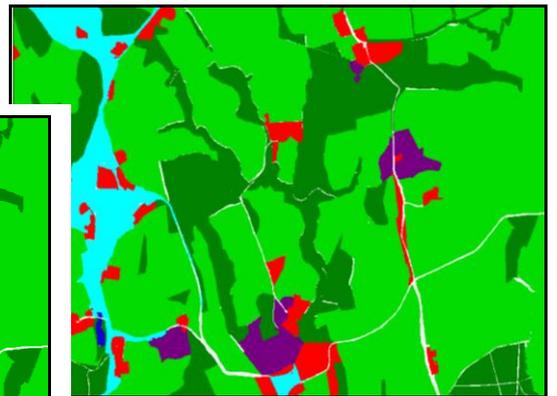

SUSSEX HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION



VOLUME II - INTERPRETATION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

West Sussex County Council

East Sussex County Council

Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority

English Heritage

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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.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUSSEX HLC

In May 2003 West Sussex County Council in partnership with East Sussex County Council, and English Heritage, (supported by Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority, the then South Downs Conservation Board and the High Weald AONB Unit) commissioned a Historic Landscape Characterisation of the historic county of Sussex. The characterisation forms part of an England-wide project being co-ordinated and championed by English Heritage. The Project Design was prepared by Chris Blandford Associates following the Project Design Template produced by English Heritage¹. The complexity of the data capture meant that the project ran until 2007 with the final reports produced in August 2010.

The Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation [HLC] is part of an integrated programme of landscape characterisation work being undertaken in West Sussex. This characterisation programme is a partnership venture between the county council and the districts. For a number of these landscape character assessments, information from the Sussex HLC has been fed into the characterisations and assessments providing a more in-depth analysis of the historic context of the present landscape, for example for the Mid Sussex District.²

In conjunction with the Sussex HLC, an Extensive Urban Survey [EUS] of the principal towns and villages in both East and West Sussex has been completed.³ The Sussex HLC has characterised the historic context of the urban settlement but not to the depth of understanding and detail as set out in the EUS. However, the Sussex HLC does provide information on the past historic landscape character of individual towns and villages, where the past land use was known from the selected sources used in the characterisation process. This is particularly relevant for the suburban areas of the townscapes. Both GIS products can be used together, [See Section 2.6. in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume I - User Guide].

1.1. What is Historic Landscape Characterisation

Historic Landscape Characterisation is based on an observational approach to looking at the surface of the present landscape and characterizing the predominant historic character within that. The method is both descriptive and also transparent but it is based on informed interpretations by the HLC Project Officer, using selected information from key data sets and historic maps.

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 is 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 [HLCAs]. For an explanation on HLCAs see Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume II – Interpretation, Section 4.3.

The Sussex HLC provides an understanding of the historical and cultural origin's of today's landscape and the processes of land use change which have shaped it, as a model of change, which can be tested and interpreted through a desk-based programme of GIS mapping, data collection, analysis and interpretation. The Sussex HLC identifies the mapped remains of land use at the landscape

¹ Fairclough, G. (2002) Template for Project Design. Historic Landscape Characterisation. English Heritage. See also <http://www.english-heritage/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation>
Chris Blandford Associates 2003. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation. Project Design.

² Mid Sussex District Council 2005. A Landscape Character Assessment for Mid Sussex. 1 vol. Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council. Section 2.45.

³ Harris R.B. 2004-2010. Extensive Urban Survey. Individual reports for 41 Towns in Sussex. For example - Roland B. Harris 2008. *Rotherfield. Historic Character Assessment Report*. Sussex Extensive Urban Survey. In association with Wealden District Council.

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scale [e.g. field boundary scale, field shapes, boundary types but not earthwork types], that demonstrate the many human activities that have formed the current landscape. It is a large scale characterisation which provides a broad-brush overview of the present day landscape and has involved no field work, being purely desk-based.

HLC could be likened to a “Domesday Survey” of East & West Sussex landscape frozen in 2005. It provides an interpretation of the historic landscape of Sussex in the early part of the 21st century based on map sources and selected archive data covering the previous two and half centuries.

HLC has as its starting point the modern landscape, and ‘captures’ the historic character using modern maps. This is an advantage in interpretation as the modern landscape can be relatively easily recognized and understood. However the boundaries that HLC uses and defines with its polygons are therefore also modern. Historic boundaries, such as manorial, farmstead curtilages etc. still remain ‘hidden’ in the landscape unless they also coincide with or contribute to changes in historic character as seen in the present landscape. Boundaries which are not mapped on the modern map also remain ‘hidden’ within HLC. A weakness of the mapping procedure is that groups of fields are unionised to create the larger hlc polygons, thus HLC layer should be viewed together with the historic mapping layer as well, in order to fully appreciate field pattern and boundary changes.

As with all landscape characterisations the Sussex HLC should be viewed at an appropriate small scale – county, district, parish, major land holding and groups of fields etc. However it should not be viewed or focused on site specific issues, other than providing a wider historic landscape character context for any given site or combination of sites. This is because county-wide maps and landscape scale data sets were used in the characterisation process and not detailed site by site archive research. HLC does, however provide a stepping-stone or first stage in researching a specific site, group of heritage features, or are of the Sussex landscape. Typically, the HLC will be consulted and considered early on in deliberations over change, and will normally act as stimulus, context and framework for the consideration of other material that is usually confined to particular assets or places, such as the sites and buildings recorded and interpreted within HERs. [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume I – User Guide for examples of its use in Sussex].

The Sussex HLC is not ‘cast in stone’; it has the potential to be updated in the light of further research and in response to change in the landscape itself. It is meant as a guidance tool to inform further landscape survey and analysis and to place other data sets such as the HER within the historic landscape context.

The creation of an HLC, like that for Sussex, and then its application in a range of arenas is underpinned by the following set of principles.⁴

- **Deals with the present-day landscape, not the past.** This is because HLC is designed to serve as a tool to guide future management of the landscape, which is itself regarded as the product of history as much as geography. So, while dealing with the present landscape it focuses attention on its time-depth, the survival within it of historic fabric and character, of former change.
- **It deals with areas rather than sites or point data.**
- **It deals even-handedly with all aspects of the landscape,** not just ‘special’ areas, recognising that all can be managed appropriately if understood.
- **It includes semi-natural features,** such as woodland, rough ground etc, recognising that biodiversity is a cultural phenomenon in Britain, where all land is affected by peoples’ actions.

⁴ Developed from those in Clark, Darlington & Fairclough 2004, *Using Historic Landscape Characterisation* English Heritage p6.

- **It recognises that landscape is a matter of perception (following the definition set out in the European Landscape Convention)⁵** and that characterisation is dependent on interpretation as much as 'fact'. [See Section 2.1. in this report].
- **HLC is a framework for all people to marshal their views** on interpretation and valuing rather than simply or only a vehicle for setting out expert views. On the other hand, the HLC is itself developed by an experienced historic environment practitioner familiar with the sources and peer-reviewed understanding of Sussex's landscape history.
- **HLC also recognises that landscape is the product of change and is dynamic.** It will continue to change and HLC is a tool to guide that change in a way that is reasonable or sustainable, in terms of effects on the inherited historic environment.
- **It is transparent in its selection of sources and in its interpretation** of the patterns found within them. This increases users' confidence in the material produced.
- **The aim is to produce material (maps, related databases and text) that are accessible and easy to use and understand.**
- **That material should also be integrated into other historic environment archives and records (e.g. HERs).**

1.2. Background to the Project

Sussex was one of the last counties in the South East Region to have an HLC undertaken. East Berkshire and the areas of Oxfordshire not covered by AONB designation have yet to be completed. Sussex followed on from Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, Buckinghamshire and the Isle of Wight, with West Berkshire and the Chilterns AONB being completed during the life of the Sussex HLC.

1.3. Aims of the Sussex HLC

The following are paraphrased from the Sussex HLC Project Design;⁶

- *Produce a GIS based characterisation of the project area's historic landscape; from which products either are or can be generated such as mapped GIS themed layers, reports, brochures etc. the results of which enable a new understanding of the Sussex Historic landscape.*
- *The GIS will be accessible, understandable and updateable.*

1.4. Reasons for undertaking the HLC Project

The following are paraphrased from the Sussex HLC Project Design;

- *Aid the on-going management of the landscape by;*
- *contributing to other landscape assessments,*
- *informing strategic and development control planning processes,*
- *informing character, heritage and land management objectives and guidelines*
- *enhancing the Historic Environment Records in the two counties*
- *aid research into the landscape of the county and region.⁷*

Sussex HLC is part of an on-going English Heritage programme of historic landscape characterisation with the aim to achieve a national coverage. So far over 85% of England has been covered as can be seen in Figure 1. with only a few parts of middle England left to be completed. Wales and Scotland have their own programme of characterisation in progress. The characterisation methodology has also been extended by English Heritage to cover seascapes and coastal margins. [See <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation/historic-seascape-character.>]

⁵ <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/>

⁶ Chris Blandford Associates 2003. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation. Project Design.

⁷ Ibid Section 3.0.

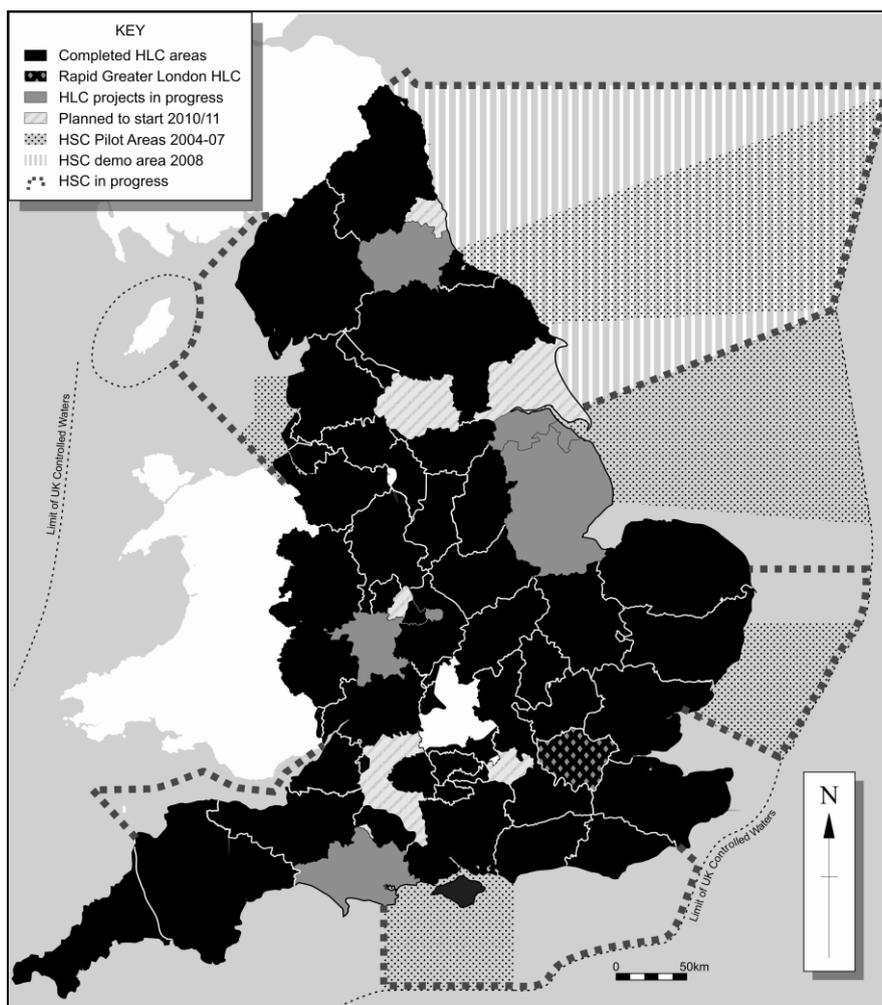


Figure 1. Coverage of completed HLCs in England February 2010. [English Heritage: Vince Griffin]

HLC provides another tool to help in understanding the historic environment and help in managing change in the landscape. It was seen by the commissioning bodies (East and West Sussex County Councils, Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority, and English Heritage) that HLC would assist them and other agencies in the county in managing change within the Sussex landscape through a broad range of areas.

The range of applications of HLC has been set out in a review by English Heritage that will be extended in a forthcoming guidance note on Characterisation and Spatial Planning⁸. This section sets out in general terms the range of anticipated applications, but it should be noted that as HLC is effectively a spatial representation of the present historic environment it has the potential to inform most work on Sussex's landscape.

1.4.1. Archaeological and historic environment research and management

HLC plays a key role in contributing towards archaeological and historic environment research at all levels. It provides the starting point in understanding the landscape context for more detailed archaeological research. Analysis of the HLC data also provides opportunities to integrate with other data sources and ask questions on landscape change over time. By being based on interpretation, and thus open to constructive debate, it is in effect a spatially organised landscape history research agenda and should be seen as a pool of research questions that can be pursued by either more fine-

⁸ Clark, Darlington & Fairclough 2004, *Using Historic Landscape Characterisation* English Heritage; English Heritage forthcoming

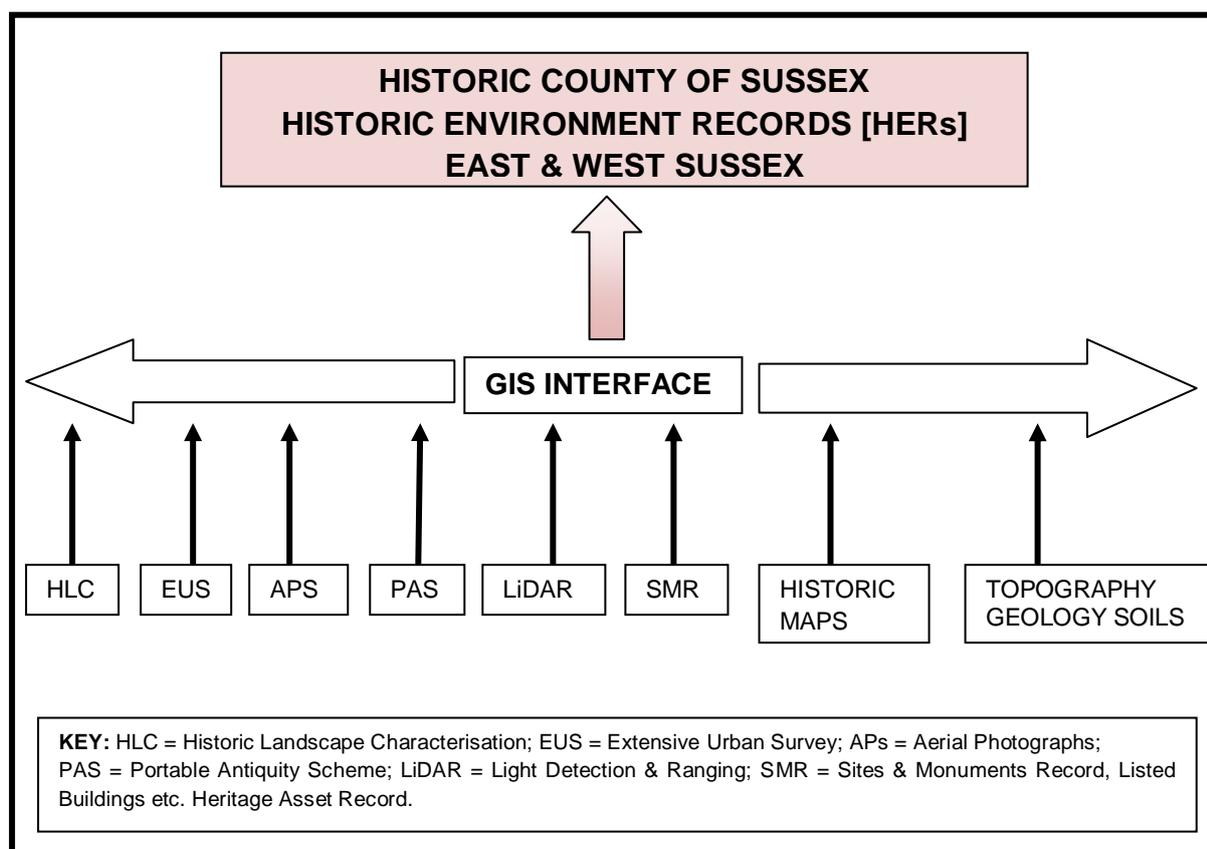
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grained characterisation or by other forms of historic landscape research. In addition, the HLC can be seen as a contextualising framework not just for the HER's point data, but for all archaeological and historic landscape research. [See South East Archaeology Research Framework on http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/heritage/south_east_research_framework.aspx]

a. Enhancement of the HER (formerly known as the SMR)

A key role of the HLC is to underpin and enhance the HER information for the two county councils and Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority and their archaeological officers. The HLC provides the historic landscape context for known sites and specific HER data. It also helps to postulate sites or heritage assets of archaeological potential, where heritage assets include their landscape scale significance.⁹

Figure 2. *Relationship of HERs and HLCs*



b. Creation of a South East Regional HLC

A synthesis of the South East counties HLCs will enable understanding at the regional level of the integrity of the historic landscape together with its significance, fragility and rarity. It is now possible to create a regionally integrated HLC data set for the counties which cover the Weald, South East Coastal Plain and part of the Thames Estuary. This has been an objective of the South East Archaeology Research Framework [SERF],¹⁰ where the HLCs for the four counties of Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex have been brought together, [See Figure 3].

