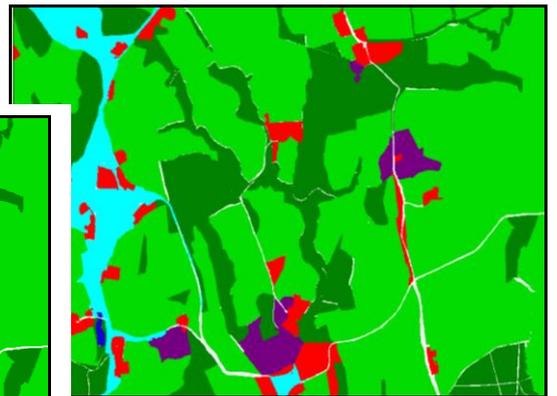
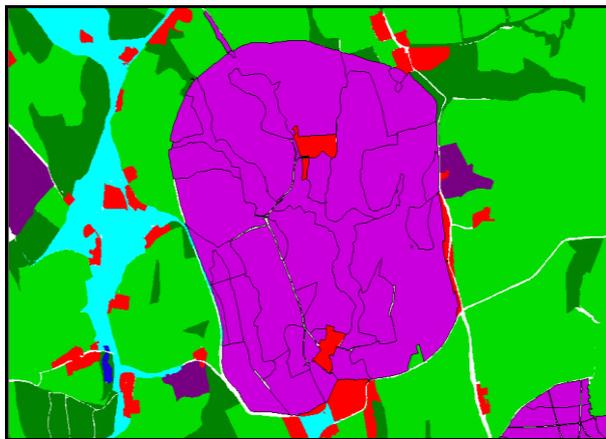

SUSSEX HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION



VOLUME I – USER GUIDE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

West Sussex County Council

East Sussex County Council

Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority

English Heritage

AUGUST 2010

by

Dr Nicola R. Bannister AIFA
Landscape History & Conservation



CONTACTS

East Sussex County Council - Historic Environment Record

Archaeology Section
Environmental Advice Team
Transport & Environment
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Annes Crescent
Lewes
BN7 1UE
TEL: 01273 481608

West Sussex County Council – Historic Environment Record

Archaeology Section
Planning Services
The Grange
Tower Street
Chichester
PO19 1RH
TEL: 01243 642105

English Heritage - Characterisation Team

Head of Team – Graham Fairclough
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn,
London
EC1N 2ST
TEL: 020 7973 3000

Front Cover: The 'lost' medieval deer park at Lurgashall, Chichester, West Sussex as seen on the OS historic maps and as characterised in the HLC.

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**INTRODUCTION TO THE SUSSEX
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION
HOW TO USE THE REPORTS**

The Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation comprises a GIS data set together with a set of supporting reports and technical guides.

Each report essentially can stand alone but it is recommended that anyone wishing to use HLC in depth should read them all in sequence.

The reports in order of sequence are as follows;

- Volume I. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation – User Guide
- Volume II. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation – Interpretation
- Volume III. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation – Atlas of Maps
- Volume IV. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation – Gazetteer of Typology
- Volume V. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation – Appendices

The core of the HLC is the Interpretation, Atlas of Maps, and Gazetteer of Typology. These describe and explain the results of the characterisation process for Sussex. For those wishing to use HLC for their own researches or to support searches from the HER the User Guide is the key document to refer to.

The Appendices set the background for the method and for the characterisation process, together with other supporting information on landscape characterisation in Sussex and the background to the archaeological resource.

How to use the reports

If you want to know about the HLC for a particular area, for example as part of an HER query then the Vol. I. User Guide together with the Vol. IV. Gazetteer of Typology are the two documents to refer to.

If it is an understanding of historic characterisation across Sussex, then it is the Vol. II. Interpretation together with the Vol. III Atlas of Maps & Vol. IV. Gazetteer of Typology are those that cover the two counties.

If it is to undertake an analysis of the Sussex HLC as part of another project then the Vol. I User Guide together with the Vol. V. Appendices are probably the key documents to use.

For further information on the English Heritage Characterisation programme go to <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation/historic-landscape-character>

The digital version the Sussex HLC reports together with Sussex HLC .shp files are found in the cd/s in the back of Vol. V. – The Appendices.

USER GUIDE TO THE SUSSEX HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

1. INTRODUCTION

This User Guide is meant as an introduction to the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation [HLC] and how to begin to use it. For more detail on the background to Historic Landscape Characterisation, the method for Sussex and some initial results, readers are asked to refer to the relevant Sussex HLC Report volumes including the Vol. V - Appendices together with the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III - Atlas of Maps. The Sussex HLC is one of several heritage tools which combine to form the East and West Sussex Historic Environment Records [HERs] [See Figure 2 p5. In Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. II - Interpretation].

The technique of HLC is to identify areas or units of land (which become the HLC polygons) based on their key historic landscape attributes. These units are assigned character types together with their key identifying attributes selected from a linked database and the information stored and displayed in a GIS system. HLC types are generic and can occur anywhere within the county; however it is the combination of types (frequency, form and association with each other) that identifies the general historic character of any given area and enables the development of Historic Landscape Character Areas. [See Section 4.3. in Volume II – Interpretation].

The Sussex HLC was created using the GIS programme ArcView 3.2a and Microsoft Access 1997. Within East and West Sussex County Council this programme has now been superseded by ArcView 9.0. However the principles for asking questions or ‘querying’ the data still remain the same; though the exact method and commands may vary between the two editions of the GIS programme. Users should refer to the relevant GIS technical manuals for further details on the exact procedure.

However this Sussex HLC User Guide does provide outlines of approaches to using the Sussex HLC data. It assumes the reader has a basic understanding of GIS, and the programme “ArcView 3.3a” and how they work. The User Guide presents some examples of how the Sussex HLC can be used, interpreted and its potential. It also shows how some basic queries and the resulting maps can be produced from it.

Several points should be borne in mind when using the Sussex HLC and querying the data;

1. It was a desk-based exercise with no checking in the field.
2. It is a broad-brush approach to interpreting the landscape, and provides a first step to understanding the historic time-depth of any given area. It should be viewed at an appropriate scale, such as county, district, parish or estate rather than on an individual field by field basis – it sets the landscape context for farms and settlements.
3. It is a systematic interpretation of the historic aspects of the landscape using key and selected historic maps and sources.
4. As a data-set that incorporates interpretation it is not definitive nor ‘set in stone’ and will in the future be modified in the light of new research.
5. For most applications, the HLC should be used in conjunction with other data sets, and maps in order to build up a history of the Sussex landscape or the particular area under investigation.
6. The Sussex HLC should not be regarded just as one or two maps but instead as an infinite variety of different layers interpretations dependent on how it is queried or ‘questioned’.
7. There are some small white areas in the full HLC map which are generally linear areas such as roads and railways from the OS Mastermap which were not ‘captured’ as part of the HLC.

1.1. Who are the users of HLC

The Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation is one of a number of 'heritage tools' which combine to form the Historic Environment Record. All those who used the former Sites and Monuments Record which now is a key element of the HER will also be able to use the Sussex HLC. When a request for information from the HER is made to the county council for any particular area, a map of the HLC is also supplied, usually at the sub-type typology level. Thus users can be local government officers, such as planners, ecologists and landscape designers as well as local councillors. In the private sector environmental consultants, professional archaeologists and historians, ecologists etc. can also make use of the HLC to set sites or areas they are working in within their historic landscape context. Researchers in a range of multi-disciplines would also be able to use the HLC in combination with other data sets, such as geographers, historians as well as landscape archaeologists. Members of the public would also be able to make use of the HLC as part of an HER request, for example as part of village and parish projects. Students at all levels can also use HLC as part of their research or as an educational tool in understanding how our landscape has developed and evolved.

2. WHAT CAN HLC BE USED FOR AND WAYS OF LOOKING AT IT ?

The complexity of the data and its storage on GIS means that there is a multitude of ways of looking at and using the Sussex HLC. The key element is to 'ask the right questions' of the data and to have a reasonable knowledge and understanding of GIS. For very simply enquiries the relevant HER officer will be able to help in its interpretation. However any maps should be read in conjunction with the various volumes of the Sussex HLC Report.

This User Guide presents a range of examples where the HLC has been used to answer some questions about either specific areas of the Sussex landscape or specific themes. It then describes a few of the technical methods for looking at the data in ArcView 3.2.a.

2.1. Timedepth in the Present Landscape

The Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation looks at the present landscape and describes it using specific historic attributes based on the historic processes which have shaped that landscape. It also gives broad estimates of period for those attributes and thus it is possible to assess the time depth and antiquity of the present landscape, for example those areas which have undergone little change since the medieval period compared with those that have undergone considerable landscape change in the modern period.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust have used the element of 'Time-depth' in their landscape-based research work looking at the West Weald Landscape, in West Sussex and south west Surrey. Here the HLC was queried to look at the 'time-depth of the present landscape character, i.e. the antiquity of the landscape seen today and its implications for nature conservation. This information was used in the report on the State of the West Weald's Natural Environment (2006).¹ An initial analysis was undertaken of the Sussex and Surrey HLCs looking at the extent, form and processes which have shaped the historic landscape of the West Weald.² An important part of understanding required by the Trust was the degree of connectivity or fragmentation of semi-natural habitats in the West Weald Landscape. Some of the richest wildlife habitats are those which have a long history of land use continuity such as ancient woodlands, historic boundaries, heaths, commons and greens. These are habitats which have their origins in the Early Medieval and Medieval periods. Thus the Sussex and Surrey HLCs were queried to produce themed layers which showed the distribution of these sub-types.

¹ Howorth, R. 2006 The State of the West Weald's Natural Environment. West Weald Landscape Partnership and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

² Bannister, N.R. 2006 West Weald Landscape Project. Sussex and Surrey Historic Landscape Project Analysis. Unpublished Report for Sussex Wildlife Trust.

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The West Weald historic landscape is dominated by pre-1800 sub-types [such as commons and heaths] and 'interpretation of character' types, including Plantations in Ancient Woods [PAWS] and wooded over commons [Figure 1.]. This means that this Wealden landscape has undergone much less land use change over the centuries than for example with the South Downs or the Coastal Plains of Sussex. There is greater continuity of land use processes, leading to greater stability within ecological habitats enabling a much greater species diversity to flourish including species requiring very specialist niche habitat requirements.

From the HLC layer of pre-1800 sub-types an indication of the interconnectivity of landscapes with their origins in the medieval period can be extracted. [Figure 3.]. This theme thus gives an indication of the continuity of the historic landscape and the degree of 'island' effect between different habitats. Habitat corridors are important for species such as Bats which use inter-connecting wooded hedges, open commons and unimproved pastures for feeding and reaching roosts. See the following sequence of maps taken from the HLC analysis report. [Figures 1 - 3].

From a point of view of landscape character viewpoint, the West Weald is a one of great historic interest with its medieval origins visible and contributing to the present local distinctiveness. A large part of the West Weald Landscape lies within the Low Weald National Landscape Character Area which has the least coverage by national landscape designations than the High Weald or the South Downs. This has important implications for the long term conservation of local distinctiveness and character of the Low Weald Landscape.



Low Weald landscape [West Sussex County Council]

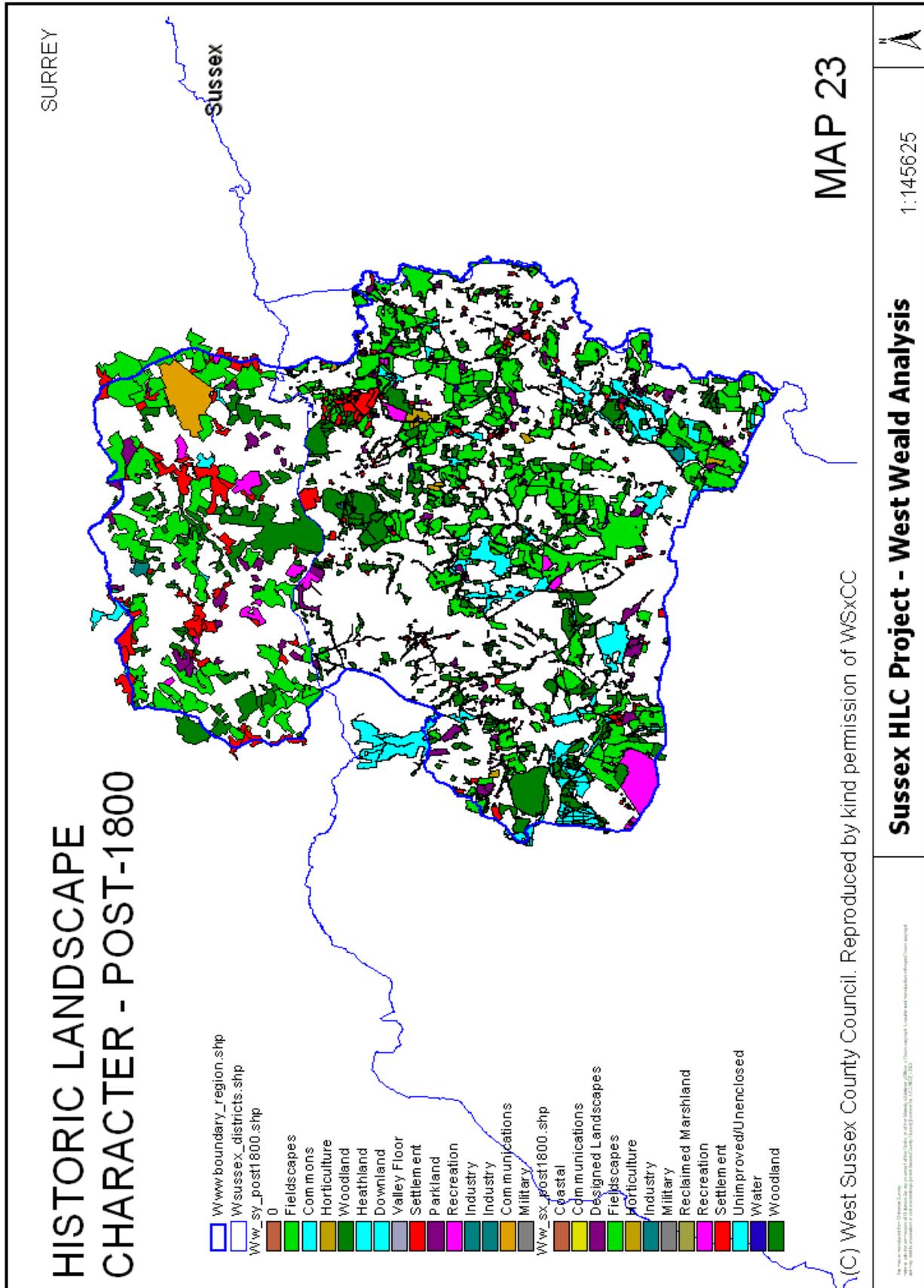


Figure 2. Taken from the Report on the West Weald Landscape (Howorth, R. 2006 The State of the West Weald's Natural Environment. West Weald Landscape Partnership and Sussex Wildlife Trust).

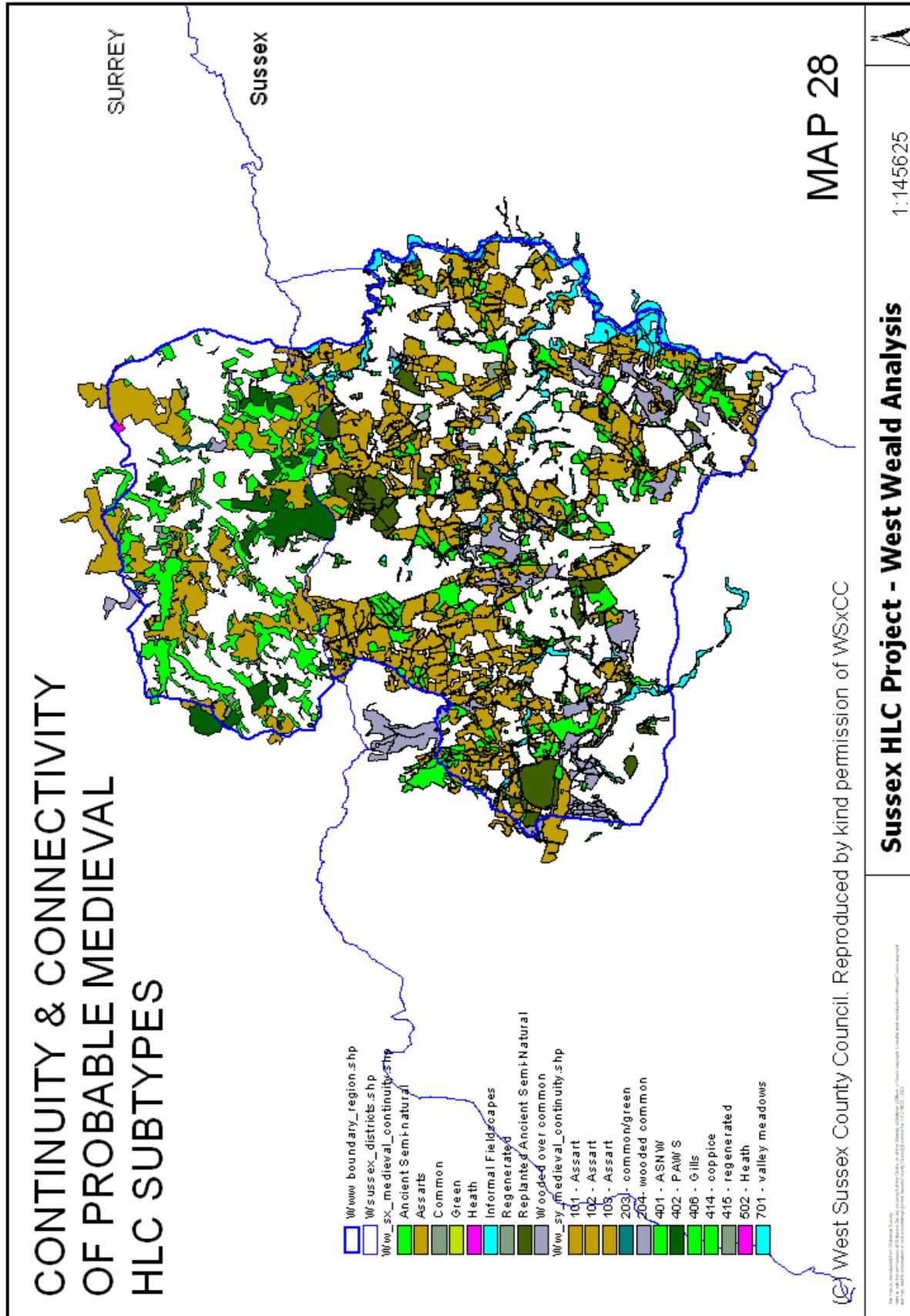


Figure 3. Taken from the Report on the West Weald Landscape (Howorth, R. 2006 The State of the West Weald's Natural Environment. West Weald Landscape Partnership and Sussex Wildlife Trust).

2.2. Extent of Specific Landscapes in Sussex

Instead of looking at one particular area of Sussex and analysing its historic character in depth it is possible to look at themed elements of the HLC as in the case of establishing the extent of historic parkland in Sussex.

This analysis was undertaken for the Sussex Wildlife Trust in order to establish the extent of historic parkland across the county of Sussex as part of the work needed to establish the amount and survival of the nationally rare UK Habitat Action Plan [HAP] targeted habitat of wood-pasture.³ By querying the Sussex HLC for all those polygons which comprised the Designed Landscape Broad Type and producing a separate themed layer it was possible to map the extent of historic parkland present in the landscape across Sussex.

Natural England is taking this approach further with the creation of a South East Region Provisional Inventory of Wood Pasture and Historic Parkland.⁴ The starting point for the Inventory has been each of the South Eastern county's HLC data. Those HLC types, sub-types etc. which fit or include elements of the UK HAP definition of wood-pasture and historic parkland have been extracted from each HLC, and allocated a score or value of potential for containing surviving elements of wood-pasture of 1-3 with 3 being of the greatest potential.⁵ The individual layers were merged or unionised to create one layer which will then form the basis for the next stage of checking against historic map sources historic and ecological data, before being used to target management resources to those wood-pasture sites not currently in HLS or other schemes.⁶

An example of a more complex type of analysis was undertaken to establish the extent of historic parkland in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.⁷ In this example, the HLC for the High Weald AONB in Sussex and Kent was extracted by 'cookie-cutting'; using the intersection of the High Weald AONB boundary polygon with both the Sussex HLC and the Kent HLC [See Figure 4]. The new theme of High Weald HLC was then further queried for historic parklands, both in the present landscape and in the HLC previous layers [*HLC-Prev*] to produce a map of the historic extent of parks. [See section 3.4. in this volume; Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. II – Interpretation Section 4.2.2.; Vol. V – Appendices p 40]. This was also themed by period to see which designed landscape first appeared when. By looking at the HLC previous layers it was possible to identify areas of former medieval deer parks [See Figure 5]. These are areas which can then targeted for conservation management through Higher Level Stewardship, combined with more detailed on the ground field survey to establish what, if any of the medieval features still might survive in the landscape, for example the park pale or veteran pollard trees.

³ Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre 2008 *Wood Pasture and Pasture Parkland Analysis*. Extracts from the Sussex HLC.

⁴ The Provisional Inventory of the South East Wood Pasture and Historic Parkland Inventory is an on-going project from January 2010. Contact the SE Woodlands Officer, Lewes Office of Natural England.

⁵ Bannister, N.R. 2010a. *South East Provisional Inventory of Wood-Pasture and Historic Parkland*. Stage 1. Extracting data from county HLCs. Unpublished Report to Natural England.

⁶ Due for completion in December 2010.

⁷ High Weald AONB 2009. *Parkscapes in the High Weald*. Extracts from the Kent and Sussex HLC. See High Weald AONB web site.

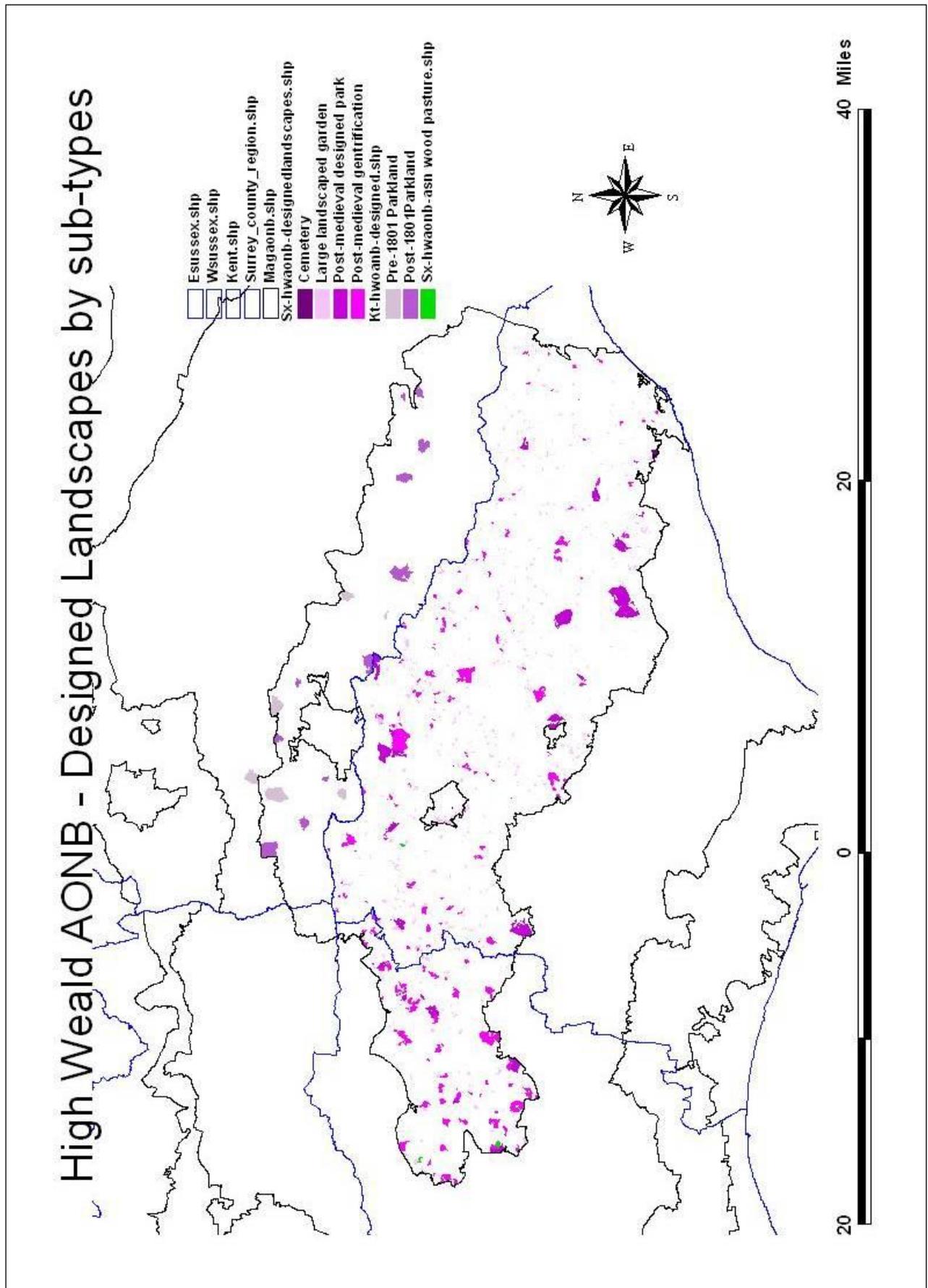


Figure 4. An example of a map from the High Weald Historic Parkland Analysis, showing not only the Sussex HLC by interpretation of character but also those from the Kent HLC

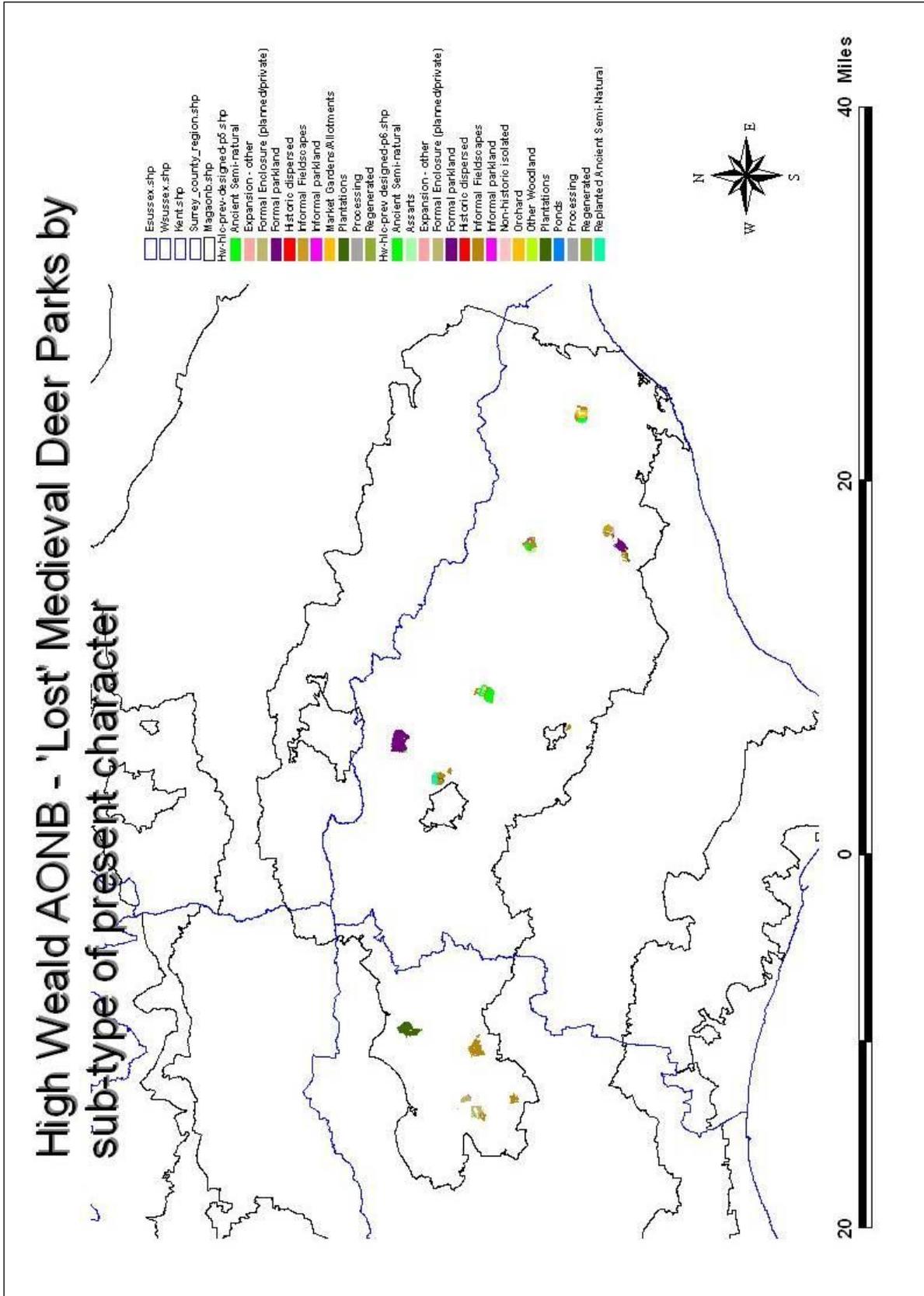
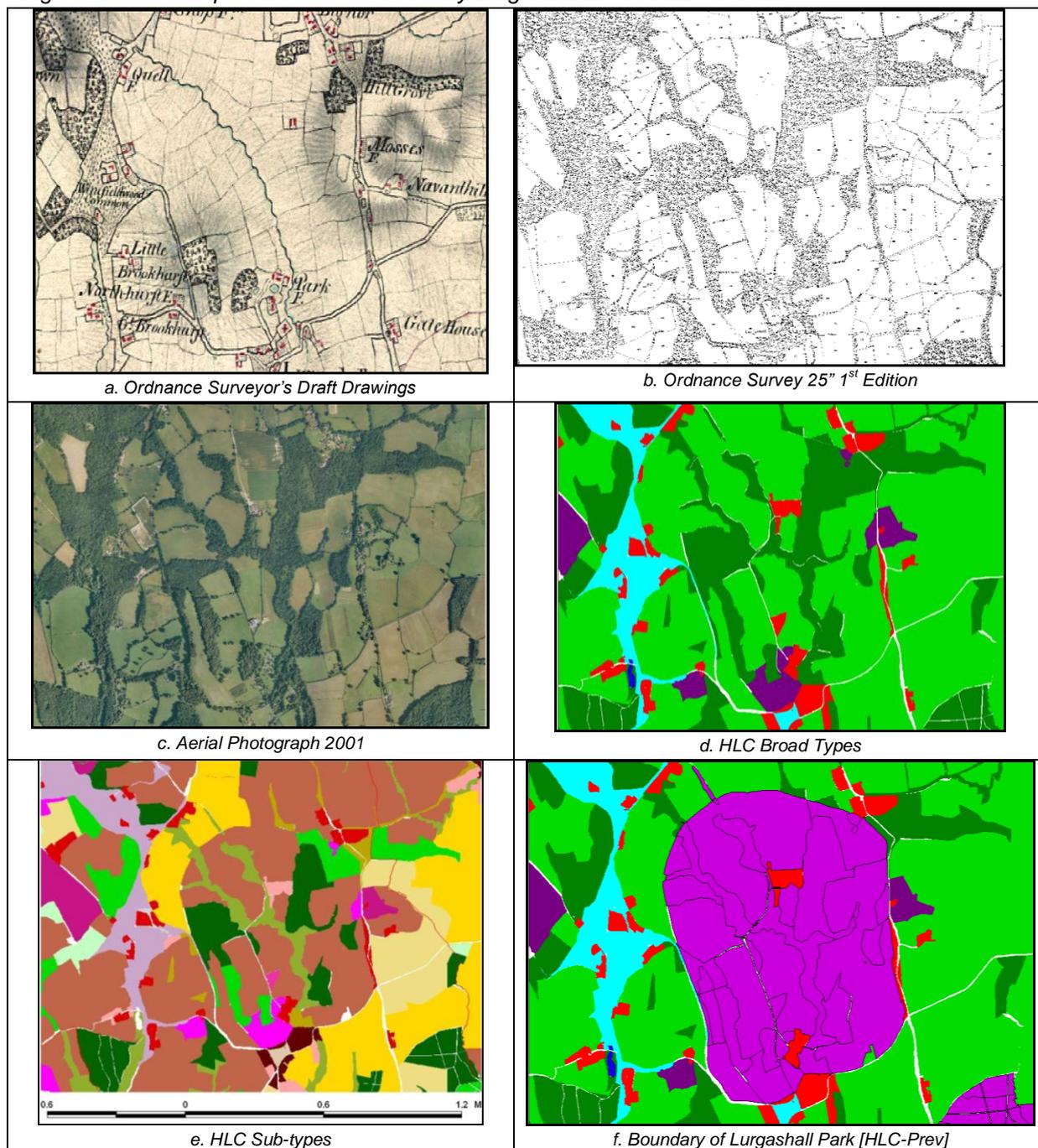


Figure 5. An example of a map from the High Weald Historic Parkland Analysis, showing 'lost' deer parks by the present sub-type character.
N.B. The Kent HLC does not have any categories for past-landuse.

2.3. Lost Features in the Landscape

Developing on from looking at themed extracts from the HLC, it is also possible to use the data to identify potentially 'lost landscape' features. An example of how the HLC can reveal new elements about landscapes and provide a catalyst for research is the identification of a previously unrecorded medieval deer park at Lurgashall. During the characterisation process which looked at key historic maps as well as the present OS Explorer Maps place names, settlement pattern, field patterns and boundary alignments all pointed to the presence of a deer park at Lurgashall which had not been previously recorded either on the HER [SMR] nor in the Historical Atlas of Sussex.⁸

Figure 6. *Map sources used to identify Lurgashall Medieval Deer Park*



⁸ Lesley, K. & Short, B. 1999. An historical Atlas of Sussex. p 39

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KEY to Figure 6 e.

	Wsussex_parish.shp	Fhlc-sx-fieldscapes.shp		Assarts
	Arboretum		Formal Enclosure (planned/private)	
	Cemetery		Informal Fieldscapes	
	Large landscaped garden	Fhlc-sx-allwoodland.shp		Ancient Semi-natural
	Medieval Deer Park		Replanted Ancient Semi-natural	
	Post-medieval designed park		Plantations	
	Post-medieval gentrification		Regenerated	
	Urban park		Other Woodland	
Fhlc-sx-assarts.shp		Fhlc-sx-settlement.shp		Historic Core
	Aggregate Assart		Historic dispersed	
	Cohesive Assart		Expansion - other	
			Expansion - suburbs	
			Non-historic isolated	
		Fhlc-sx-unenclosed.shp		Common
			Downland	
			Green	
			Heath	
			Marsh Fresh	
			Wooded over common	

The HLC Broad type is the least detailed level of characterisation typology. By looking at the sub-types and 'interpretation of character' typology descriptions it is possible to 'fine-tune' maps in order to clarify and define areas of interest. See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. IV – Gazetteer of Typology for full details. It is interesting to note that the field pattern within Lurgashall Park is characteristic of assarts – fields created by enclosure from woodland clearance or from 'waste'. The presence of this type of fields instead of informal fields or planned fields can lead to questions on how wooded was the park when it was enclosed to fields? Or was the presence of the gill system running through the park a controlling element in its subsequent enclosure?

It is also possible to see how the presence of the park pale has influenced settlement patterns. On the eastern side of the park small cottages have been built between the road and the park pale, an example of "purpresture" or squatting on 'waste' manorial lands [Figure 6 e, f]. To the south lies the small hamlet of Lurgashall, whilst within the park are two farms, which may have originated as former park lodges. To the west of the park is an area of commons, identified by their funnel-shaped drove roads and in between are assart fields belonging to small farmsteads located on the boundary between the common and the fields. This is a very interesting area of the Low Weald and highlights the landscape's detailed and ancient land use history.

Identification of 'lost' historic landscape features, like former deer parks through a combination of the Sussex HLC with archive research and checking in the field can form the basis for targeting management resources for the conservation of features, such as in Higher Level Stewardship or the England Woodland Grant Scheme.

2.4. Characterisation of Specific Topography

Sussex has a very varied topography, the result of its complex geology and past geomorphological and anthropological processes. This variation gives rise to a wide range of habitats important for biodiversity and wildlife. The wetlands of Sussex are in particular, nationally rare and support a diverse flora and fauna, such as in the ditches and dykes on Romney Marsh and the Pevensey Levels or the 'innings' at Amberley Brooks on the River Arun.

An on-going project which again has used HLC is the work of the Sussex Wildlife Trust on river valley habitats in Sussex. In order to target resources for the recreation of semi-natural wetland habitats, an understanding of how the present river valley landscapes have developed is required. It was decided that the Sussex HLC was a suitable first stage in bringing this information together. So far two river systems have been looked at, the River Brede in East Sussex and the River Arun with the Western Rother in West Sussex.⁹

So using the river catchment boundaries new HLC themes were made from the Sussex HLC for each river catchment area. This new theme was then queried in ArcView and only the wetland, water and coastal sub-types and 'interpretation of character' polygons were selected.

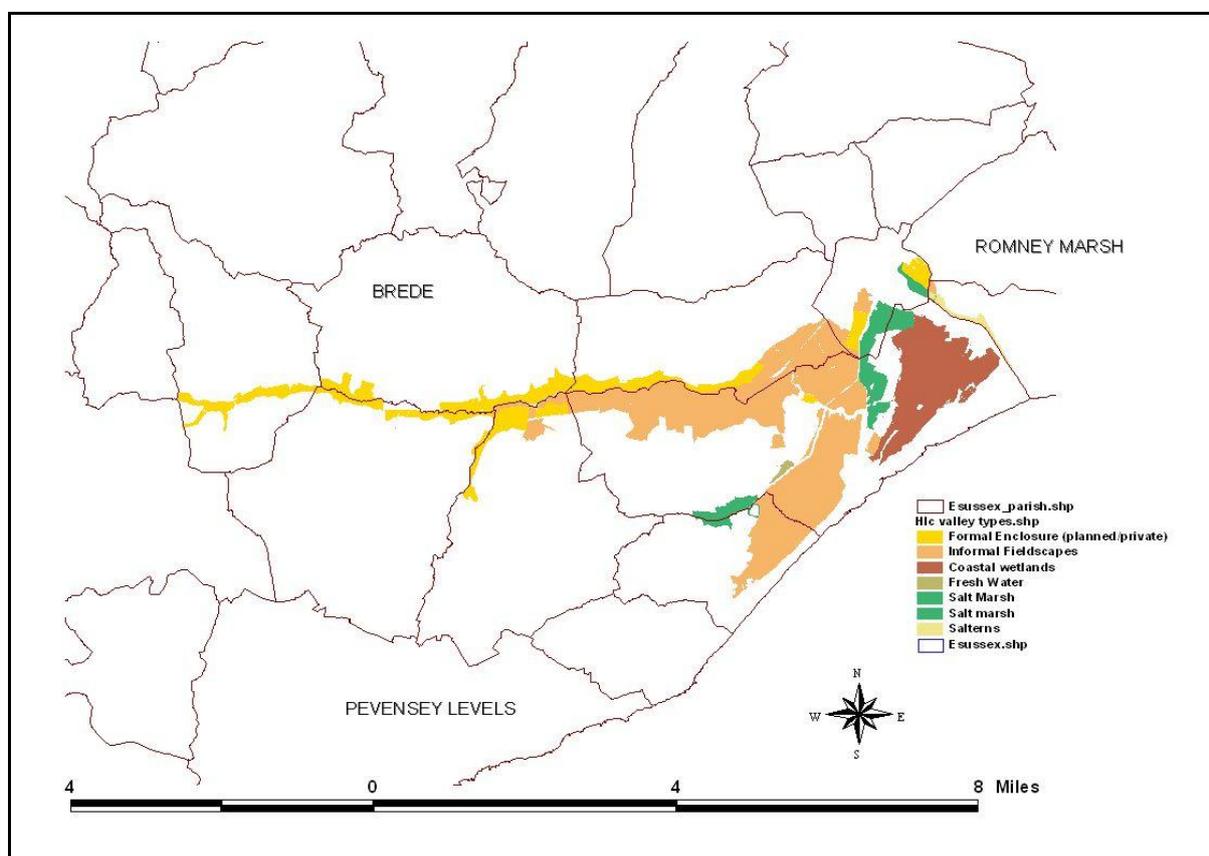


Figure 7. Brede River Valley showing the HLC sub-types [Extract from SxWT Report].

In the map above [Figure 7.] of the Brede river valley, the extent of the River Brede Floodplain and its alluvial areas is shown. It also shows the areas of the flood-plain which extend out to the coast by Rye Harbour and Winchelsea.

