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

The area has undergone substantial change over recent years with the loss of landscape features, in particular field boundaries to become in effect an arable and brownfield wasteland. The open floodplain is highly visible.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

create
- create new woodlands

USV 4 East Stour Valley



Location of USV 4 within Upper Stour Valley

note: for direct comparison map to be scaled 200% to equate with like scale on all other maps

District Landscape Type: USV 4 East Stour Valley

Comprising: A2 (Swanton Mill), A2 (east of Flood Street), A31, A13 (Denne), A18, A19, A25 (North of Merham Sports Ground), A32

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Intensively farmed land of predominantly large arable fields within the East Stour river valley floodplain.
- The area is bisected by tributaries, often delineated by willow pollards and carr such as around Swanton Mill, Evergate Mill and Flood Street.
- The area has undergone extensive clearance of hedges and ditches.
- Around The Forstal and Flood Street the scale is more intimate with smaller fields of improved grassland and remnant orchards.
- The CTRL bounds the northern edge and is for the most part in cutting.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

The landscape has undergone extensive intensification with loss of hedgerows and decline in semi-natural habitats. There are discrete pockets of distinctive character such as around Flood Street where willows and associated ditches have remained intact; however overall the pattern is fragmented and interrupted in places by the CTRL.

Sensitivity

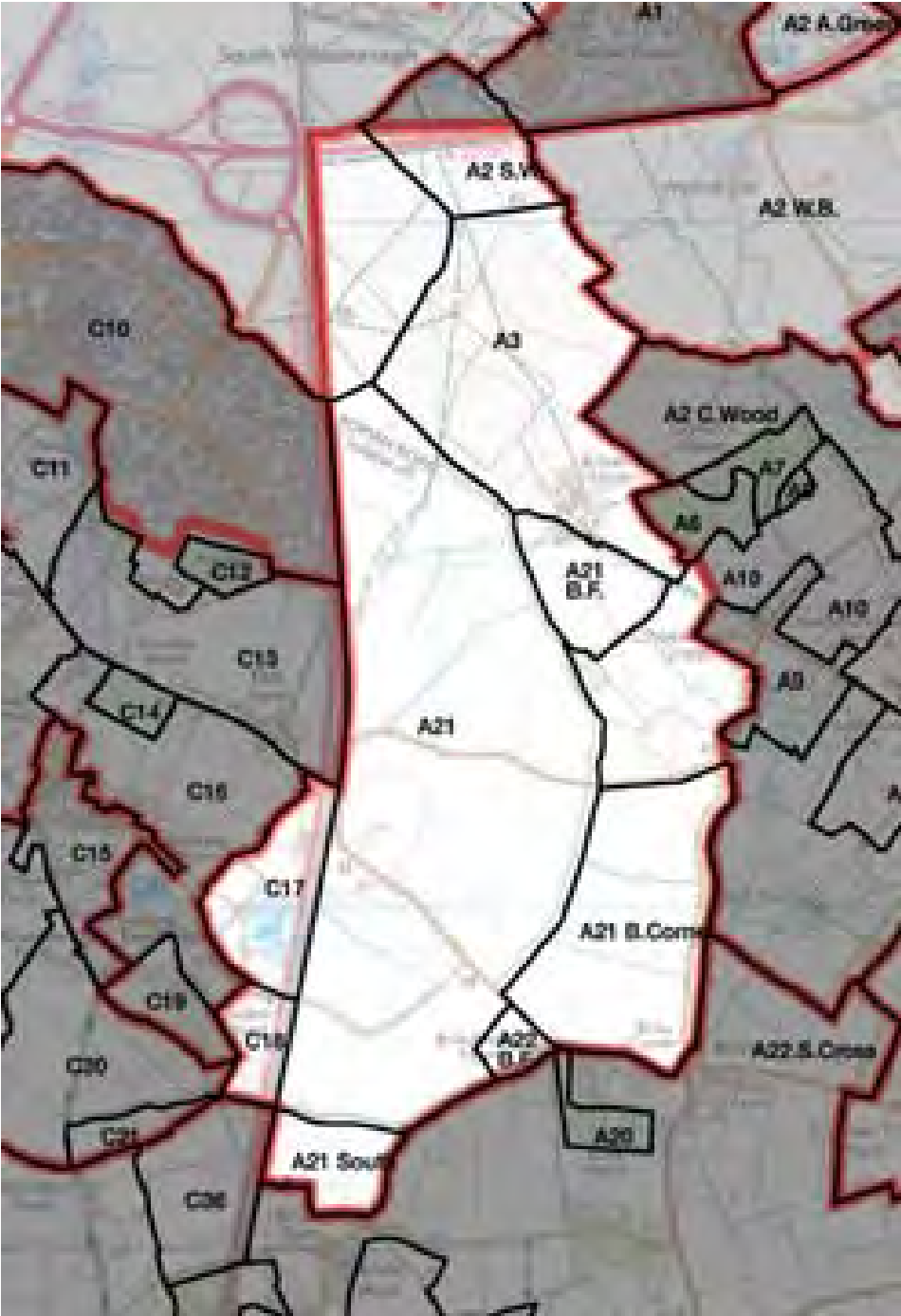
Sense of place:	low	Landform:	high
Extent of tree cover:	low	Visibility:	high

Landscape signatures are sporadic and overall the sense of place is weak. The floodplain and general lack of vegetation allow extensive views and high visibility.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

create
- critical hinterland for flood defences and green infrastructure

USV 5 Ruckinge Dyke



Location of USV 5 within Upper Stour Valley

District Landscape Type: USV 5 Ruckinge Dyke

Comprising: A2 (South Willsborough), A3, A10, A21, A21 (Bilham Farm), A21 (Bliby Corner), A21 (south), A22 (Brockman's Farm), C17, C18

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- The area is predominantly arable farmland within the floodplain with some smaller paddocks and grazing with gappy relic hedges and scattered hedgerow trees.
- The land rises to a distinctive knoll to the east of Finn Farm which was extensively wooded during the late 19th century and has since completely disappeared.
- Adjacent at Steeds Lane are a series of fishing ponds.
- Around Bilham Farm the hedgerows are intact and the proximity to Captain's Wood gives a more wooded character.
- The A2070(T) dual carriageway on wooded embankment bounds the western edge and is prominent.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

The conversion of unimproved pasture to arable within the floodplain has resulted in the loss of hedgerows and trees and overall fragmentation and decline in wildlife corridors. The road is highly visible and a prominent detractor.

Sensitivity

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

The distinctive elements that are characteristic of a floodplain have been lost and the strength of character is weak. The area is highly visible due to the open nature of the floodplain and lack of tree cover.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

create
- critical hinterland for flood defences and green infrastructure

USV 6 Great Stour Valley



Location of USV 6 within Upper Stour Valley
note: for direct comparison map to be scaled 200% to equate with like scale on all other maps

District Landscape Type: USV 6 Great Stour Valley

Comprising: E1, E2, E3, E1/4, G11, G12, G13, G14, G16, G17

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Extensive valley floor farmland of arable and pasture with scattered woodlands, including numerous discrete poplar plantations.
- The Great Stour and tributaries meandering through the landscape are often delineated by flushes of willows or wet alder woodland.
- Localised floodberms and embankment at Worten Mill.
- Swinford Manor and Bucksford Manor (now school and complex of private houses) have notable mature trees.
- The area is crossed by a number of local lanes with strong hedgelines and footpaths, including the Greensand Way and Stour Valley Walk.

ANALYSIS

Condition

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

Attractive and highly distinctive with intact features, such as the wet woodlands and mature stream side trees, though there has been some loss of grazing pasture as areas have been drained. This is a working farmed landscape with intact areas of semi-natural habitat that also accommodates flooding.

Sensitivity

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

A reticulated landscape of subtle landform and distinctive landscape signatures with a sense of continuity over time and strong sense of place. There are long distance intermittent views.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

conserve & restore

- reinstate alder woodlands (originally used to make charcoal for gunpowder)
- improve river corridor habitat and restore meanders

Upper Stour Valley

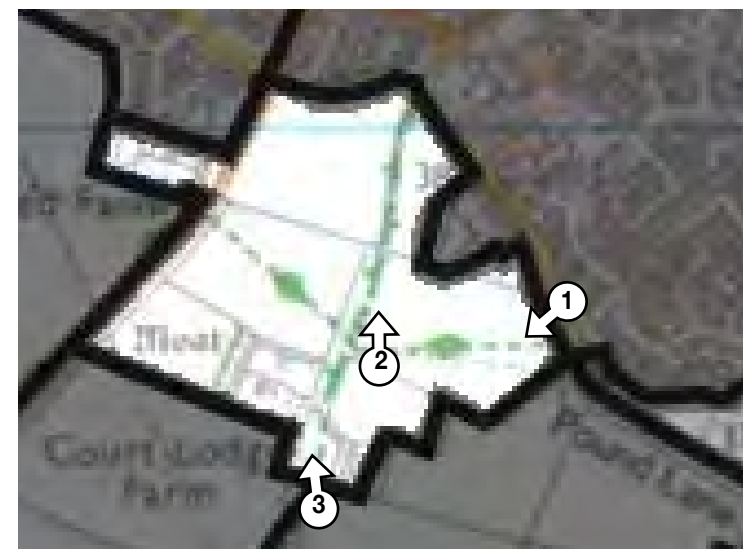
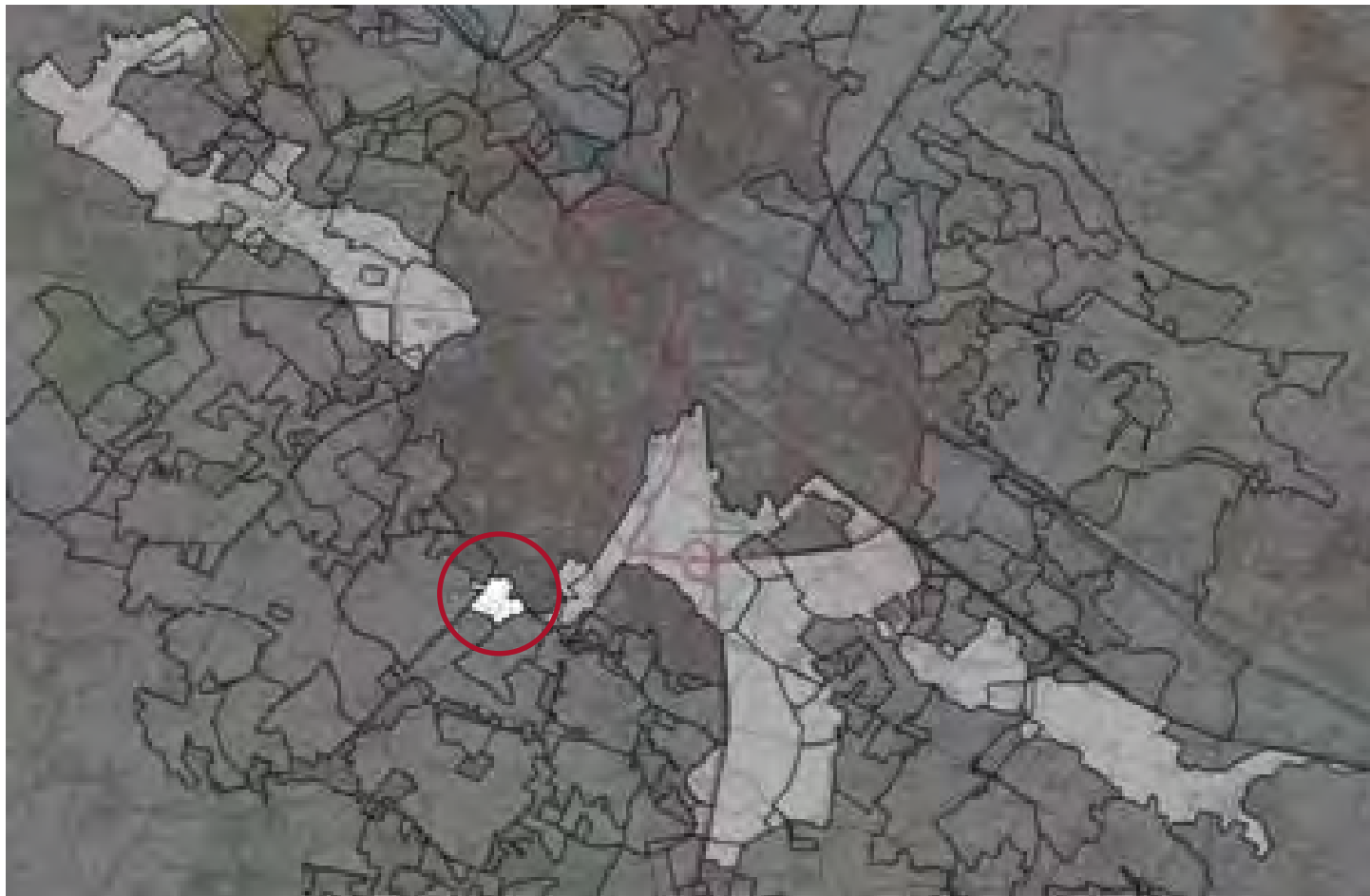
USV1: Court Lodge Farm

Date: 30/09/04 Location: C4 Court Lodge Farm Map reference: TQ994397

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.10 Medium regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out N/NE to Pound Lane and Stanhope; S to knoll in C6; W to Long Length
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Court Farm, boundary with Long Length, hedgerow trees	Views within Filtered throughout
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Dykes, farmstead, linear trees and tree groups, poplars behind farm	Pattern Medium regular with straight boundaries
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Settlement: clustered farmstead and farmhouse LU: improved grassland	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Stream and water-filled drainage dyke both sides of Pound Lane		Species associations Willow, alder
Farm type	Primary Improved pasture		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Remnants		Species Ash, willow, oak
Other trees	Heritage features Linear trees around moat, new planting associated with farmhouse.		Species Alder, willow, hornbeam, oak, hawthorn, blackthorn
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Dykes, stream, hedgerow		Species Hawthorn, rose, blackthorn, willow, alder, oak, ash
Highways	Verges Greensand Way national footpath; driveway to farm; footpaths; Long Length and Pound Lane boundaries		Other features Exceptional treed boundary along Long Length, good along Pound Lane
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads Court Lodge Farm – newly refurbished farmhouse and barns, new double garage
Other features	Well treed moat		

C4 ctd.