Despite the SE being one of the most densely populated regions, the regional HLC does show a landscape of essentially a rural character, with areas of denser settlement concentrated along the

⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government. 2010. PPS 5: Planning and the Historic Environment. Annex 2

¹⁰ For the background to SERF and its themed papers see

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

coast, main river valleys and around the edge of London. It is now possible to extend this map to include the Isle of Wight, together with Hampshire, the Chilterns AONB and West Berkshire.

c. Integration with, and enhancement of, the Extensive Urban Survey [EUS]

The EUS programme for Sussex is now completed (March 2010) and can thus compliment and can be integrated with the Sussex HLC, as both are GIS based. [See Section 2.6. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. I – User Guide].

1.4.2. Development and Spatial Planning

HLC provides a broad-brush landscape context for informing the spatial planning decision making processes; at a County and District Level each of the county HLCs with the Local Development Frameworks. Whatever the extent of the area under consideration, and whatever the scale of the work, HLC can be tailored to help address issues of strategic capacity and sensitivity. English Heritage is currently preparing guidance on the use of HLC in such sensitivity modelling.

HLC can also help in the revision of Conservation Area Appraisals and Statements and Village Design Statements, with regard to the wider landscape setting of the historic built environment.

1.4.3. Informing Development Control

HLC is another tool to aid the county councils, unitary authority and district councils, especially through their archaeological officers, in their roles with development control. However the Sussex HLC should not be used in isolation but it forms part of larger HER 'tool-kit' of evidence such as information from record of heritage assets [formerly the SMR], the Ancient Woodland Inventory, Registered Historic Gardens & Parkland, Listed Buildings, aerial photographs, LiDAR surveys, Portable Antiquity Scheme etc. [See Figure 2]. Experience elsewhere in England shows that HLC can be used to predict the likelihood or otherwise of there being below-ground remains where the HERs currently do not have records. For example experience and historically informed modelling should allow HER officers to be able to predict where prehistoric settlement remains are more or less likely to exist below ground. Such modelling should inform the commissioning of archaeological appraisal and mitigation, as set out in PPS 5, *Planning in the historic environment*.

1.4.4. Land Management and Agri-environment schemes

It is hoped that the Sussex HLC will be a key tool in land management and guiding initiatives for restoration of traditional land management practices through for example the following;

- Developing stronger partnership working with other strands of environmental and landscape management through the sharing of historic landscape information and understanding and through using mapped and textual material (the HLC) that meshes well with partners' material, such as habitat mapping and landscape characterisation.
- Informing the strategy and routine work of any future HECAS (Historic Environment Countryside Advice Service) established in Sussex.
- Providing model management prescriptions for various types of historic landscape or their typical components. For example, suggesting preferred field boundary management for the different types of fieldscape in Sussex, or land use regimes for rough ground, commons and heaths.
- Informing the detail of historic environment policy and action planning embedded within AONB and National Park Management Plans
- Informing Agri-environmental schemes, especially through the targeting of particular HLC types and through the enhancement of the Farm Environment Plans currently required for Higher Level Environmental Stewardship (and any subsequent equivalents in any future agri-environmental initiatives). HLC can help advisers better consider the likely impact on both historic character and fabric of proposed capital works and changes in use. It can

also be used more proactively to suggest additional or alternative actions and land use that would benefit the historic environment.

- Informing woodland management including heathland and woodpasture recreation/restoration and creation. Providing background information to help assessment of location, scale and form of new plantings, e.g. through the consultation process for Woodland Grant Schemes.
- Developing new approaches to land and environmental management.¹¹
- Informing the development of Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) that seek to prepare SMART programmes of proactive historic environment management through the framework of HLC and with the support of a range of active partners.¹².

[See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume I – User Guide for some examples of these which have made use of HLC since its creation].

1.4.5. Landscape Assessments

The creation of the Sussex HLC was seen as an important part of the West Sussex Landscape Character Assessments, whereby the historic environment was integrated with the assessment process rather than used as a bolt-on section after the assessment was undertaken. HLC can be developed to identify Historic Landscape Character Areas which can then be integrated with Landscape Character Areas. [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume II Section 4.3. for the Sussex Historic Landscape Character Areas].

At its most basic level, the HLC informs all those interested in landscape character or the natural environment that all landscape in Britain is fundamentally historic. All has been transformed, named, owned and made cultural by the ever-changing activities of people. To understand and effectively characterise and manage landscape requires appreciation of the nature, depth and extent of the transformations that people have subjected landscape to.

In practical terms, the HLC can be used to help those engaged in landscape character assessment more critically query the boundaries between LCA Areas. It can help make any textual material attached to LCA mapping more culturally rounded by including a better appreciation of historic development and how much the continued legibility of the past contributes to the present-day character of places. It can then be used to better inform those designing policy based on landscape character of the relative dynamism of places, the degree to which they have been characterised in recent times by either change or continuity.

¹¹ Chris Blandford Associates 2003 p16.

¹² Clark, Darlington & Fairclough 2004, *Using Historic Landscape Characterisation* English Heritage, 53-4

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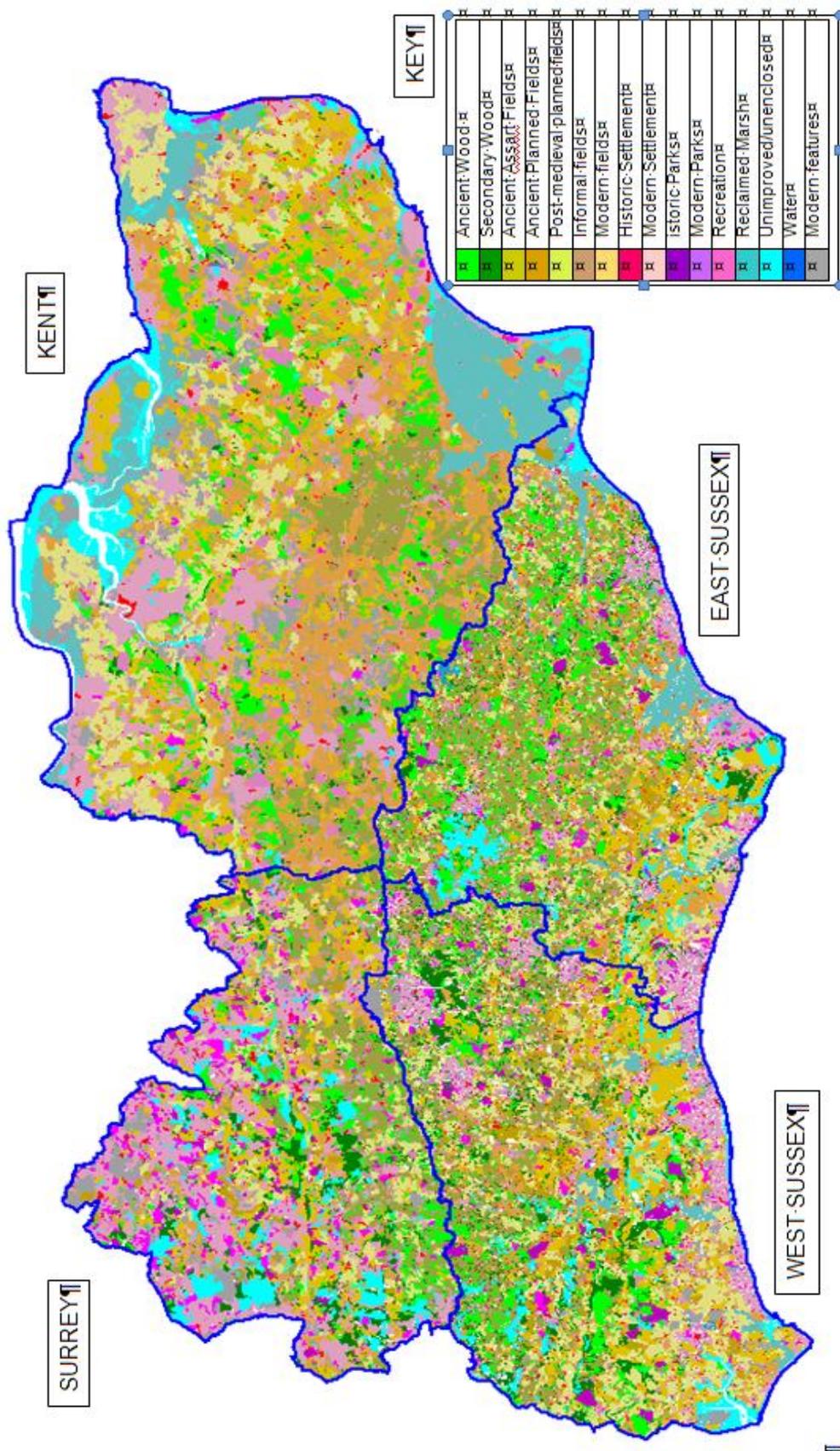


Figure 3. A Regional Map of the four counties which make up the SERF area, showing their historic landscape character by a combination of broad and sub-type. [Copyright © Kent County Council, Surrey County Council, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council]

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUSSEX HLC PROJECT AREA

The Sussex HLC encompasses the whole of the historic county of Sussex from the Kent and Surrey borders west to Hampshire. The English Channel defines the southern boundary of the county. Sussex encompasses the southern and western parts of the Wealden South East. The Weald has been identified by Brandon as being an area which includes and is framed by the chalk hills of North and South Downs.¹³ Beyond the Weald to the south and east are the Coastal Plains of Kent and Sussex, whilst to the north is the Thames Valley which forms the northern edge of Surrey and Kent. All the neighbouring counties in the South East had completed HLCs prior to the commencement of the Sussex HLC and one of the objectives of this project was to 'knit together' Sussex with the existing HLCs wherever possible to produce a seamless join at the county boundaries. The Hampshire and Kent HLCs were among the first to be completed and are very broad-brush in their characterisation.¹⁴ Surrey follows a similar HLC methodology but does have added depth with information on landscape change in the past 250 years where known for any given area.¹⁵ Sussex is much finer-grained with in-depth and detailed data capture both for the present historic landscape character and for the past land use where known. However it is possible to amalgamate this fine grain to produce a regional map for the whole of the Wealden South East [See Figure 3. above].

2.1. Introduction to the concept of 'Landscape'

Humans have interacted with the Sussex landscape for over 500,000 years and the results of that interaction lie all around us in the landscape we see and interact with today. An important step in the recognition of landscape as a fundamental aspect of our cultural heritage has been signified by the European Landscape Convention, which integrates the cultural and natural dimensions of the environment under the overarching concept of 'cultural landscape'. Its concept of landscape is focused on two main ideas: that landscape is the interaction of people with the environment, and that every landscape, not just the outstanding ones, form the settings of people's lives and defines identity, at local, national and European levels.¹⁶

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as "an area, as **perceived** by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors".¹⁷ The Convention came into force in this country in March 2007. The scope of the Convention in regard to the historic landscape is neatly summarised in the Highways Agency Guidance on Historic Landscape Character.¹⁸

"The Convention states (Article 2 – Scope) that it covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. Historic Landscape is defined both by people's perceptions of the evidence of past human activities in the present landscape and the places where those activities can be understood in the landscape today. This definition highlights the role of perception and emphasises the rich cultural dimension implanted in landscape character by several millennia of human actions".

¹³ Brandon, P.F. 2003 *The Kent and Sussex Weald* Phillimore, Chichester. p13-14

¹⁴ Oxford Archaeological Unit & Scott Wilson Resource Consultants 1999. *Hampshire Historic Landscape Characterisation 2* volumes. Hampshire County Council and English Heritage; Croft, A., Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001. *Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation*. 3 Volumes Kent County Council and English Heritage.

¹⁵ Bannister, N.R. & Wills, P.M. 2001. *Surrey Historic Landscape Characterisation*. 2 Vols. Surrey County Council, English Heritage and Countryside Commission.

¹⁶ Olivier, A. 2002. *Europe's Cultural Landscape: archaeologists and the management of change*. Preface to EAC vol. Eds. G. Fairclough and S. Rippon.

¹⁷ Council of Europe, 2000. *European Landscape Convention* 20 October 2000 Florence. 5.

<http://www.coe.int/t/dq4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/>

¹⁸ The Highways Agency, 2007. *Assessing the Effect of Road Schemes on Historic Landscape Character*. 2, 58.

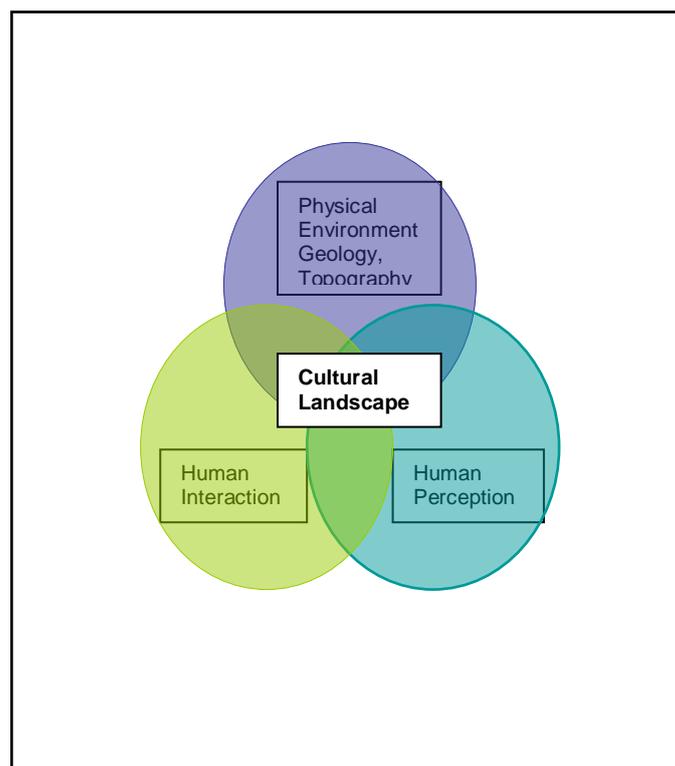


Figure 4. *Diagram to show the inter-relationship of the physical and cultural environment that make up the cultural landscape*

HLC contributes another approach or tool to looking at the landscape by employing the historic dimensions – trying to tease out the processes by which humans have interacted over time and the consequences of those processes. This is the cultural heritage which overlies the physical environment [Figure 4]. Developing from the concept of historic landscape characterisation are other themes of the cultural heritage for example the characterisation of historic farmsteads, which looks at the development of form and function of farmsteads over time and their relationship with the wider landscape [see Section 2.7.in Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume I – User Guide].