⁹ Bannister, N.R. 2010b. *Sussex River Valleys. Brede River Valley. HLC Analysis*. Unpublished Report for the Sussex Wildlife Trust; Bannister, N.R. 2010c. *Sussex River Valleys. Arun and Western Rother River Valleys. HLC Analysis*. Unpublished Report for the Sussex Wildlife Trust

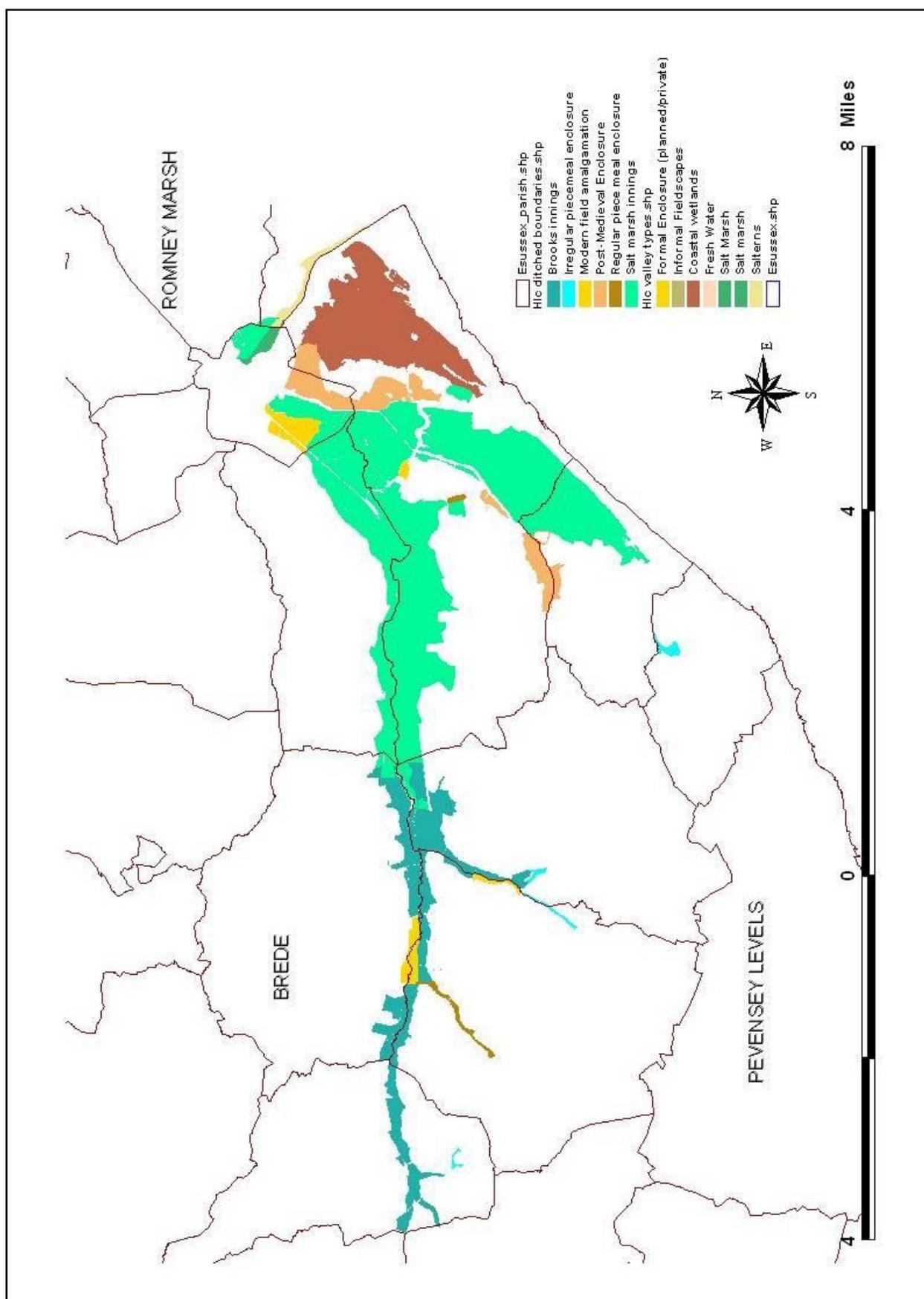


Figure 8. The combined map showing ditched fields by their sub-type categories for the Brede river valley together with other wetland sub-types. [Extract from Sussex Wildlife Trust Report Bannister 2010b].

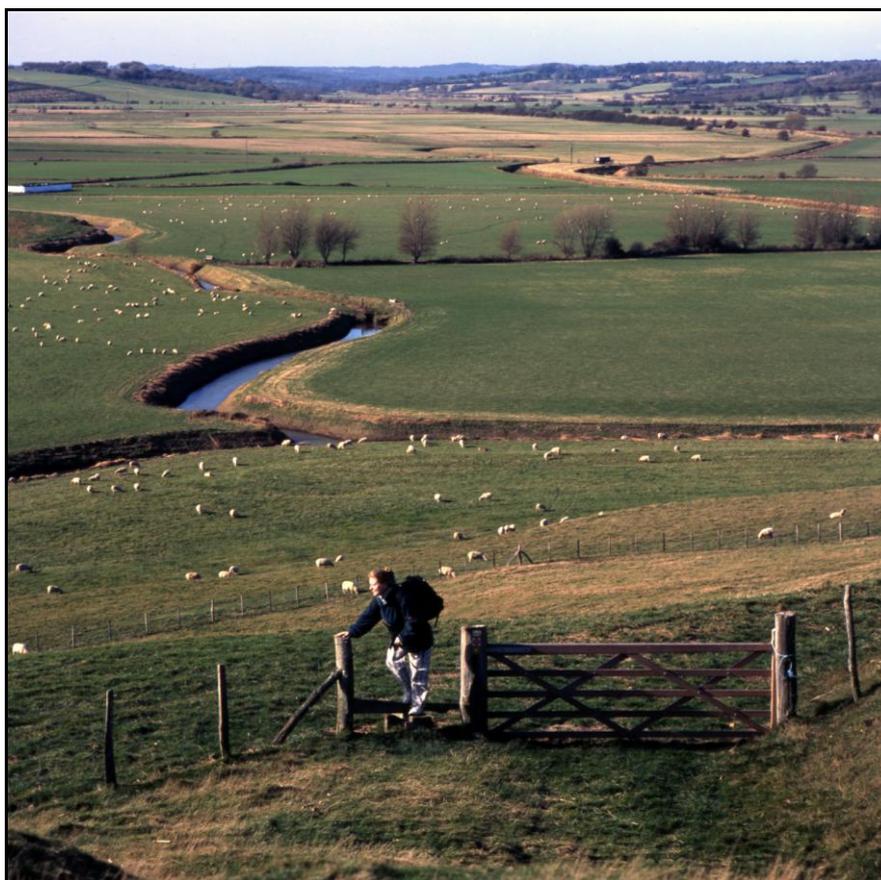
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Another HLC attribute in the data is that for the types of boundaries enclosing the fields. All those fields bounded by ditches were also selected and added to the themed layer to produce a composite map of sub-types in Figure 8.

From the HLC it is now possible to establish all those fields and remnant marshes lying within the river valley which are bounded by ditches. This map could then be overlain with other data sets, such as records of key indicator wetland species recorded in the valley. The distribution pattern in relation to HLC sub-types and 'interpretation of character types' could then be used to target field walking in order to record new potential sites.

In order to understand how the Brede river valley has broadly altered through time the HLC previous [*hlc-prev*] layers were also queried for each period, and the previous sub-type identified. Figure 9. is a composite map for all the HLC previous layers and highlights the areas of former salt marsh, mud flats and cliffs and beaches which were probably present in the early medieval period. This is an area which has undergone significant landscape change through incursions of water and land reclamation. The HLC previous layers can also be used as a starting point for undertaking more detailed field work in identifying sites of archaeological potential preserved in the alluvial silts.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust are now working on the next stage in this project to produce another GIS layer showing details taken from the Tithe Maps such as land use, and field names, which indicate wetland habitats and land use such as 'brook', 'salts', Alder Shaw, 'marsh' etc. In addition the HLC for the remaining river valleys in Sussex will also be analysed in a similar way.



The Brede Valley showing the broad wide floodplain [*High Weald AONB*]

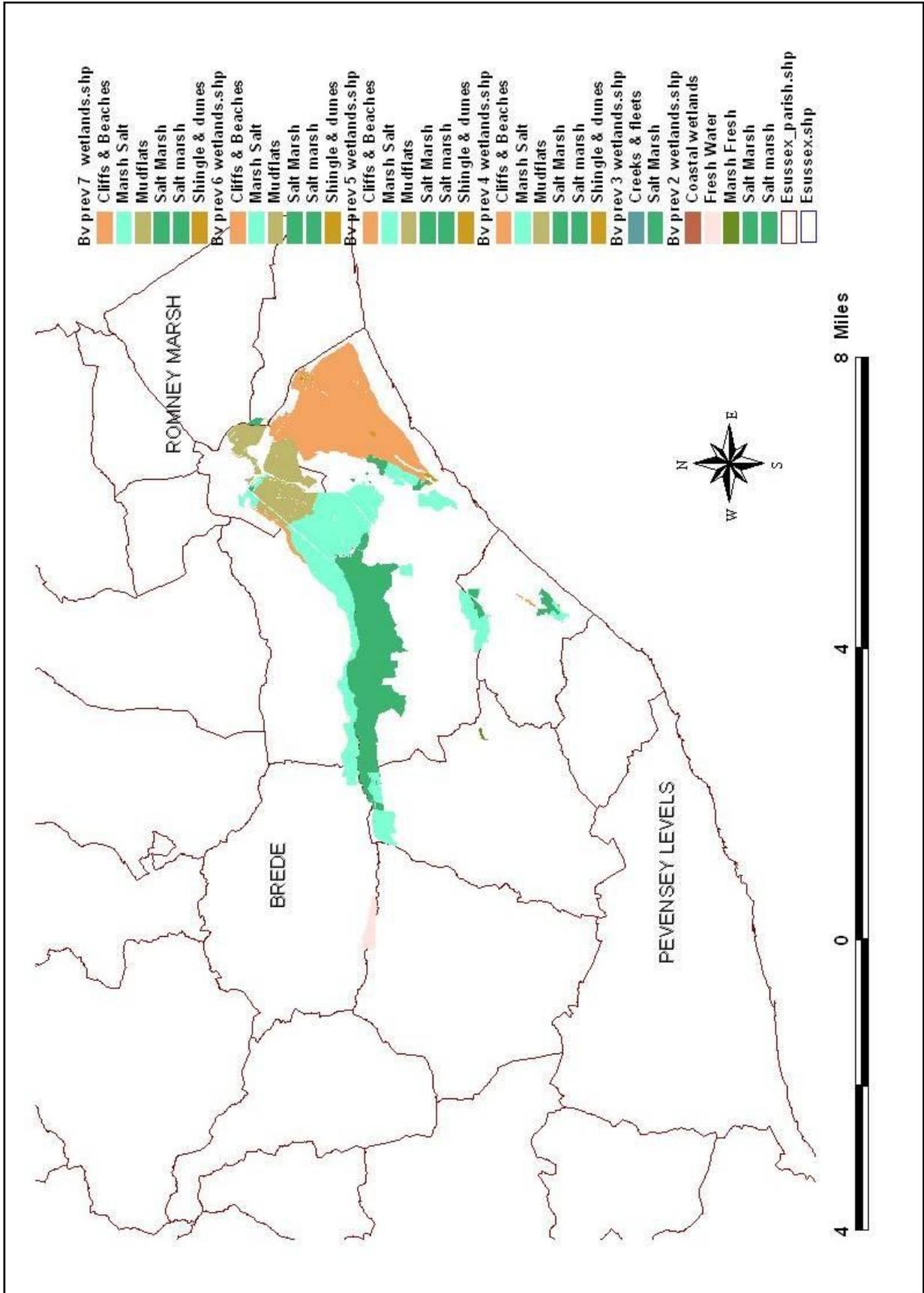


Figure 9. The Brede Valley showing those areas where the past land use is known [Extract from Sussex Wildlife Trust Report, Bannister 2010b].

2.5. An example of time-depth from past land use change

The HLC previous layers are very useful in looking at how settlements have developed, in particular during the 19th and early 20th centuries, when parts of the Sussex landscape were under-going significant change, for example along the coastal margins. The HLC maps are produced by switching on the hlc previous layers [*hlc-prev*] for each period and placing them in chronological order in the theme menu with the earliest period at the top and the latest at the bottom.

Burgess Hill is a town which owes its development to the coming of the railway and the migration of people from London looking for a rural retreat in the countryside. There was also land available for expansion in the extent of heaths and commons, for example St John's Common. The sequence of maps (by broad HLC type) shows the expansion of Burgess Hill from a small hamlet near the railway line (gently curving line running north – south) and station into the large town it is today.

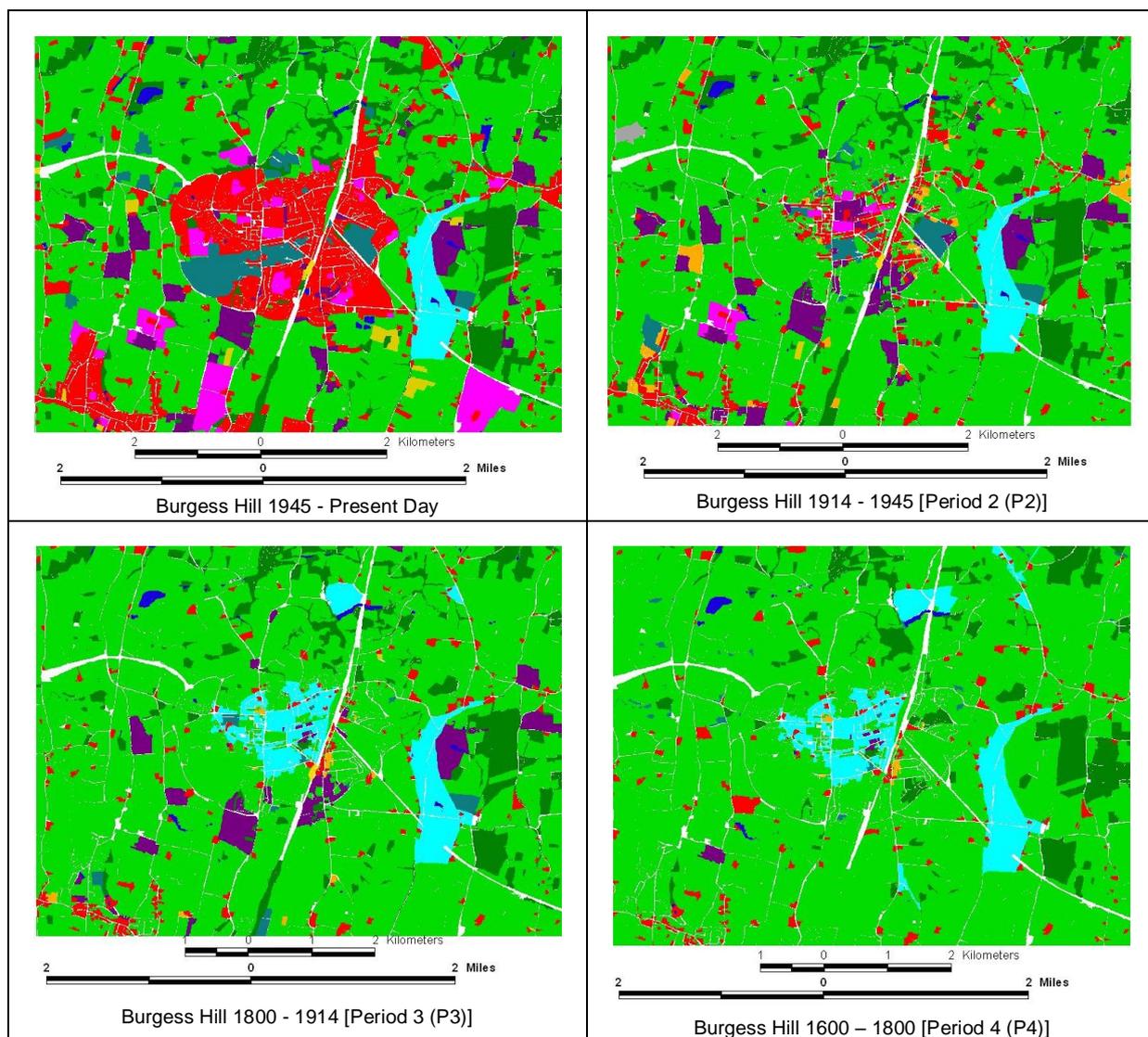
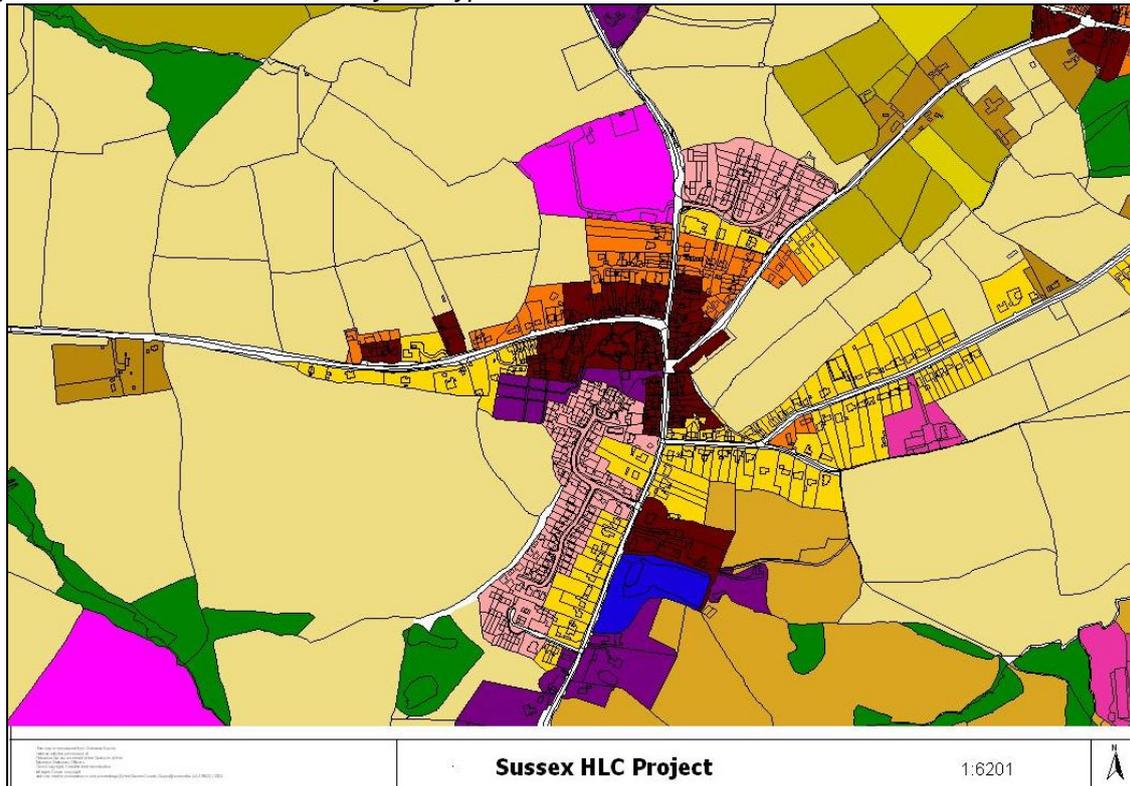


Figure 10 *Development of Burgess Hill from 1600 to the present. [For Key see page 28 Table 1]*

A landscape of scattered farmsteads around a common [Period 4 (P4)] was surrounded by larger landscaped gardens and smaller parks [Period 3 (P3)] which followed by the development of smaller estates and dwellings extending into St John's Common [Period 2 (P2)].

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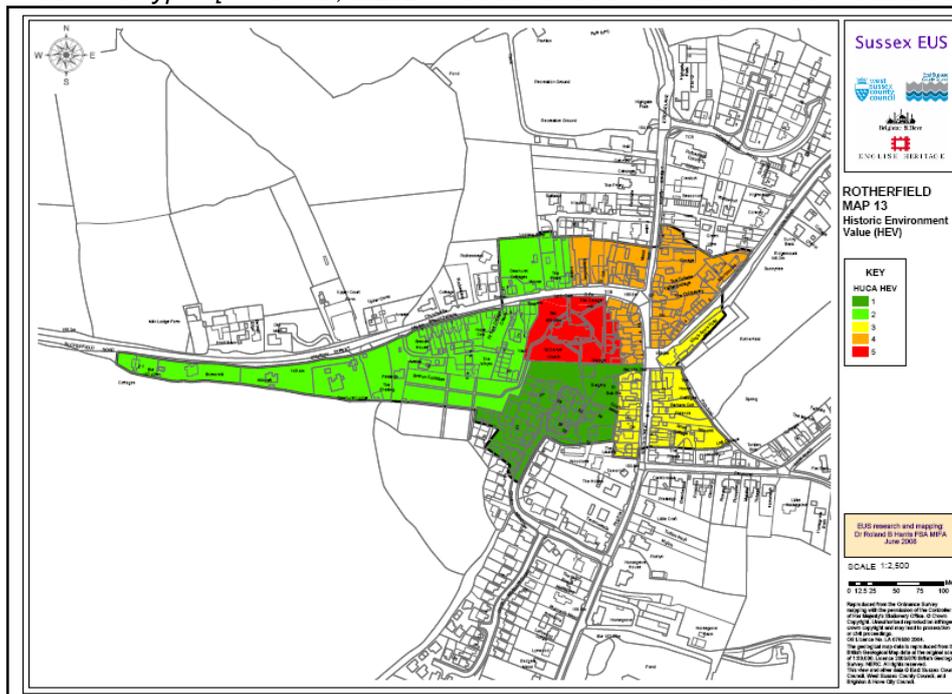
Figure 12. Rotherfield HLC by sub-type



KEY

	Informal Fields		Historic Core Market Town
	Formal Enclosure		Expansion Other – ribbon development
	Recreation		Expansion Other – planned estate
	Woodland		Expansion other - infill
	Water		Non-historic dispersed – small farm
	Designed – cemetery		

Figure 13. Rotherfield EUS showing Historic Urban Character Types [HUCAs] based on EUS Historic Character Types [See Harris, R.B. 2008 Rotherfield. Historic Character Assessment Report].