Brief description: Medium sized parcel of improved grazing with Court Lodge Farm and moated farmhouse to the south. Exceptional boundary to the west with Long Length consisting of thick linear woodland. Traversed by dykes, dry ditches and gappy hedges.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Electronic gates to farmhouse, replica floodlit Stonehenge. Housing at Stanhope evident to north where not screened. Newly mown dyke on one edge. Low voltage power lines.				<i>Intact</i> Interrupted but <i>localised</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 Dykes, moat, gappy hedgerows, linear woodland strips	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>	
Intensity of land use Moderate – noticeably improved pasture				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Boundary with Long Length, hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Age structure Some new planting around farmhouse, otherwise mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Stock fencing, hedges, ditches			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Private moat			<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> <i>Low</i>
Newly refurbished farmhouse	Historic - moated	Some improvements not in keeping with local character		
Stanhope housing – needs screening				



Photograph locations/ direction

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Upper Stour Valley

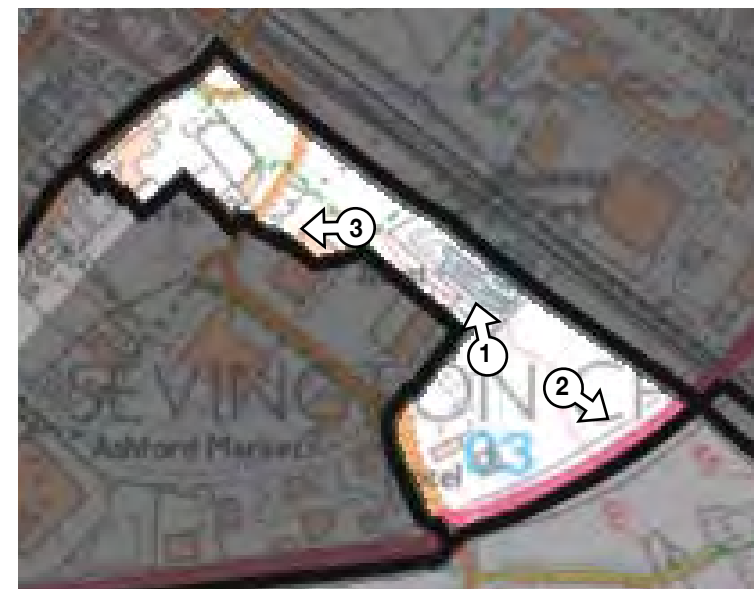
USV2: Willsborough Dykes

Date: 17.09.04 Location: A2 Aylesford Green Map reference: TR029408

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Modified moat, pond and slip road	Views Out Over railway to business park. South to A2070 West to Ashford Market
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements new planting and scrub regeneration	Views In Fairly open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Slip road, amenity planting, moat, new bunded pond	Seasonal variation Yes trees
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Naturalised moat, grassland with scrub regeneration, urban fringe set-aside		Species associations Thorn, planted oak, few oak and ash standards, rose, yellow flag, nettle, willow herb
Farm type	Primary		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features		Species
Other trees	Heritage features remnant mature oak, scattered thorn regenerating		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features		Species
Highways	Verges Amenity/ wildflower mix along road and footpath		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features	Artificial bunded pond with amenity planting, fenced		

A2 Aylesford Green ctd.

Brief description: Variable tract of underdeveloped urban fringe bordered by new development, railway and slip roads. Regenerating scrub and grassland with historical moat and new bunded pond to South. Native amenity planting				
Visual unity – asses the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Noise and light from surrounding transport corridors and new development especially A2070				<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 fairly intact patch of regenerating scrub with wetland habitat (Moat and new pond)		Ecological corridors Some ditches with <i>Juncus</i> and <i>Typha</i>		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 variable regenerating	Age structure newly planted regenerating with few oak and ash standards	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries				<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Moat needs management regime. New pond - less intense mowing would improve ecological potential			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 Road, pond	Siting Fringe	Design appropriate	Extent	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low



Photograph locations/ direction

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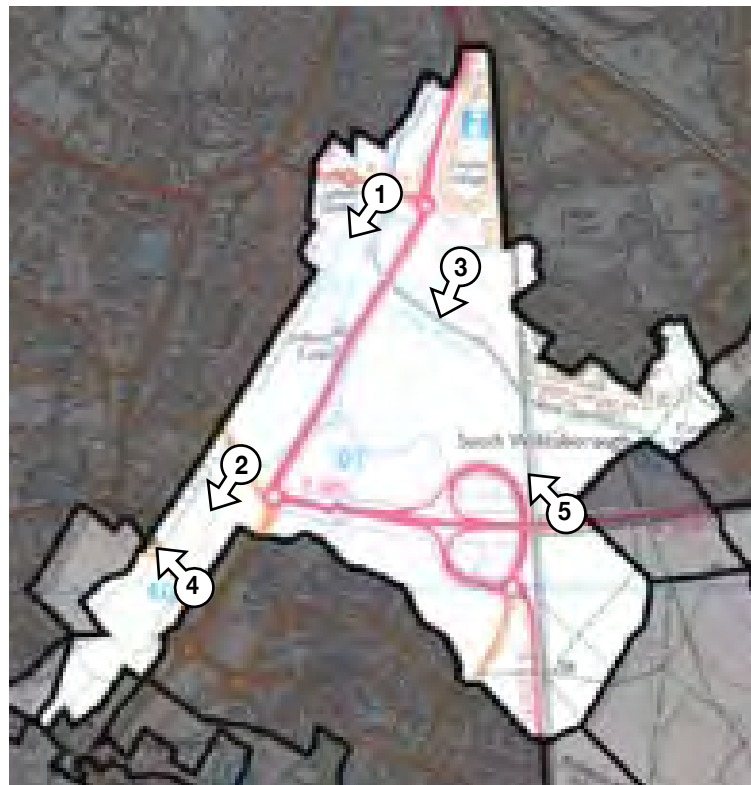


Date: 30/09/04 Location: C1 South Willesborough Map reference: TR012405

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform A2042 on embankment	Views Out Filtered only to woodland above Park Farm to south; Ashford to north
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements New planting along roads	Views within Often limited
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Dykes, streams and remnant hedges, some stock fencing.	Pattern Fragmented by road and railway
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Settlement – intermittent though dense at boundaries. Land use – road corridors and mixed farming	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Ditches, rivers, streams		Species associations Willow
Farm type	Primary Grazing – sheep, cattle, horses		Other Set aside and market gardening, some arable to east of railway
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features		Species Oak, hawthorn, ash
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Remnant hedges – highly variable from very thick to very gappy		Species Hawthorn, field maple, hazel, blackthorn, rose etc.
Highways	Verges New roads and mown verges, footpaths and cycle lanes, concrete kerbs, lighting, extensive native planting		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads Few scattered houses
Other features	Road and rail dominant		

C1 ctd.

Brief description: Large parcel of low-lying mixed farmland predominantly grazing, traversed by new roads and surrounded by new housing and industry and retail development of south Ashford. East Stour and associated dykes criss-cross the area.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Noise, lighting, visual intrusion from roads and railway				<i>Intact</i> <i>Interrupted</i> Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Some set aside but not interlinked		Ecological corridors East Stour and dykes. New roadside planting. Remnant hedges.		<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low
Intensity of land use Variable				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Roadside and remnant hedges or river trees	Age structure Very young or over mature	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Remnant hedges, some new planting, stock fencing			<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 Roads including dual carriageway and clover junction All housing etc. outside parcel, but high impact	Siting Road on embankment	Design Good new planting	Extent	High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>

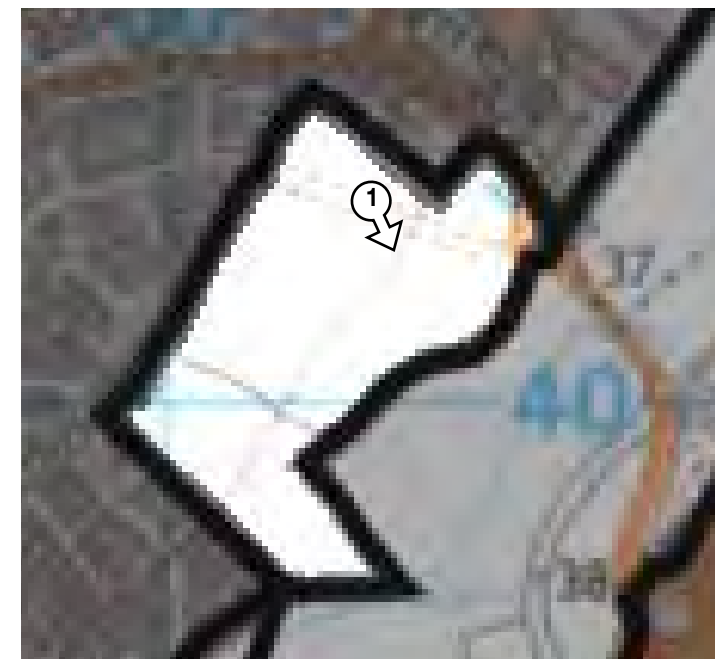


Date: 30/09/04 Location: C2 south of Stanhope Map reference: TR02400

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out Filtered to housing
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Remnant hedgerow and new planting	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Over mature hedge	Pattern Not clear – parcel now very small due to new planting south of Stanhope
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Set aside farmland	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Set aside	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Some remnants	Species Oak	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Thick hedge	b Hawthorn	
Highways	Verges New roads – mown, footpath and cycle track and new planting	Other features Oak, ash, field maple, viburnum, hazel	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads 1 or 2 scattered houses	
Other features	Naturalising set aside and regenerating scrub		

C2 ctd.

Brief description: Small parcel of set aside (originally part of larger parcel, now new housing) with regenerating scrub, thick overgrown hedgerow and scattered oaks.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: New road, lighting				<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 Set aside	Ecological corridors Hedge	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>		
Intensity of land use Low, high for road				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Roadside and remnant hedgerow trees	Age structure Young or very mature	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Thick and overgrown or new planting of hedgerow along road			<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 Local road	Siting On low embankment	Design lighting	Extent	<i>High</i> Moderate+ <i>Low</i>



Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 30/09/04 Location: C3 north of Pound Lane Map reference: TQ999396

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out Housing to north, filtered to east
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Strong trees along stream	Views within Restricted
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Strong hedge north of lane. Stream	Pattern Small scale, N and W boundary replaced by fence and housing
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Grazing and set aside	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Stream and strong tree line		Species associations Field maple, ash, hawthorn
Farm type	Primary Grazing and set aside		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Few relics		Species Oak, ash
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Stream, hedge, stock fencing		Species
Highways	Verges Very good hedge to north		Other features Hawthorn, elder, ivy, bramble, ash
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features	Small brick bridge over stream		

C3 ctd.

Brief description: Small triangular shaped parcel to north of Pound Lane, set aside and sheep grazing separated by well treed stream.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Housing along NW boundary, no screening				<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 Set aside, some scrub		Ecological corridors Stream and hedges		<i>High</i> Moderate + <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 Along stream and W corner near housing	Age structure mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Stock fencing, hedges, stream and housing fence			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Some scrub in set aside			<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 Housing, although outside parcel	Siting	Design Needs screening – very weak edge	Extent	<i>High</i> Moderate+ <i>Low</i>



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Upper Stour Valley

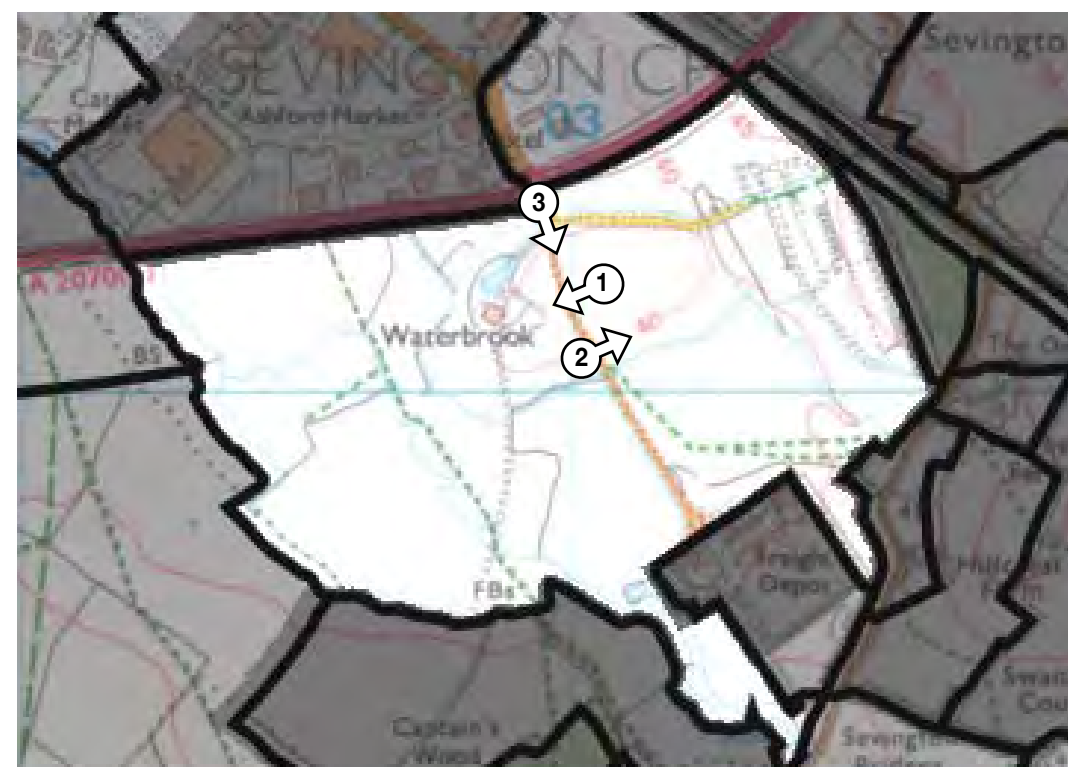
USV3: Waterbrook

Date: 17.09.04 Location: A2 Waterbrook Map reference: TR031401

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform gently undulating	Views Out North across A2070 to Ashford fringe and North Downs, east across railway to Downs. West to Park Farm. Restricted south due to tree cover.
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Stream side trees	Views In Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements remnant hedges and ditches	Pattern Changed from small scale paddocks to large arable with hedge clearance
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Gravel works next to disused sidings, access road to freight works and business centre, otherwise arable	Seasonal variation Crop
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Streams and ditches		Species associations <i>Typha</i> , teasel, alder, willow
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other Set-aside
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features		Species Thorn and Oak
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Remnant hedges and ditches		Species
Highways	Verges New access road to freight depot		Other features street lighting
Buildings	Villages Two new developments, industrial unit		Farmsteads
Other features			

A2 Waterbrook ctd.