2.2. The Sussex Landscape

The following section provides a broad back ground to the physical environment of Sussex and its landscape.

2.2.1. Physical Landscape

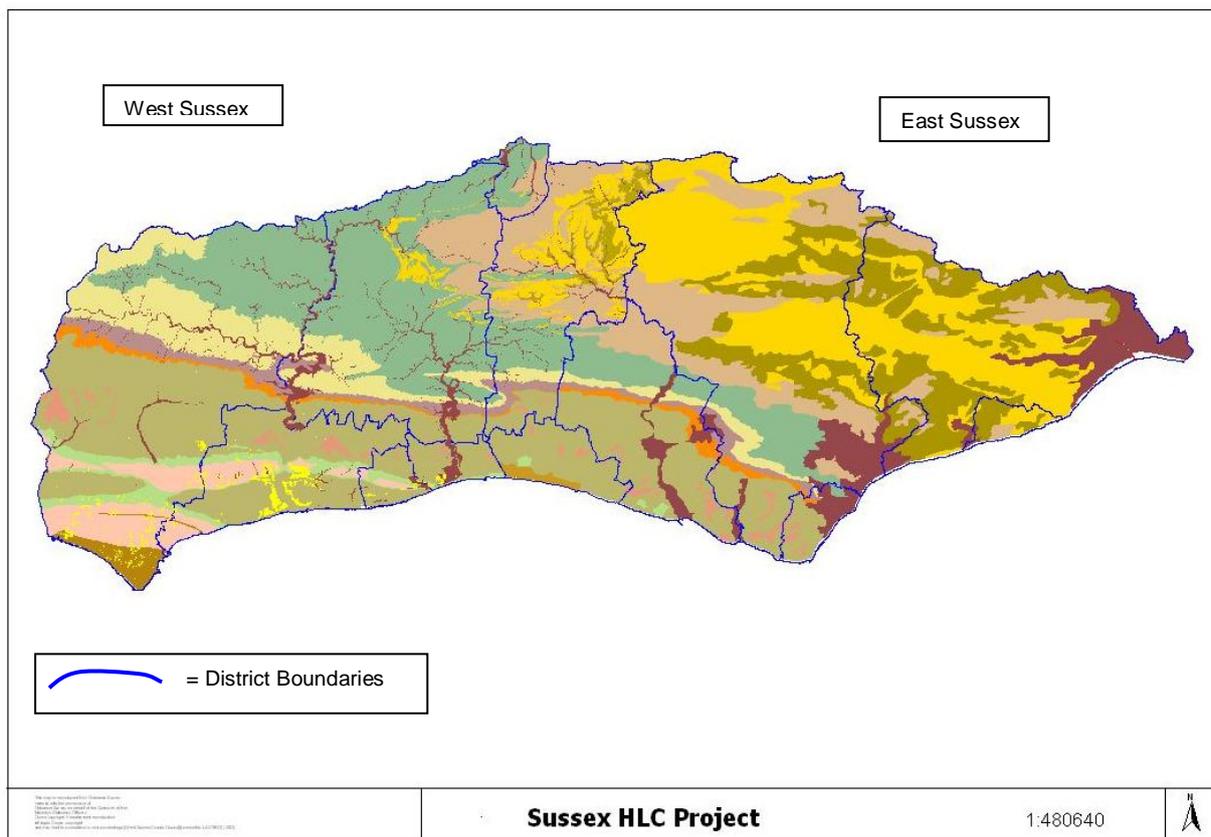
The geology and topography underpin the historic landscape character of Sussex. They have strongly influenced, when, where and how humans have exploited and settled the landscape; understanding these influences and the human processes is a key part of HLC in understanding why the landscape looks and appears the way it does today.

2.2.2. Geology of Sussex

Sussex lies on the south and western sides of the Wealden anticline, a large eroded dome of sedimentary rocks laid down primarily in the Cretaceous period with later deposits laid down in the Eocene and Pleistocene periods. The main central axis of this anticline cuts across the northern part of Sussex in an east-west direction. There followed a series of minor folds which have corrugated both flanks of the anticline and their trend is in a similar direction.¹⁹

¹⁹ Leslie, K & Short, B 1999. *An historical atlas of Sussex* Phillimore, Chichester. p2-3

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KEY

	Alluvium		Lower Greensand
	Clay with Flints		Reading, Woolwich, Beds
	Raised Beach Deposits		Tunbridge Wells Sand
	Ashdown Sand		Upper Greensand
	Chalk		Wadhurst Clay
	Gault		Weald Clay
	Gravels		Lambeth Group

Figure 5. *Geology Map of Sussex. [Source British Geological Survey]*

The sediments were laid down under different environmental conditions ranging from open sea to mudflats, brackish marsh, estuarine and fresh water lakes; and resulted in a varied and diverse sedimentary geology. Following gradual compression the sediments and now rocks were then subjected to tectonic uplift creating the anticline. Subsequent differential weathering of the 'dome' has given rise to contrasting and complex topography, which is frequently described as like 'the peeling layers of an onion'. The oldest sandstone rocks are those laid down in the Lower Cretaceous period that lie at the centre of the Weald and which outcrop in the north and east of Sussex in the High Weald. These are the Wealden series, the Hastings Beds, comprising complex layers of sandstone rocks, mud and siltstone and clay; the latter particularly at the base of the Wadhurst Clay, being the main source of raw iron stone exploited by humans from the middle Iron Age (c.600 BC) to the early part of the 19th century. They also include Jurassic Purbeck Beds in the very centre of the High Weald. The sandstone rock outcrops gave shelter to hunter-gather communities exploiting the woodlands and valleys. The Hastings Beds are also a source of sandstones used in building such as the "Horsham slates". Thus small quarries are a common occurrence in the High Weald. From the High Weald in the centre, the geological sequence radiates outwards in roughly concentric rings of increasingly younger sedimentary rock formations. The edge of the High Weald is marked by a wide belt of Wealden Clay; a dense, intractable deposit which was easily eroded by streams creating the

Low Weald landscape. Framing the Weald Clay of the Low Weald are the Lower and Upper Greensand deposits and Gault Clay also laid down in the Lower Cretaceous period, forming a range of smaller hills called the Chart Hills in Kent and the Greensand Ridge in Sussex and Greensand Hills in Surrey.

In the Upper Cretaceous period the environmental conditions changed to that of warm shallow open seas, where the bodies of sea creatures accumulated in vast quantities to form the chalk deposits. The subsequent erosion has created the outer ring of hills – in Sussex the South Downs [mirrored in Kent and Surrey by the North Downs] which frame the main heart of the Weald. During interglacial periods streams flowed cutting the dry valleys which characterise the dip slope of the South Downs.

In the Eocene following the tectonic uplift the Wealden anticline was surrounded by a sea which gave rise to pebble beds sandwiching a bed of clay. These deposits are found south of the Downs in Sussex beneath layers of later drift deposits.

The Pliocene and early Pleistocene saw the layering of drift deposits deriving from river alluvium, glacial deposits, river terrace gravels and coastal raised beaches. These areas are of national and international archaeological importance due to the preservation of earlier hominid remains and the palaeo-environmental context in which they lived. These gravels are themselves of economic importance and quarries have been dug along the line of ancient coastlines.

2.2.3. Soils of Sussex

The variety of geological deposits in such a relatively small area has given rise to a wide range of mostly poor and infertile soil types from heavy, dense intractable gleyed clays to shallow thin, alkaline chalk rendzinas to acidic, drought-prone sandy soils. Generally, it is only on the Coastal Plain (and also the Pevensey Levels and Romney Marsh) that the soils reach Agricultural Grade I status (and ironically contrasted with the greatest pressure from housing development) and this is reflected in the concentration of intensive arable and horticultural industries that predominate here. Historically the Coastal Plain was one of the earliest areas in Sussex to be settled and has been almost continuously from at least the Bronze Age (possibly earlier still from the Neolithic). Elsewhere the soils can be Grade 3 and 4, with Grade 2 on the Downs and in the river valleys.

Geology, topography and soils have constrained and influenced what human societies could do in the past and in the light of technological innovations such as iron plough shares. How land was utilised depended on what resources were needed. In the Iron Age, the Weald Clay was exploited for pasture, and the Weald woods as a source of fuel for iron production. Also as humans cleared and cultivated land they changed the nature of the soils, leading to erosion and deposition. For example the deforestation and cultivation of the chalk hills in the Neolithic and later periods led to the deposition of hill wash or colluvial material in the dry valleys and at the foot of the downs escarpment, which consequently made these areas more favourable for cultivation and impoverished the soils on the top of the Downs. This process of erosion and re-deposition also took place in the Weald, when removal of tree cover led to high levels of silts in the form of alluvium to be deposited in the lower reaches of the main river valleys flowing out of the Weald. These silts can be seen in river valley cores along with layers of peat, evidence of former marshlands.

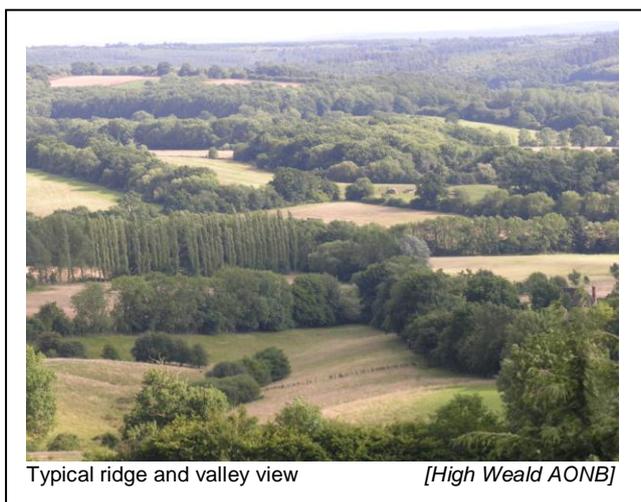
2.2.4. Topography of Sussex

The topography of Sussex is varied and contrasting from the wide open tops of the Downs to the small, sinuous enclosed valleys of the High Weald, from the gently undulating Low Weald to the flat wide fields of the Coastal Plain where they have not been covered by the extensive suburban development. At its margins are mudflats, saltings and marshes of river estuaries, for example at Chichester Harbour. It is the result of environmental processes, mostly the effects of water on the varied sedimentary geology, which in turn led to the development of a rich mixture of ecological

habitats which have been exploited by humans throughout the millennia. The grain of the Sussex topography is generally from east to west with the Greensand Hills and South Downs enclosing the Weald. The main rivers flow north to south or north-west to south east and are the remains of a much larger extensive river system flowing into a large Channel river which flowed south of the present Sussex coastline. In the west and centre of Sussex these rivers cut through the South Downs, for example the River Ouse at Lewes. To the east the rivers such as the Brede and Rother have cut long wide valleys through the High Weald and flow into the wide low lying lands around Pevensey and Rye. The valleys have left several long east-west ridges which together with the rivers provided a means by which humans could penetrate into the Weald from the Coast.

2.3. Summary of the Landscape Character Areas

To try and understand what makes particular landscapes look and feel the way they do attempts have been made to assess their character. Landscape Character Areas are an example of large scale research into what makes landscapes different, the processes which have shaped them and the resulting features interacting with each other. East and West Sussex lie within seven National Character Areas (NCAs, re-named from Joint Character Areas) identified by the former Countryside Agency in association with English Heritage and the former English Nature. The areas are defined by landscape; its wildlife and natural features using 12 national data sets.²⁰



Typical ridge and valley view [High Weald AONB]

2.3.1. The High Weald [122] is a well wooded landscape with a complex pattern of ridges and steep stream valleys (gills), incorporating small irregular fields, and contrasting areas of open heathland such as Ashdown Forest.²¹ The High Weald comprises a sandstone core which has been dissected by numerous small streams creating steep wooded valleys or gills with high ridges in between. Where the High Weald deposits meet the coast at Fairlight to the east of Hastings, the eroding sandstone and clay cliffs form a dominant landmark along this stretch of coastline. Small wooded valleys (similar to

the 'chines' on the Isle of Wight) 'hang' above the sea and the cliffs are subject to localised land slips. Where the rivers, the Brede and Rother open out at the coastline large flat wetlands, grazing marshes and reclaimed arable occur.

2.3.2. The Romney Marshes [123] is a flat open reclaimed marshland landscape with distinctive drainage dykes, grazing marshes, extensive arable fields, narrow straight roads, and widely dispersed settlements.²² **The Pevensey Levels [124]** consist of an extensive tract of low lying wetland with large pasture fields set within an irregular network of drainage ditches and banks.²³

The Pevensey Levels and the southern end of Romney Marsh have a long history of periods of inundation and reclamation associated with changes in sea level. Romney Marsh is formed by a spit of shingle behind which mudflats and marshes were formed and through which the River Rother flowed before being fixed in its present course through drainage and land reclamation from the Early-Medieval period into the 18th century.

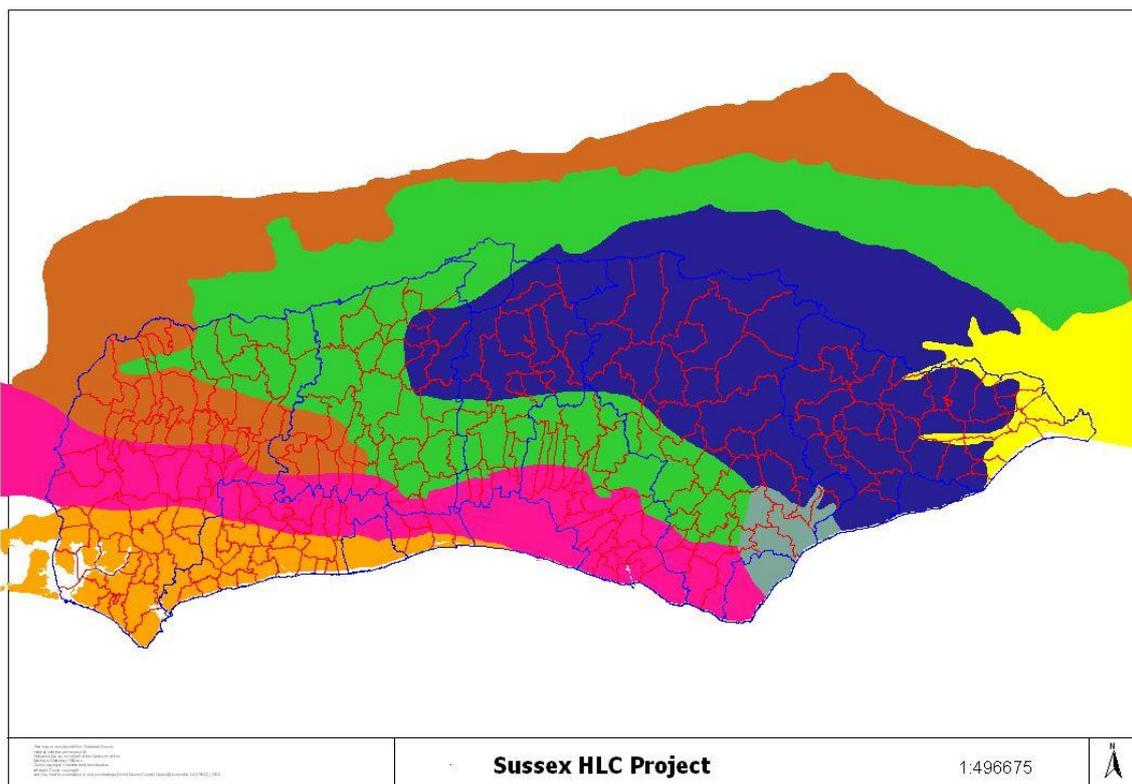
²⁰ Countryside Agency 1999. *Countryside Character of England. Volume 7 South East and London.*

²¹ Chris Blandford Associates 2003 p5 extracted from *Countryside Character of England. Volume 7 South East and London* Countryside Agency 1999

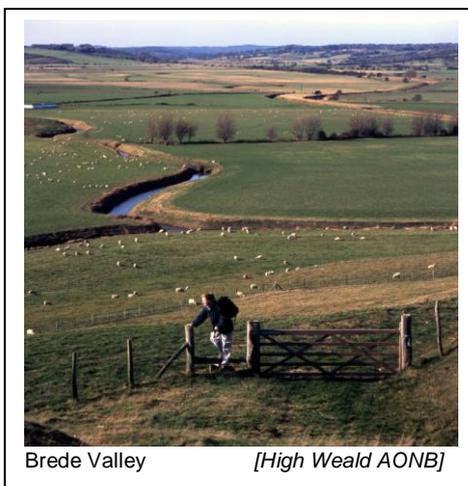
²² from Ibid p5

²³ from Ibid p6

Figure 6 The National Character Areas together with the administrative boundaries for Sussex.