2.7. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation & Farmstead Characterisation

The dispersed nature of settlement, namely of individual farms and small hamlets across the Weald has been the subject of an on-going project developed by English Heritage in conjunction with Hampshire County Council, and the High Weald AONB which has looked at the characterisation of farmsteads across the western Weald in order to provide strategic guidance on future change and development¹². A trend particularly prevalent in the South East with the decline in the number of working farms and the demand from urban people for a 'place in the country' is the conversion of working farms to residential dwellings often to the detriment of the local character of the farmstead and the preservation of its historic buildings. However where conversion has been undertaken sympathetically, the re-use of the historic buildings has ensured the preservation historic farmstead structures and character that in other places have been swept away by agricultural modernization.

The overall aim of the Historic Farmsteads: Preliminary Characterisation Project is to produce a web-based Preliminary Regional Character Statement for each of the eight government regions outside London in order to support the national policy statement *Living buildings in a living landscape: finding a future for traditional farm buildings*. The Regional Character Statement for Farmsteads in the South East has been published on English Heritage's Characterisation web page.¹³

The Project is finding that there are different forms or layout of farmsteads which appear to have a strong correlation with the local topography, the pattern and layout of field and the historical development of the local agrarian economy. For example in the South East, large multi-courtyard type farmsteads are typical of the South Downs; they are relatively late and are a feature of estate or 'high' farming systems introduced in the 19th century, by the larger more wealthy landowners. In contrast small dispersed farmsteads with their buildings strung along a former droveway [Driftway Farms] are frequently found in the Low and High Weald and probably have their origins in the Medieval period or possibly earlier.

To date this project has looked at farmsteads in the High Weald AONB and is now being extended to the Kent Downs AONB, followed by the rest of Kent. The Sussex HLC can inform and provide the historic landscape context for the farmsteads characterisation.

¹² Lake, J. & Edwards. B. 2006. *Farmsteads and landscape: Towards an Integrated View*. Landscapes Vol 7. No 1. p1-36; Lake, J. 2009. *Assessing Farmstead Character and Significance: Preliminary National Guidance*. April 2009. English Heritage.

¹³ English Heritage 2006. *Historic Farmsteads. Preliminary Character Statement: South East Region*. English Heritage & Countryside Agency.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation/farmsteads>

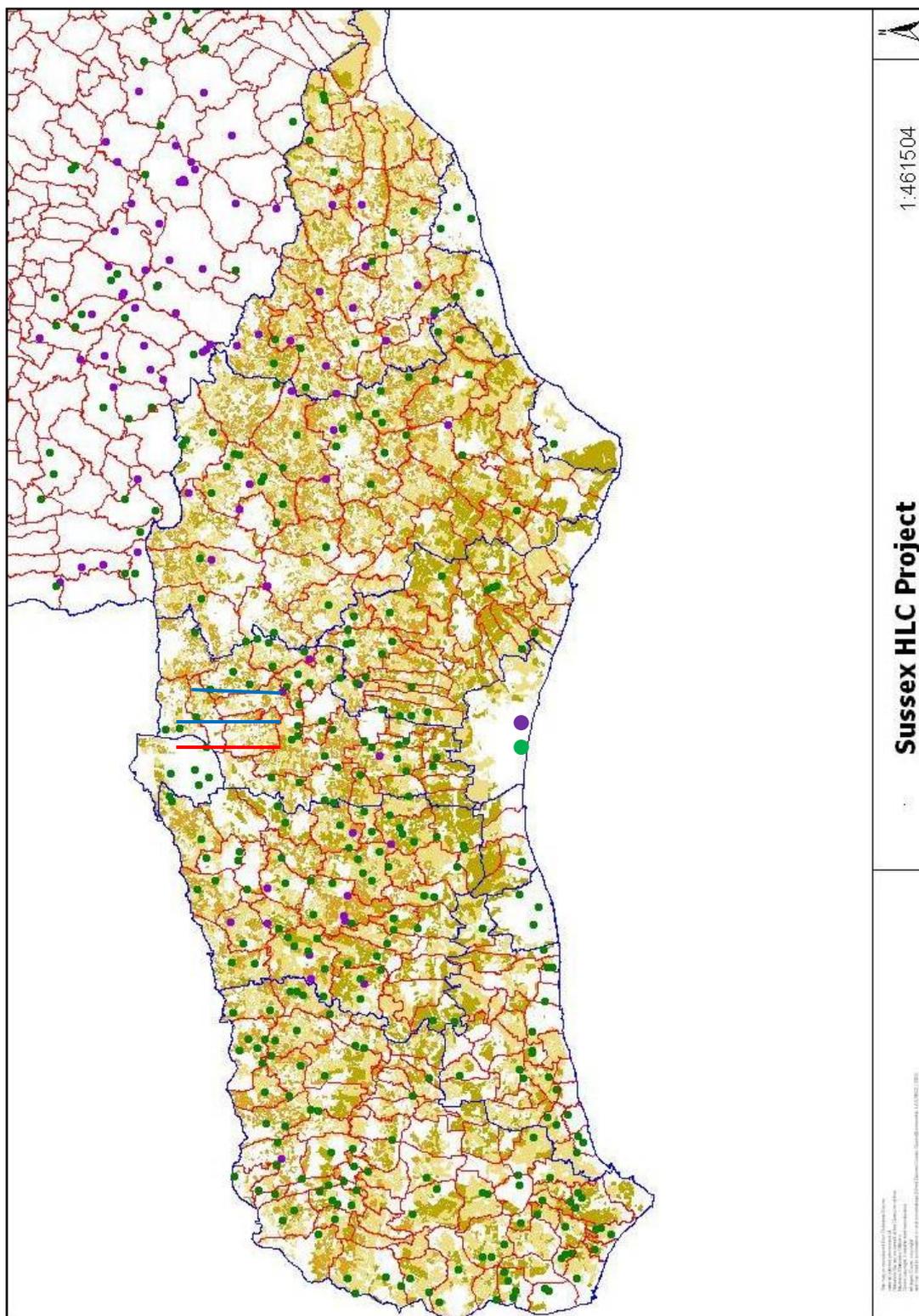


Figure 14. *Sussex HLC Fields by sub-type and two Farmstead character types [Driftway Farms and Loose Courtyard 4]*
[See text for explanation]

KEY					
	District Boundary		Driftway Farms		Assart Fields
	Parish Boundary		Loose courtyard		Informal Fields
					Formal Fields

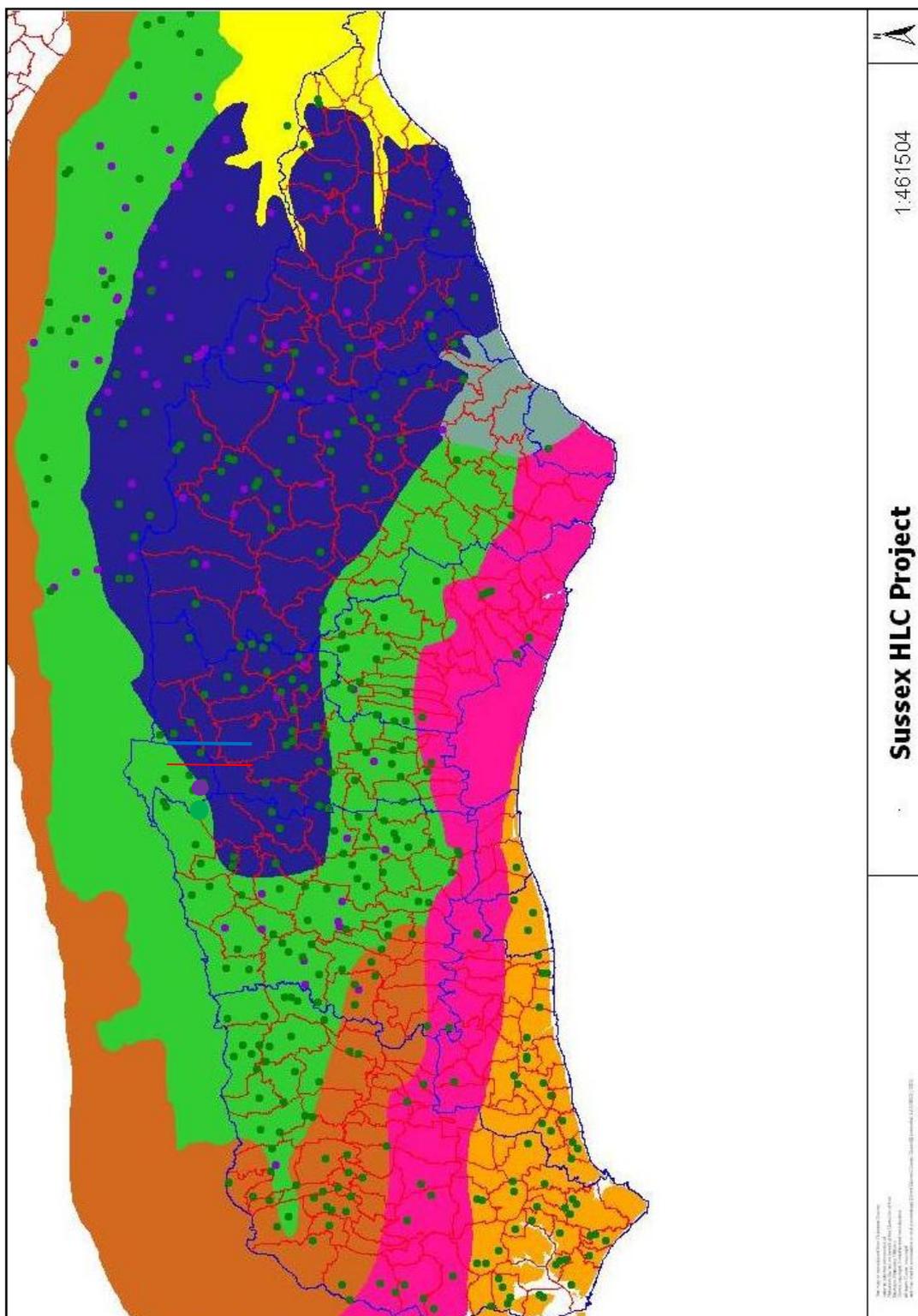


Figure 15 National Character Areas and Farmstead Characterisation. [Driftway Farms and Loose Courtyard 4]

KEY					
	District Boundary		120 Wealden Greensand		124 Pevensy Levels
	Parish Boundary		121 Low Weald		125 South Downs
	Driftway Farms		122 High Weald		126 Coastal Plain
	Loose Courtyard Farms		123 Romney Marsh		

2.8. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation and Landscape Projects

The English Heritage and Heritage Lottery funded Historic Environment Awareness Project [HEA Project] of The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership (2009-2012) is looking at the historical development of this part of the Sussex landscape and in particular woodland archaeology of woodland landscapes.¹⁴ LiDAR [Light and Distance Aerial Reconnaisance] surveys have also been commissioned as part of this project.

As part of the HEA project the Sussex HLC is being used as one of the 'heritage tools' as part of the HER. Guidance documents will be prepared for the public on how to use the HER which will include the HLC. Figure 16 shows the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape which lies between Crawley to the west and Tunbridge Wells to the east, and its broad type historic landscape character. The wooded nature of the landscape is readily apparent together with the large extents of Ashdown Forest. Historically much of the western end of the project area was also unenclosed medieval 'Forest' used for the chase. At the eastern end are wooded remnants of the 'Forest' of South Frith, the hunting grounds belonging to the Lowy of Tonbridge.

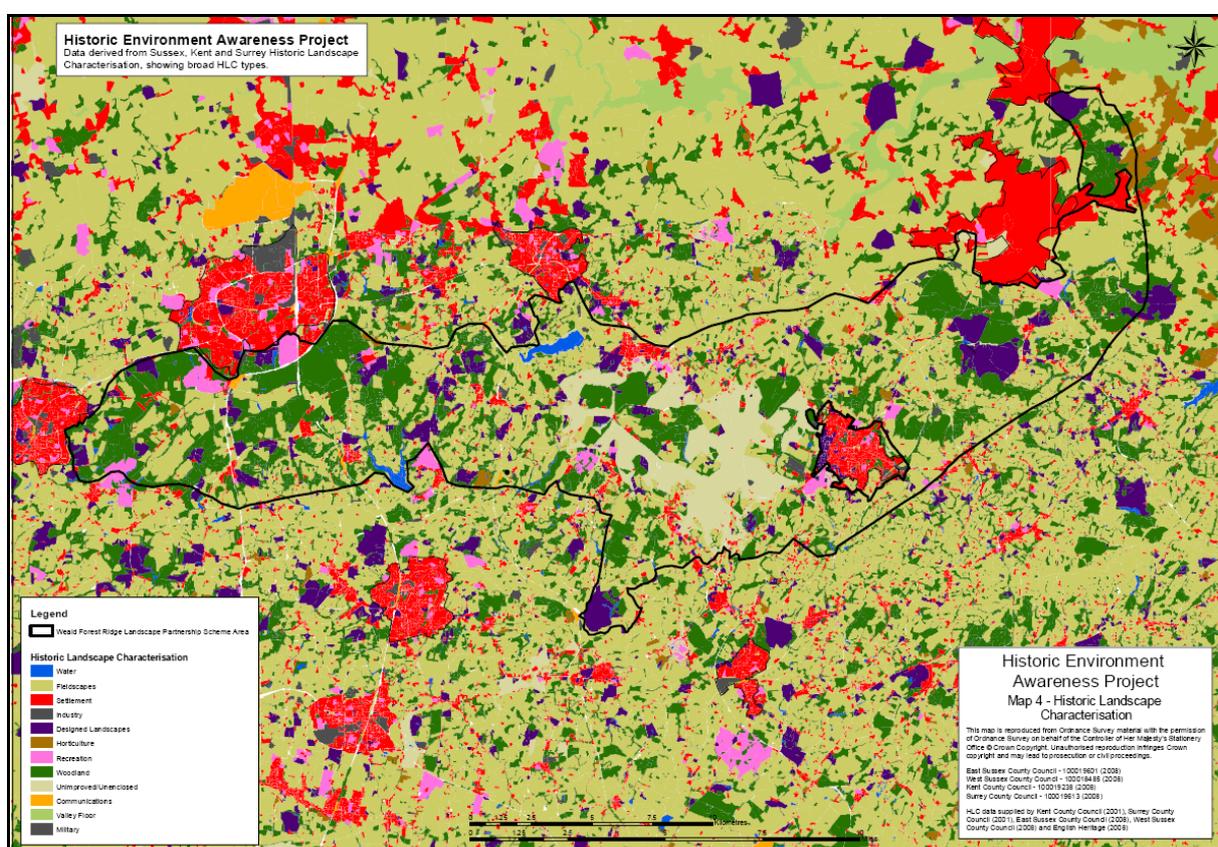
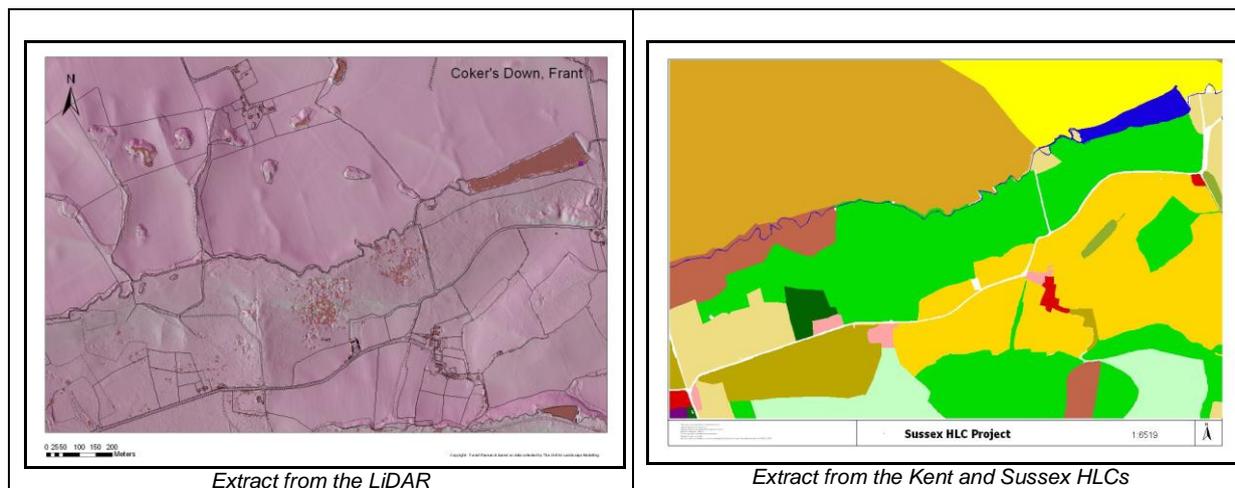


Figure 16. *The Sussex HLC for the Weald Forest Ridge Landscapes Partnership Area by HLC Broad Type [Extract from the EH Project Design for the Historic Environment Awareness Project 2009-2012].*

An example of a LiDAR image with the same area covered by the Kent and Sussex HLC is shown in Figure 17.

¹⁴ Weald Forest Ridge Historic Environment Awareness Project Design 2009. <http://www.highweald.org/home/weald-forest-ridge.htm>
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/archaeology/historicenvironment.htm>

Figure 17 Extract from the LiDAR with HLC for Coker Down, near Frant in East Sussex



KEY to the HLC

	County Boundary between Kent & East Sussex		Expansion other- small farm
	1.1.3 'Prairie' Fields [Kent]		Ancient Semi-natural Woodland
	1.10 Medium regular fields straight boundaries		PAWS
	Pond - hammer		Plantations
	Aggregate Assarts		Other Woodland -regenerated
	Cohesive Assarts		Informal Enclosure
	Historic dispersed – large farms		Other woodland - shaw

2.9. Landscape Assessments & Landscape Designations

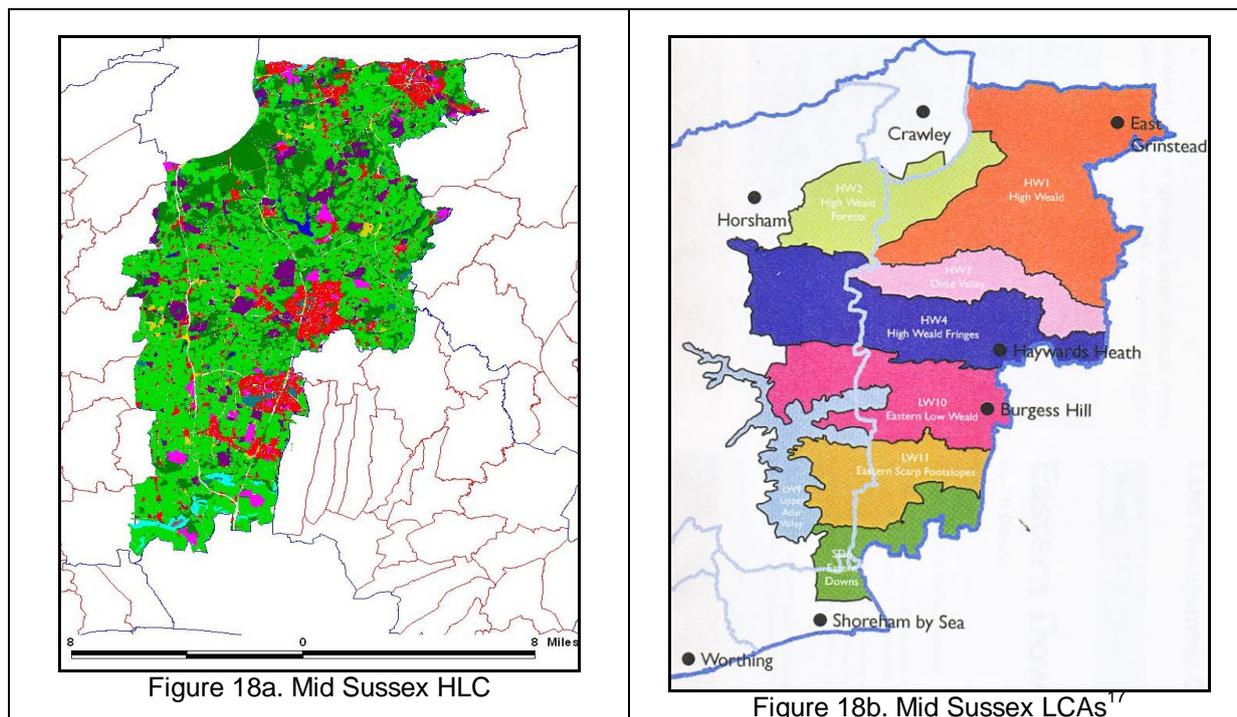
A large proportion of Sussex is covered by national designations for the conservation of landscapes e.g. the High Weald and Chichester Harbour AONB and the recently created South Downs National Park. These high-level landscape designations have a knock-on effect over the rest of Sussex especially in the Low Weald which is sandwiched between the High Weald AONB and South Downs National Park. The planning restrictions operating within the designated areas place increasing pressure on the Low Weald landscape as this is an area where proposed development is preferred. This development is often constructed to national standards in design with little regard for local character. Thus there is increasing pressure to locate the counties' housing needs in this area, to the detriment of its historic landscape character. The HLC has shown that the Low Weald, whilst not meeting the criteria for outstanding landscapes as those of an ANOB or NP, is still a unique historic landscape with field systems, routeways and settlements dating from the early medieval period preserved in the present landscape, for example in the western Low Weald [See Section 2.1. & 2.3. above], where medieval commons and greens are intimately preserved between medieval deer parks and scattered settlements, and with some areas of intact medieval manorial and recreational landscapes, for example the complex of deer parks which lie fossilized within the landscape around Ringmer near Lewes. The Low Weald is also historically linked with both the South Downs and the High Weald, in particular dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, through integrated use of different landscape resources; it is an area over which people travelled as well as settled.