Brief description: Gently undulating open valley floor landscape, extensive tree, hedge and ditch clearance, now predominantly arable with localised new development (business centre and gravel works) and former sidings.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Access rd to freight depot, with associated lighting. Gravel workings. Obvious bund to East of access road				<i>Intact</i> <i>Interrupted</i> Fragmented
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Restricted to small patches. Some ponds. Former railway sidings with buddleia, alder, bramble		Ecological corridors Unlinked ditches, gappy hedgerows		<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low
Intensity of land use: High - arable dominant				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Limited to remnant ditches and hedgerows		Age structure Varied	<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> Poor
Field Boundaries	Remnants			<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Ponds. Regenerating scrub to South with willow, poplar around ponds			<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 Industrial and road	Siting Fairly well screened, gravel works more obtrusive	Design Modern steel-clad shed	Extent Localised	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low



Photograph locations/ direction

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Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR035396)
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley
Historic Landscape Type:		9.6 Post 1810 settlement (general)
Boundaries:		A2 encloses A5 to N, W & S, A15 to E
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant	Key visual elements freight depot ancillary structures including security kiosks and lighting
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform flat
TREE COVER	Insignificant	Key visual elements native shrub planting to western edge
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear Clustered Sprawling	nuclear
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	recent
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale -	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials -	Planting/ signage/ lighting
Edge condition	New housing -	
Other features (include detractors)		
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Secluded site, busy with lorries and restricted access to public		

Reference: A5

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Secluded location at the end of spur from the A2070(T), set within farmland. Public access restricted.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
-				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement -				High Moderate Low
Intensity of built form and trend				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition -			Good Variable Poor
Tree Cover	Age structure -			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



Upper Stour Valley

USV4: East Stour Valley

Date: 21.09.04 (Amended 20.07.05) Location: A2 east of Flood Street Map reference: TR054385

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures		
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?		
TOPOGRAHY	Apparent	Landform Gently undulating
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Intermittent mature trees along river. Trees at Evergate Mill to E
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Insignificant	Key visual elements Extensive clearance of hedges and ditches. Fine h'row along lane to E
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable, some pasture to east. Evergate Mill and Dam, heritage feature
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	River and knoll, land rising to CTRL	Species associations Sedge, iris, , purple loosestrife, meadowsweet, typha, sparganium, dragonflies
Farm type	Primary Arable	Other Pasture
Woodlands	Heritage features Small copse to W of embankment	Species Ash
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Very occasional h'row trees, trees around Evergate Mill	Species Oak and ash, white willow, alder
Other trees	Heritage features Riverside – not continuous but strong visually	Species Ash and willow
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Ditches, gappy h'rows Fine high h'row along lane to S of Evergate Mill	Species Dogwood, blackthorn, hazel, ash, f. maple, oak, rose
Highways	Verges Local lane to E with well treed – high h'row	Other features
Buildings	Villages CTRL to boundary	Farmsteads Evergate Mill and ancient dam
Other features		

A2 East of Flood St. ctd.

Brief description: Large parcel of open, gently undulating valley bottom landscape formed by River Stour and associated drains. Comprises mainly open arable, with some pasture (smaller scale) to E. The field pattern has been largely lost through h'row + clearance in W. The tree cover is mainly restricted to the rivers and ditches. A key feature of the parcel is Evergate Mill and an ancient dam to the E, comprising a fine house with landscaped ponds. A local lane runs N + S through the E of the parcel with a notable fine h'row. CTRL has a moderate impact to Northern boundary.				
Visual unity – asses the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: CTRL corridor to N boundary partially visible and clearly audible, hedgerow and ditch clearance very evident.			<i>Interrupted</i>	
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Some area of rough pasture	Ecological corridors River, ditches and CTRL	<i>Low – moderate – locally impact waterways.</i>		
Intensity of land use: High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Relics and along river	Age structure Mainly mature	<i>Good</i>	
Field Boundaries	Loss of h'row and ditch clearance. Fine h'row along lane to E		<i>Variable</i>	
Other features	Evergate Mill and Dam		<i>Good</i>	
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type CTRL bridges	Siting To N boundary	Design Functional	Extent Noise and some visual impact	<i>Moderate</i>



A2 East of Flood St.1



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Photograph locations/ direction

Date: 21.09.04 Location: A2 Swanton Mill Map reference: TR042392

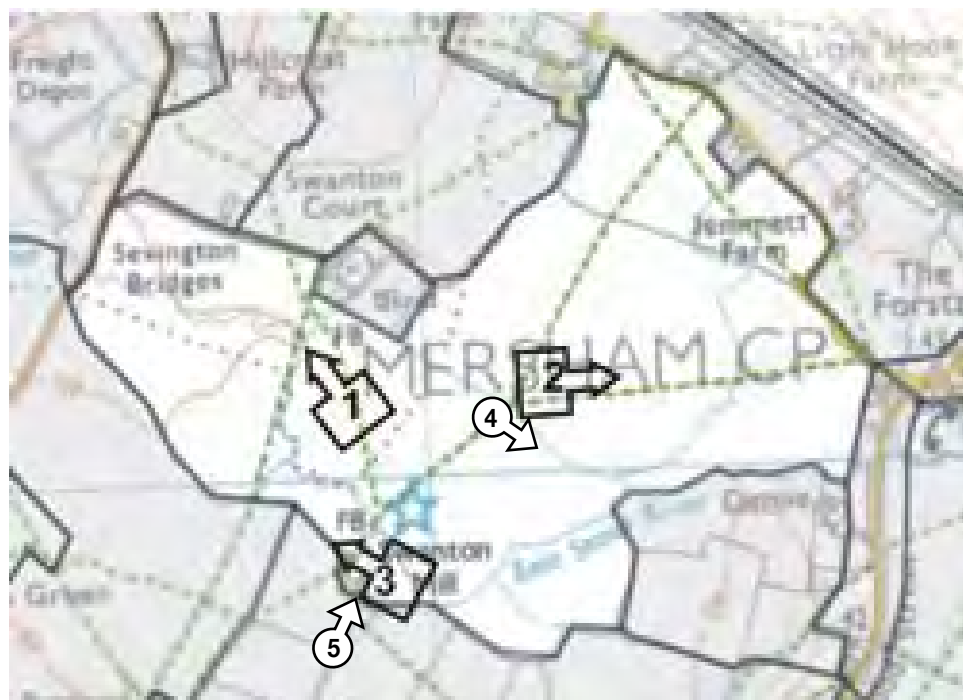
Context: Kent Landscape Character Area: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures		
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?		
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Mainly flat, gentle rise to south of Conscience Farm
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Follows River Stour and tributaries, Swanton Mill farmstead
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedge and ditch clearance evident
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Arable, Swanton Mill farmstead
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?		
Natural features	Dry pond, River Stour and tributary	Species associations Alder, willow
Farm type	Primary Arable	Other
Woodlands	Heritage features To north of Swanton Mill	Species Poplar, birch, ash, willow carr
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Scattered	Species Willow
Other trees	Heritage features Garden trees at Swanton Mill	Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Ditches	Species Blackthorn, hawthorn
Highways		Other features
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads Swanton Mill – 16 th Century? Farmhouse and newly restored former mill
Other features		

A2 Swanton Mill ctd.

Brief description: Large L-shaped parcel of drained valley floor, bisected by River Stour and tributaries, now large arable fields, dominated by Swanton Mill to south and Swanton Court to centre, pollarded willow along river				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Power line to east of Swanton Mill, evident hedge and ditch 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 Limited to carr north of Swanton Mill	Ecological corridors River and tributaries, ditches	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low - moderate		
Intensity of land use: Mainly very high - arable				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Along riverside and Swanton Mill	Age structure Mixed in carr but very mature former pollards along river and ditches	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	River and most ditches recently dredged. Few hedges gappy and trimmed.		<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Other features	Swanton Mill – newly refurbished		<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> <i>Low</i>



A2 Swanton.2



Photograph locations/ direction

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A2 Swanton.1



A2 Swanton.3



A2 Swanton.4



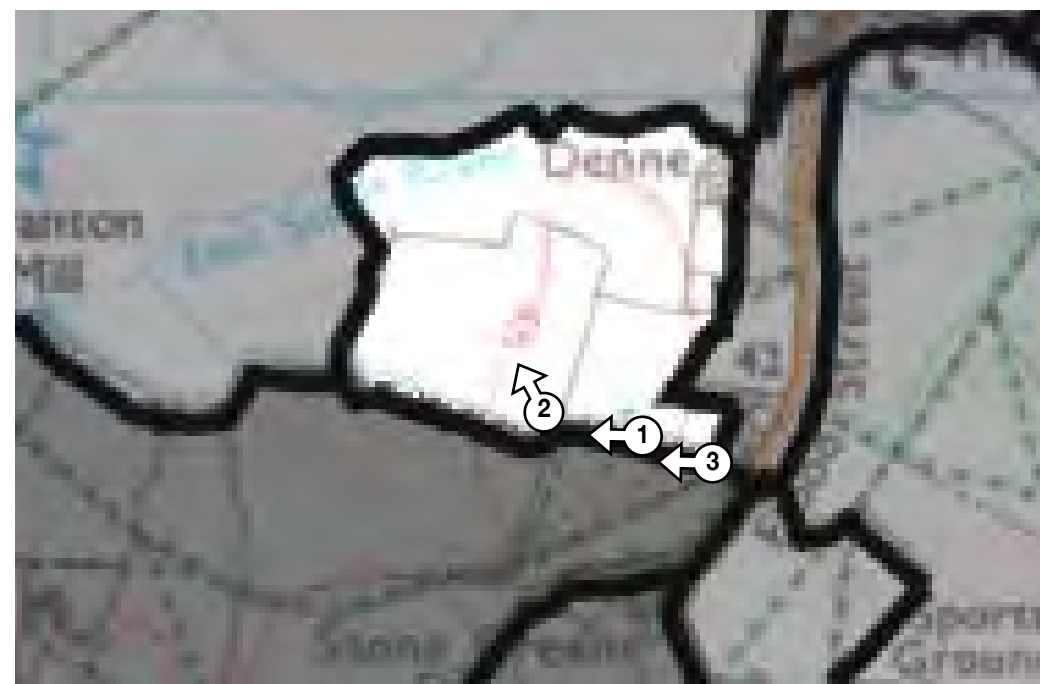
A2 Swanton.5

Date: 17.09.04 Location: A13 Denne Map reference: TR045388

Context: Kent Landscape Character Area: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.15 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Gently rolling	Views Out South to Colliers Hill, West to A2 Captains Wood, E to Flood St, tree cover
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Localised along river, road dyke and hedge boundaries	Views within North to Stour and White Hook Farm. Open, central knoll
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Remnant hedge and dyke, signs of hedgerow removal and drainage	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Farm cluster and improved grassland silage	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Improved grassland and farm, orchard		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Scattered and intermittent		Species Ash, willow, alder, elm
Other trees	Heritage features Orchard and ornamentals near farm		Species Lime, oak, ash, poplar, elm
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Remnant hedges and dykes		Species Thorn and Damson
Highways	Verges		Other features
Buildings	Villages Wall and cottages on Flood St		Farmsteads Recent new build, brick
Other features			

A13 Denne ctd.

Brief description: Small area of gently rolling improved grassland and farmstead bordering E. R.Stour, remnant hedges and important hedgerow trees				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: local power lines and distant noise from M20				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 No patches	Ecological corridors River corridors remnant hedges and dykes		<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>	
Intensity of land use: Moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent localised and intermittent	Age structure mature	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Remnants are good			Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Farmstead and row of cottages on Flood St			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>



Photograph locations/ direction

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Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR050392)
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley
Historic Landscape Type:		9.7 Village/ hamlet 1810 extent
Boundaries:		A17 to N, A2 to W, A32, A2 & A19 to S, B10 & B5 to N
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant	Key visual elements Bungalows and older cottages, The Farriers Arms - 17 th century pub, farm seed depot, village school, watermill, post 1970's Mountbatten Hall
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant	Landform Steep slope rising to northeast
TREE COVER	Dominant	Key visual elements Mature sycamores, pine, ash with hedgerow to one side of lane
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear	
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	A mix of ages
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale A mix of building styles: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Victorian brick village school- Mountbatten Hall – post 1970's brick with roof hip- The Farriers Arms – white shiplap	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Narrow street with footpath and hedge to one side	Planting/ signage/ lighting Discrete 4m high lighting and telegraph poles
Edge condition	New housing N/A	
Other features (include detractors)	CTRL in cutting crosses northern edge of parcel - noise	
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Busy rural village with random architectural style and mix of residential, school, pub etc in close proximity to the noisy CTRL		

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Southern part of Mersham village containing the Forstal, the village school (turn of 20 th century), a 17 th century pub the Farriers Arms, a water mill, a post 70s barn and outbuildings, the Mountbatten Hall, post war houses including bungalows, older cottages adjacent to, and blighted by the CTRL. The area is surrounded by 2-3m high mixed species agricultural hedges and has village scale. A tall stand of poplars is a distinctive feature on the border with parcel A17.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
Rural village scale, with dispersed houses typical of the Weald.				Intact <i>Interrupted</i> <i>Fragmented</i>
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement		Facing onto the convergence of rural lanes from Flood Street and Jemmett's Farm and crossing over the CTRL	High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>	
Intensity of built form and trend Mixed ages from 16 th to 20 th century, closely knit village scale – i.e. medium density				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition Pub and Mill are older buildings, school is turn of 20 th century		<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Tree Cover	Age structure Mixed		Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Where apparent		Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Other features	CTRL crosses under road, high parapet walls obscure views.		<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 Bungalow	Siting onto road	Design 60s/70s	Extent discrete	<i>High</i>
School	Onto road adjacent to CTRL	Late Victorian / Arts & Crafts	discrete	Moderate
Mountbatten hall	Set back from road	Post 1970s? hipped barn form, brick/ hung tile with slate substitute tiles.	on edge of parcel looking onto pasture	<i>Low</i>



Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 21.09.04 Location: A19 east of The Forstal Map reference: TR052391

Context: Kent Landscape Character Area: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.15 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Knoll to north, falling to south and east	Views Out View to Mersham Church to north, across Stour Valley to SW, S and SE towards Colliers Hill
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements New planting along CTRL and scattered trees in relic copse and along R. Stour tributary	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedgerows gone, remnant ditches	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Arable and CTRL boundary	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Knoll		Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Relic copse		Species Hawthorn, hazel, ash, field maple, oak
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features very scattered		Species poplar
Other trees	Heritage features Riverside trees		Species willow, ash
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Ditch		Species Juncus, yellow flag, willowherb
Highways	Verges Type I CTRL access track for footpath		Other features New planting including hawthorn, field maple, oak
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features	CTRL corridor and bridges		

A19 ctd.