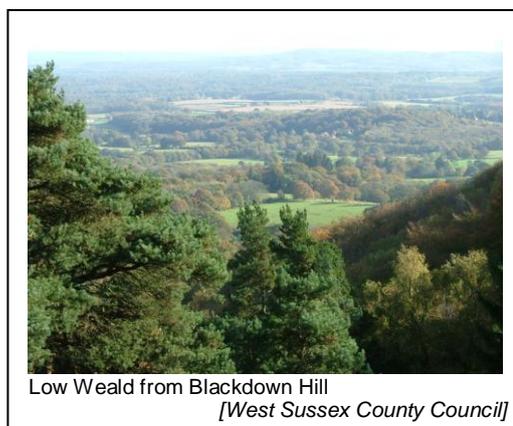


KEY	120 Wealden Greensand	121 Low Weald	122 High Weald	123 Romney Marshes	124 Pevensy Levels	125 South Downs	126 Coastal Plain
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2.3.3. The Low Weald [121] is a broad, low lying clay vale with a small scale landscape enclosed by a mix of small woodlands with a patchwork of fields and hedgerows. It has a mainly rural character apart from contrasting urban/airport related development around Crawley/Gatwick.²⁴

The Low Weald lies between the High Weald and the Wealden



Greensand. Small rivers and streams, the tributaries of the main rivers, the Arun, Adur and Ouse meander their way across this clay vale. Areas of higher ground occur where sandstone or limestone outcrops. It is no coincidence that settlement is often concentrated on these areas, where the clay soils are ameliorated by the more freely draining substrate.

²⁴ Chris Blandford Associates 2003 p5 from Countryside Character of England. Volume 7 South East and London Countryside Agency 1999

2.3.4. The Wealden Greensand [120] consists of scarp and dip slope topography with extensive belts of ancient woodland and conifer plantations, remnant heathland, along with broad river valley plains of arable farmland.²⁵ The Wealden Greensand is more prominent in the West Sussex where it forms a curving arc from the Surrey Hills around the Low Weald and east towards Lewes. In East Sussex the Greensand Beds thin to form a narrow strip at the foot of the South Downs. The landscape is of scarp/dip slope topography with the broad river flood plain of the River Rother on its northern side while the Greensand Ridge is cut by the River Arun on its way south to the coast. Open heathland and wooded heath occupy the higher ground, where open commons such as at Iping and Stedham are still in existence.



Iping Common [West Sussex County Council]



Cissbury Ring [West Sussex County Council]

2.3.5. The South Downs [125] are a rolling chalk landscape of open downland and large arable fields, indented by combes/dry valleys. In the west large wooded parkland estates are important features.²⁶ The South Downs form a line of hills with a steep escarpment running from Eastbourne in the east to the extreme west of the county, north of Chichester. The escarpment is breached by the Rivers Ouse, Adur and Arun, where important settlements were established from earliest times. The dip slope is bisected by deep dry valleys or combes. The western Downs are more wooded than those in the east. Evidence for prehistoric settlement and landuse is common and diverse on the downs, from the Mesolithic to the late Iron Age, with dramatic

defensive and territorial earthworks such as Cissbury Ring, or the enclosure on Trundle Hill dominating the high points along the top of the scarp. Where the South Downs meet the sea high undulating chalk cliffs form an iconic landscape feature at Beachy Head and the long sweep of the Seven Sisters, truncated dry valleys which drop to the sea.

2.3.5. The South Coast Plain [126] is a flat open landscape of large arable fields, defined by low hedgerows, dominated in many parts on the coastal margin by major urban development. A complex series of creeks, mudflats and shingle beaches comprise parts of the coastal edge, for example at Chichester Harbour and the now silted Pagham Harbour.²⁷

The Coastal Plain lies in the west of Sussex and extends from Brighton in the east to Chichester Harbour in the west and beyond into Hampshire.

²⁵ from Ibid p5

²⁶ from Ibid p5

²⁷ Ibid p5 from Countryside Character of England. Volume 7 South East and London Countryside Agency 1999



Coastal Plain nr Pagham [West Sussex County Council]

It is generally flat towards the coast and slightly more undulating northwards towards the dip slope of the South Downs. In this region occur some of the most fertile soils in the county and vegetable/salad production dominates the agriculture. Historically the Coastal Plain was an important area for cereal production. Much of the coastline has been developed as at Brighton, Worthing and Bognor Regis, with extensive suburban coastal settlement. The rural areas are characterised by large fields, with very few if any woodlands with marshes, wetlands and mudflats in areas along the coastal fringe such as at Pagham.

A number of the districts in West Sussex have undertaken Landscape Character Assessments, updating previous assessments, several of which have used draft versions of the Sussex HLC to inform decisions about the character areas.²⁸ Drawing on the results of these landscape assessments a Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape was published in October 2005.²⁹

In East Sussex the County Council has prepared a Landscape Character Assessment in 2004. This Assessment drew on the 1990 Trees and Woodlands Strategy for East Sussex which was reviewed in 2001. In addition to the county-wide landscape assessment, the High Weald AONB and the former South Downs AONB also had landscape assessments undertaken in the early 1990s.³⁰

2.4. Settlement Patterns of Sussex

The Sussex landscape is a classic example of Rackham's 'Ancient countryside of the Lowland Zone' a small scale intimate landscape of dispersed farmsteads, small hamlets and villages, intermixed with small irregular fields, tracts of woodland and open commons, with numerous trees and many historic features from all periods.³¹

Rackham's ancient countryside was identified at the national scale and subsumes much local variety. It has been effectively supported through the characterisation of settlement patterns by Brian Roberts and Stuart Wrathmell for the English Heritage-supported *Atlas of Rural Settlement in England*.³² This places Sussex in the landscape of old enclosures; the South Eastern Province and Weald sub-province [EWALD].³³ Here dispersed settlement dominates amongst woodland, common



Isolated farm in Crowhurst [East Sussex County Council]

²⁸ Countryside Commission 1992 *The Chichester Harbour Landscape* CCP 381; For example, West Sussex County Council 2005; Mid Sussex District Council 2005.

²⁹ West Sussex County Council 2005 *A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape*.

³⁰ Countryside Commission & South Downs Conservation Board 1996. *The Landscape of the Sussex Downs*; Countryside Agency 1992. *High Weald Landscape Assessment*.

³¹ Rackham, O. 1986 *The History of the Countryside*. p4-5.

³² Roberts, B. and Wrathmell, S. 2002. *Region and Place. A study of English rural settlement*. p158-159.

³³ Ibid

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pastures, medieval and post-medieval irregular enclosures and township lands and 'yokes'.³⁴ The settlement pattern is dominated by farmsteads and hamlets of varying sizes.

2.5. Summary of the Archaeology of Sussex

The landscape of Sussex preserves a very rich and diverse legacy of human interaction with the environment from earliest times to the present, both above and below ground, from nationally important and rare upstanding monuments, extensive and complex prehistoric earthworks, to Roman settlement sites, well preserved medieval settlements and modern defensive structures. These do not occur in isolation but are intimately related to their surroundings, the landscape in between with all its fine detail of boundaries, various routeways, smaller settlements, subtle earthworks and the inter relationship between all landscape components.

For a detailed account of the archaeology of Sussex see Rudling (ed) 2003; also the various South East Archaeology Research Framework Papers on the Kent County Council website;³⁵ and for an account of the history and development of the landscape of the South East see Short 2006. For historical accounts of the South Downs and the Sussex Weald see Brandon 1998, 2003; Brandon & Short 1990.



³⁴ 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.

³⁵ http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/heritage/south_east_research_framework.aspx

3. SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE SUSSEX HLC

The following section provides an outline and overview on the method and approach to the Sussex HLC. For full details see Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. V. Appendix II. It describes what the HLC is meant to achieve, how the landscape has been characterised the sources used, how the information was captured into GIS and includes a discussion on the HLC types and attributes.

The method for the Sussex HLC has evolved from those of Hampshire,³⁶ Kent³⁷ and Surrey³⁸, with particular reference to the classification of HLC types and sub-types. However the capturing of attribute data draws particularly on the methods for Cheshire³⁹ and Buckinghamshire.⁴⁰

With the earlier HLCs such as Hampshire and Kent, the characterisation process used pre-defined types whereby the key historic landuse attributes were integral in the description of the type. Later HLCs methods which evolved with more sophisticated GIS technical data capture enabled the HLC polygons to be defined by a selection of these attributes. Analysis of the attributes enabled different HLC types to be defined. The Sussex HLC incorporated both these methods of classifying the historic landscape.

The first method was to identify each polygon according to a selection of historic attributes each of which is entered into the data base; for example a group of fields all showing a similar character maybe defined as being small, regular with straight internal and external boundaries.

In addition the second method also defines the polygon by giving it a pre-defined HLC type (the least detailed type e.g. Fieldscapes) and sub-type (e.g. Formal Enclosure) in the same way as Kent and Surrey, together with 'Interpretation of Character' – the most detailed interpretation (e.g. Planned Enclosure). [See Figure 8]

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 types see Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol IV - Gazetteer of Sussex Typology.

HLC sub-type derived from taking each of the Broad types and sub-dividing them by key attributes, so for the example of fieldscapes, the sub-types are assart fields, formal and informal fields; Unlike other HLCs this grouping does not also divide along period of origin, as some formal or planned fields can have originated in the early- medieval period such as co-axial, or assarts may have taken place in the post-medieval period such as on the Western South Downs. However this is the exception rather than the rule. The "Interpretation of Character" adds another level of more detailed characterisation to the Sussex HLC. However not all of the Sussex HLC Sub-types have an 'Interpretation of Character' level. [See Vol. IV Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Gazetteer of Sussex Typology]. Interpretation of character and sub-type equate to the sub-type category of Kent and Surrey HLCs. It is also possible to analyse the HLC data by key attributes to arrive at sub-types, in particular the field systems.

³⁶ Oxford Archaeology Unit & Scott Wilson Resource Consultants 1999 *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment*, Hampshire County Council and English Heritage. 2volumes.

³⁷ Croft, A. Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001 *Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Kent County Council and English Heritage. 3 volumes.

³⁸ Bannister, N.R. & Wills, P.M. 2001 *Surrey Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Surrey County Council, English Heritage and Countryside Commission 2 volumes.

³⁹ Edwards, R. 2007. *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Cheshire County Council and English Heritage. 4. volumes

⁴⁰ Buckinghamshire County Council 2006 *Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Introduction and 10 Appendices.

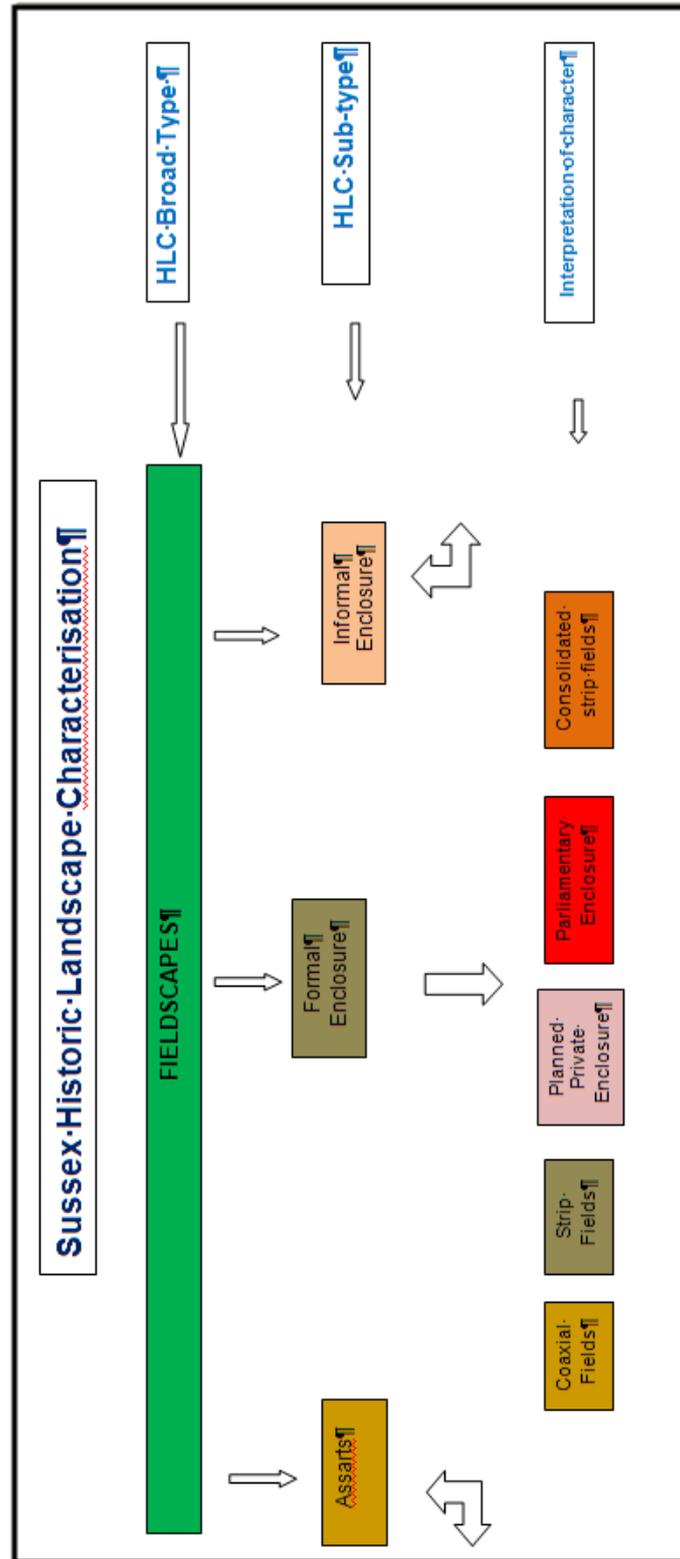


Figure 8. Example of the Hierarchy of HLC Types using Formal Enclosures as an example [colours match the maps in the Vol. III Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Atlas of Maps & Vol. IV Gazetteer of HLC Typology]

HLC Broad Type is the broadest or lowest category of character type, and equates to that for Kent, Hampshire and Surrey See Table 1. below.

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TABLE 1. *HLC Broad Type categories for the 'Wealden' South Eastern Counties.*

SUSSEX	KENT	SURREY	HAMPSHIRE	ISLE OF WIGHT
Fieldsapes (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/Unimproved	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

4. INTRODUCTION TO AN INITIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE SUSSEX HLC

To illustrate the extent and depth of the Sussex HLC a number of selected analyses of the data have been undertaken and are presented in this volume. More complex queries with the GIS and Access data base will provide more detailed analyses and tease apart the finer patterns in the HLC. A guide to how HLC can be used for more specific questions is given in Vol. I - Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation User Guide.