Future Development should include efforts to ensure that new development is carefully located and designed to minimize negative impact on historic character of the Low Weald. The first step to achieving this is through understanding Landscape Character. The Mid Sussex District Landscape Character Assessment has taken on board the Historic Landscape Characterisation.¹⁵

¹⁵ Mid Sussex District Council 2005. *A Landscape Character Assessment for Mid Sussex*. Mid Sussex District Council & West Sussex County Council.

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A detailed analysis of the Sussex HLC was undertaken for Mid Sussex and this provided the background for the section on the historic landscape.¹⁶



2.10. Conclusions

As these examples of analyses which have already been undertaken for specific projects have shown the variety of themes, maps and interpretations that can be extracted from the Sussex HLC is very great. The degree and depth of complexity of the Sussex HLC is more than can be demonstrated in this User Guide and there is considerable potential for future analyses, for example looking at Sensitivity Analysis, impact of future land use change, synthesis and analysis of HLC attribute data are just a few.

Copies and back-ups of the analyses presented here are held on the respective county HERs for East and West Sussex. Those undertaken for the Sussex Wildlife Trust and for the High Weald AONB are held by the respective organisations. For a list of the analyses undertaken during the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation See Table 3. at the end of this report.

¹⁶ Mid Sussex District Council 2005. *A Landscape Character Assessment for Mid Sussex*. Mid Sussex District Council & West Sussex County Council. p23-30.

¹⁷ *Ibid* p118.

3. TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SUSSEX HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

3.1. What is the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation ?

The method for the Sussex HLC has evolved from those of Hampshire,¹⁸ Kent¹⁹ and Surrey²⁰, with particular reference to the classification of HLC types and sub-types. However the method of 'capturing' HLC attribute data draws particularly on those developed for Cheshire²¹ and Buckinghamshire.²² [See Introduction to Volume I].

With the earlier HLCs such as Hampshire and Kent, the characterisation process used pre-defined types whereby the key historic land use attributes [attribute data] were integral in the description of the type. For those HLCs which followed, the methods evolved with the more sophisticated GIS technical data capture. This enabled the HLC polygons to be defined by a selection of the key historic attributes. Analysis of the attributes enabled different HLC types to be defined. The Sussex HLC incorporated both these methods or approaches of classifying the historic landscape. [See also Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume V – Appendix Section 2.2.2.].

Thus in the Sussex HLC each polygon is defined according to a selection of HLC attributes from the full range of attributes, each of which is defined and entered into the data base; for example a group of fields all showing a similar character maybe defined by the following suite of attributes; small, regular with straight internal and external boundaries.

This HLC polygon can then be further identified using a pre-defined HLC type (the least detailed type e.g. Fieldscapes) and sub-type (e.g. Assarts). This approach is similar to that used in the Kent and Surrey HLCs, for example Fields – small irregular assarts intermixed with woodlands [Surrey] equates to aggregate assarts, small [Sussex]. Sussex also has a third level of typology for some broad types called 'Interpretation of Character' – the most detailed interpretation (for example, Planned Enclosure). [See Figure 19].

So a group of fields defined by their attributes as *small, regular with straight internal and external boundaries*, would be *Fieldscapes – Formal Enclosure – planned private enclosure*. For details on the interpretation of the different types, sub-types and 'interpretation of character', see the Sussex HLC Vol. IV Gazetteer of Typology for Fieldscapes.

HLC sub-type takes each of the Broad types and sub-divides them by key attributes, so for example for Fieldscapes, the sub-types are assart fields, formal and informal fields. Unlike in some other county HLCs this grouping does not divide along period of origin, as some formal or planned fields (typically post-medieval) can have originated in the early-medieval period such as co-axial fields. By contrast some isolated assarts (typically medieval) may have been created in the post-medieval period such as on the Western South Downs. However this form of assarting or modern woodland clearance is the exception rather than the rule.

"Interpretation of Character" adds another level of more detailed characterisation. [See the Sussex HLC Vol. IV Gazetteer of Typology]. Interpretation of Character and Sub-types in Sussex equate to

¹⁸ Oxford Archaeology Unit & Scott Wilson Resource Consultants 1999 *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment*, Hampshire County Council and English Heritage. 2 volumes.

¹⁹ Croft, A., Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001 *Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Kent County Council and English Heritage. 3 volumes.

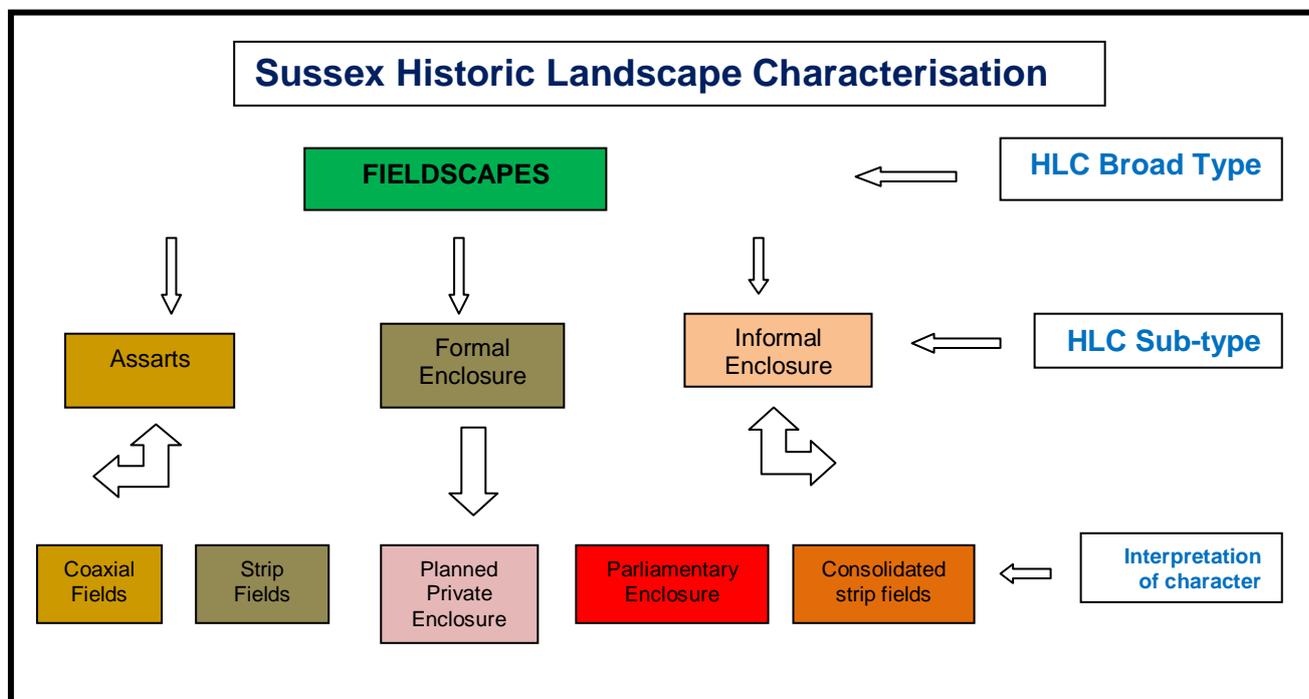
²⁰ Bannister, N.R. & Wills, P.M. 2001 *Surrey Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Surrey County Council, English Heritage and Countryside Commission 2 volumes.

²¹ Edwards, R. 2007. *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Cheshire County Council and English Heritage. 4. Volumes.

²² Buckinghamshire County Council 2006 *Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Introduction and 10 Appendices.

the sub-type category of Kent and Surrey HLCs.²³ It is also possible to analyse the Sussex HLC data by key HLC attributes such as the type and form of boundaries to arrive at HLC sub-types, in particular for fieldscapes.

Figure 19. *Example of the Hierarchy of HLC Types [colours match the maps in the Sussex Historic Landscape Character - Vol. III - Atlas of Maps & Vol. IV – Gazetteer of Typology].*



Because of this regional consistency across the Broad Type Category it does enable a regional HLC map of Broad types to be produced. By giving each corresponding Broad HLC type the same colour code the extent of the diversity and pattern of the area of the Weald in the South East Region can be seen as shown in Figure 20. [Summary Table of Types in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. IV - Gazetteer of Typology for the key to colours]. In Figure 20 the outline to each polygon has been ‘switched off’ otherwise at this scale the map would appear almost black, especially in Sussex where the average polygon size is smaller due to the greater complexity in data capture based on the Ordnance Survey’s [OS] “Mastermap”. This is an indicative map as is the “iconic map” in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III - Atlas of Maps, Map 1.

²³ Croft, A., Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001. *Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Kent County Council and English Heritage. 3 volumes.; Bannister, N.R. & Wills, P.M. 2001. *Surrey Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Surrey County Council, English Heritage and Countryside Commission 2 volumes.

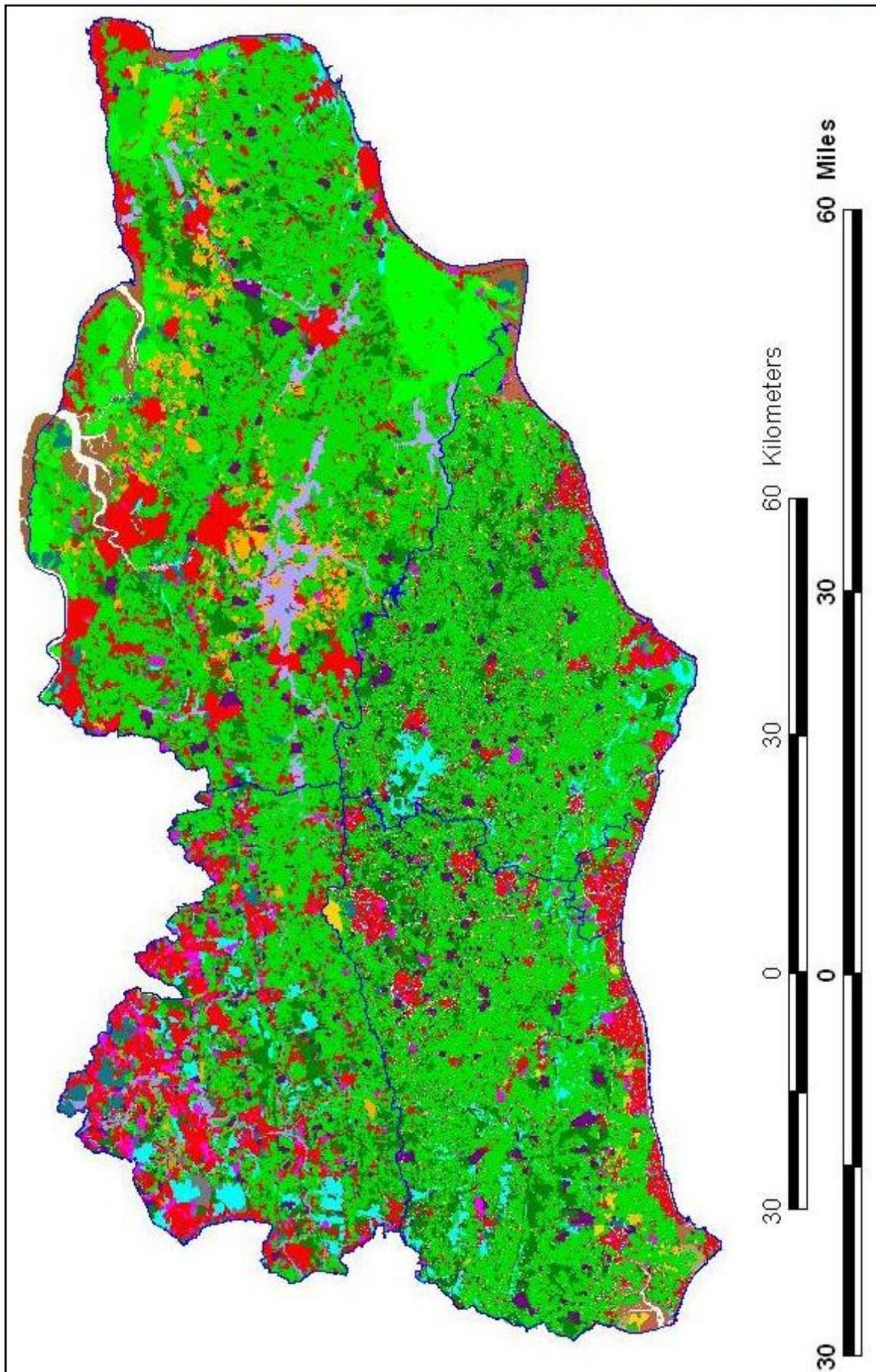


Figure 20. *Map of the Weald in the South East Region by HLC Broad Types*

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TABLE 1. *HLC Broad Type categories for the Wealden South Eastern Counties.
(including the key to Map 1)*

SUSSEX	KENT	SURREY	HAMPSHIRE	ISLE OF WIGHT
Fieldscapes (Enclosures)	Field Patterns	Field Patterns/Systems	Field Patterns	Field Patterns
Woodland (In all its forms)	Woodland	Woodland	Woodland	Woodland
Horticulture	Horticulture	Horticulture	Horticulture	Horticulture
Unenclosed (common downs)	Commons	Commons	Commons	Open land
		Heathland	Heathland	Open Land
	Downland	Downland	Downland	Open Land
Settlement	Settlements	Settlement related	Settlements	Settlement
Reclaimed Marsh (salt & fresh)	Reclaimed Marsh			
Coastal	Coastal	n/a	Coastal	Coastal
Industry	Extractive & Other Industry	Extractive Industry	Extractive & Other Industry	Mineral Extraction
		Other Industry		Industry
Designed landscapes	Parkland & Designed Landscapes	Parkland & Designed Landscape	Parkland & Designed landscape	Parkland/Designed Landscapes
Military	Military & Defence	Military & Defence	Military & Defence	Military and Defence
Communications infrastructure	Inland Communication Facilities	Communication facilities	Inland Communication Facilities	Communications
Water (Bodies)				
	Valley floor & water management	Valley floor & water management	Valley floor & water management	Valley Floor
Recreation	Recreation	Recreation	Recreation	Recreation and Tourism

3.2. Sussex HLC – OS Master Map

The Sussex HLC used the OS Master-Map as its base and 'captured' individual map polygons which shared the same HLC attributes. The OS Master-Map used in this project was a frozen layer abstracted in November 2002 at 1:1250 scale. The polygons were identified and plotted at 1:10,000 scale but the resulting HLC layers can be viewed at a range of scales. The OS Master-Map polygons were 'unionised' to form one HLC hyper-polygon to which the descriptive and interpretive material recorded on the Access 97 database was attached. The GIS programme used was ArcView 3.2a. The advantage of using OS Master Map is that the HLC was linked directly to the OS base without the need for digitizing of polygon boundaries. Thus the HLC polygons directly relate to features on the ground and to other datasets also based on OS Master-Map. However using Master-Map does have its own drawbacks. Some OS Master-Map polygons are not closed (i.e. they 'bleed' or run into other polygons); some are inaccurately drawn; and some features have duplicate polygons overlying one another. So a certain amount of editing and tidying up has to be done. Stripping out linear features, buildings and other non-relevant features was an option. For the Sussex HLC Pilot Method [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. V - Appendix III] mapping the main OS Master-Map was used and tidied up where possible. This was found to be very time-consuming when undertaking the whole map for Sussex so further editing and tidying up will be needed in the Sussex HLC layer where HLC polygons run into linear features. Where a current OS polygon has undergone clear periods of landscape change in the past, it is edited to reflect those changes. A good example is Bewl Reservoir near Ticehurst, East Sussex, which in the present HLC layer it is all water and polygonised as such but its past landscape change records areas of woodland, orchards and enclosures. Here OS Master map polygons were divided following historic boundaries in order to reflect the historic landscape change that has taken place.

3.3. “Capturing” and Presenting the Data

The following sequence of illustrations shows how the HLC polygons are created and the form of the data which ‘sits behind’ them.

The HLC was built up on a parish by parish basis using parish OS Master-Maps cut from the OS County Master-Map. Firstly, distinctive areas separated from their surroundings through sharing similar HLC attributes were identified from key historic maps such as the OS Epoch 1 (1st Edition of the OS 25” map) as shown in the Figure 21 below and 2001 aerial photographs. These were compared with the modern OS maps, to assess boundary change. Each HLC area was then identified, highlighted and ‘captured’ from the OS Master-Map. Secondly, the resulting unionised polygon was then added to the HLC layer and the data-base of descriptive and interpretative attributes was completed. A series of short-cut command buttons were added to the customized ArcView project in order to speed up the process of capturing from Master-Map. This process was completed for each polygon, of which there are over 45,000 which make up the Sussex HLC.

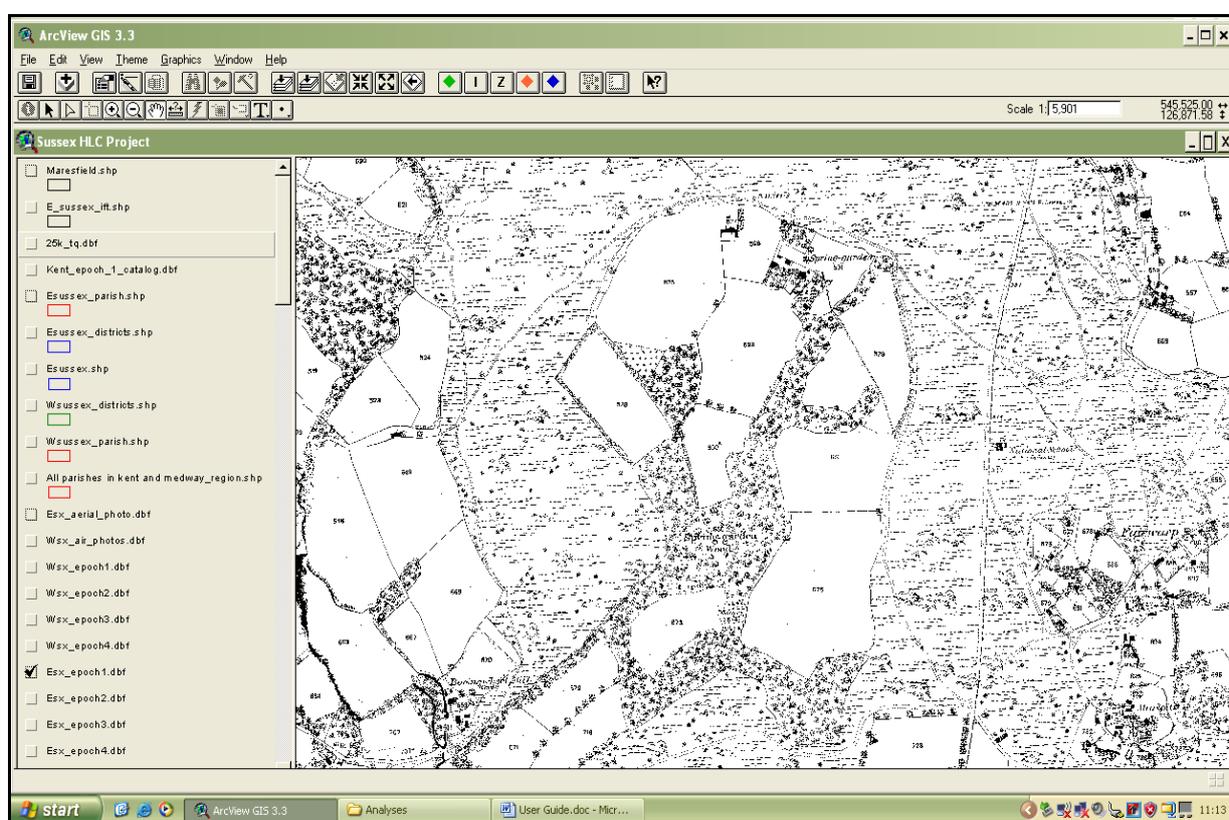


Figure 21 *An area of enclosures on the edge of Ashdown Forest as shown on the OS 1st Edition 25” Map.*

From the OS Epoch 1 map above [Figure 21] discrete HLC areas can already be seen such as the areas of unenclosed/unimproved heaths of Ashdown Forest, the gill woods running through the middle of a group of assart fields and the settlement in the northern part of the fields.