Brief description: Small parcel bordering CTRL to north, Mersham School to west, Stour tributary to south, A2 to east. Now very open arable, knoll to north, small relic copse to east, remnant ditches and hedge to south and east.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Fine views from knoll				<i>Intact</i> Interrupted <i>Fragmented</i>
Detractors: CTRL corridor, ditch and hedgerow clearance				
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Relic copse	Ecological corridors CTRL corridor will improve as trees grow, ditches, river		<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	Age structure Mixed in copse, young along CTRL, mature along river	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Newly dredged ditch and river			<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 Grain silo	Siting	Design Functional	Extent Discrete	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>
CTRL bridges				



A19.1



A19.2

Photograph locations/ direction

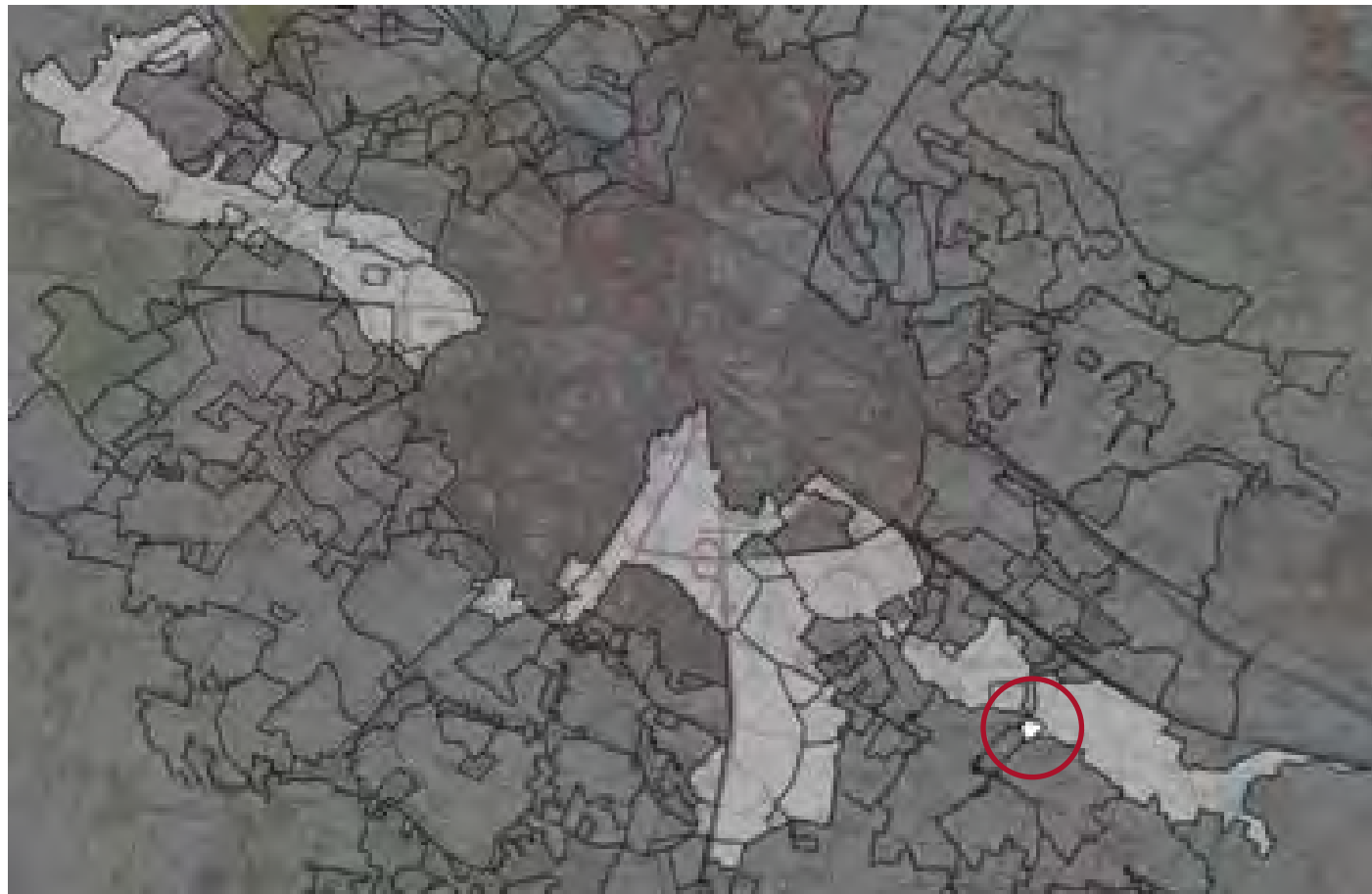
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Date: 23.09.04 Location: A25 North Mersham Sports Ground Map reference: TR047384

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour valley HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out North to Mersham ridge Occasional filtered views to East West and South
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Along parcel boundaries	Views In Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Ditch along Flood St, Hedge and ditch to North & East, Fence to South	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Recreation ground and club house and parking	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 To North, East and South		Species Oak, willow, ash and sycamore
Other trees	Heritage features Small plantations in corner and along western boundary		Species Pollard willows, verge and ditches
Field Boundaries	Heritage features		Species
Highways	Verges Flood St		Other features
Buildings	Villages Shiplap and flat roof		Farmsteads
Other features	Asphalt parking white post and metal rail fence		Small timber playground

A25 Sports Ground ctd.

Brief description: Small village sports ground (cricket and football) next to Flood St, South of The Forstal and strong tree lined boundary, especially to South and East				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Mersham ridge to North, Stour Valley to East, Aldington ridge to South and sheep grazing and Colliers hill to West.				Intact <i>Interrupted</i> <i>Fragmented</i>
Detractors: Powerline				
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit New planting will grow into small copses	Ecological corridors Ditch and hedgerow boundaries		<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 Along boundaries	Age structure Mixed	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Gappy hedge to North			<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 Club house and floodlights	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>



Photograph locations/ direction

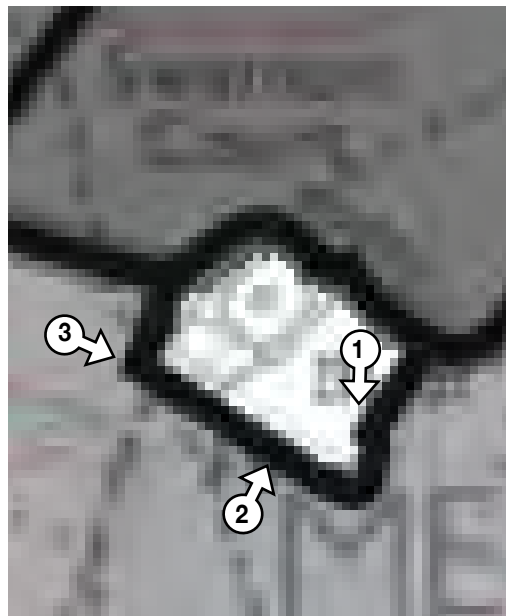
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Date: 21.09.04 Location: A31 Moat and context Map reference: TR039393

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Flat	Views Out Open across arable to east, west and south, restricted due to trees to north
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Clustered around Swanton Court, pond, ruin and northern boundary ditch	Views within Open through paddock
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedge and ditches, wire fence	Pattern Small scale
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Swanton Court, ruin, moat and paddock	b
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Pond	Species associations Alder, white poplar, poplar, Phragmites, horse chestnut, elder, Leylandii	
Farm type	Primary Species rich permanent grassland	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species Oak, ash, elm, sycamore, hornbeam, field maple, blackthorn, damson, hawthorn, hazel	
Other trees	Heritage features Garden trees at Swanton Court	Species White poplar, alder, apple	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Wide ditches and hedges	Species Hawthorn, bramble, Phragmites	
Highways		Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features			

A31 ctd.

Brief description: Small discrete parcel comprising a single paddock and pond surrounded on three sides by ditches (two are wide and holding water). Tree cover is localised to pond and northern boundary. Historic link to ruin in A16?				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: No major detractors, likely hedge clearance along western boundary, ditch clearance along southern boundary				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 Pond and species rich grassland	Ecological corridors Strong boundaries	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 Around pond and northern boundary	Age structure Mature along northern, mixed and regeneration at pond	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Hedge overgrown to south, trimmed to east, hedge gone to west – just herbaceous over fence and bramble. Newly cleared ditch to west.			Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Neglected pond – valuable ecologically			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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Date: 21.09.04 Location: A32 Flood Street Map reference: TR048388

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous Valley Bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out Across A2 to east, through trees south of the Denne to west
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Pollarded willows	Views within Linear along Flood Street
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Unenclosed	Key visual elements N/a	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Raised road and footpath, steep ditches	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distictiveness?			
Natural features		Species associations	
Farm type	Primary	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features Pollarded willow	Species Sycamore, Horse chestnut	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features	Species	
Highways	Verges Mown, raised walkway	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features	Deep ditch on both sides, bench in poor repair		

A32 ctd.

Brief description: Very distinctive linear parcel south of the Forstal along Flood Street giving a fine approach to Mersham village. Characterised by deep ditches, mown verges, pollarded willows and a raised walkway. Separates farmland of A2 to east and west. (Note: parcel is not a separate HLT)				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Sycamore				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 Ditches (newly dredged) and willows		<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 Linear along road	Age structure Over mature	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries				<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Ditches			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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Upper Stour Valley

USV5: Ruckinge Dyke

Date: 22.09.04 Location: A2 South Willesborough Map reference: TR021402

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 to South, pasture to North	Views Out To south partially restricted through tree belts and overgrown hedgerows
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Along Rd embankment and field boundaries	Views In Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Ditches and hedges to South. post and rail to North	Pattern Large arable, rectilinear to South smaller grazing paddocks to North
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Road Arable to South Pasture to North	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable to South pasture to North		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Strip along both sides of road embankment, linear		Species Oak, willow, field maple, ash, hornbeam, birch
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Pollarded willow to East of South section and North of northern section		Species Oak dominant to south ,willow along dyke to east
Other trees	Heritage features Four blocks of fenced screen tree planting to East of North section		Species Willow, poplar
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Hedge and Ditch to South. Post and wire to North (barbed wire)		Species Hawthorn, bramble to west of both sections
Highways	Verges Wooded strip on embankment, paved verge, small mown strip		Other features Dual carriageway Footpath running either side along the toe of embankment
Buildings	Study Sector		Farmsteads
Other features			

A2 South Willesborough ctd.

Brief description: Small rectangular parcel bisected by A2070 dual carriageway on embankment. Consists of open flat arable farmland to South, and smaller paddocks with sheep to North. Bordered to East by East Stour R. North by urban fringe, open farmland to West and South				
Visual unity – asses the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: North and south compartments each relatively intact but major visual and ecological barrier of road. A2070 dual carriageway, urban fringe to North outside parcel but impacts of lighting and noise				<i>Intact</i> <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 Woodland belt on embankment both sides of dual carriageway	Ecological corridors River to East, hedges and ditches	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>		
Intensity of land use: High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Linear	Age structure All around 15yrs on embankment new planting in North section	<i>Good</i> <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Good stock fencing to North, overgrown hedgerows		<i>Good</i> <i>Variable - good</i> <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 Dual carriageway;	Siting On embankment	Design Well planted embankments	Extent Continuous east to West	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>
Housing to North	New urban edge	3 storey town houses	Changes character of parcel	



Photograph locations/ direction

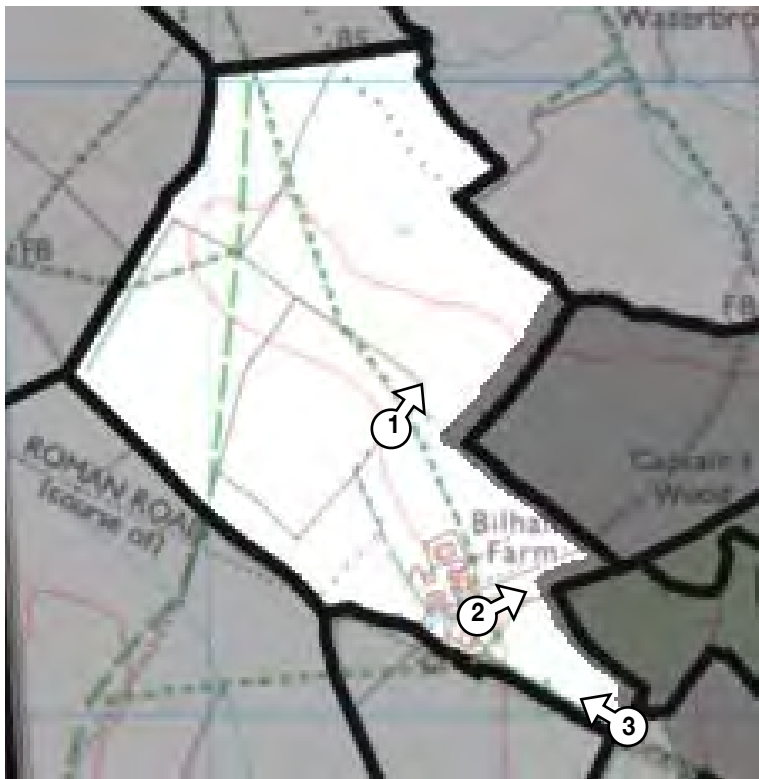
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Date: 16.09.04 Location: A3 Bilham Farm Map reference: TR022494

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 1.6 Rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Very gently undulating low ridge dividing Stour valley	Views Out North to Ashford market and North downs, east to M20, West to park farm, SW to wooded ridge
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Clustered poplar and standard Oak near farm, scattered hedgerow trees	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Gappy hedgerow stronger to West of parcel	Pattern Rectilinear wavy boundaries, large fields
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Farmstead and mixed arable	Seasonal variation Crop
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Pond		Species associations Pollarded willow, dragonflies
Farm type	Primary Mixed arable		Other Some pasture
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Scattered		Species Oak and willow
Other trees	Heritage features		Species Poplar, small group of willows at pond
Field Boundaries	Heritage features hedges, ditches		Species Blackthorn, bramble, hawthorn, field maple, sycamore
Highways	Verges Access track, wide verge		Other features
Buildings	Villages Brick farm house, concrete barns and cottages		Farmsteads Late 18 th C brick farmhouse, recent cottages
Other features			

A3 Bilham Farm ctd.