Four groups of analyses have been presented to show both the broad brush extent of HLC as well as demonstrating the amount of detail captured in the attribute tables accompanying each individual polygon.

Section 4.1. The Preliminary Analysis has looked at the whole of Sussex for each of the main HLC Broad types for the present landscape. In this section, percentage areas have been calculated and presented with selected theme maps and pie-charts.

Section 4.2. The HLC Change Analysis looks at the antiquity and time-depth of the present HLC and also then examines those areas which have changed at different periods (identified from the key sources).

Section 4.3. The HLC Area Analysis is an attempt to produce discrete and coherent areas based on patterns in the HLC, mainly from enclosure, the dominant HLC type. This section has potential for much further in depth analysis and for the use of such programmes as Spatial Analysis.

Section 4.5. Case Study of four parishes. The above analyses look at the whole of Sussex. However the fine grain of data capture means that small areas of landscape can be examined in more detail. Four parishes representing examples from different National Character Areas have been analysed in detail. The analysis shows the historic landscape character of the present landscape and where known it also shows the previous land use where there has been significant landscape change.

To accompany these analyses, the text needs to be read in conjunction with Vol. III - The Sussex HLC Atlas of Maps and Vol. IV - The Sussex HLC Gazetteer of Typology.

4.1. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS FOR THE WHOLE OF SUSSEX

The interpretation section should be read in conjunction with Volume III the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Atlas of Maps. The references to maps and figures are those in the Atlas. For full descriptions of the HLC types, sub-types and 'interpretations of character' see Volume IV Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation - Gazetteer of Sussex Typology and Volume V - Appendix II for full details on the other historic attributes.

4.1.1. Introduction

At the HLC broad type level the nature of the historic landscape character of Sussex begins to reveal itself, dominated by fields and woodland with commons and chalk grassland along the Downs and Greensand [Map 2. Vol. III - Atlas of Maps]. The east-west grain of the chalk hills can be identified together with the sinuous valleys in the High Weald picked out by the gill woodlands. Each of the broad HLC types are introduced below and discussed in the following sections.

a. The Rural Landscape

The historic landscape characterisation of Sussex reveals a landscape dominated by fields created by either the enclosure of parcels of land or by clearance of woodland and waste (assarts). This landscape is called 'Fieldsapes' in the Sussex HLC as opposed to Enclosures or Field Patterns in other HLCs). In close association with groups of fields are settlements interlinked by routeways. Fields of all types make up over half the land use cover across Sussex covering 21,7670 ha (58% of the total digitised area)⁴¹. Sussex is also a well wooded landscape comprising 62,629 ha or 17% of the total digitised area. Large areas of woodland are especially dominant in the High Weald to the east of the historic county, around Crawley in the areas of former historic 'Forests'⁴² and across the tops of the western South Downs [Vol. III, Map 2. & Figure 1, shows Sussex by HLC Broad Type]. However across the High Weald the woodland is dense but fragmented.

There is a strong division in the historic landscape character between the High and Low Weald and the rest of Sussex; the Weald is less diverse but with a finer grained composition of the landscape. Fields, woods and settlement are generally intimately inter-mixed – linked by a network of narrow roads, lanes, and paths. By contrast the rest of Sussex has a much more coarse-grained and diverse character with generally larger blocks of fields, woods and more nucleated settlement. Large designed parksapes are frequent and much of the landscape has a more open and expansive feel about it, particularly in West Sussex along the Downs. Historically the Weald was systematically settled much later than the Downs and the Coastal Plain, the consequence of several geological and topographical factors and has subsequently undergone less change than those areas of Sussex which have a long history of settlement going back to the earliest farmers.

b. Settlement

From the HLC, over 10% of Sussex can be defined as settlement and this includes not only towns and villages but also farmsteads and dispersed settlement. The main areas of urban and suburban settlement now are concentrated along the Coastal Plain, from Rye to Bognor. The Roman city of Chichester lies further inland on the Coastal Plain on Stane Street. Smaller historic towns occur inland along the scarp foot of the South Downs. With the development of the railway network from London dating from the 1840s, towns like Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead expanded from small rural villages and hamlets. The large conurbation of Crawley is a 20th century 'new town' developed from a small village spreading on to former farmland, 'forest' and common land. However across the Low and High Weald the historic character of dispersed farmsteads and small

⁴¹ The total hectareage of the county given within this report is for the area digitised. The HLC omits roads, railways, rivers and most other linear features, thus is not the actual total hectareage for the whole county.

⁴² 'Forest' in the medieval sense of the word – an area set aside for hunting game etc.

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hamlets dominate the settlement pattern. This character supports the dispersed nature of settlement identified by Roberts and Wrathmell in their EWALD sub-province of England.⁴³

c. Parkland

Parkland and Designed Landscapes occur across Sussex and vary from large formal gardens created in the 19th and 20th century by gentrification of farmland and woodland to the large formal parkscapes some of which embrace older Tudor and Medieval deer parks. Large parklands with their wider farmed estates are a characteristic feature of West Sussex Downs and Greensand. Designed Landscapes including the large formal gardens contribute 5% or 17,252.58 ha of total HLC area of Sussex.

d. Unimproved / unenclosed

The fragmented pockets of downland and heathland highlight the geological grain of Sussex – the east-west alignment of chalk hills of the South Downs and the Weald Greensand ridge further to the north. To the east lies Ashdown Forest with its extensive unenclosed heaths, wood pasture and commons. The distribution of commons and heaths also highlight how variable the soil quality is across Sussex and are also an indication of where prehistoric farming and land exploitation probably took place. Unenclosed and unimproved HLC types contribute to 3% or 12,216.0ha of the total Sussex HLC area.



e. Industry and Communications

Industry and communications in Sussex are generally small-scale and closely associated with the post-medieval development of settlement. Industrial sites occur on the edge of the Downs and along the Coastal Plain, and around the edges of the larger towns and suburban developments.

4.1.2. Enclosure of Sussex

Enclosed fields cover nearly two thirds of the area of Sussex making it essentially a very agricultural and rural county. However the origin of enclosed fields varies across the area, resulting in some distinctive field patterns and when these are combined with other HLC types give rise to areas of distinctive historic landscape character [See Section 4.3. below]. By showing only 'fieldscape polygons' and assigning them their sub-character type, (e.g. Formal or informal enclosures) a clear division between the Weald and the rest of Sussex becomes apparent [Vol. III - Map 3. and Figure 2.].

a. Assarts

Assarts are fields which have been brought into cultivation by clearing (assarting) forest or waste lands.⁴⁴ This process is mostly documented in the 12th and 13th centuries, with expansion of cultivated land, either tenanted or demesne or both depending on who instigated the clearances.⁴⁵ In other county HLCs assarts are also sometimes referred to and included within the HLC Group or Types 'ancient enclosures' or ancient fieldscapes, for example Cheshire.⁴⁶ In Sussex such a definition would also include its other ancient enclosures of "co-axial fields", "strip fields" and

⁴³ Roberts, B. & Wrathmell, S. 2002 *Region and Place. A study of English rural settlement*. English Heritage p10

⁴⁴ I.H. Adams, 1976. *Agrarian Landscape Terms: A glossary for Historical Geography*. Institute of British Geographers p 93, p99-100; J. Field, 1989 *English Field Names : A dictionary* Alan Sutton p8; C. Taylor, 1982. *Fields in the English Landscape*. Dent p75-7.

⁴⁵ E. Martin and M Satchell 2008. *Where most Inclosures be*. East Anglian Fields: History, Morphology and Management. East Anglian Archaeology Report No 24 p25.

⁴⁶ R.Edwards 2007. *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 4. Vols.

“consolidated strip fields” which are grouped in the ‘Formal sub-type’ (see 4.1.2.c. below and Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. IV - Gazetteer of Sussex Typology).

Assarts cleared from woodlands, wood pastures and wooded heaths dominate the north east and north of Sussex, East Sussex is dominated by such type of fields and assarts are a characteristic of the High and Low Weald National Character Areas [Map 3.]. Smaller pockets of these fields also occur in other former wooded areas in the Wealden Greensand Ridge and also on the South Downs, where later enclosure from woodland has taken place. These assart fields contribute 24% (52,488 ha) of the 58% of total HLC land cover for fieldscapes or 14% of the total HLC digitised area. Generally the defining HLC attributes for these fields are sinuous wooded field boundaries and predominantly an irregular shape (though some do have a more regular pattern - see below) and many are closely associated with woodland or former woodland. [See Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. IV - Gazetteer of Sussex Typology].

b. Formal Enclosure – Post-medieval

These are field systems, which have been planned and laid out with a strongly defined, regular pattern either by private landowners as part of some form of land ‘improvement’, or by private or general act of parliament for enclosure of open fields, commons, downs etc. Fields dating from the post-medieval period are usually formal enclosure or planned fields and occur across the Wealden Greensand Ridge, the South Downs and the Coastal Plain. Formal planned enclosure of open fields being an element of planned landscapes, this process occurred in the west of the county in particular in the Coastal Plain to the east and north of Chichester [Map 3.]. The extensive sheep walks on the dip slope of the South Downs also underwent formal enclosure in the late 18th and 19th centuries. In a more piece-meal fashion a number of heaths and commons in the Wealden Greensand also underwent planned enclosure]. Pockets of formal field types also occur in the Weald indicating the enclosure of former commons or heaths to fields. All types of Formal enclosures comprise 25% of the total ‘Fieldscape’ HLC coverage or 14% of the total digitised HLC area.

The HLC sub-type of Formal enclosure also includes other planned groups of fields such as “co-axial fields” and “consolidated strip fields” which are considerably older than the fields described above and have a very limited distribution. [See 4.1.2.c. and 4.1.4.c. below, and Vol. II – Gazetteer of Sussex Typology].

c. Formal Enclosure – Medieval and Earlier

The formal field sub-character type also includes other groups of fields with a markedly planned character for example those interpreted as co-axial fields, strip fields and consolidated strip fields. All these types of fields probably have a medieval or earlier origin. Co-axial fields are those systems of one or possible two fields wide by many fields long, with long axial boundaries, which can extend for up to several kilometres across the landscape. These fields are thought to date from the Saxon period.⁴⁷ Strip fields are remains of open fields with evidence of some unenclosed strips, whereas consolidated strip fields are fields enclosed from amalgamated groups of strips from an open field system, [Vol. III Map 9. & Figure 5.]. [See 4.1.4.c. for discussion].

d. Informal Fields

Informal fields are all those field enclosures which fall into neither of the above categories and indicate a piecemeal or semi-formal system of enclosure, often the result of field reorganisation from the medieval period onwards. Such fields can include enclosure of virgates and furlongs within an open field system but which do not clearly show the attributes of consolidated strip fields.⁴⁸ Informal

⁴⁷ D. Chatwin and M. Gardiner 2005. Rethinking the early medieval settlement of woodlands: evidence from the western Sussex Weald. *Landscape History* 27 31-49.

⁴⁸ A hide (sulung in Kent) or carucate area of land which could be ploughed in one year by one plough and support a family, usually comprised 4 virgates (called yokes in Kent and wistas in Sussex) and made up of 4 furlongs which was standardised to the length of 200 yards. (Richardson PJ. 1974).

fields are intermixed with both ancient and formal enclosures and are especially frequent in the eastern tip of Sussex around Rye and Winchelsea and into the heart of the Low Weald. Informal fields also occur on the Coastal Plain. As a sub-type Informal Fields comprise 51% of the Fieldscapes broad HLC type (58%) or 29% of the total digitised HLC area. [Vol. III Map 3. Figure 2.].

e. Modern Field Amalgamation

However the Informal Fields sub-type group also includes those modern fields created by removal of boundaries and field amalgamation. These fields have undergone 51% or more boundary loss in the last 250 years⁴⁹ and their full original field pattern/character has been eroded, though may yet still be discernable in the overall pattern in the wider landscape. Within the Informal Fields sub-type category over half the fields are identified as being 'modern amalgamations' at 57,568 ha [52% of the 58% of Fieldscapes Broad Type; Vol. III Map 4].



Field amalgamation to meet modern agricultural practices has occurred across the whole of Sussex but with larger concentrations in the Coastal Plain, on the South Downs and in the Romney Marshes [Vol. III Map 4.]. The process has also taken place in smaller pockets systematically across the Low Weald and Wealden Greensand, and to a lesser degree in the High Weald. In the High Weald landscape, where fields are generally small and field boundaries numerous, occasional boundary loss appears to be less readily seen. However larger areas of continuous and systematic boundary removal have created gaps in this 'tightly knit' field pattern. The High

Weald historic character has been able to absorb both historic and modern settlement while still undergoing a quite considerable degree of boundary loss. In contrast on the Coastal Plain fields tend to be more regular in pattern and on average much larger, where the overall character is more open, field enlargement may not have quite the same impact but contribute to that 'openness'. Field boundaries are however by comparison with the Weald a rare landscape feature and thus the loss of even a few will have an impact on the surviving field pattern and thus the inter-connectivity of landscape features and elements. Remaining field boundaries may be historically of greater antiquity marking boundaries between farms, manors and or parishes. Therefore the impact of the loss of boundaries and the siting of new development depends on and is intimately connected with the historic character and the historic process which have shaped that character of the area in question. This process of field amalgamation is generally a feature of the 20th century (though in some places it commenced in the latter part of the 19th century for example in the western areas of the South Downs) and would therefore be a major contribution to a future historic landscape characterisation.

4.1.3. Discussion of the 'Interpretation of Character' typology

The following section presents a discussion of each example of the most detailed level of HLC characterisation – the 'Interpretation of character' together with mapped illustrations from the HLC. Full details on the HLC interpretation of character types are given in Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume IV - Gazetteer of Sussex Typology.

a. Enclosures of an Assart origin

The creation of fields by clearance of wood or scrub from woods, heaths, wood pasture and other areas of non-cultivated land is termed assarting. This process can take place at anytime but

⁴⁹ The period which was covered by the key sources used in the HLC

generally it is thought to have been at its greatest in the early-medieval and medieval period, particularly in the Wealden areas of the South East. The period of greatest recorded evidence is the 12th and 13th centuries in the manorial court rolls and it is argued that this was the period when it took place.⁵⁰ Harris argues that assarting produced a similar landscape to that of dens which were converted from wood pasture to cultivation at a much earlier date in the early medieval period. However it could further be argued that the process of converting the dens or swine pastures to farms did involve assarting, i.e. clearance from wood pasture to enclosed fields. Unfortunately there is little recorded evidence for the gradual conversion of dens to farms and settlements in the manorial or Anglo-Saxon charters.

Hence in HLC these fields are called *assart fields* or more broadly *ancient enclosures* and probably include not only 12th and 13th century assarting but also assarting from earlier periods. Such assrt fields are not just confined to the Weald but are also found elsewhere in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, where areas were cleared from woodland or 'waste' such as on the Western end of the South Downs, or around the edges of former heathland in Surrey.

In a study of East Anglian Fields, the morphology, history and management of field systems was studied in considerable detail, using parishes across the region as case studies.⁵¹ In those parishes which lie on the clay lands and originated from a woodland landscape, the fields which show the characteristics of assarts or ancient enclosures (little or no pattern, small size etc. were identified as 'Primary core block demesne lands'.⁵² These were identified as fields of demesne lands that abutted or surrounded the hall of the manor.⁵³ Great Henny and Ingatestone in Essex and Ardeley in Hertfordshire, show that these fields were closely associated with remaining areas of ancient woodland. This could be showing expansion of the demesne land by the lord of the manor.

A detailed look at land holding in the medieval weald by Mark Gardiner, has looked at the distribution and relationship of fields in selected areas in East Sussex.⁵⁴ For example, in Rotherfield, assarts are showing lying adjacent to the medieval deer park with the demesne lands to the south east and the lands of sub-manors to the south. It may be that in the Weald assart fields are not manorial demesne land as they are in Hertfordshire.