This map was then checked against the 2001 aerial photographs, (see the Figure 21 below) over which the OS Master-Map polygons have been laid. The aerial photographs enable a view of the extent of the woodland coverage especially woodland encroachment into open areas such as the heathland. [Figure 22 – 23 below].

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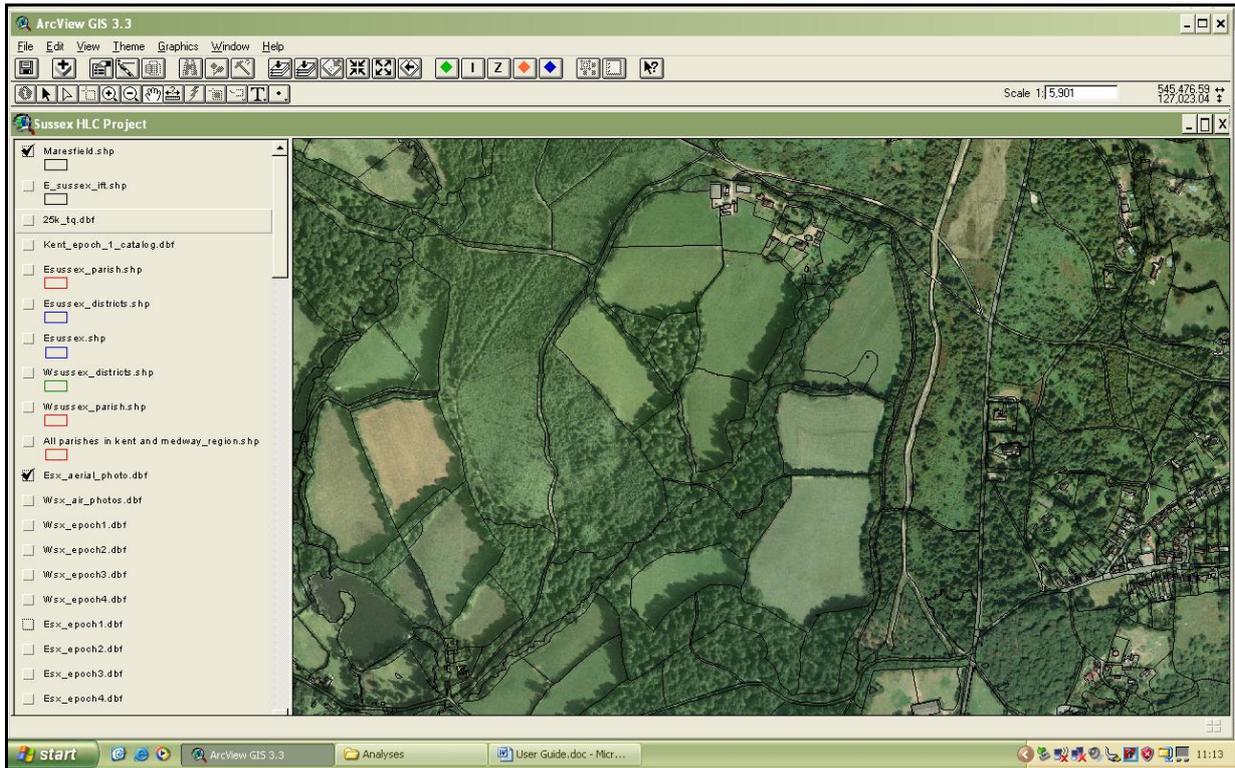


Figure 22 *The modern aerial photographs overlain by a transparent outline of the OS Master-Map*

The extent of the gill woodland is highlighted on the OS Master Map, 'unionized', and then cut and transferred to the Sussex HLC layer using the sequence of coloured 'short-cut' command buttons on the top line of the menu bar, within the project window.

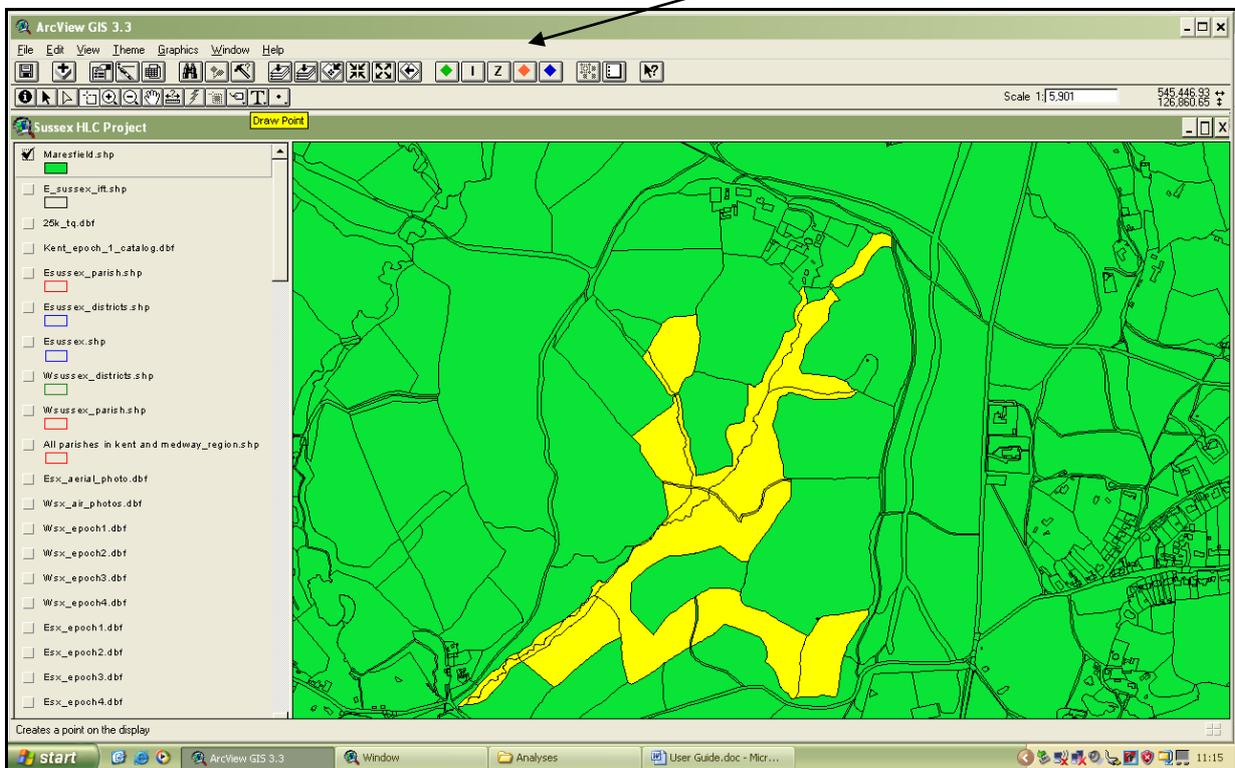


Figure 23. *The OS Master Map polygons highlighted before extracting and 'unionising' with the HLC layer*

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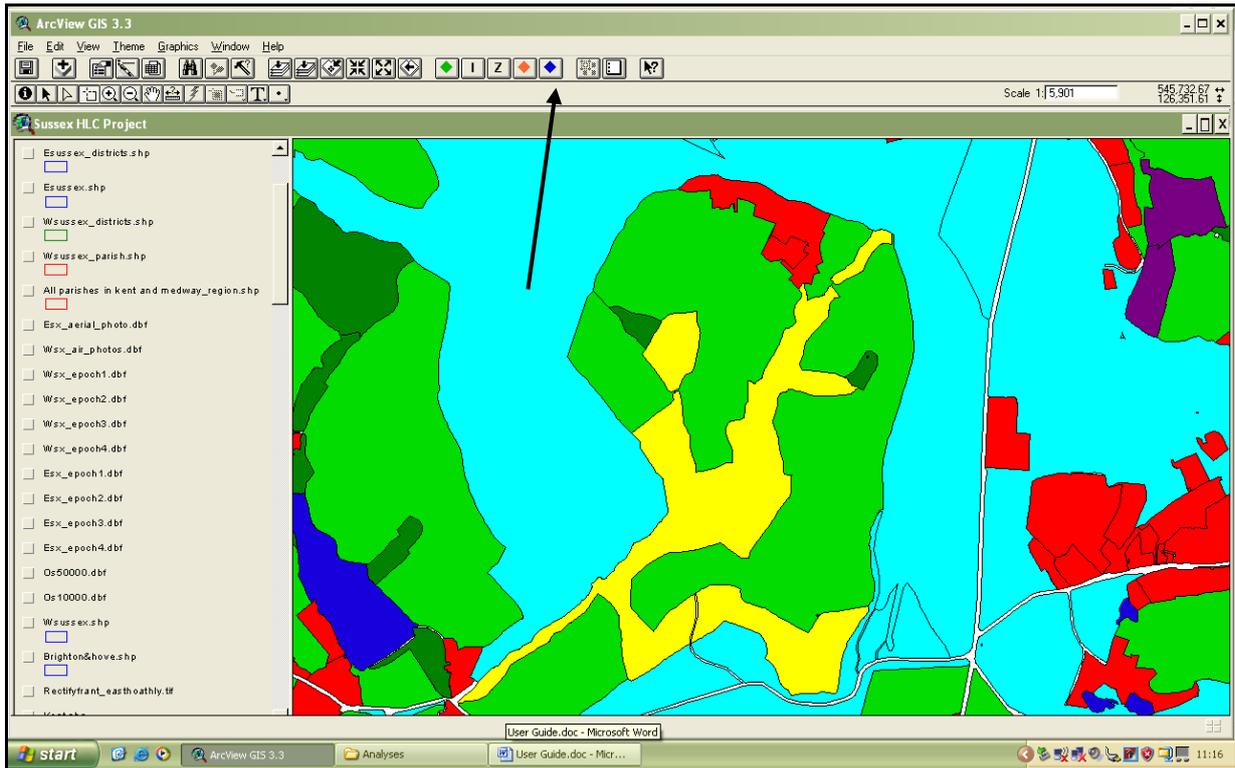


Figure 24. *The highlighted polygon inserted into the HLC layer*

The blue diamond command button then switched the ArcView Programme to the Access data base with the unique identifier number automatically entering the menu field. [See Figure 24 below].

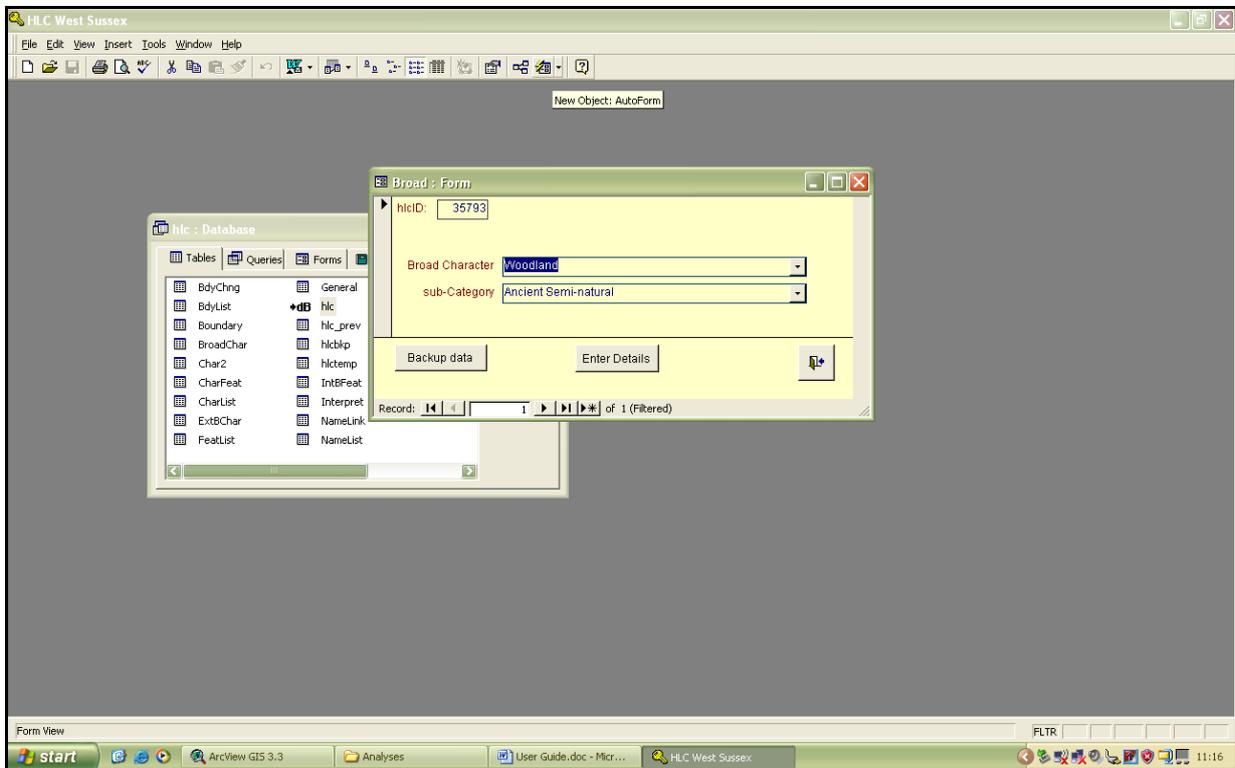


Figure 25. *The first level of the Access database showing the unique identification number, the HLC type and sub-type*

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Figure 26. *The second level of the Access database showing the different groups of attributes. This is for the Woodland HLC type.*

For each HLC Broad type the second level of the Access data base varied slightly depending on which HLC attributes were being used. Woodland, Fieldsapes and Designed landscape were the most detailed, whilst Communications and Military were not so detailed due to the fewer HLC attributes used to describe them. [Figure 26. above]. For the full details and descriptions of the data base contents and attributes see Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation. Vol. V. - Appendix II. For a summary of the list of historic attributes see Table 2. at the end of this report.

The HLC data can be viewed in several ways in the ArcView project, either as a map with the keys or as an individual table for each HLC polygon. The latter comes into view when a polygon is highlighted by the “Select feature” button and the “Identify” button is clicked.

A table of data for the whole HLC is viewed by clicking on the “Open Theme Table” button. This enables the data to be viewed on a field by field basis in different orders of sequence.

The following sequence of Figures 27-29 illustrates the different ways of viewing the Attribute data.

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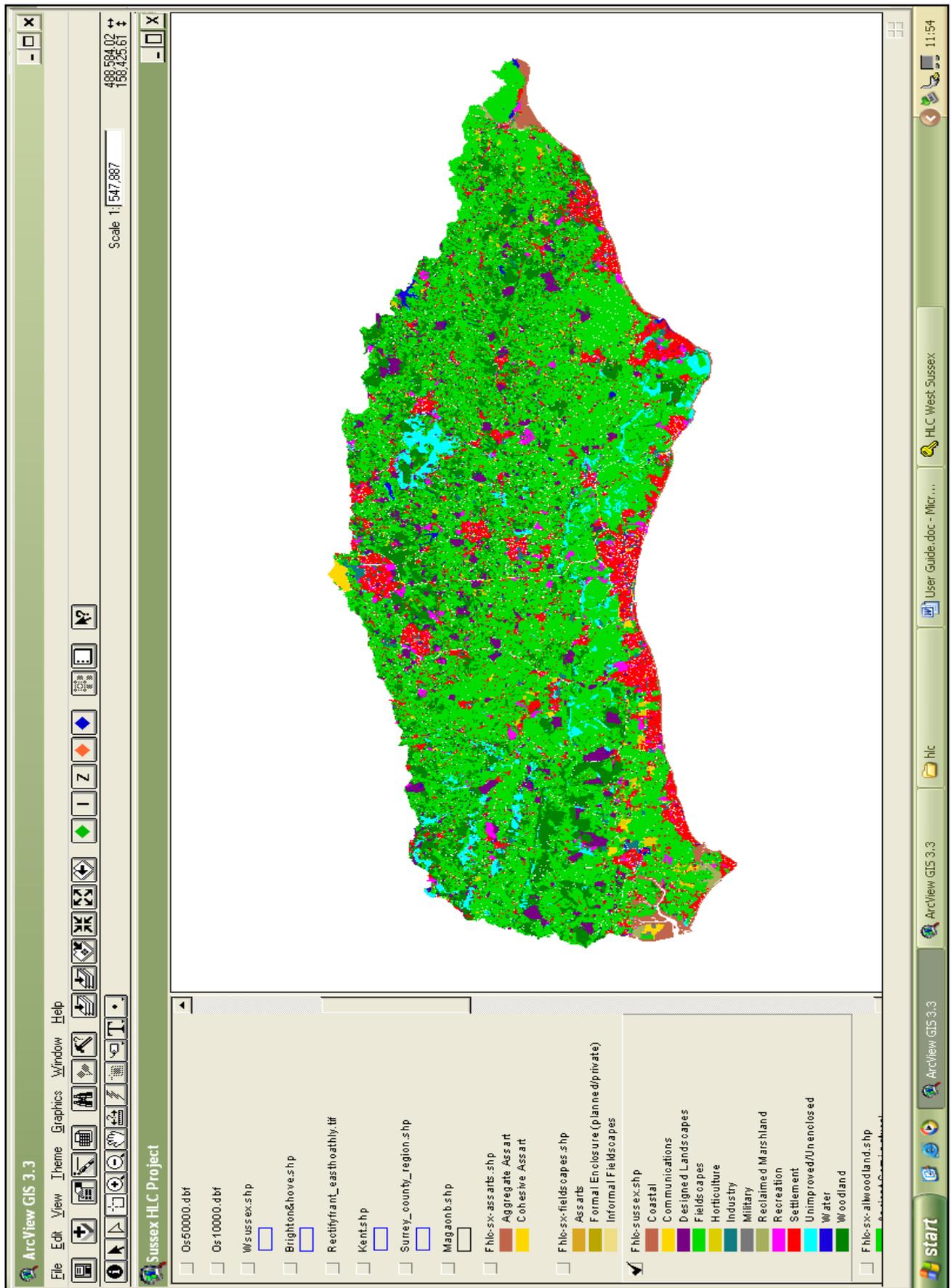


Figure 27. The County of Sussex by Broad HLC Type

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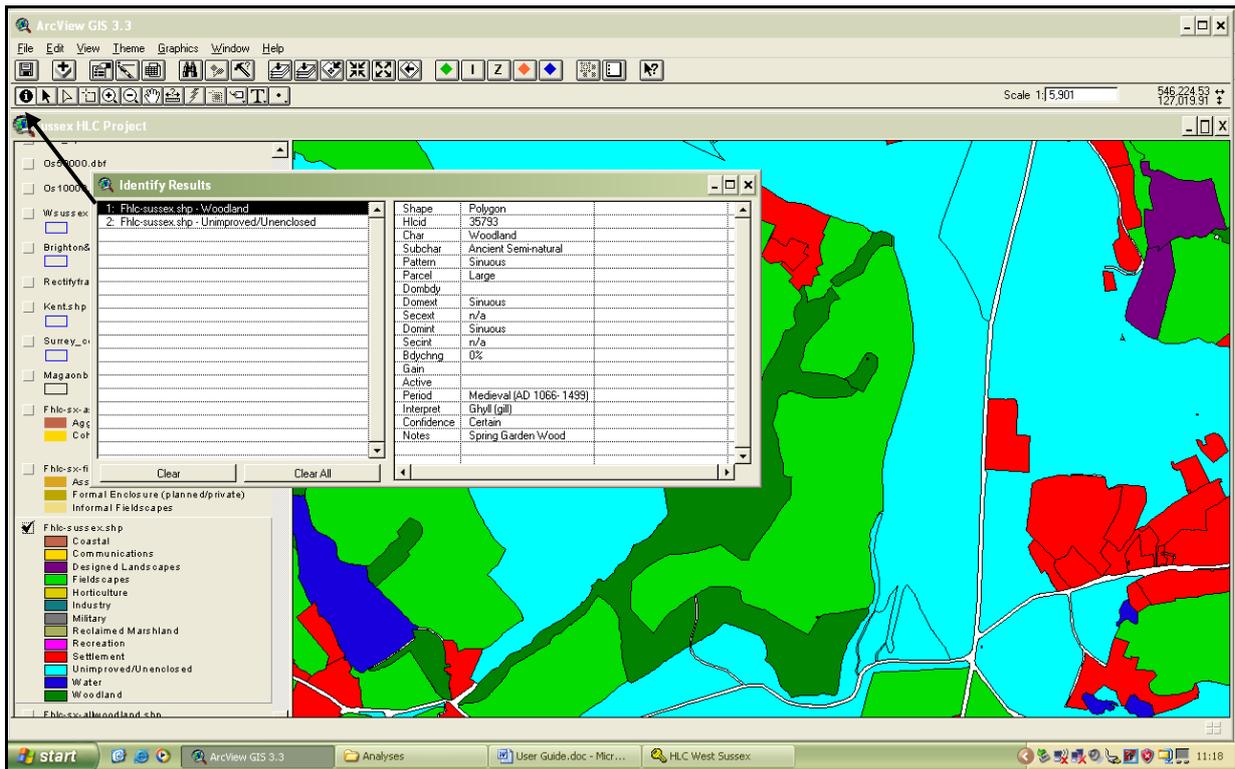