Brief description: North West tip of gently undulating Aldington Ridge, Stour valley to East and West, Ashford ring Rd and fringe to North. Open mixed arable farmland, scattered hedgerow trees, gappy hedges, with Bilham farmstead to South of parcel				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Ashford fringe and ring rd clearly apparent, noise and light pollution as well as visual impact				<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 Pond and brambles around farm. Some unused barns	Ecological corridors Gappy hedges to East mainly continuous to west		<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 Scattered hedgerow trees some near farm	Age structure Mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Gappy to east, better and thicker to west			<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>
Other features	Farmstead. Farmhouse and cottages in good condition. large area derelict and unused			<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 Ashford fringe and ring rd	Siting	Design	Extent Outside parcel but visible	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>



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Date: 23.09.04 Location: A10 Cheeseman's Green Map reference: TR030384

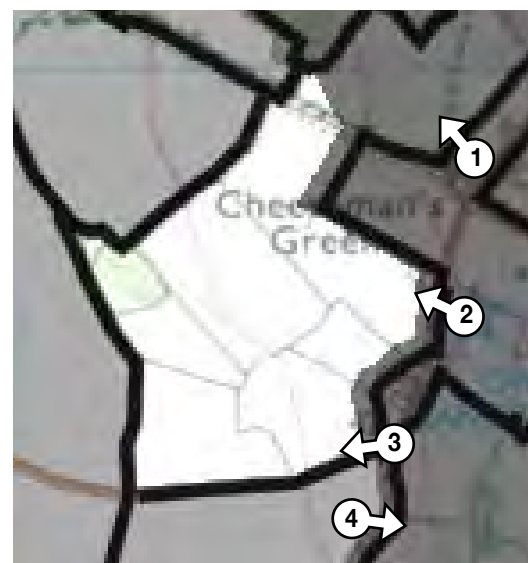
Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 1.7 Irregular straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Gently undulating	Views Out Panoramic east to Colliers Hill, N to Captain's Wood
TREE COVER	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 <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 Set aside, pond at Gill Farm, 2 woodland blocks, small semi-improved grassland		Ecological corridors High hedgerows		<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>
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 <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Field Boundaries	Hedgerows			Good <i>Variable</i> <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 N/A				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



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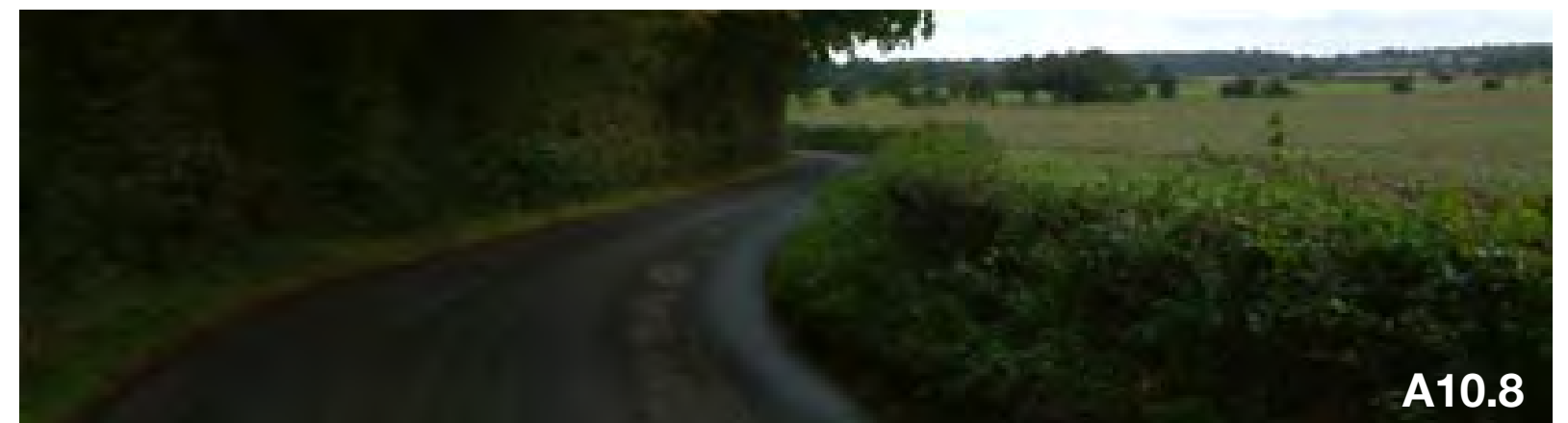
Photograph locations/ direction



A10.3



A10.6



A10.8



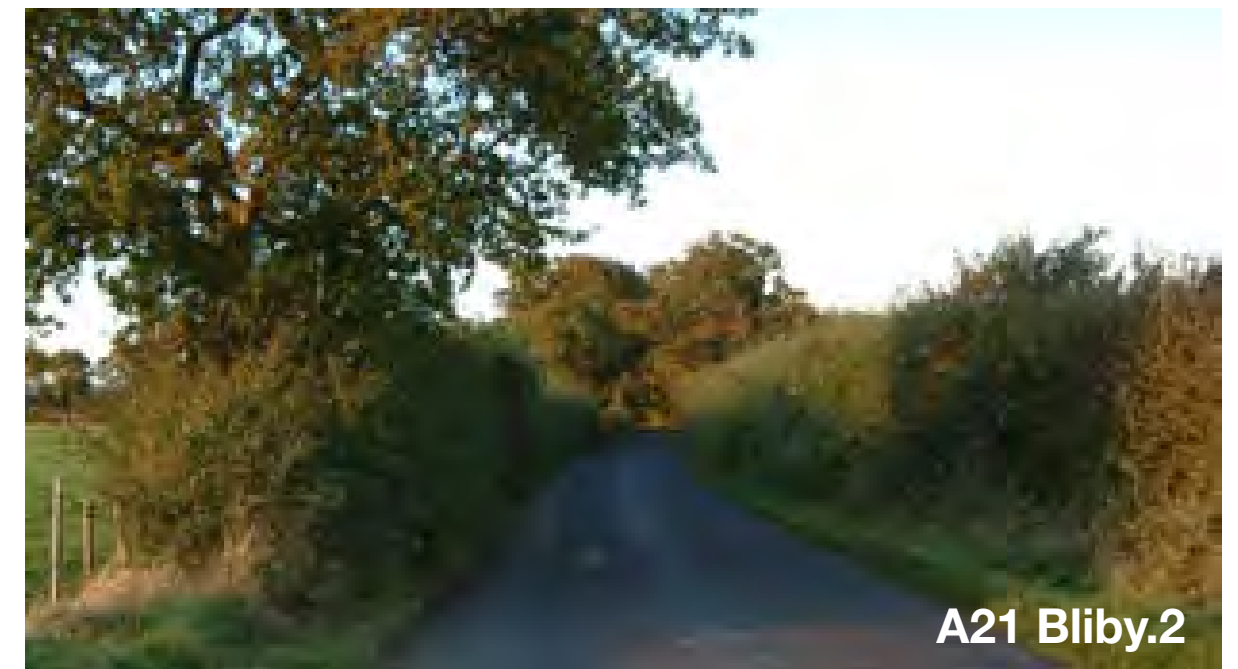
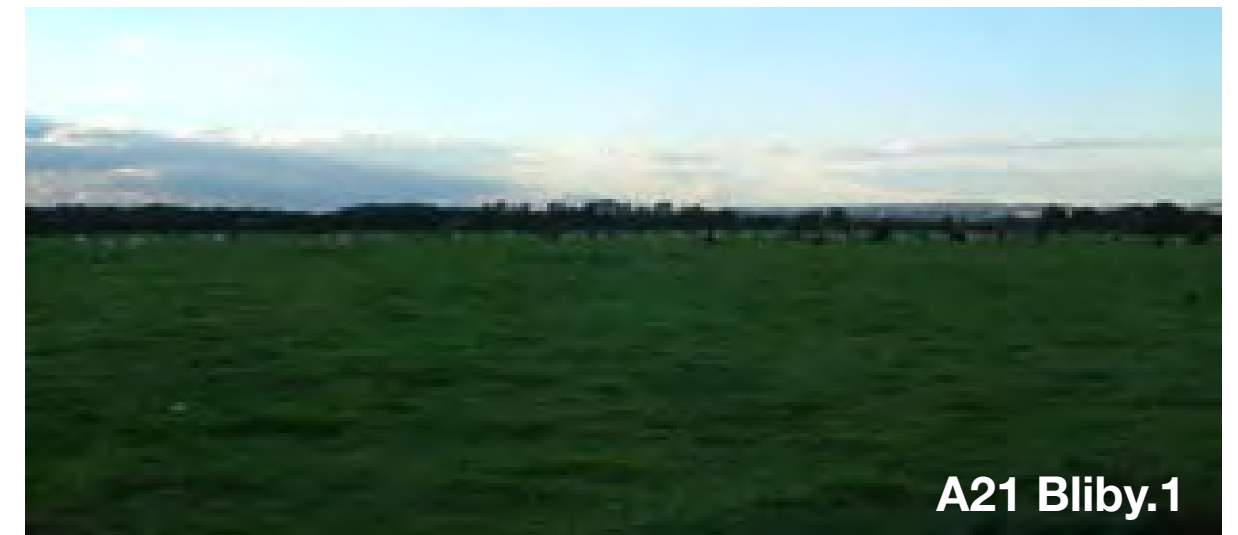
A10.9

Date: 23.09.04 Location: A21 Bliby Corner Map reference: TR025379

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	Views Out North to Ashford, restricted West and South by trees, filtered east to Colliers Hill
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements	Views within
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedge remnants and stock	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Cattle pasture and arable	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable and stock farming		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features		Species Oak and thorn
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Real relic thorn and stock fencing		Species Goat willow, hazel, thorn and blackthorn
Highways	Verges Grass		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features	Water troughs, cattle pen		

A21 Bliby Corner ctd.

Brief description: Lowland mixed farmland, arable and cattle grazing. Relic remnant hedges, intermittent hedgerow trees, filtered views towards Ashford.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Hedge remnants to South				<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	Ecological corridors Relic non-continuous hedges better in NE corner		<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low	
Intensity of land use: Moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Hedgerows	Age structure Mainly Mature	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Barbed wire, very gappy relic hedges to South better to North East			<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	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 16.09.04

Location: A21 East of A2070 and Finn Farm

Map reference: TR020384

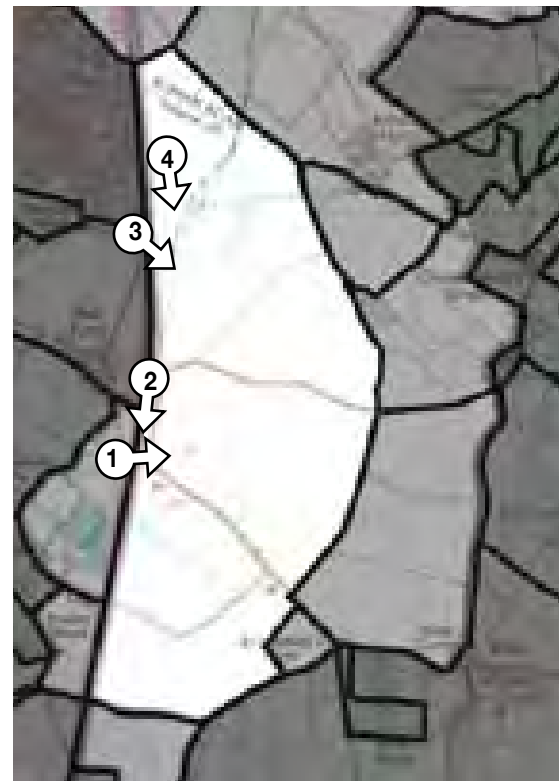
Context: Kent Landscape Character Area: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Low knoll and very gently undulating	Views Out North to Ashford fringe and north downs. East to colliers Hill. South to old Romney shoreline wooded farmlands
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Strong tree belt along lane and top of Church Hill west of knoll	Views within Otherwise open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Varied hedges: thin and gappy to well wooded	Pattern large fields
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal variation Yes
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Low knoll		Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features N/A		Species
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features occasional		Species Poplar, oak, Thorn, Hornbeam, Cherry, Ash, Field Maple, Hazel
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Ditches and hedges		Species Hawthorn, Blackthorn
Highways	Verges Hedges or trees no verges		Other features
Buildings			Farmsteads
Other features			

A21 East of Finn Farm ctd.

Brief description: Gently undulating arable farm land, large fields some fragmented ditches/hedges, some strong tree belts and distinctive low knoll in otherwise open and rather featureless landscape.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: A2070 (Noise but very well screened along boundary)				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 Strong linear woodland along some roads, gappy hedges and ditches, dry pond.		Ecological corridors		<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>
b High drained ditches				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Localised	Age structure Mixed		Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>
Field Boundaries	Gappy			<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	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



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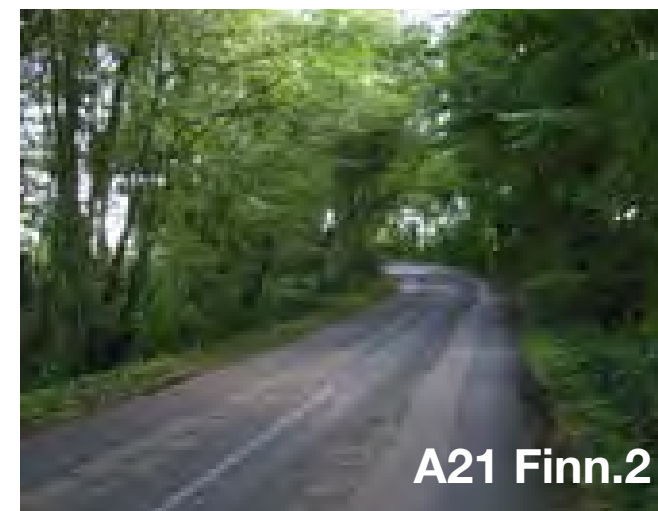
Photograph locations/ direction



A21 Finn.1



A21 Finn.3



A21 Finn.2



A21 Finn.4

Date: 24.09.04

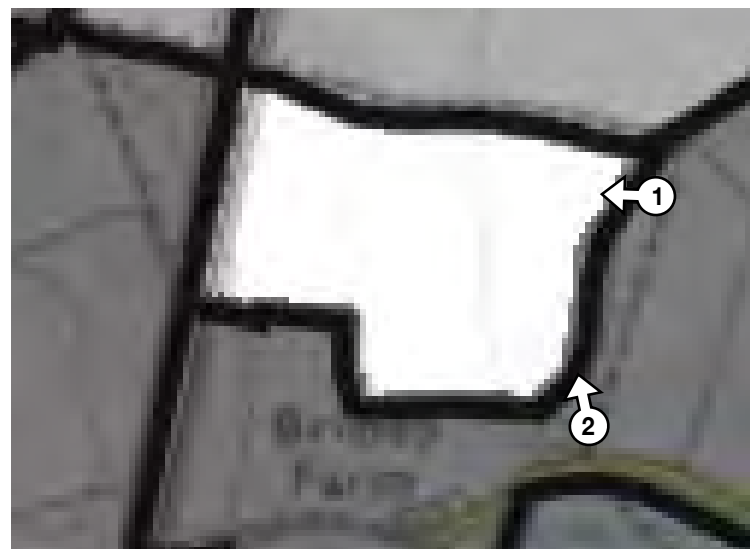
Location: A21 South (North of Brisley Farm)

Map reference: TR017373

Context: Kent LCA: Old Romney Shoreline Wooded Farmlands HLT: 7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks & pastures.			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	landform 	Views Out Very restricted
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow and ditch-side trees	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Some hedgerow clearance	Pattern Large and regular
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Arable and sheep	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features			Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable and sheep	Other Sheep to south	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features Along stream and boundary	Species Oak, Hornbeam	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Hedge stream, ditches	Species Rose, Thorn	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features			

A21 south ctd.