Fields with an assart origin contribute 24% (52,488 ha) of the total cover of fieldscapes in Sussex [Vol. III Map 5. Figure 3.]. These fields are identified by their relatively small size, their generally irregular shape, their association with ancient woodland including gill woods (see below) and the nature of their field boundaries. Two main groups within this sub-type have been identified in the Sussex HLC based on their field shape and pattern. These two groups may possibly represent two different periods of assarting – an hypothesis which needs more documentary research.

b. Aggregate assarts or ancient enclosures

Aggregate assarts or ancient enclosures (19,095 ha or 36.4% of the all assart fields) are generally small to medium irregularly shaped fields with no real pre-determined superimposed or regular pattern, but instead the product of individual fields being added to each other. They are generally bounded by sinuous woody hedges and closely associated with all types of ancient woodland [see 4.1.7.a. below]. Aggregate assarts are largely confined to the High Weald and the Western Low Weald with smaller pockets in the western Wealden Greensand [Vol. III Map 5.]. A small group of ancient enclosures have also been identified on the crest of the western South Downs, closely

⁵⁰ R. B. Harris 2002. *The Making of the High Weald. Informing the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2004*. Unpublished Report. p48-50.

⁵¹ Martin and Satchell 2008 p127, 155, 157. This piece of work developed from HLCs Suffolk, Essex and Hertfordshire.

⁵² Demesne means land retained by the lord of the manor for his own use and upon which tenants gave free service according to the customs of that manor. (Richardson 1974)

⁵³ Martin and Satchell 2008 p 40

⁵⁴ Gardiner, M.F. 1995. *Medieval Settlement and Society in East Sussex Weald*. Unpublished PhD. Thesis University of London.

associated with ancient woodland and are likely to be late medieval or possible post-medieval enclosures from the woodland.

c. Cohesive assarts or ancient enclosures

Cohesive assarts or ancient enclosures (33,369 ha or 63.6% of all the assart type fields) are those fields which as a group appear to have some form of cohesion or regularity about their pattern where some thought has been given to their layout. The fields still retain sinuous often wooded boundaries and again are associated with ancient woodland (or the former sites of ancient woodland). Cohesive assarts occur far more frequently across the whole of the High and Low Weald and in particular appear to dominate the Low Weald [Vol. III Map 5.]. It could be that cohesive assarts are probably older than aggregate assart type fields and their more ordered pattern reflects possible enclosure from a more open woodland environment or wood pasture system whilst aggregate assarts were enclosed from possibly denser woodland and scrub.⁵⁵ This process may have also been how co-axial type fields were enclosed over extended narrow tracts of the countryside. In order to plan the layout of such fields those carrying out the enclosing would have needed, to a certain extent, to have seen the lie of the land they were partitioning up [see Vol. II 4.1.4.c. below].

Further research into the origins of these fields is needed including looking at the pattern of different forms of ancient enclosures in relation to the local topography and soils across the Weald. For example cohesive type assarts may occur on more fertile soils and the less undulating topography perhaps.

4.1.4. Formal Enclosure

All types of enclosure are the result of a conscious action – the need to contain pre-defined areas of land within boundaries in order to control and manage it in some way without disturbance from other external land uses. However ‘Formal Fields’ are those which have been formally planned and laid out as part of a ‘formal enclosure process’.

a. Formal Parliamentary Enclosure

Generally the term formal enclosure refers to the main period of enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries by private and general acts of parliament. In the Sussex HLC this type of field pattern and process is described as “Formal - Parliamentary Enclosure” and contributes to 12% of the total area of formal fields [Vol. III Map 9; Figure 5.].⁵⁶ These fields are very regular, with straight boundaries (usually of hedges) and are identified by reference to an act of enclosure. A similar field pattern can also be derived by a formal planned enclosure undertaken by landowners in areas not covered by a parliamentary act [see b. below]. These formal planned type fields are identified in the HLC as “Formal - Planned Private Enclosure” and comprise over 65% of the total area of all the Formal fields sub-type.

This was formal enclosure of heaths and commons by a parliamentary act. Parliamentary enclosure fields occur most frequently in the Coastal Plain, and represent formal enclosure of an open field system, with its origins in the Medieval or Early-medieval period. They also occur on the South Downs, where enclosure both of open fields and of the former sheep pastures often called ‘Tenantry Downs’, took place. Smaller areas of this field type also occur on the Wealden Greensand and the Low Weald. The High Weald also contains some examples of this type in small pockets and indicates enclosure of former commons.

⁵⁵ R. Harris 2002 *The Making of the High Weald. Informing the High Weald AONB Management Plan* p48-50; M. Gardiner 1995. *Medieval settlement and society in the Eastern Sussex Weald*. Unpublished PhD Thesis. University of London p ?

⁵⁶ F.W. Steer 1968. *A Catalogue of Sussex Maps; West Sussex Inclosure Maps*. Sussex Record Society Vol. LXVI; W.E. Tate 1949. *Sussex Inclosure Acts and Awards*. Sussex Record Society Vol. LXXXVIII.

b. Formal Planned Private Enclosure

By far the most frequent of the formal fields are the planned private enclosures, where the field pattern exhibits many of the characteristics of parliamentary enclosure [see Vol. II 4.4.4.a above] but where there is no private or general Act of Parliament. These fields may also be a re-organisation of an earlier field pattern. They occur across the South Downs and into the Low Weald, with smaller pockets in the High Weald. There is also a concentration in the western end of the 'Forest Ridge' where enclosure of parts of the Forest of Worth and St Leonard's Forest took place in the 19th century, alongside the establishment of coniferous plantations on the former wood pastures and wooded heaths. A recently commissioned LiDAR analysis of this forested area is looking for evidence of pre- post-medieval enclosure field systems.⁵⁷

Formal enclosure also took place in the river valleys, with the "innings" of the alluvial floodplains and the salt marshes. These fields are very regular with ditches or 'wet fences' as boundaries and generally were much later than the informal "innings" [see 4.1.5. below]. The southern end of the main river valleys for example of the Adur, Arun and Ouse are characterised by these formal innings type of fields, where the defining attribute is the boundary type of predominantly straight ditches rather than hedges.

c. Ancient planned field systems/patterns

Also grouped within the Formal Enclosure sub-type are the field patterns which pre-date the post-medieval period and may have their origins in the Saxon or earlier periods. These are field patterns which show a degree of formal planning and laying-out across the landscape.



Figure 9. **Co-axial fields north east of Billingshurst. [The yellow outline highlights the hlc polygons. [Aerial Photograph. © West Sussex County Council]**

Co-axial fields are predominately confined to the Low Weald, with occasional areas in the Wealden Greensand and in the High Weald [Vol. III Map 9.]. Documentary research is showing that co-axial fields probably have their origins in the early-medieval period and represent an expansion of manorial

⁵⁷ Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme, Heritage Awareness Project. High Weald AONB 2009-2012.

territory from the springhead settlements at the foot of the Downs, northwards into the Low Weald.⁵⁸ These types of field systems are found in West Sussex, east of Billingshurst and parallel with the south-west north-east alignment of the Roman Road of Stane Street. A further co-axial system orientated south west to north east runs by Horsham. However the OS 6" 1st Edition shows that they once extended from the southern edge of the Low Weald almost to the county boundary with Sussex.⁵⁹ This indicates individual medieval manorial territories extending their territory deep into the Weald and may fossilize the early droving system. Modern land use has fragmented the pattern. Smaller areas of co-axial type fields also occur in East Sussex in the High Weald and appear to be strongly influenced by the local topography of ridges and valleys, with the long axis extending from the valley bottom to the ridge top

Consolidated strip fields occur most frequently in the Coastal Plain, and were created by the amalgamation of open field strips. This process took place before formal parliamentary enclosure by act of parliament or by private enclosure, for example south east of Petworth, West Sussex. Strip fields are very common in the Midlands, where the medieval open field system dominates the enclosure landscape. In West Sussex evidence for strip fields tend to occur in areas which were once common meadows or near to meadows, for example near Shipley, in West Sussex. Such fields may have been more frequent in Sussex but either field re-organisation or amalgamation has resulted in a loss of this character.

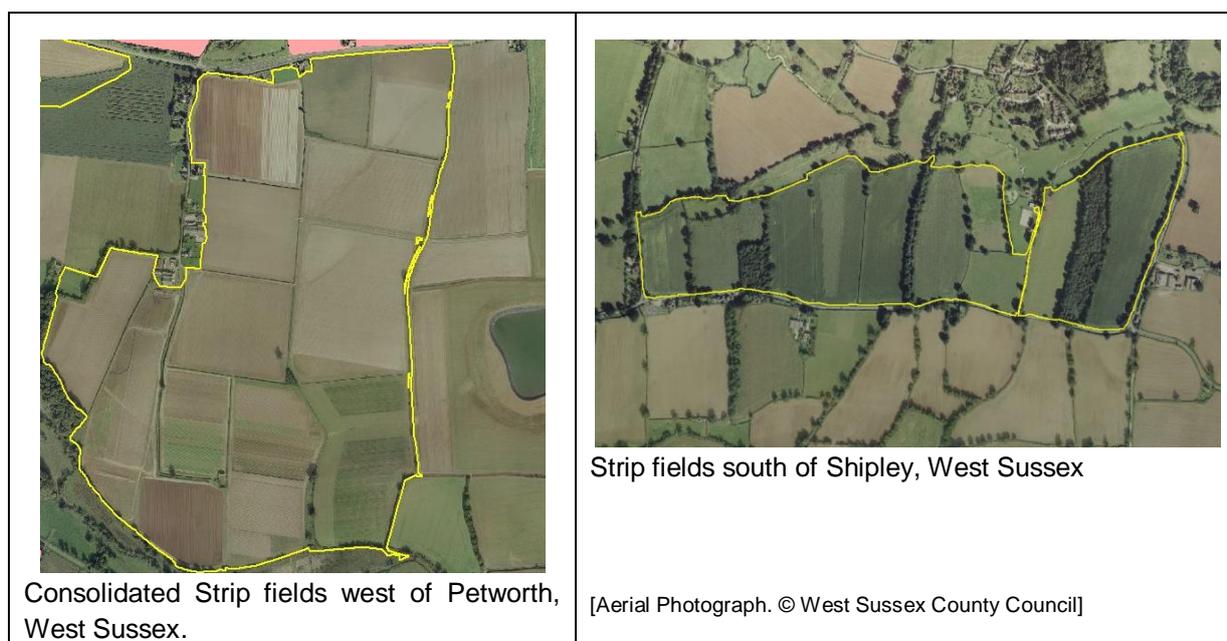


Figure 10. *Examples of consolidated strips and strip fields in West Sussex.*

4.1.5. Fields created through informal enclosure

Informal fields occur across the whole of the historic county of Sussex [Vol. III Map 6. Figure 4.]. They are more common in East Sussex where they are dispersed throughout the High and Low Weald. Informal fields are generally sub-divided in the HLC 'Interpretation of character' by field pattern, whether it is regular or irregular piece-meal enclosure. Informal enclosures are identified by the morphology of the boundaries and the subsequent shape and size of the fields. The antiquity of informal enclosures is not clear; some may be medieval whilst others may be the result of post-medieval re-organisation of earlier field patterns.

⁵⁸ D. Chatwin & M Gardiner 2005 Rethinking the early medieval settlement of woodlands: evidence from the western Sussex Weald. *Landscape History* vol 27 p31-49.

⁵⁹ D. Chatwin & M Gardiner 2005 Rethinking the early medieval settlement of woodlands: evidence from the western Sussex Weald. *Landscape History* vol 27 p35.

As with the Formal sub-type, Informal enclosure also covers brooks innings⁶⁰ of river valleys and which represent an 'ad hoc' approach to enclosing and draining the alluvial flood plains and valleys of the main rivers in Sussex. Informal innings are identified by the irregular field patterns, with the boundary ditches incorporating the sinuous natural streams which drained the former marshes. Inning fields are also a characteristic feature of Romney Marsh and the Pevensy Levels in East Sussex.



a. Regular Informal Enclosure

The Sussex HLC shows that regular piecemeal enclosure fields are intimately associated with assarts, in particular cohesive assarts in the Low Weald of East Sussex. This relationship is not clear, whether it is chronological - regular informal being younger than cohesive assarts, or a consequence of subsequent management and possible field re-organisation in the Early post-medieval period. These field types also show a similar relationship with assarts in the Low Weald of West Sussex but here the fields tend to occur in larger blocks [Vol. III Map 6].

There is another small group of fields in this informal category that is often associated with either existing unenclosed commons and heaths or the former sites of such; namely 'Enclosed wastes, commons and greens' – these are usually small pockets of ground which the 19th century maps indicate were probably managed for rough grazing and had unbounded trackways running through them. Such enclosures also tend to occur along roadsides and indicate former drove ways or formerly pre-metalled routes through the Low Weald (where the intractable Wealden Clay made passage in the winter months very difficult – See also wooded commons and regenerated woodland [see Vol. II 4.1.7.c. below].

b. Irregular Informal Enclosure

Informal and irregular fields are strongly associated with river and stream valleys and their internal boundaries are more often than not sinuous. They are more frequent in West than East Sussex [Vol. III Map 6.]. In the latter county many of these smaller valleys are occupied by woodland of varying origins rather than meadows [See Vol. II 4.1.7.c. below]. Irregular fields with straight internal boundaries occur in the Wealden Greensand and maybe a form of piecemeal enclosure of former commons and 'waste' lands.

c. Informal Enclosure - Boundary Morphology

Another way of analysing the informal fields is by their field pattern and boundary morphology. Regular informal fields with internal boundaries which are straight occur across the whole of Sussex, but with a greater but more dispersed concentration in the High Weald [Vol. III Map 7. Figure 6.]. These regular fields with straight internal boundaries also occur in the Low Weald. Less frequent are the regular informal fields with sinuous internal boundaries. They tend to occur most frequently north of the Downs but in the



⁶⁰ Brooks Innings – *brook* in Sussex means not only a stream but also a water meadow, or low marshy ground; and *innings* from verb *to inn* meaning to reclaim. Mawer and Stenton 2001 p550; Eddison 2000 p150.

Low Weald rather than the High Weald.

Informal fields with a semi-regular pattern [Vol. III Map 8.] occur in the High Weald and also in the Pevensey Levels – the latter are the brooks and salt marsh innings [See Vol. II 4.1.5.a. above]. In the High Weald, these fields may represent a period of field reorganisation possibly in the later medieval or early post-medieval period. For example there are references in the Court Rolls for the 17th century for the Manor of Bodiam to manor tenants being granted permission to re-organise the fields on their tenements in the parish of Ewhurst.⁶¹ The internal boundary morphology of these fields tends to comprise straight rather than sinuous boundaries, suggesting some element of planning in the enclosure process.

4.1.6. Types of Boundaries

The Sussex HLC has recorded 'Boundary Type' as one of the attributes for fieldscapes, based on map and aerial photograph evidence. Map 10 and Figure 6. [Vol. III] illustrate fieldscapes by their dominant boundary type. A similar pattern emerges to that for field sub-character type [Vol. III Map 3.], with the South Downs marking a clear delineation between hedgerows and wooded hedged fields and fields bounded by other forms of boundary types. The strong delineation between boundary types is one of the most visual aspects of historic landscape character across Sussex.

a. Wooded Boundaries

Fields with wooded boundaries, commonly and colloquially referred to as shaws, occur most frequently in the east and north of Sussex, mainly in the Low and High Weald, but they are also frequent in the Wealden Greensand. The name shaw can also be applied to a small wood, coppice or spinney⁶² and was generally used in the 19th century to name such woods on the OS maps. Wooded boundaries or shaws are a characteristic feature of ancient enclosure fields, and are one of their defining attributes. These are field boundaries which are generally wide and sinuous in character like linear woods and today are generally unmanaged with a high proportion of native woodland species in them. Traditionally, these shaws were managed by coppicing. Wooded boundaries may also include un-managed and outgrown hedges as well. Informal fields with wooded hedges tend to be confined to river valleys where the irregular piecemeal fields have unmanaged hedges.

b. Hedgerows

Hedgerows (or hedges) are boundaries of planted shrubs and trees managed by regular cutting, trimming and/or laying. Fields bounded by hedgerows occur predominantly in the Low Weald and Wealden Greensand, and extending into the High Weald. In particular hedged fields tend to occupy the tops of the ridges between the valleys of the Rivers Brede, Rother and Dudwell and their main tributaries. Hedgerows also occur bounding the fields in the Coastal Plain, where they are usually managed with little or no tree component.