Figure 28. *How the data appears for each polygon when the 'identify' button is highlighted*

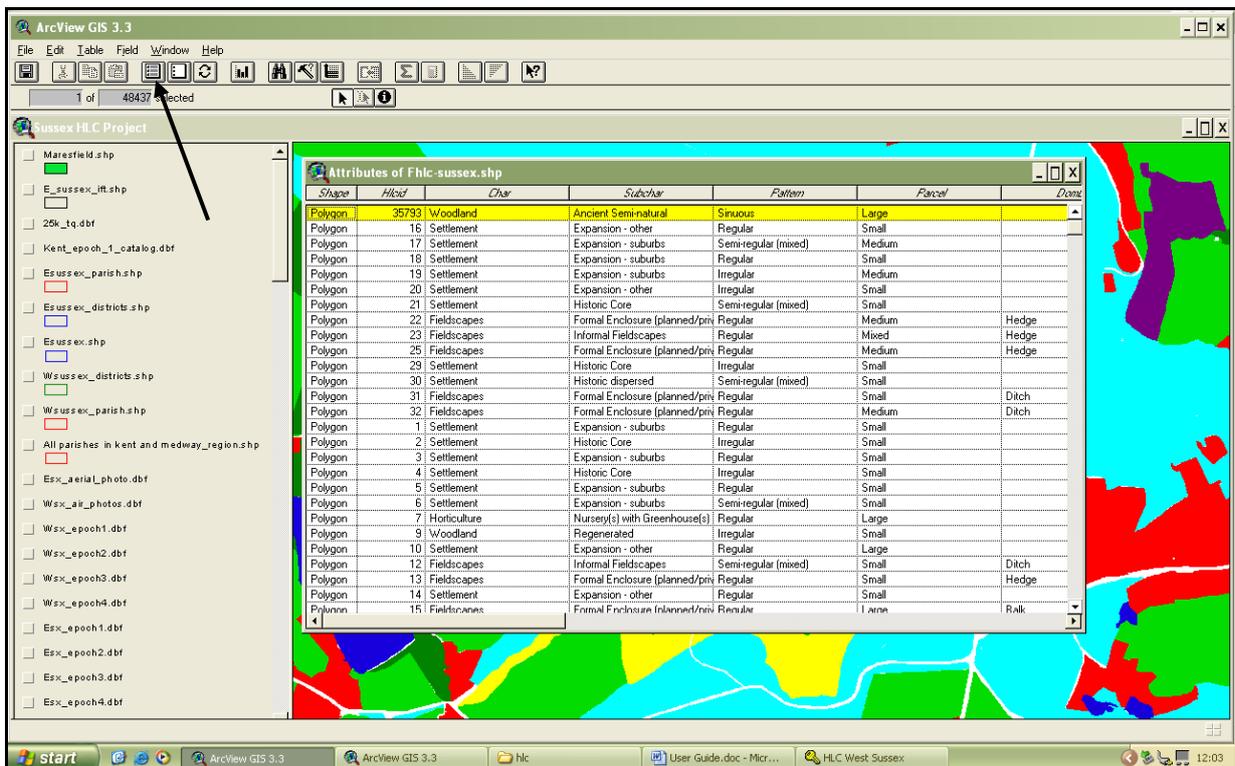


Figure 29. *How the HLC data appears in the table of Attributes in ArcView. The highlighted line is the polygon just 'captured'.*

It is also possible to view the HLC attribute data within the ArcView Project by highlighting the 'Table' button. [Figure 29. above].

3.4. Historic Landscape Characterisation of past land use in the landscape

Historic Landscape Characterisation describes how the present-day landscape appears based on key historic attributes and for many early HLCs this was the only characterisation undertaken with past land use implicit in the characterisation process, for example Hampshire and Kent. However for some of the later HLCs such as Surrey, Buckinghamshire and Isle of Wight additional attributes were included which described past land use for example where a 19th century brickworks has now been developed to a suburban estate or a medieval deer park to a post-medieval designed landscape.

As already stated, the Sussex HLC describes the present historic landscape, and this forms the main part of the data base. However for some landscapes and areas, where the information on changes in land use was available from the key sources, the previous historic landscape character has been identified. These are termed the *HLC Prev-layers*, and follow the same characterisation process as for the present day view/layer; namely HLC Broad type, Sub-type and 'interpretation of character'. To view these in ArcView an Access query link has to be created or a hot-link between the ArcView project and the Access database. Readers should check with the relevant editions of the ArcView and Access Technical Manuals for the details for this procedure. Approximately half of the Sussex HLC polygons have at least one previous land use characterisation layer. [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation. Vol IV – Atlas of Maps 37-48].

So for the example of Ashdown Forest, an area to the south of the gill woodland has several periods of land use change as identified by key map sources. [Figure 30. below].

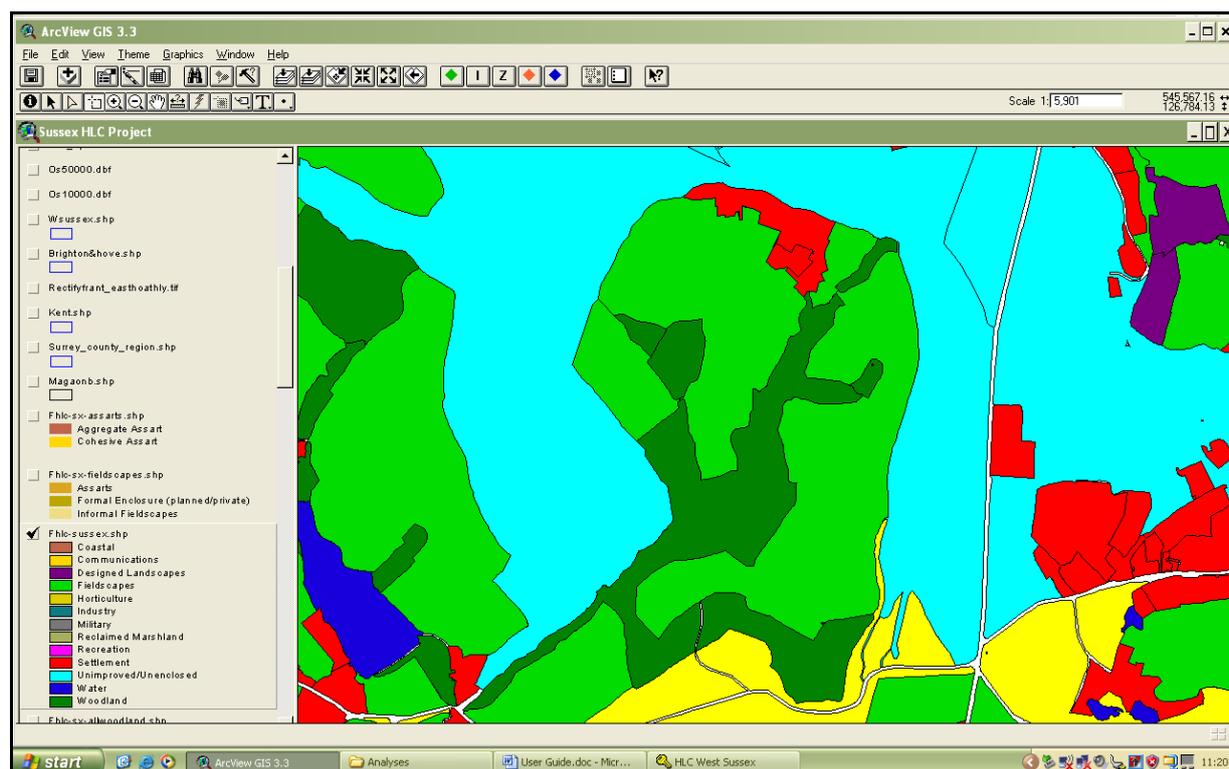


Figure 30. A highlighted polygon with several periods of landscape change as identified from the key sources

Figure 31 is an extract from the Access data base window showing the polygon with its previous land use and thus historic characterisation [*HLC-prev*] layers at the bottom. The previous HLC layers, record previous Broad Type, Sub-type and Interpretation of Character, together with period of change, sources used and degree of confidence of the interpretation. There can be potentially up to seven previous layers depending on the number of periods of land use change and the evidence base. So

for this area of wooded common, two layers are entered showing when the heath gradually became covered in trees. These layers are queried in Access [or in ArcView using a Select-Query-link [SQL] command – See Technical Manuals for details]. Future historic landscape research (landscape survey, documentary and archaeological) can be used to build on the detail in these layers.

The screenshot shows the Access database window for 'hlc'. The main form contains the following fields and controls:

- hlcID:** 35792
- Dom External:** Sinuous
- Sec External:** n/a
- Ext Boundary:** other fields/hedges, Settlement edge, Woodland gyhil, Woodland other
- Character Features:** extraction pits, Ponds, *
- Names:** n/a, *
- Main Period:** Late 20th century (AD 1845- Present)
- Confidence:** Certain
- Source(s):** OS MasterMap, Air Photographs, *
- Notes:** edge of Ashdown Forest around Fairwarp
- hlc_prev:** A table with columns: Source, ChangePeriod, Confidence, Broad hlc, Sub hlc, Interpretation.

Source	ChangePeriod	Confidence	Broad hlc	Sub hlc	Interpretation
OS Epochs 4	Early 20th century (AD 1914- AD 1945)	Probable	Unimproved/Unencl	Heath	
OS Epochs 3	Early Modern (AD 1800- AD 1913)	Certain	Unimproved/Unencl	Heath	

Record: 1 of 2

Record: 1 of 1 (Filtered)

Figure 31. *Enlarged version of the Access database window illustrating under the hlc_prev two previous layers*

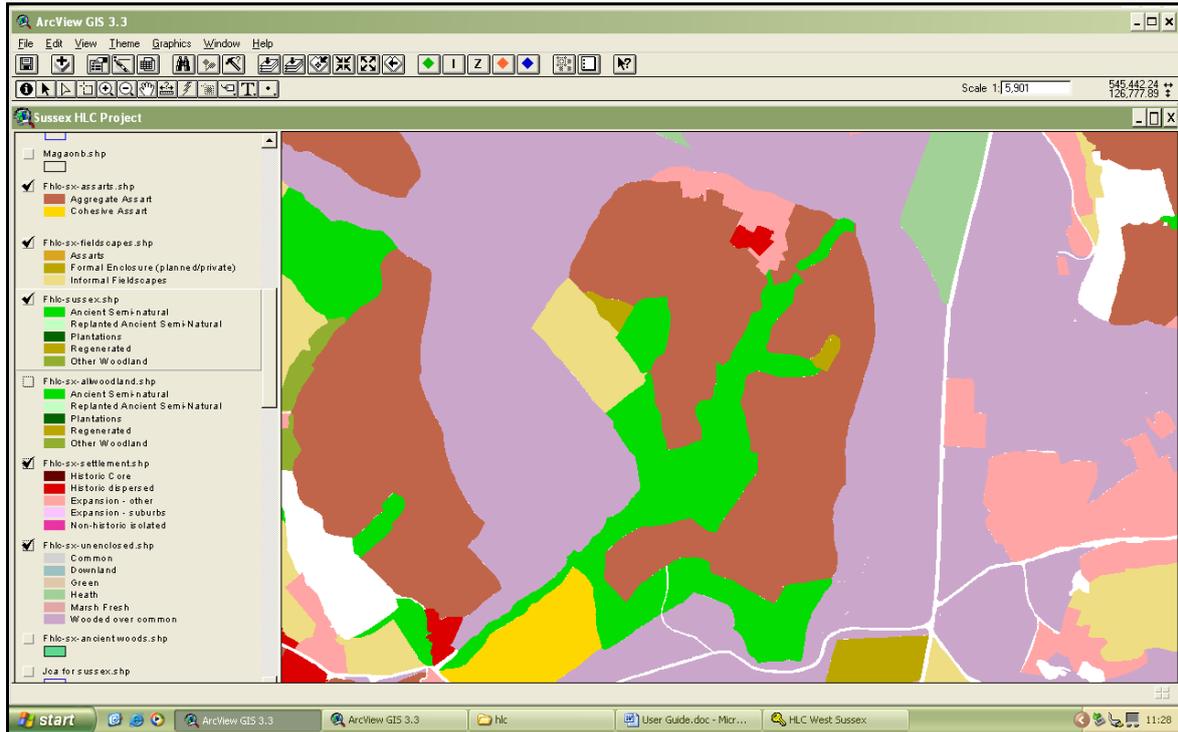
3.5. Viewing HLC Types, Sub types and Interpretation of Character

The most simple and often used themed views of the HLC data are the HLC broad types, sub-types and 'interpretation of character' fields. All the previous screen clips show the HLC by its broad types, of Fieldscapes, Woodland etc. However by changing the legend it is possible to view by sub-types etc. and to create new legends with different colours.

The Sussex Atlas of maps for the whole of the county does show examples of these for each of the HLC Broad types. The 'iconic map' for the Sussex HLC is built up from a mixture of layers of broad types, sub-types and 'interpretation' of character keys, according to which appeared most useful in portraying the historic character of Sussex at the county scale. [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III – Atlas of Maps Map 1.].

This same method can also be undertaken for the 'interpretation of character' type. Due to the detail in data capture this level of characterisation is best viewed for smaller areas rather than the whole county or by splitting and making new themes of each of the HLC types. [See below 3.6. & 3.7 below].

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KEY

	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland
	Regenerated Woodland
	Historic dispersed Settlement
	Expansion other
	Wooded over common
	Informal Fields
	Assart fields

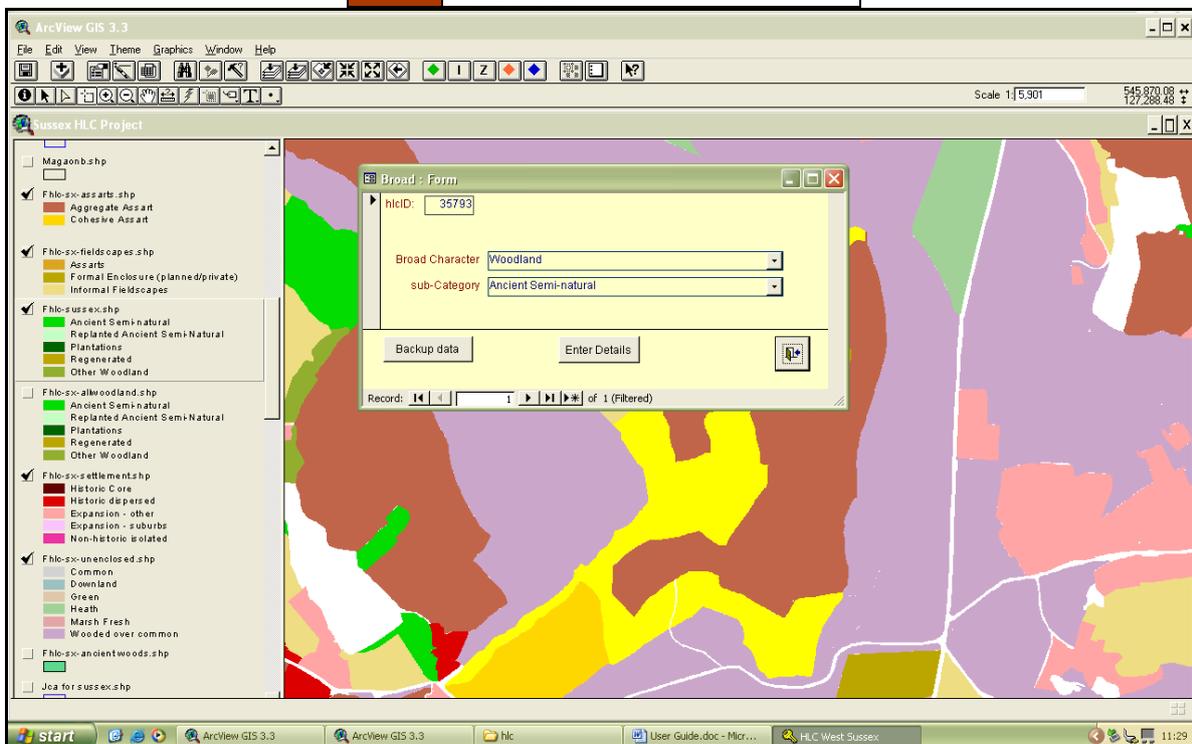


Figure 32. *The two screen extracts show the area of Ashdown Forest by HLC sub-type, with the lower image showing the Sub-Type of the polygon highlighted yellow.*

3.6. Viewing the HLC by themes based on its main Broad type and Sub-type

Instead of showing the whole HLC at once for all types, it is possible to produce themes based on the individual HLC Broad types and Sub-types. These form the basis of the main analyses in section 4.1. of the Volume II - The Interpretation, and the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III - Atlas of Maps. Firstly, the HLC is switched on in the ArcView project window and then using the Query Button the relevant HLC type is selected and a new set of data created as a copy from the original which can then be saved as a .shp file and shown as a new theme in the project window. By querying the legend the 'sub-types' and 'interpretation of character' can be switched on.

Examples in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III - Atlas of Maps include the breakdown of field types, into 'Assart', 'Informal' and 'Planned Fields'. In turn these can be then queried in the same way and split to view by 'Interpretation of Character' for each sub-type, where this has been recorded. [Maps 3-9 in Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation - Vol. III Atlas of Maps].

3.7. Viewing/querying by other HLC attributes

It is also possible to query the data by the other attributes listed in the data set, for example by the pattern of the enclosures the types and sub-types [*Pattern* in the ArcView Attribute Table and Map 8 in Vol. III – Atlas of Maps], for example whether they are regular, semi-regular, irregular or no pattern. See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. V - Appendix II for a full list of the attributes and their definitions.

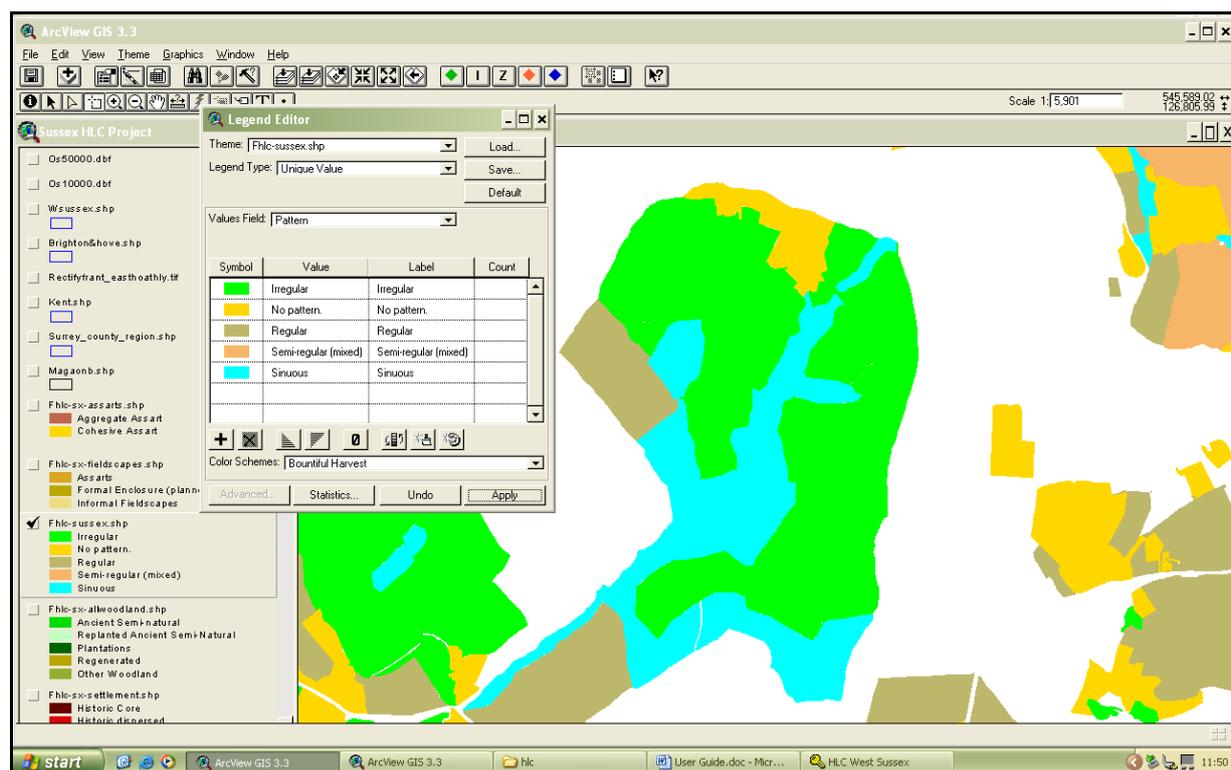


Figure 33. A view of the Ashdown Enclosure showing those polygons with a 'pattern' attribute attached.