Brief description: Small Parcel adjacent to A2070 and southern tip of larger parcel				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Noise from A2070, but pretty well screened visually by trees				<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	Ecological corridors Streams and hedges but not continuous		<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	Age structure Mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Hedges gappy to West			<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 A2070	Siting Well screened	Design	Extent Noise	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>



Photograph locations/ direction

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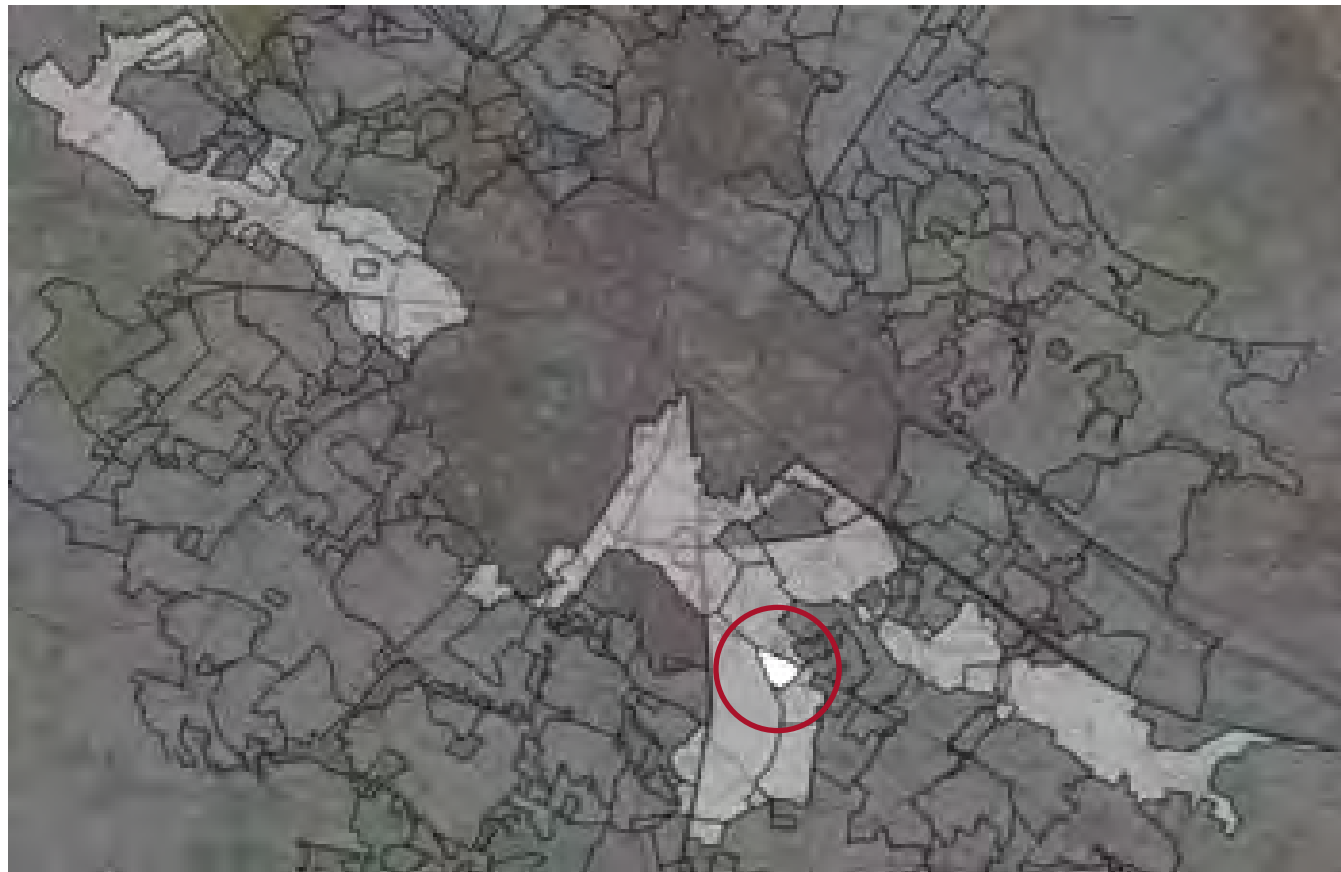


Date: 24.09.04 Location: A21 south of Bilham Farm Map reference: TR024389

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?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out Track to Bilham Farm to north; views to Park Farm to west; filtered views across farmland to south and east
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow trees and woodland edge of A10	Views within open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements hedges and fence on lane	Pattern medium - large
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent (LU)	Key visual elements Insignificant single barn on edge of Bilham 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 east and south boundaries		Species willow, oak
Other trees	Heritage features		Species
Field Boundaries	Heritage features hedge		b Thorn, Blackthorn
Highways	Verges short section of footpath		Other features
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads 1 modern barn
Other features			

A21 south of Bilham Fm ctd.

Brief description: Triangular-shaped parcel S of Bilham Farm, arable, flat, mainly strong hedges and hedgerow trees, open views west to Park Farm, filtered through trees to east and south, Captain's wood edge to north.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Park Farm Farm barn				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 Strong		<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>	
Intensity of land use: High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent	Age structure	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Gappy in places			Good <i>Variable</i> <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	Siting	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>
Barn	Edge of farm	Functional		



Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 24.09.04

Location: A22 North - Near Brockmans Farm

Map reference: TR022376

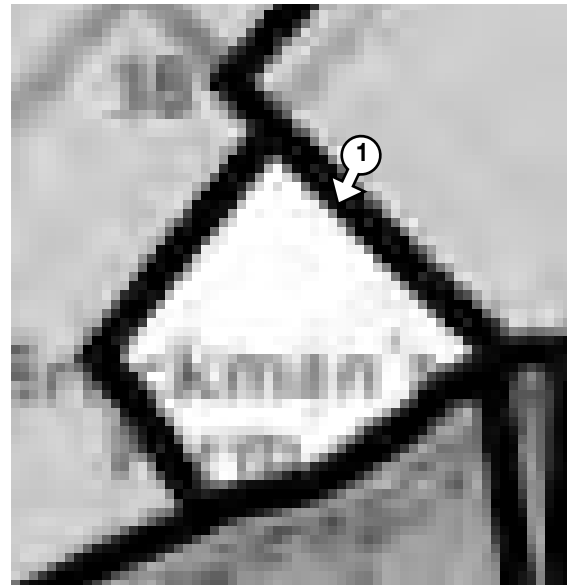
Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Flat	Views Out Limited
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements	Views within
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Strong to South, especially at woodland corner, hedges cleared to West and North	Pattern
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 Intermittent oak standards	Species	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Thorn and Bramble, post and wire	Species	
Highways	Verges To edge	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features			

A22 north ctd.

Brief description: Small parcel of open arable farmland, extensive hedgerow clearing to North and West				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Hedgerow 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	Ecological corridors Not continuous		<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 On South boundary 2 mature Oaks and Ash	Age structure Mature	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Gappy to North, reasonable to West			<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> <i>Low</i>



A22N.1



Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 01/10/04

Location: C17 north of Steeds Lane

Map reference: TR015380

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform	Views Out Restricted around fishing ponds; in north of parcel views N, E and W across farmland, A2070 also to E
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Strong hedgerows	Views within More open to north, enclosed around fishponds
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern Small field pattern to north, lost around fishponds
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements House to south, fishponds then pasture to north	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Ponds	Species associations Willow, emergent/marginal aquatics	
Farm type	Pasture	Other	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species Oak, ash	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species Leylandii, Picea	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Hedge	Species Hawthorn, field maple, elder, elm	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads South of fish ponds	
Other features	Fishponds and intensively mown lawn		

C17 ctd.

Brief description: Small, triangular parcel to west of A2070 consisting of a fish pond complex to the south and grazing pastures to the north and west with strong boundary hedgerow with standards				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Modern development to S around fishponds; A2070 to east				<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 Ponds	Ecological corridors High hedgerows	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>		
Intensity of land use Low - moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Hedges and around ponds	Age structure Some willow regeneration, mainly mature elsewhere	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Hedges			<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 Residential and angling buildings	Siting Fairly well screened	Design	Extent	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>



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C17.1



C17.5

Context: Kent LCA: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.15 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Very gently undulating	Views Out North and east, filtered through trees.
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Hedgerow to N, new planting screening A2070	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedgerow, stock fence	Pattern Small scale, now straight boundaries
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Sheep pasture, arable to south	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features		Species associations	
Farm type	Primary Pasture	Other Arable	
Woodlands	Heritage features	Species	
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features	Species Oak, willow, ash	
Other trees	Heritage features	Species	
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Hedge and ditch,	Species Hornbeam, hawthorn, blackthorn	
Highways	Verges	Other features	
Buildings	Villages	Farmsteads	
Other features			

Brief description: Very small parcel of very gently undulating mixed farmland consisting of sheep grazed pasture and small arable section to south. Bounded to the east by the A2070, which impacts strongly, and to south and west by Sticket Wood and its remnants.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Detractors: Noise and visual impact of A2070				<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	Ecological corridors Shallow ditch, gappy hedgerow better to north along road		<i>High</i> <i>Moderate</i> Low	
Intensity of land use Moderate				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Extent Boundaries	Age structure Mature hedges, new screening along part of A2070	Good <i>Variable</i> <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Hedgerows, stock fencing, ditch		<i>Good</i> <i>b</i> <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 A2070	Siting Screened to north of parcel only	Design	Extent	High <i>Moderate</i> <i>Low</i>



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Upper Stour Valley

USV6: Great Stour Valley

Development Area:		Chilmington	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottoms, paddocks and pastures	
Boundaries:		Ashford fringe to E, Chilmington to S, Godinton/ Hothfield to N; edge of study area at Pluckley to W	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Mainly flat valley floor, more apparent to NW	Views out (long/short/restricted) Some long glimpses north
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements woodland block to N, trees remaining along river valley. Insignificant to SE.	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) often open across valley floor
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Apparent	Key visual elements Stock fencing, hedgerows along lanes,variable internal hedgerows	Pattern and scale Large open arable & often grazing pasture. Some smaller paddocks. Generally more enclosed feel to NW due to woodlands
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Insignificant	Key visual elements Bucksford Manor to SE & Swinford Manor School Urban edge to far E Brown Mill to N	Pattern isolated
LANDUSE	Apparent	Key visual elements Grazing & cattle	Seasonal variation With crops and deciduous trees
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds River Great Stour & tributaries/ offshoots/ drains. Egg Hole (natural pond - dry in summer) and associated woodland – mature & regen. goat willow, hornbeam, ash, oak.		<i>Species associations</i> Goat willow, willow, alder, iris.
Landuse/farm type	Primary Arable & pasture 50/50 Sheep grazing & rough pasture to east (small strip of currently ungrazed pasture to S of Paddock Farm)		Other Arable to E near housing & to W of dam. Cattle grazing to SE. Sports pitches and Swinford Manor.
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Strip to E of dam – varied age – mainly maturing. 2 major blocks to N – Glebe Shaw, Rooting Alders & Brownmill Spinney.		Species Ash, poplar, alder, hazel, sycamore, goat willow, lime, field maple. Glebe Shaw – some young poplar plantation with oak & ash. Brownmill Spinney – mature ash , poplar plantation with goat & crack willow along river. Rooting alders – evident poplar plantation with some willows along river.
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Scattered mature, some in hedges. New planting in strip to SE. Many mature oak to E boundary with new housing. Linear around lake near dam. Linear scattered mature trees to S of Paddock Farm.		Species Oak, horse chestnut, ash, sycamore
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Hedgerows and ditches along some lanes. Hedge (often gappy) & stock fence to SE. Strong hedge along E boundary with new housing. High hedge to S of embankment.		Species Hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hazel, field maple, ash, elm
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Crossed by many local roads & footpaths. Railway to E.		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Bucksford Manor to SE – complex of houses in mature trees- scots pine, ash, sycamore, sweet chestnut. Swinford Manor – now school. Some buildings in disrepair.		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing New urban edge to E is well screened in places by mature oak along hedgerow.
Other features (such as moats)	Mown embankment/ dam to N of Worten Mill – track along top well screened by high hedgerow to south. Associated lake used for fishing & wet pasture with rush, white willow, goat willow and poplar.		