Hedgerows are the most frequent boundary type (39%) with wooded hedgerows second at 30% [Vol. III Map 10.]. It is likely that some hedgerows, especially in the High and Low Weald may have originated as 'Wooded hedgerows' but with intense modern management by machinery are now defined as 'hedgerows'. Conversely, unmanaged hedgerows may be grouped with 'Wooded hedgerows', as many hedgerows have become 'wooded' since 1947. Selective ground-truthing may help establish the extent of this merging of types as will comparison with records on hedgerows and boundaries held by the Sussex Biological Records Centre.

c. Grassy Balks and Fences

Fields bounded by grassy balks or earthen banks with little or no shrub component, are a characteristic feature across the South Downs, together with fenced boundaries. These boundary

⁶¹ ESRO ACC 6692/1/2 Analytical Survey of Manor of Bodiam 1645.

⁶² N.D.G. James 1991. An historical dictionary of Forestry and Woodland Terms. Blackwell p158.

types make a significant contribution to the open character of the Downs and contribute to 7% of all boundary types being rare elsewhere in Sussex. Fences do occur elsewhere and are strongly associated with settlement; dividing up modern paddocks. They contribute to 14% of boundary types.

d. Ditches

Where the dominant boundary takes the form of a ditch or “wet fence”, they often form part of an extensive drainage network. During the characterisation process ditches were identified from the OS maps as those boundaries generally marked in blue. Ditch boundaries are confined to the river valleys, alluvial flood plains and in the areas of former marsh land. Over 10% of boundaries comprise ditches. Some of these boundaries do have a shrub component associated with them as the ditch edge has become naturally colonized, by willow and alder.

4.1.7. Woodland in Sussex

The Sussex HLC has identified a woodland cover of a total of 67,010 ha and includes areas less than 2ha in size (the minimum size used in the original Ancient Woodland Inventory)⁶³, wooded commons and wide roadside verges [Vol. III Map 11. Figure 7]. Sussex is one of the most wooded counties in the country and contains the greatest amount of ancient semi-natural woodland (i.e. areas which have had continuous woodland cover since AD 1600). During the digitising of the Sussex HLC a programme was initiated in Sussex to update the Ancient Woodland Inventory. It commenced with Wealden District. Sussex is now complete apart from Rother District with parts of Kent still in progress and Surrey is underway.⁶⁴ The Sussex HLC used the original Ancient Woodland Inventory as part of its data sources; only Wealden District was available in its revised form during the HLC digitisation process. Information from the Sussex HLC in turn has been used by the project officers revising the inventories for the rest of Sussex. Therefore the Sussex HLC should be used in conjunction with the GIS layers for the Revised Ancient Woodland Inventories.

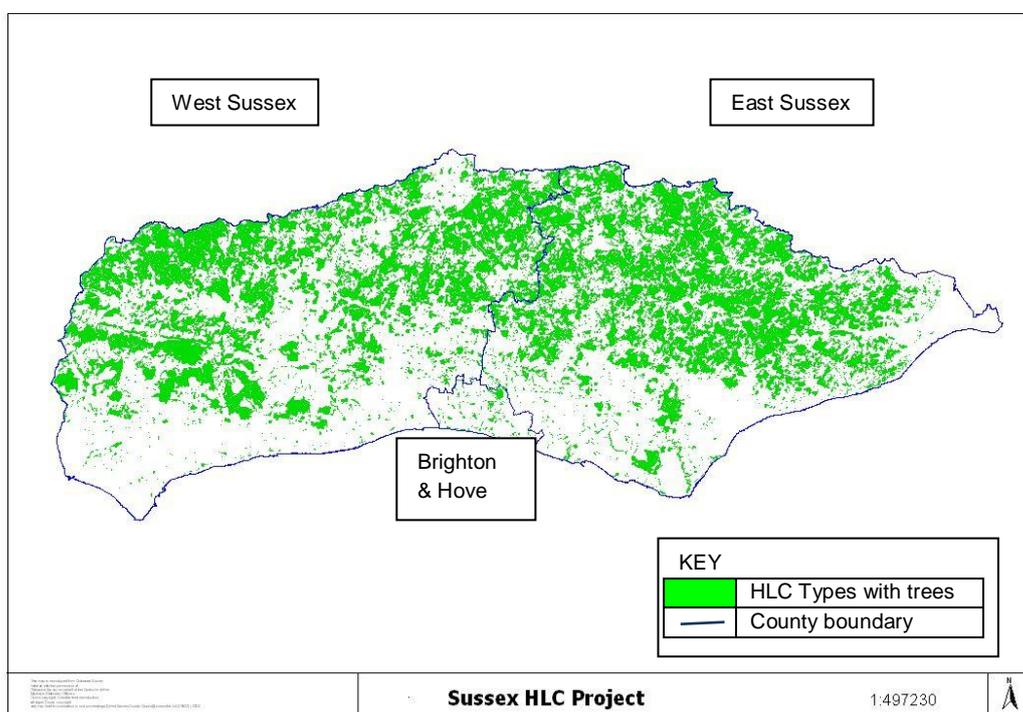


Figure 11. *Sussex showing all the HLC types and sub-types which are woodland or have a woodland or tree component.*

⁶³ The revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory which is currently in progress across the region does now include woodland of less than 2ha.

⁶⁴ See Westaway, S. 2006 Weald Ancient Woodland Survey for full details. Mid-Sussex and Chichester Districts are now complete, with Rother District due for completion in December 2010.

Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Volume II - Interpretation

Historically the north and north east of Sussex, a line north of the Downs together with south Surrey and south and west Kent formed the heart of a forest ‘se micla wudu’ – the great wood called by the Saxons *Andred*⁶⁵ and *Silva-Anderida* by the Romans. The forest had origins back in the climatic warming after the last Ice Age. Even today looking across the Weald there is a sense of almost continuous woodland and Rudyard Kipling refers to “the wooded, dim, Blue goodness of the Weald” dominated by the ‘Sussex weed’ or Oak.⁶⁶ An indication of the wooded nature of Sussex is shown in Figure 11.



The ‘ghost’ of this forest survives in its name – “Weald” and in the woodland place-name origins of many of the landscape features which survive today. The forest has been used and cleared in piece-meal and cyclical fashion throughout prehistoric and historic times leaving a patchwork of fields, large and small woods, wooded hedges and shaws. Regenerated secondary woodlands with commercial and recreational plantations contribute to the wooded character of the historic county. This process can clearly be seen in Map 11 [Vol. III], with the greatest concentration of woodland

occurring in the High Weald. The western South Downs also contains a high proportion of woodland both ancient in origin and later post-medieval forest plantations. The survival of so much woodland on the crest of the western South Downs is probably a consequence of the drift geology (Clay with flints drift on top of the chalk hills). A pastoral woodland origin to the landscape of the North Downs is also due to the extensive drift deposit of ‘Clay with Flints’ which lies on the top of the downs.⁶⁷ In Sussex much of this Down woodland has been managed through-out the post-medieval period by a number of larger landed estates such as Cowdray Park, the Goodwood Estate etc.

The Coastal Plain, the eastern end of the South Downs and the southern part of the Low Weald are comparatively bare of woodland. The general absence of woods in part probably reflects the longer period of settlement from the early prehistoric period when much of the former woodland cover was cleared and the land managed as farmland. There were however exceptions, for example west of Bognor where the 18th century maps show large coppice woods, none of which survive today. The Pevensey Levels and Romney Marsh historically were not wooded due to their marshland origins. The South Downs retains a higher proportion of



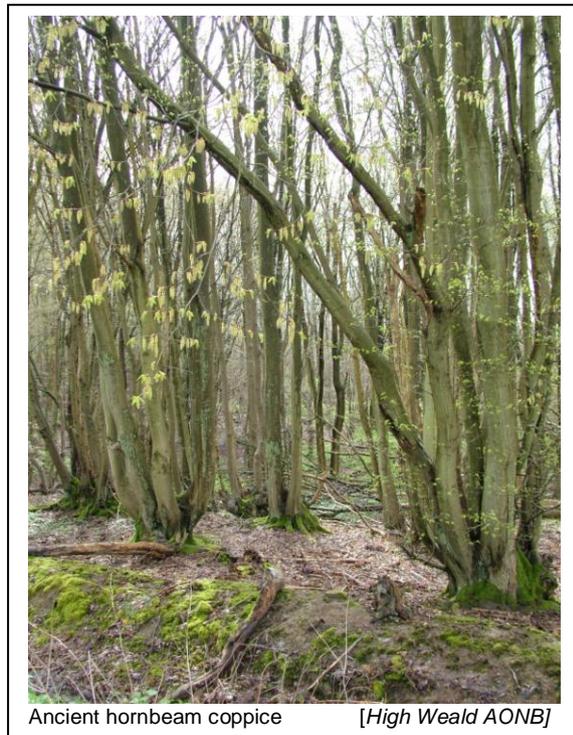
⁶⁵ Swanton 2000 p 85; A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton 2001. *The Place-names of Sussex*. English Place-name Society. p1

⁶⁶ Rudyard Kipling *Sussex 1902. The works of Rudyard Kipling*. Wordsworth Poetry Library

⁶⁷ A. Everitt 1987. *Continuity and Colonisation; the evolution of Kentish settlement*. Leicester University Press. p25

regenerated woodland than in any other part of Sussex. This reflects the change in management of the downs in the early part of the 20th century, when the practice of grazing in sheep across the steeper chalk downs declined. Further changes in traditional land management using stock are also shown in the woodland cover by the amount of commons which have subsequently become covered in secondary woodland and scrub (7% of the total woodland cover) [This will be discussed in 4.1.7.c. below].

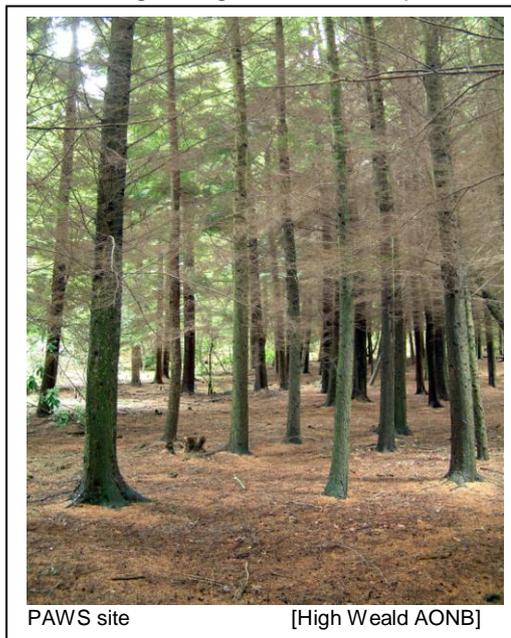
a. Ancient Woodland



The ancient wooded character of the High Weald is clear in Map 12 and Figure 8 [Vol. III]. Ancient woodland contributes to 38% (25732.28 ha) of the woodland digitised in the Sussex HLC. The dominant character of ancient woodland is of woods left behind when areas have been enclosed to fields – these are termed ‘assart’ woods for the purpose of the Sussex HLC (which contribute to 56% of the ancient woodland sub-type). In the core of the High Weald these ancient woods are intermixed with gill woodlands – steep sided wooded valleys and linked together with wooded boundaries or shaws (which contribute to nearly 12% of the ancient woodland sub-type). The western Low Weald also contains a relatively high density of ancient assart woodland, interspersed with smaller areas of gills. The ancient woodland character of the western South Downs is also apparent. By contrast the southern edge of the eastern Low Weald together with the Wealden Greensand retains relatively fewer areas of ancient woodland reflecting the greater time-depth in the

settlement history in these areas. Ancient woodland is extremely rare along the Coastal Plain today but historically there were pockets of ancient coppices supplying fuel and timber to the local communities – none of which survive today.

The pattern of ‘replanted ancient woodland’⁶⁸ sites mirrors that of the historic character of ancient woodland. In the High Weald many of these sites are dominated by both conifer plantations and plantations of Sweet Chestnut (nearly 18% of the ancient woodland sub-type). The latter conversion took place in the early part of the 19th century with the expansion in the hop growing industry, whilst the conversion to conifers was generally a 20th century land use change and contributes to 6% of the ancient sub-type.



b. Plantation Woodlands

Plantation Woodland is a post-medieval land use in particular the 19th and 20th centuries, and reflects a move away from traditional coppice with standards to a continental approach to managing trees as

⁶⁸ Replanted ancient woodland sites are the same as those defined by the Forestry Commission as Plantations on Ancient Woods or PAWS.

high forest for just timber instead of underwood and timber. Plantations contribute 21.5% (14,416 ha) of the woodland sub-type. Woods of a plantation origin occur across much of Sussex except for the Coastal Plain, Romney Marsh and the Pevensy Levels [Vol. III Map 13; Figure 9.]. The forestry planting in areas of St Leonard's and Worth Forests south of Crawley can clearly be seen as the large blocks of mixed plantations. These plantations form part of the enclosure of the former medieval 'Forests' and rabbit warrens located along a ridge of higher ground running east to west through the High Weald. Thus these are planted wood pastures and heaths rather than ancient coppice woods.

The comparatively low figure for conifer plantations probably reflects in part the already densely wooded nature of most of Sussex compared with other counties and also the period of intense replanting with Sweet Chestnut in response to the growth of the hop and brewing industries.

The extensive plantations of Friston Forest, north of Eastbourne can be readily identified on the map; this was planted by the Forestry Commission on former downland and chalk heathland. Plantations do also occur in the Weald, particularly the High Weald but these are generally very much smaller and loosely associated with ancient and replanted ancient sites. In some instances, such as at Brede and Darwell, the trees were planted as part of the management of the water catchment for the reservoirs located in the valleys.⁶⁹

d. Other Woodland

Contributing to the overall wooded nature of Sussex are the regenerated woods; the shaws or small areas of woodland (not wooded boundaries see Vol. II 4.1.6.a. above) and the areas of scrub which occur everywhere except along the Coastal Plain [Vol. III Map 14; Figure 12]. Generally these woods are small and scattered except for on the South Downs. Here the line of the chalk escarpment can be

traced by the disjointed line of scrub, where large tracts of regenerated scrub and wood clothe both the scarp face and dip slope, particularly at the western end.