A frequently used HLC attribute is the period of origin of each of the polygons for the present historic landscape. This is the approximate time in which the character of any given polygon originated; whether that is of the present day (such as motorway junctions) or prehistory (such as hillforts). [See Map 28 in Vol. III – Atlas of Maps].

It is then possible to query each period, create a new theme by period and then analyse by other attributes such as sub-types and 'interpretation of character'. This enables a more detailed presentation and understanding of the key processes shaping the present day historic character and from which period, [Maps 29-36 in Vol. III – Atlas of Maps].

The maps in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III - Atlas of Maps have been produced following the methods described above to produce an initial analysis of the Sussex HLC data. As noted there are innumerable ways of looking at the HLC data. However it is important to be clear about the questions being asked of it, and what HLC attributes to use. It is also important to be systematic in the approach to querying the data, labeling and dating each new theme in the properties menu in the ArcView project window.

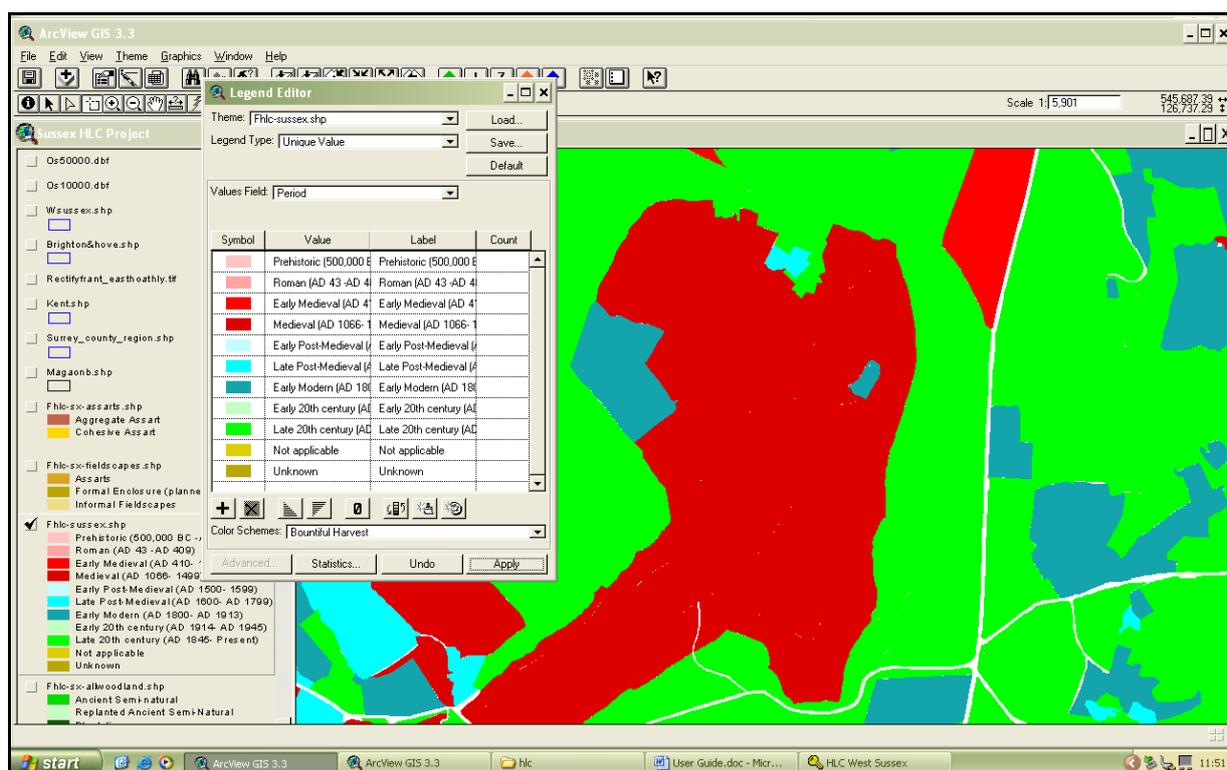


Figure 34. *The Ashdown area by period of origin of present day character. The main central area is essentially medieval, however the surrounding heathland because it has become wooded over in the 20th century is shown as modern.*

3.8. Viewing the HLC by selected areas

In addition to creating new sub-themes from the main HLC layer for the whole of the county it is also possible to copy and cut out sections of the HLC and create new themes, using other polygon data sets as the defining boundary of the area to be cut. [See the River Valley analysis in Section 2.2. of this volume]. This method comes under the ArcView Geoprocessing extension and uses the intersection commands in ArcView. It is a useful tool when looking at, for example individual parishes. This data can then be queried in similar ways as to that explained above, but the data sets are more manageable. However, when this intersection command is used in the ArcView project not all the data from the Access database is automatically transferred across. The previous land use layers [HLC-Prev] layers are not included and have to be queried either in Access or by setting up an SQL [Select Query Link] and hot-link between the ArcView Attribute Tables and Access HLC Tables. This is advanced GIS working and needs an experienced practitioner to work out the commands. Readers are also asked to check with the relevant ArcView Programme and Access Technical

Manuals for help. For an example of selection and querying of the present HLC data such as by parishes see Section 4.4 in Volume II - Interpretation and Maps 54-102 in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. III - Atlas of Maps.

3.9. Conclusions

This User Guide has presented a few approaches of what can be achieved by extracting and presenting data from the Sussex HLC. However there are numerous other ways that HLC can be used to inform a range of planning assessments and strategies. It provides the broad contextual basis for the historic environment at a wide range of levels from the former Regional Spatial Strategies to Local Development Frameworks. HLC can contribute to and work alongside Landscape Character Assessments and Landscape Strategies, providing the time depth and historic context for the present landscape. It can also contribute to understanding and identifying areas of special landscape value which act as buffers to the AONBs. In this context HLC has shown that the Low Weald instead of retaining few historic landscapes, is actually a landscape which retains large tracts of its early medieval origins in the form of settlement, field patterns and woods linked by routeways with their origins in much earlier times.

English Heritage drew on the Sussex HLC when preparing their evidence-based case for the review of the proposed South Downs National Park boundaries in 2007; it was used as the back-drop for further research into evidence for the links between the South Downs and the Western Low Weald.

As already stated Historic Landscape Characterisation is a landscape scale data set, which has a county coverage, and as such should be used at the landscape level. However it can provide the historic landscape context for specific and larger scale development at the initial assessment stage. HLC can provide the historic dimension to Environmental Impact Assessments by identifying the main historic processes which have shaped the landscape in question, and guide future work on the heritage assessment. As it is a landscape-wide data-set HLC can guide and mitigate minerals and waste disposal proposals. It can also be used to inform Conservation Area Appraisals, which could be expanded to provide the historic settlement context in particular to the survival of historic field patterns, such as burgage plots. [However the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey has looked at much of this in-depth for the towns of Sussex]. HLC can also provide the visual context for why historic settlements occur where they do and how they have shaped the surrounding landscape. It can also contribute to Parish Plans and Village Design Statements. However those using HLC should take guidance on how to interpret what is presented and also how to 'ask the most appropriate questions' of the data set.

HLC can also be used in sensitivity and capacity modelling the results of which can feed into strategic planning, and also be used to assess particular development proposals. HLC can also be used at the landscape scale to predict the archaeological potential of both above and below ground together with survival of features. This can aid both at strategic and development control levels which can then assist in the better design of the appraisal process and subsequent mitigation works.

The strengths of HLC have been demonstrated when using it as part of drawing up guidance on landscape management as part of Environmental Stewardship – in particular High Level Entries. The HLC provides the historic landscape context for the Farm Environment Plan. However if those using the data set are not converse with or do not fully appreciate the implications of historic events, processes and features, subtleties in the historic character can be missed. For example, recognizing former open field and furlong boundaries in planned field systems, where they are now either hedges or just grassy balks. A historic landscape survey of Ashdown Forest has been undertaken as part of a Higher Level Stewardship application by the Ashdown Conservators to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. HER data and traditional map-regression, use of aerial photographs etc. were used to identify and map historic features in selected areas of the Forest. A comparison between the results

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of the traditional historic landscape survey, the Sussex HLC together with results from a LiDAR survey will provide information on the effectiveness of the approaches. The time-depth element of HLC identifies areas which had formerly been heathland but recently enclosed to fields, and woodland.

HLC can also be used at an ecologically strategic level, to guide the resourcing of agri-environment work, for example identifying fieldscape types that would most benefit from field boundary work in areas where they have been 'eroded' by intensive modern land management. This approach to targeting can be developed for identifying areas for arable reversion, for example on the South Downs and in areas of former heaths and commons in the Greensand Hills in West Sussex. HLC provides information on the nature and character of woodland across Sussex and can be used to model where woodland restoration and new planting could take place. Management guidelines that ensure that historic legibility of key patterns in the woodland / open land relationship is maintained could be drawn up.

At present the main use of HLC in Environmental Stewardship is providing the back-drop to the HER but it could be used in a more in-depth way combined with rapid site visit and archive research to enhance the FEP with regard to heritage features in the landscape. A process of enhancement of the heritage element of FEPs has been piloted in Kent whereby the HLC is used as the starting point for identifying in more detail historic events and processes, which can then aid in identifying heritage features surviving in the landscape.²⁴ A possible way of using HLC is to look at the historic character of the whole farm holding and assess the historic character in terms of rarity, significance, typicality etc. together with any data from the HER. This information could then form part of the Farm Environment Plan as part of Higher Level Stewardship.

HLC can also be used in the same way by the Forestry Commission [FC] as part of the identification of heritage assets as part of their England Woodland Grant Scheme. How far FC use this information is currently not known but probably very little at present unless it forms part of the HER supplied to woodland owners. HLC can provide the landscape context for specific woods and possibly also help to predict the type and range of heritage features likely to survive in any particular wood. HLC may also be used to consider whether the proposed planting fits in with the grain of the historic landscape – whether it obscures legibility of assart type woodland for example. The HLC by providing the historic landscape context for any given area of wood can be used to improve design of the new planting including boundary treatments whether straight or sinuous depending on the historic character, or balance of broadleaf and conifer.

A further key use for HLC is in strategic planning in association with Landscape Character Areas and other landscape scale approaches to show how dynamic landscape is, how it has changed and those processes of change. There is a need to inform planning process of the historic perspective of landscape, its context and how it has evolved, through what processes.

The Sussex HLC is a powerful tool for providing the starting point for research into the historic landscape of the historic county. The initial analyses have shown patterns and trends in the sub-types and attributes [Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. II – Interpretation] which, providing the right questions are asked in the full understanding of the HLC data, new lines of enquiry using more detailed field observation and archive research can be followed. It can also be used at all levels of research from that of the interested local historian researching their local patch to academics, pushing at the frontiers of understanding the historic environment. Historic Landscape Characterisation was one of the research tools discussed in the South East Archaeology Research

²⁴ Bannister N.R. 2008b. *Historic Environment Assessments of Paddlesworth Farm, Ringshill Farm, and Birling Place Estate, in Medway Valley*. For Kent Wildlife Trust on behalf of Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership and Kent County Council; Bannister, N.R. 2009b. *Historic Environment Assessments of Kent County Council; Country Parks*. For Heritage Section, Kent County Council.

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Framework [SERF] – Historic Landscapes Theme Paper and is recommended as a starting point for initiating research and feeding into the other SERF Themes.²⁵

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²⁵ http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/heritage/south_east_research_framework.aspx

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TABLE 2. Summary of Historic Landscape Character Broad Types with the Attribute fields for the database [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. V - Appendix II.]

Attributes	Options	Field scapes	Woodland	Horticultur e	Unimprove d/Unenclos ed	Settlement	Reclaimed Marsh	Coastal	Industry	Designed	Military	Communic ations	Water	Recreation
1. UID	Sequential number	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. HLC Broad Type	[as column headings]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. HLC Sub-category	[see text]													
<u>Morphology</u> 4. General Pattern - 1	Regular, Semi-regular, Irregular, Sinuous, no pattern	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5. Parcel Size - 1	Small, medium, large, very large, mixed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
6. Boundary Type > 1	Hedge, Wooded hedge, fence, ditch, balk	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
7. Dominant External Boundary - 1	Straight, sinuous, curved, S-curve, erratic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
9. Secondary External Boundary - 1	Ditto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
10. Dominant Internal Boundary - 1	Ditto	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
11. Secondary Internal Boundary - 1	Ditto	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

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TABLE 2 continued

Attributes	Options	Field scapes	Woodland	Horticulture	Unenclosed	Settlement	Reclaimed Marsh	Coastal	Industry	Designed	Military	Communicat ions	Water	Recreation
12. % Internal boundary change - 1	None, 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-99%, 100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
13. External Boundary Characteristics > 1	Settlement edge, Road, railway, canal, water-course, woodland, dog-leg, coast	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14. Internal Boundary Characteristics > 1	Ditto	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
15. Active/inactive - 1	Active, Inactive, unknown	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<u>CHRONOLOGY</u> 16. Characteristic features of past and present processes > 1	[Extant features in landscape]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
17. Place Names > 1	[See full list in text]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18. Date - 1	[See full list in text]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19. Interpretation of character type - 1	[list changes with each BHLC type]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

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TABLE 2 continued

Attributes	Options	Field scapes	Woodland	Horticulture	Unenclosed	Settlement	Reclaimed Marsh	Coastal	Industry	Designed	Military	Communicat ions	Water	Recreation
20. Confidence - 1	Certain, probable, possible, speculative	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21. Sources > 1	OS Mastermap, OS 1 st , 2 nd 3 rd Epoch, Yeakell, other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
22. Notes	Free text field	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
23. Previous character	HLC Broad Type Interpretation of character type Date, Confidence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24. Previous character	HLC Broad Type Interpretation of character type Date, Confidence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25. Previous Character	HLC Broad Type Interpretation of character type Date, Confidence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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TABLE 2 continued

Attributes	Options	Field scapes	Woodland	Horticulture	Unenclosed	Settlement	Reclaimed Marsh	Coastal	Industry	Designed	Military	Communications	Water	Recreation
25. Repeated however many number of times that a landscape change has occurred in the key sources	HLC Broad Type Interpretation of character type Date, Confidence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Table 3 : List of Analyses already completed from Sussex HLC data.

Name of Analysis	Client/Owner	.shp	.bmp/ .jpg	Descriptive Text	Feedback
Districts -					
Adur	WSCC/DC/Baker Associates	yes		yes	no
Arun	WSCC/DC/Hankinson Duckett	yes		yes	no
Brighton & Hove	UA	yes		yes	no
Horsham	WSCC/DC	yes		yes	no
Mid-Sussex landscape character	WSCC/DC	yes	yes	yes	Report*
Mid-Sussex sensitivity analysis	Hankinson Duckett	yes	yes	yes	no
Lewes	DC	yes		no	no
Specific places / Areas					
East Grinstead ¹	Barton Wilmore	yes		yes	no
Bolnore	Rob Macphail	yes		no	no
Potential Meadows	HW AONB	yes		yes	no
West Weald Landscape ¹	SxWT	yes	yes	yes	Yes + report
Sussex Wood Pasture & Historic Parkland	Sussex Biological Records	yes	yes	yes	no
Coastal Plain	WSCC/Hankinson Duckett/Landuse Consultants	yes		no	no
Chichester **	WSCC/DC/Hankinson Duckett	yes		no	no
Greylingwell Hospital	EH	yes		no	Report
West Sussex Farmsteads	EH/HW AONB	yes		no	Report
SERF	KCC	yes	yes	yes in draft still	Awaiting publication
South Downs Public Inquiry	EH	yes	yes	yes	Yes EH Topic paper 3
Parkscapes in the High Weald ²	High Weald AONB	yes	yes	yes	yes
Weald Forest Ridge/Historic Environment Awareness Project	ESCC/High weald AONB	yes	yes	No. Map for EH PD	yes
Sussex River Valleys Project	Sussex Wildlife Trust	yes	yes	yes – in progress	yes – in progress
SE Wood pasture and historic parkland provisional inventory	Natural England	yes	yes	In progress	

* = received a copy of the report

** = .shp lost from old laptop – check back-ups at Chichester

¹ = Included part of Surrey HLC

² = Included part of the Kent HLC

GLOSSARY

Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation - User Terminology

Access - The data program which stores the HLC attribute data in the GIS programme.

Attributes - The key features which define any given HLC polygon and listed in the data table (Access) which 'sits-behind' any given polygon. Sometimes referred to as historic attributes.

Coarse grained / fine grained – refers to the detail of data capture as reflected in the density of HLC polygons.

Data Table - The means of storing in GIS the attributes for any given HLC polygon.

HLC - Historic Landscape Characterisation.

HLC Type – the different levels of characterisation.

Broad Type - Lowest or most simplified level of Sussex HLC characterisation e.g. *Fieldscape*.

Sub-type - Middle level of Sussex HLC characterisation e.g. *Formal Enclosure*.

'Interpretation of character' - Highest or most detailed level of the Sussex HLC. characterisation e.g. *Planned enclosure*.

HLC-prev.- The previous historic landscape character of an HLC polygon, where known.

'holes' – These are gaps in the HLC coverage. HLC only captures areas. Linear features such as railways, roads, rivers, paths are not digitised except where there they are associated with other features such as railway stations, motorway service stations, and wide verges or shaws to drove roads.

OS Mastermap - The Ordnance Survey base map (frozen at 2001) which was used as the base map for the HLC.

Polygon - Individual unit of the HLC. Comprises amalgamated OS Master map polygons.

Prairie Fields - a term used in earlier HLCs which referred to field systems which had lost many of their internal boundaries through hedgerow removal in the 20th century. Now the process is called modern field amalgamation as boundary removal often began in the early modern period (19th century) and the word 'prairie' can be controversial.

Theme - A mapped layer analysed from the full HLC based on any number of selected attributes in the data table.

Time-depth - The visible or known antiquity of present landscape. For any given area of the landscape there may be multiple landuses over time for the same piece of land (which is defined in HLC as a polygon). It is this multiple use through time which contributes to the Time-depth for any given part of the historic landscape. Evidence for this time-depth can be visible within the landscape as heritage features, form and structure, it can be physically buried below ground level or it can be identified through maps, records and archives.

For full descriptions of Attributes and periods see Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. V. - Appendix II.

Historic Landscape and Archaeology Terminology

Acculturation – to acquire new techniques through assimilation of different cultures.

Ancient Semi-natural Woodland [ASN] – woodland that has been under continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.

Assart - To clear land from woodland, wood pasture or heath to create clearings for cultivation. These are then enclosed by hedges created/ left from the adjacent woodland or new planted.

Assart Woodland - The pieces of much once much larger woods which are left after clearings have been made from them and enclosed into fields.

Brook Innings – The enclosure or innings of marshlands and alluvial flood plains to create water meadows and valley meadows or 'brooks' in the main river valleys e.g. the Amberley Brooks which are remnants of unenclosed meadows.

Caput estates – focal centres of settlement not always villa regalis (royal centres) of the early medieval period.

Enclosure – the result or consequence of enclosing (inclosing) - to surround or fence in land especially of common land.

Furlong – main division of an open field, a group of selions or cultivated strips of the same length.

Gill [Ghyll] Woodland – Gills are steep narrow valleys in the High Weald with fast flowing streams in winter; the valleys support a species-rich ancient woodland with rare bryophytes.

Hide - A hide was originally the amount of land that could be ploughed by one oxen and keep a family for a year.

High Forest – a continental form of forestry management of woodland with all trees allowed to grow to mature timber trees with no coppicing.

Inclosure - variation of Enclosure.

Innings – the enclosure of alluvial flood plains and salt marshes to create fields and meadows by ditching and draining. Derived from the Old English *inning* meaning to enclose.

PAWS – Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, a woodland type recognised by the Forestry Commission and one targeted for reversion to broad-leafed woodland.

Shaw - Either a narrow strip of woodland dividing two fields commonly found in the Weald or a small woodland, usually named as such in the 19th century, also found in Weald. Sometimes called a rew.

Tenantry commons – The open grazing pastures on the top of the chalk downs, which belonged to the manors at the foot of the downs escarpement.

Virgate – a quarter of a hide.

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Yokes - A 'yoke' (in Kent) or 'wista' (in Sussex) is a medieval measure of land equivalent to a virgate or quarter of a hide approximating to about 15 to 60 acres depending on the quality of the soil. A hide was originally the amount of land that could be ploughed by one oxen and keep a family for a year.