Brief summary description: Huge and sprawling parcel of valley floor farmland with scattered woodlands. River Great Stour flows through parcel with locally high ecological interest although some loss of tree cover. The character of the parcel is interrupted by the dam and embankment although the associated lake adds some ecological value. Grazing pasture dominates to the east of the embankment with often gappy/ remnant hedgerows giving an open feel. Urban fringe to the east is largely well screened, but railway impacts locally. Largely open arable to the west of the embankment, although a number of woodlands gives a treed feel to the landscape. Seasonal pond at Egg Hole to the N is shrouded in willow scrub. The private woodlands to the N appear wet, with large stands of poplar plantation evident in places. The usually insignificant topography is more apparent to the NW, offering fine long views down the valley. The parcel is crossed by a number of local lanes, often with strong hedgelines (contrasting to internal boundaries). Notable built features include Bucksford Manor to the SE (now a complex of private houses) and Swinford Manor to the centre (now a school with associated playing fields). Both areas have mature trees in the vicinity.				
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>				
Continuity of valley floor landscape interrupted by dam & embankment. Mainly grazing pasture to east of dam & arable to west. Urban fringe and railway impacts to E.				<i>Interrupted</i>
Ecological integrity – <i>how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?</i>				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches Grazing pasture wet in places (rush). Lake and wet pasture near embankment. Rough grassland to S of Paddock farm with mature trees and woodland blocks.		Ecological corridors and networks River & drains/ streams of valley bottom landscape. Some mature trees along river corridor especially to the NW. Hedgerows variable – better to NW.		Highly variable. High in woodlands and along well treed river corridor. Low in arable. Moderate in pasture.
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Very variable. Generally low intensity grazing and high intensity arable.				
Condition of heritage features – <i>assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change</i>				
Tree Cover		Age structure Mainly mature in woodlands to N and in hedgerows, rivers and scattered throughout. Poplar plantation where present is of even age. Some regeneration at Egg Hole.		<i>Good</i>
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition Only some continuous hedgerows, stock fence variable. Hedgerows most valuable along lanes. More intact to W but still not continuous.		<i>Variable</i>
Other features				<i>Good Variable Poor</i>
Impact of built development – <i>how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place</i>				
Type Urban fringe	Siting E boundary	Design mainly well screened by mature hedgerow trees	Extent	<i>Low</i>
Local railway	Crosses in S section	Local impact		
Dam + embankment	Bisects parcel	Interrupts character of parcel		



Photograph locations/ direction

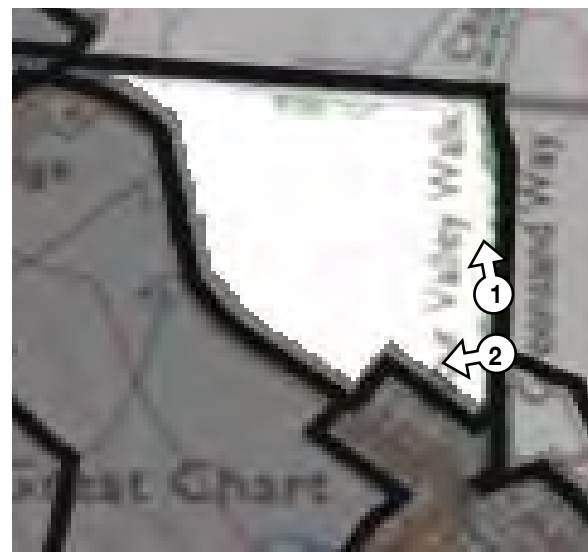
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Survey Date: 25.11.04 Reference: E2 Location: N of Great Chart Surveyors: AK/MG

Study Sector:		Chilmington Green (Map ref: TQ982426)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		1.10 Medium regular with straight boundaries	
Boundaries:		E1 arable and playing fields of E3 to E, Great Chart and Ninn Lane to S and W, over railway to E\$ pasture to N	
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform flat valley floor	Views out (long/short/restricted) medium, longer to E towards Ashford
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Isolated oaks, small woodland strip to N	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedgerows, ditch	Pattern and scale Medium, regular
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	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 Small woodland		Species Oak
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt isolated mature oaks		Species Oak, ash
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Hedge, ditch		Species Hawthorn, bramble
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Railway to N boundary, Greensand Way/ Stour Valley Walk to E boundary, Ninn lane to W boundary		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing Telegraph poles
Other features (such as moats)			

Reference: E2 ctd.

Brief summary description:				
Small parcel comprising a single medium sized largely flat arable field with isolated mature oaks. Continuous hedgerows to perimeter, small oak woodland fragment to N adjacent to railway. Suburban fringe to S. Major footpaths of Greensand Way and Stour Valley walk to E.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Telegraph poles, suburban fringe				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
Tiny woodland		Hedgerows, ditch		
Intensity of land use and habitat trend High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover		Age structure Mature		Good Variable Poor
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition Intact		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



Photograph locations/ direction

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Study Sector:		Chilmington Green	(Map ref: TQ985421)
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		9.6 Post 1810 settlement (general)	
Boundaries:		E1/E4 to N & E, E2 to W, E6 to S	
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Unsettled	Key visual elements Two cricket pavilions with open playing fields	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform flat	
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements Mature lime, pollarded oak, poplars with mature native species mix hedgerows along roadside	
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear Clustered Sprawling	Straddles the road	
AGE & CONDITION	1960-70's ?		
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?			
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale N/A		
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials N/A		Planting/ signage/ lighting
Edge condition	New housing N/A		
Other features (include detractors)	-		
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Pleasant setting although access onto busy main road difficult			

Reference: E3

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Generally level ground straddling the road behind agricultural thorn hedges, access via 5 bar gates. Elm in hedge suggests that pre 1970 these trees would have been a feature of the landscape. Mown amenity grassland. North side is cricket pitch with pavilion, south side includes football pitch and pavilion. Individual trees include pollarded oak, limes etc.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
Sports grounds contained within a bocage landscape				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement Discrete			High Moderate Low	
Intensity of built form and trend N/A				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition N/A		Good Variable Poor	
Tree Cover	Age structure mature pollard oak, limes and poplars		Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Some loss of hedge field boundaries to N side with post + wire fence		Good Variable Poor	
Other features	Pollarded oak in Football ground		Good Variable Poor	
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type N/A	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



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No access to site, so distant photo record only

E8 South of Swinford Manor



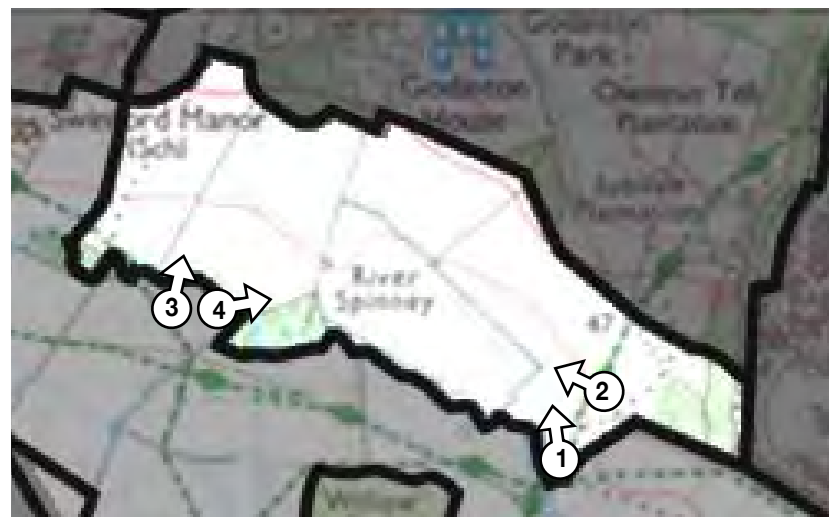
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Study Sector:		Godinton (Map ref: TQ981436)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		10.1	
Boundaries:		E1/4 to W, S, E. G10 to N. All are arable, with some pasture.	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Mainly flat. Slight slope towards S. Lower part, part of valley floor	Views out (long/short/restricted) Long views across valley to open pasture/ parkland/trees
TREE COVER	Apparent	Key visual elements scattered mature parkland trees. Larger woodland in south and by rivers.	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Apparent	Key visual elements Vegetation along river and stock fence.	Pattern and scale
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Insignificant	Key visual elements Houses belonging to Godinton Estate in north	Pattern
LANDUSE	Apparent	Key visual elements Pasture parkland, cattle grazed	Seasonal variation Deciduous
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds Great Stour River along south boundary.		Species associations Fish, invertabraes, dragonflies, possibly bats, mammals
Landuse/farm type	Primary Pasture, recreation and fishing.		Other In countryside stewardship scheme.
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Wet woodland, Some patches along river and in S.		Species Willow, oak, aspen, alder, dogrose, rushes, sedges, water lilies, elder
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Pasture parkland, Linear tree cover along stream. (for species see above, under woodland.)		Species Oak, ash, willow, beech, sycamore, scattered new planting.
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Hedgerow in W, stockfence in Nand E. Stream in S		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpath across border in E and W		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: G11

Brief summary description: Medium sizes parcel enclosed by stockfence in North and undulating river stream in south. Land is used for pasture and cow grazing. Stream has potentially high wildlife value. Part of the river valley sloping towards south with open views within and beyond, framed by trees				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Long views to E and SE. Can see houses around singleton lake. Long views inside. Houses belonging to Godinton Estate dominate in North				Intact
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches vegetation and diverse structure banks along along the river corridor. Some deadwood		Ecological corridors and networks Stream has high ecological value and links to other parcels up and down stream		High
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Low intensity on pasture				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover		Age structure Varied with mature scrub and young growth		Good
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition River makes strong boundary		Good
Other features				
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	



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Survey Date: 14.7.05 Reference: G12 Location: Willowbed

Surveyors: AM/HA

Study Sector:		Godinton (Map ref: TQ982431)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		7.2	
Boundaries:		Arable of E1/4 on all sides	
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Flat part of valleybottom	Views out (long/short/restricted) Views from boundary
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted)
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Partially stockfence and river boundary	Pattern and scale
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements N/a. wet woodland	Seasonal variation Deciduous
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds Some streams run through		Species associations Invertebraes, mamals, birds
Landuse/farm type	Primary Wetland		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation May be coppice		Species Willow, hawthorne, ash, dogrose, oak
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt		Species
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Some along border		Species Nettles, bramble, thistles
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access		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: G12

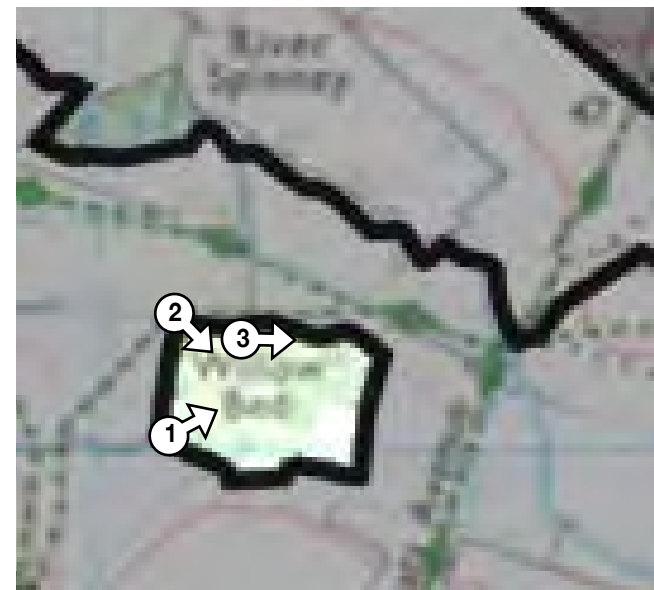
Brief summary description: A wet woodland block in the middle of the valley floor., surrounded by wet grazed meadows. And linked by wildlife corridors of streams and hedgerows. Willow/ash canopy with hawthorne/rose understorey. Streams run through it.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Inact woodland, views out restricted from the boundaries. There are long views to surrounding wet meadow valley and distant hills with fields/parkland				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 Strong mix of woodland layers. Probably supports high diversity		Ecological corridors and networks Wet woodland in a floodplain with adjoining corridors of streams and hedgerows. Also streams within		High Moderate Low
Intensity of land use and habitat trend				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover		Age structure All woodland layer apparent Good scrub, herbs and shaded streams		Good Variable Poor
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition Metal stock fencing and ditch/stream 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



G12.1



G12.2



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G12.3

Study Sector:		Godinton (Map ref: TQ970434)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (1810 extent)	
Boundaries:		E1/ E4 to N, W & E, E10 & G16 to S	
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Insignificant	Key visual elements House and Mill set back from the road within extensive gardens with mature trees	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform level	
TREE COVER	Dominant	Key visual elements mature trees within grounds – a mix of native and ornamental species including weeping willow, plane, ash, hornbeam	
FORM & LAYOUT	Clustered		
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	Assumed pre 19 th century	
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?			
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale House and mill are not visible from road or public footpath		
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Narrow lane with tall native mix hedgerow of predominantly hazel and elm with sloe, hawthorn, sycamore, clematis and privet. Adjacent to House hedge is clipped hornbeam. Huntington Cottage garden fronts onto the lane	Planting/ signage/ lighting	
Edge condition	New housing N/A		
Other features (include detractors)	-		
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Tranquil and secluded feel, hidden from the road			

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Worton Mill not visible form the road lies adjacent to the Great Stour, which is a narrow river about 4m wide with emergent vegetation at this point. A metering station lies adjacent to the lane. The gardens contain native and ornamental deciduous trees and conifers. The Lane frontage is a long hornbeam hedge and inset gateway with a well trimmed yew hedge.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement	Settlement tied into the landscape by high hedges and hedgerow trees.	High Moderate Low		
Intensity of built form and trend Mill and house in large free flowing ornamental grounds				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition House cannot be seen from public right of way, glimpses suggest local vernacular	Good Variable Poor		
Tree Cover	Age structure Young mature hedgerow trees - ashes dominate	Good Variable Poor		
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Frontage to the lane – neat 2m+ hornbeam hedges with some laurel, second hedge of yew frames set back entrance. East boundary no hedge but timber rail fence, garden shrubbery and predominately ash trees and some horse chestnut	Good Variable Poor		
Other features	Earthen dam immediately north of the area impounds flood water upstream	Good Variable Poor		
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place No modern development here, house secluded in wooded gardens				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



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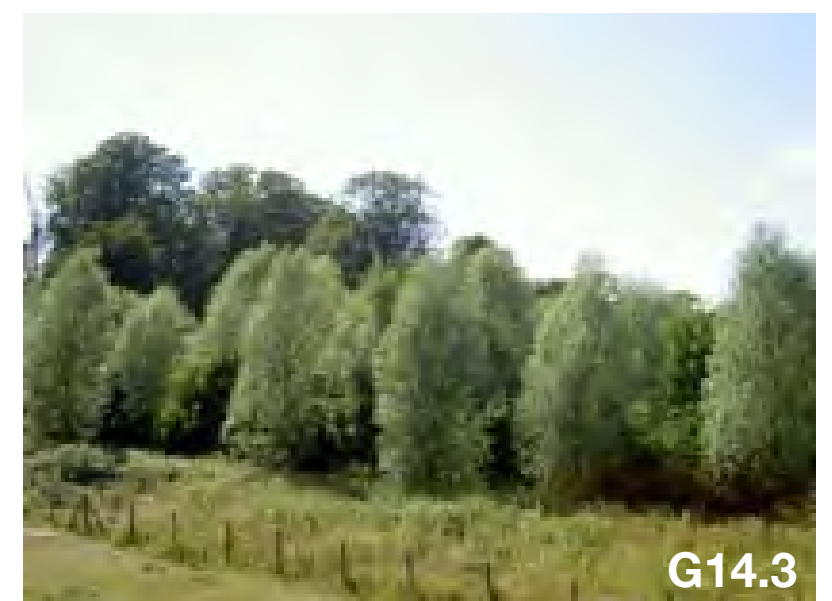
Study Sector:		Godinton (Map ref: TQ968437)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Character:		4,5	
Boundaries:		Woodland of G15 in south, and arable ++ of E1/4 around rest of the edges.	
TOPOGRAHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Slight slope towards the valley floor in north.	Views out (long/short/restricted) Up and down the valley from boundary
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements Mature woodland with young growth in between	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Mostly restricted, but some clearings give filtered view
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements	Pattern and scale
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements An embankment from east edge and north across the valley	Pattern 4m wide at top, 2-3 meters high with wide banks
LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements	Seasonal variation Deciduous
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds		Species associations
Landuse/farm type	Primary		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation Mixed woodland. Undergrowth varied		Species Elder, Hornbeam, Sycamore, Horse chestnut, Larch, Fir/pine, Willow, Bramble, Nettles, Ash, Oak, Alder.
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt The different species grow in groups.		Species
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpath along south border		Other features (such as tree-lined lanes)
Built features	Villages/settlements/farms/churches/oasts Embankment		Urban edge/pylons/masts/new housing
Other features (such as moats)			

Brief summary description: A small patch of woodland adjacent to other woodland in south. Placed on north slope of valley. Variety of trees of different age. Close to small lake at embankment, and has corridors over to house and garden (G13).				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Landscape around is mostly used for growing/arable. Long views down the valley/floodplain.				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 Woodland	Ecological corridors and networks Adjacent to G15 of similar woodland and has corridors down to lake at embankment and to houseing/garden at G13	High Moderate Low		
Intensity of land use and habitat trend				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover	Age structure Some mature, many young	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 Embankment across floodplain	Siting From eastedge and north	Design	Extent Hidden from within the parcel	High Moderate Low



Photograph locations/ direction

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Survey Date: 14.07.05 Reference: G16 Location: West of Worten Farm Surveyors: AM/MG

Study Sector:		Godinton (Map ref: TQ970432)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		1.10	
Boundaries:		Urban of G13 to N and E10 to E. Arable of E9 to S and small edge to valley floor of E1/4 to W	
TOPOGRAPHY	Apparent	Landform Flatt	Views out (long/short/restricted) Framed by nearby houses and vegetation, Some long glimpses
TREE COVER	Insignificant	Key visual elements Tree lined lane to the N boundary	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Unenclosed	Key visual elements Small parcel of arable, no enclosures	Pattern and scale
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements Arable	Seasonal variation Yes
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds		Species associations
Landuse/farm type	Primary		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation		Species
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Only a few mature trees on N boundary		Species Cherry, walnut, oak, ash, alder,
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Thin verge on E edge, tree line on N, only a footpath left divides on S edge		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpaths, private- and local roads on all edges		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: G16

Brief summary description: Small parcel, that has been integrated with E9 in terms of continuous landuse. There are no hedgerows on N, S or E boundaries. There are a few mature trees in the NW corner and along the N boundary lane. These are mainly planted ornamental trees. A main road borders the parcel on the E side. The Oust house settlement in the NW corner is screened by trees.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Open outlook, uninterrupted across a large arable field which joins seamlessly with E(. Onl divider is the invisible footpath through the crop.				Intact
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches Monoculture of rapeseed crop with hedgerows missing.		Ecological corridors and networks No, some mature trees on N border.		Low
Intensity of land use and habitat trend High				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover		Age structure None within, Few planted just beyond border to N.		Poor
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition None. Border of nettles to N and E.		Poor
Other features				
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type	Siting	Design	Extent	High Moderate Low



G16.1



G16.2

Photograph locations/ direction

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Survey Date: 14.07.05 Reference: G17 Location: South of Mansion Copse Surveyors: MG/HA

Study Sector:		Godinton (Map ref: TQ971439)	
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley	
Historic Landscape Type:		1.9 Small reg. W. straight boundaries	
Boundaries:		E1/4 to E, S and N; G21 and G22 to W.	
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform Slight slope to SE	Views out (long/short/restricted) Mainly short to medium
TREE COVER	Insignificant	Key visual elements Scattered mature trees at pond, Boundary wood to NE	Views within (filtered/framed/open/restricted) Open, more framed in NE paddoc
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant	Key visual elements Grazing paddoc	Pattern and scale Small, regular
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Unsettled	Key visual elements	Pattern
LANDUSE	Dominant	Key visual elements Grazing pasture	Seasonal variation
KEY CHARACTERISTICS – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Rivers/ knolls/ ponds Slow flowing stream to S boundary with good bufferstrip of rough grassland		Species associations Alder, Iris, Meadowsweet, nettle, dragon- and butterflies
Landuse/farm type	Primary Grazing pasture, some rough		Other
Woodlands	Coppice/plantation		Species
Tree cover	Groups/linear/hedgerow/scattered/shelterbelt Scattered mature oak to north also isolated trees		Species Oak, ash, sycamore
Field boundaries	Hedges/ditches/stock fence/electric Stockfence, Remnant hedgerow scrub		Species
Highways and footpaths	Major road/railway/local road/footpath/no public access Footpath running N to S		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: G17

Brief summary description: Small L-shaped parcel comprising three regular I-shaped grazing paddocks, enclosed by stock fencing, Appears to be low intensity grazing. Rough areas to south. Land slopes slightly to stream/river at S boundary, good emergent vegetation and a wide buffer strip. Few mature oaks scattered in pasture, with remnant hedgerow indicting widespread clearance. Footpath from N to S through part of parcel.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the landscape and note any detracting features and their significance				
Evidence of hedgerow clearance, but paddocks intact				Intact
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habitat and patches Rough and grazing pasture, some nettle patches to NE		Ecological corridors and networks Stream/river with emergent vegetation and wide buffer strip in places		Moderate
Intensity of land use and habitat trend Varied intensity grazing pasture, some rough				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Tree Cover		Age structure Scattered mature oak, maturing alder at stream, some dead trees.		Variable
Field Boundaries		Survival of historic field pattern and condition Remnant hedgerow, now stock fencing.		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



G17.1



G17.3



G17.2



G17.4



G17.5

Upper Stour Valley

USV: Settlements

Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR035396)
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley
Historic Landscape Type:		9.6 Post 1810 settlement (general)
Boundaries:		A2 encloses A5 to N, W & S, A15 to E
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant	Key visual elements freight depot ancillary structures including security kiosks and lighting
TOPOGRAPHY	Insignificant	Landform flat
TREE COVER	Insignificant	Key visual elements native shrub planting to western edge
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear Clustered Sprawling	nuclear
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	recent
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale -	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials -	Planting/ signage/ lighting
Edge condition	New housing -	
Other features (include detractors)		
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Secluded site, busy with lorries and restricted access to public		

Reference: A5

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Secluded location at the end of spur from the A2070(T), set within farmland. Public access restricted.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
-				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement -				High Moderate Low
Intensity of built form and trend				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition -			Good Variable Poor
Tree Cover	Age structure -			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



Photograph locations/ direction

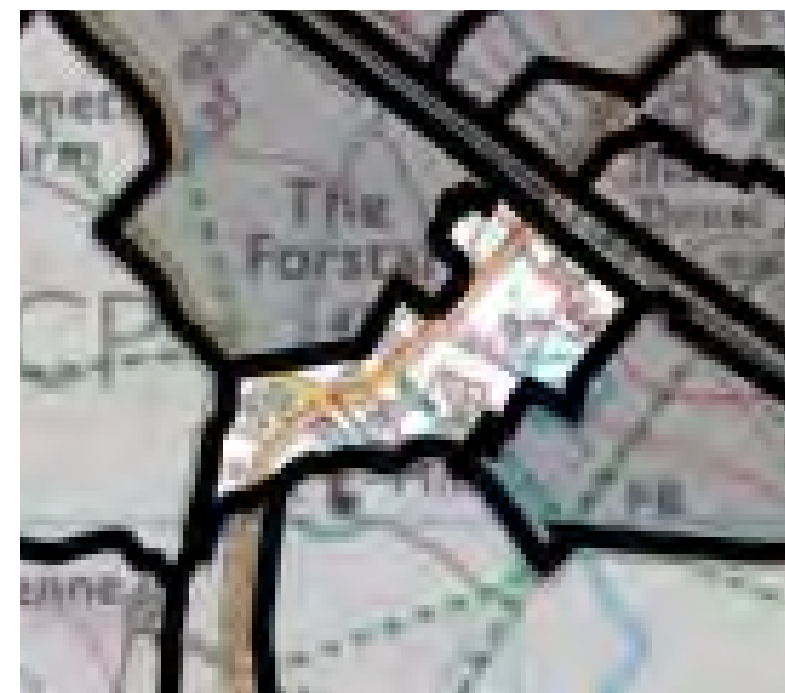
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Study Segment:		Cheeseman's Green (Map ref: TR050392)
County Landscape Character Area:		Upper Stour Valley
Historic Landscape Type:		9.7 Village/ hamlet 1810 extent
Boundaries:		A17 to N, A2 to W, A32, A2 & A19 to S, B10 & B5 to N
SETTLEMENT & BUILT FEATURES	Dominant	Key visual elements Bungalows and older cottages, The Farriers Arms - 17 th century pub, farm seed depot, village school, watermill, post 1970's Mountbatten Hall
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant	Landform Steep slope rising to northeast
TREE COVER	Dominant	Key visual elements Mature sycamores, pine, ash with hedgerow to one side of lane
FORM & LAYOUT	Linear	
AGE & CONDITION	Pre-war Post-war 1960-70's 1980-1990's Recent	A mix of ages
KEY FEATURES – in what way do the following contribute to the local distinctiveness of the settlement?		
Building style	Roof & materials/ scale A mix of building styles: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Victorian brick village school- Mountbatten Hall – post 1970's brick with roof hip- The Farriers Arms – white shiplap	
Street Scene	Frontage/ verge/ boundaries/ materials Narrow street with footpath and hedge to one side	Planting/ signage/ lighting Discrete 4m high lighting and telegraph poles
Edge condition	New housing N/A	
Other features (include detractors)	CTRL in cutting crosses northern edge of parcel - noise	
PERCEPTION of the place – is it tranquil/ safe/ pleasant/ legible/ accessible? Busy rural village with random architectural style and mix of residential, school, pub etc in close proximity to the noisy CTRL		

Brief summary description of settlement/ edge conditions and its siting within the wider landscape: Southern part of Mersham village containing the Forstal, the village school (turn of 20 th century), a 17 th century pub the Farriers Arms, a water mill, a post 70s barn and outbuildings, the Mountbatten Hall, post war houses including bungalows, older cottages adjacent to, and blighted by the CTRL. The area is surrounded by 2-3m high mixed species agricultural hedges and has village scale. A tall stand of poplars is a distinctive feature on the border with parcel A17.				
Visual context and unity – assess the views, outlook, adjacent landuses and overall unity of the settlement and note any detracting features and their significance				
Rural village scale, with dispersed houses typical of the Weald.				Intact Interrupted Fragmented
Settlement integrity/ edge condition – how well does the settlement hold together				
Extent of settlement		Facing onto the convergence of rural lanes from Flood Street and Jemmett's Farm and crossing over the CTRL	High Moderate Low	
Intensity of built form and trend Mixed ages from 16 th to 20 th century, closely knit village scale – i.e. medium density				
Condition of heritage features – assess current condition and make note of vulnerability to change				
Local vernacular	Survival of features and condition Pub and Mill are older buildings, school is turn of 20 th century		Good Variable Poor	
Tree Cover	Age structure Mixed		Good Variable Poor	
Field Boundaries	Survival of historic field pattern and condition Where apparent		Good Variable Poor	
Other features	CTRL crosses under road, high parapet walls obscure views.		Good Variable Poor	
Impact of built development – how well does modern development respect local vernacular, character and sense of place				
Type Bungalow	Siting onto road	Design 60s/70s	Extent discrete	High
School	Onto road adjacent to CTRL	Late Victorian / Arts & Crafts	discrete	Moderate
Mountbatten hall	Set back from road	Post 1970s? hipped barn form, brick/ hung tile with slate substitute tiles.	on edge of parcel looking onto pasture	Low



A18.1



A18.2

Photograph locations/ direction

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Date: 21.09.04 Location: A19 east of The Forstal Map reference: TR052391

Context: Kent Landscape Character Area: Upper Stour Valley HLT: 1.15 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries			
Aesthetics – what is your overall impression of this area?			
TOPOGRAPHY	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Landform Knoll to north, falling to south and east	Views Out View to Mersham Church to north, across Stour Valley to SW, S and SE towards Colliers Hill
TREE COVER	Dominant Apparent Insignificant	Key visual elements New planting along CTRL and scattered trees in relic copse and along R. Stour tributary	Views within Open
ENCLOSURE PATTERN	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unenclosed	Key visual elements Hedgerows gone, remnant ditches	Pattern
SETTLEMENT & LANDUSE	Dominant Apparent Insignificant Unsettled	Key visual elements Arable and CTRL boundary	Seasonal variation
Key characteristics – in what way do the following contribute to local distinctiveness?			
Natural features	Knoll		Species associations
Farm type	Primary Arable		Other
Woodlands	Heritage features Relic copse		Species Hawthorn, hazel, ash, field maple, oak
Hedgerow trees	Heritage features very scattered		Species poplar
Other trees	Heritage features Riverside trees		Species willow, ash
Field Boundaries	Heritage features Ditch		Species Juncus, yellow flag, willowherb
Highways	Verges Type I CTRL access track for footpath		Other features New planting including hawthorn, field maple, oak
Buildings	Villages		Farmsteads
Other features	CTRL corridor and bridges		

A19 ctd.

Brief description: Small parcel bordering CTRL to north, Mersham School to west, Stour tributary to south, A2 to east. Now very open arable, knoll to north, small relic copse to east, remnant ditches and hedge to south and east.				
Visual unity – assess the overall unity of the landscape and note the significance of detracting features				
Fine views from knoll				<i>Intact</i> Interrupted <i>Fragmented</i>
Detractors: CTRL corridor, ditch and hedgerow clearance				
Ecological integrity – how well does this area of countryside function as a habitat for wildlife?				
Extent of semi-natural habit Relic copse	Ecological corridors CTRL corridor will improve as trees grow, ditches, river		<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	Age structure Mixed in copse, young along CTRL, mature along river	<i>Good</i> Variable <i>Poor</i>	
Field Boundaries	Newly dredged ditch and river			<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 Grain silo	Siting	Design Functional	Extent Discrete	<i>High</i> Moderate <i>Low</i>
CTRL bridges				



A19.1



Photograph locations/ direction

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A19.2



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