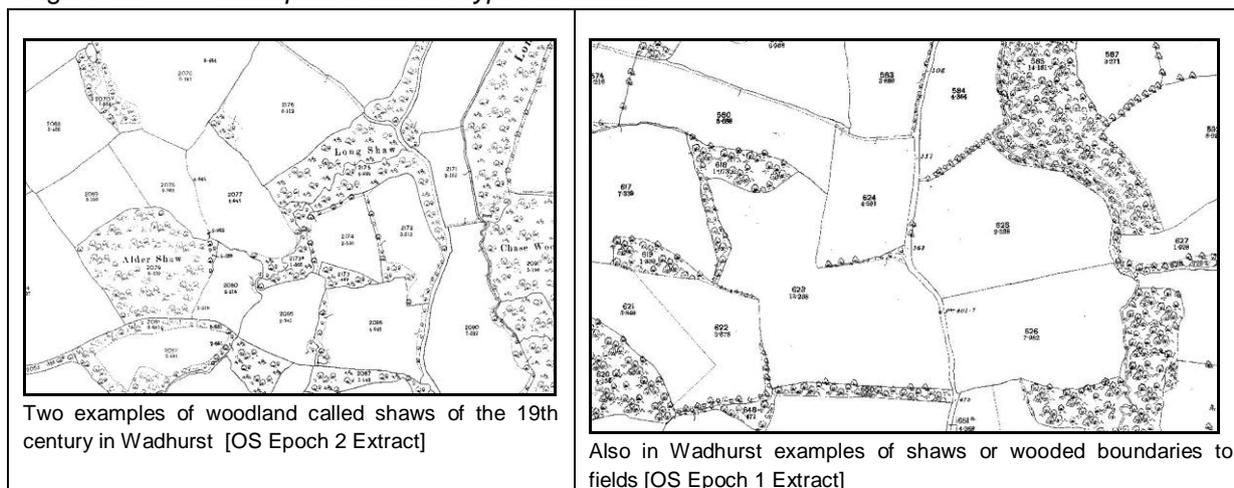
Shaws in Dudwell Valley [High Weald AONB]

In the High Weald, as well as there being wooded boundary shaws there are numerous woodlands called shaws. Although most are mapped as having a post-1800 origin, it is likely that when checked on the ground, many will be found to be much older or may incorporate a wooded boundary which was called a shaw, giving the name to the whole area of wood. [See Vol. II, Figure 12].

A small group of woods have been described as 'wood-pasture'. These are not to be confused with ancient sites of wood pasture (a nationally rare habitat); a few of which have been identified around Ashdown Forest as part of the Ancient Woodland HLC sub-type. Instead these other wood-pastures are generally where ancient and plantation woods have been partially cleared in the post-medieval and modern period leaving only standards remaining – they may also have formerly been ancient woodland sites which have become grazed by stock, removing understory.

⁶⁹ N.R. Bannister 2009. *Brede High Woods, Historic Landscape Survey and Archaeological Assessment*. 2 volumes. Unpublished Report for the Woodland Trust.

Figure 12. *Examples of the two types of Shaws*



4.1.8. Settlement in Sussex

As Roberts and Wrathnell have shown in their research on settlement patterns, Sussex is a county characterised by historically dispersed settlement pattern which is essentially medieval in origin.⁷⁰ This dispersed pattern can readily be seen in the map of settlement sub-type character [Map 15. Figure 11]. However this historic patterning has been altered in the post-medieval period by modern development concentrated along the Coastal Plain and inland in the railway towns of Burgess Hill, Horsham, Haywards Heath and Crowborough. To the north on the county boundary is the planned 'new town' of Crawley

a. Historic Settlement

The term 'Historic settlement' used in the Sussex HLC is that settlement which pre-dates AD 1800 (the beginning of the modern period) and has a highly dispersed character across the whole of Sussex except for the South Downs and the areas of former marshland [Vol. III Map 16.]. Historic settlement both dispersed and core areas contribute to 15% of the total area of settlement digitised on the Sussex HLC. Although the Coastal Plain is an area where the medieval open field system did pre-dominate in Sussex and is partly associated with small centralized villages, there is also a dispersed nature to the farmsteads within each parish [Vol. III Map 18.]. Along the downs scarp foot the spring line settlements of the early medieval period can easily be traced within the area of the Wealden Greensand Ridge together with the line along the valley of the River Rother. Elsewhere 'historic core' settlements. i.e. the villages and towns are scattered across the historic county [Vol. III Map 17.]. Sussex HLC does not plot routeways but some historic routeways can be traced by the lines of historic settlement. A layer which mapped historic routeways would link many of the dispersed farms and probably reveal further trends and patterns.



The Roman town of Chichester *Noviomagus* located at the south west end of Stane Street (Chichester Harbour to London) had its origins as a market centre in the Iron Age. The Roman plan still survives today with the grid pattern of roads enclosed by a city wall. Elsewhere wealthy rural farms or villas were located

⁷⁰ B.K. Roberts and S. Wrathnell 2002 *Region and Place. A study of English rural settlement*. English Heritage, p10, 158

on the richer soils of the Coastal Plain, edge of the Downs and the Greensand Ridge.⁷¹

In the 7th century there were few centralized Saxon centres. However by the 11th century a network of towns, routeways with hamlets and villages had sprung up performing a variety of functions such as the minster churches. The Saxon Burghs or defended settlements were built in response to Viking raids and these became the forerunners of medieval towns such as at Lewes or stimulated medieval settlement nearby such as the site at Burham which was superseded by Arundel.⁷²

The historic towns and villages in the Weald developed from the 11th century onwards as small market centres for the sale and dispersal of surplus agricultural and woodland products. Many obtained licences to hold fairs in the 12th century. Prior to this rural settlement was very dispersed comprising varying sized farms and manors.

For details on the historic development of towns in Sussex see the relevant volumes of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey.⁷³

b. Settlement Expansion

Settlement expansion in the Sussex HLC is defined as that which has taken place since AD 1800, and is in the form of urban and sub-urbanisation. Settlement Expansion contributes to 85.5% (34,290 ha of the digitised county) of the Settlement broad type of which 3.5 % is rural expansion not associated with towns and villages. Suburban expansion contributes to 44.6% of settlement. By far the greatest degree of development taken place along the Coastal fringes from Hastings in the east to Bognor in the west [Vol. III Map 19.]. The sprawl of planned estates along the coastal fringes and its hinterland dominate the modern settlement pattern [Vol. III Maps 20 & 21.]. Inland, the routes of the main railway lines can be traced from London along the division between East and West Sussex; East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and Steyning, and Horsham to the west are all examples of small settlements which have rapidly expanded in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Crawley 'New Town' was a late 20th century planned new town in the heart of the South East.

Within the area of the Wealden Greensand Ridge and the High Weald there are fewer areas of large scale settlement expansion, but this may reflect the influence of the statutory protection of the AONBs in the latter part of the 20th century. A similar process is also apparent on the South Downs, which historically had fewer settlements in the historic period compared with the lands to the north and south. The eastern and extreme western end of the Low Weald also retains its essentially rural character of small spring line villages and dispersed farmsteads. As will be seen this area still retains a landscape of considerable antiquity and historic landscape continuity going back to the medieval period [See Vol. II section 4.2.3.].



Non-suburban settlement of the 20th century is shown on Map 22 [Vol. III]. This is generally confined to large and small farmstead settlement type and in particular the expansion of farms in the early part of the 20th century. This process has taken place across Sussex.

⁷¹ Leslie & Short 1999 *An historical Atlas of Sussex*. p26

⁷² Ibid p30

⁷³ R. B. Harris 2004-2010. *Sussex Extensive Urban Survey Volumes*. East and West Sussex County Councils and English Heritage.

4.1.9. Unenclosed and unimproved landscapes

The unenclosed and unimproved Sussex HLC Broad type category includes all the heaths, commons, downs, greens and marshlands. These are nationally rare habitats and are essentially relict landscapes from a system of traditional land use which was severely in decline by the late 19th and early part of the 20th century. Often referred to as 'waste' belonging to medieval manors, these landscapes originally provided a wide range of resources and were often extensively utilised. Generally the underlying soils were too porous to allow continued cultivation and this very process impoverished them further. The origins of these landscapes probably date back to the prehistoric period, when early farmers cleared the easy to work and the then fertile soils for cultivation. Decline in fertility led to abandonment and many were used for stock grazing or became covered in woodland regrowth. The long period of continued low intensity land use means that as well as being historically important as landscapes they also contain a wide range of archaeological sites, especially dating from the prehistoric period, in an extant and well-preserved condition. Today, these are highly valued habitats for their ecological diversity and rarity of species. As landscape types, they are nationally rare and also in decline.



The varied Wealden geology which underpins the landscape of Sussex has together with traditional land use practices given rise to a wide variety of heaths, downs and commons. The influence of the geology can be seen in the dispersed distribution of this HLC type [Vol. III Map 24; Figure 14.]. Chalk downland contributes to 40% of the Unenclosed Sussex HLC type with 4753.3 ha digitised. The South Downs has a fragmented distribution of chalk grassland mainly concentrated in the eastern end (where traditionally there were far more sheep walks also called "tenantry commons" than in the west - see below). The scarp face of the downs can easily be traced along with

larger but fragmented tracts of chalk grassland around Eastbourne and on the Downs above Storrington. Chalk downland is less common in the west due to the higher frequency of woodland on the Clay-with-Flints drift deposit overlying the chalk. Heaths, commons and wooded over commons occur most frequently in the Wealden Greensand Hills and extend into the western fringes of the Low Weald, where the geology gives rise to infertile porous sandy soils which are easily leached leading to podzolisation. Wooded over commons contribute to 35% of the Unenclosed Sussex HLC type and thus contributes to the already heavily wooded character of the Weald. Historically, these heaths and commons extended further eastwards but many have been enclosed to fields or built-over in the post-medieval period [See below]. The parishes of Ditchling [See Vol. II section 4.4.2.] and Chailey still retain parts of this early-medieval landscape. In the High Weald, Ashdown Forest forms the largest area of unenclosed heath, heathy wood pasture and common, a landscape which once extended both east and west along the 'Forest ridge' from Horsham and over the county boundary into Kent.

4.1.10. Designed Landscapes

Parkscapes or designed landscapes are essentially landscapes of pleasure and recreation, ranging from large formally designed parklands of the 16th to 19th century, to large modern gardens laid out around former farmsteads. Medieval and early post-medieval parks were also a sign of status, wealth and power for the social elite. By enclosing land for the pleasure of the hunt and to raise the highly valued meat of venison and other game showed in part that the owner could afford to take land out of other forms of food production as well as laying claim to large areas of the countryside. These medieval deer parks often formed the core of later designed landscapes. The large designed parklands are associated with the large landed estates such as Cowdray, Petworth, Goodwood etc.

These occur most frequently in the west of the historic county and extending into the South Downs [Vol. III Map 23. Figure 12.]. Many of these post-medieval parkscapes have a medieval deer park as their core origin and some still retain their medieval character albeit in a modified form, as for example



Ashburnham Park

[N.R. Bannister]

at Buxted Park, Ringmer Park and Slindon Park. By contrast areas of informal post-medieval gentrification tend to occur through the centre of Sussex and in particular close to the railway corridors especially in the western High Weald. Here 'new money' from the City businessmen, from industrialists from the north of the country and wealthy plantation owners was used to create areas for recreation and aesthetic pleasure, to be enjoyed by 'polite society' while the rest of the population could look and admire. The High Weald also has several formal parkscapes, such as at Ashburnham, built from the wealth produced in part from the Iron Industry.

Designed Landscapes HLC broad type is identified by a number of historic attributes, and can include a combination of the following; formal tree plantings in groups, roundels and avenues; plantations and coverts; scattered individual trees; lakes, and ponds either landscaped hammer ponds as for example at Ashburnham or embanked streams; areas of gardens and interconnecting rides, paths and tracks. There may also be a defined park boundary, which may in part be the remains of a medieval deer park boundary and remnants of a wood-pasture system.

The Designed Landscape HLC type is divided into Formal and Informal sub-types. Where the park has been laid out according to a plan or guidance from a landscape designer, such as Capability Brown, these are described as 'Formal' whereas those which have a more organic origin through the clearance of field boundaries, instigated by the owner with no plan, these are identified as Informal.

A common informal type is the large landscape garden, which occur most frequently in the High Weald and extend into the Low Weald. Most of these large gardens are modern in origin and are an indication of the process of 'gentrification' and 'suburbanisation' of former historic farmsteads. The impact of the 19th century expansion of the railways on landscape gentrification can also be traced in the western High Weald. Again large landscape gardens and post-medieval gentrified parkscapes are found in the rural landscape around railway settlements, reflecting the incoming of wealthy business people.



Parham House & Park

[West Sussex County Council]

4.1.11. Horticulture and Recreation

Both Horticulture and Recreation are closely associated with Settlement. Sports and cricket grounds as expected occur most frequently within areas of modern settlement, whereas golf courses are found right across Sussex and in particular in the Low Weald [Vol. III Map 25. Figure 15.]. There are two main areas where horticulture is concentrated. The Coastal Plain has a high concentration of nurseries and glasshouses around Chichester and along the foot of the downs (nurseries contributing to 53% of the total area of horticulture types). This land use once extended eastwards along the

coast; many former nurseries having been developed to housing estates. Market gardens are also concentrated near areas of settlement and like nurseries were once more frequent than today [See Vol. II 4.2.2. below]. The other area of horticulture dominated by top fruit is in East Sussex around the edge of Winchelsea and the high ground between the valleys of the Rivers Rother and Brede. Here orchards are still a frequent landuse.

4.1.12. Industry and Communications

Sussex is thought of as a county with a low degree of industrial activity. In fact there was much more in the past, compared with today, with the cessation of iron working, reduction in brick and tile production, industries centred on the woodland, harbours and their allied industries, Today factories including business parks are the dominant character type with mineral extraction and water processing [Vol. III Map 26. Figure 16.]. Extractive industries occur across Sussex but are most frequent on the chalk and greensand. Cement works occur in the valleys of the River Ouse and Adur, where they cut through the downs. Stone quarries and sand pits occur on the Greensand Ridge and there are still a number of active brick and tile works, for example Keymer's on the edge of Burgess Hill, and Ibstock at West Hoathly and Bexhill-on-Sea.



Hammer Pond, St Leonard's [High Weald AONB]

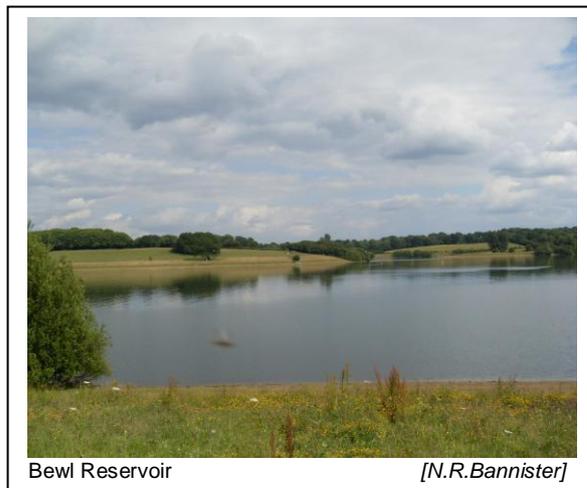
In the South East there was a high concentration of Second World War airfields, which do not appear on the Sussex HLC; this suggests that due to their dispersed distribution within the countryside they have now become re-absorbed back into the landscape. This probably follows for decoy airfields. Airfields built before 1940 tended to be located closer to settlement and have generally remained as working airfields today, where they have not been converted to residential or other industrial uses.

In the Low and High Weald there has been a trend for small factories to be built on the sites of former brick and tile works. Communications, namely airfields, stations, motorway junctions etc. are strongly associated with urban and sub-urban development.

4.1.13. Coastal, Reclaimed Marshland and Water

Water is a characteristic feature of Sussex, whether it comprises the coastline with its marshlands, cliffs and mudflats or the numerous ponds and lakes which occur predominately north of the Downs [Vol. III Map 27].

Many of the water bodies are associated with past industrial activities such as hammer ponds, flooded mineral workings or the numerous marl pits and ironstone pits which dot the Low and High Weald. In the High Weald several sites of former hammer ponds have been re-instated as reservoirs, such as the Powdermill Reservoir near Brede; Bewl Water on the county boundary with Kent; and the Darwell reservoir near Brightling. Other hammer ponds



Bewl Reservoir [N.R.Bannister]

have been landscaped such as at Ashburnham to form part of the Designed Parkland. Flooded gravel workings occur to the east of Chichester and these water bodies have a high wildlife and recreational value today. Areas of marsh land are found at Chichester Harbour, Pagham and Selsey in West Sussex and at Rye and Winchelsea in East Sussex.

4.2. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: TIME-DEPTH AND ANTIQUITY

In order to assess the antiquity of the present Sussex landscape, for each of the HLC polygons, the period of origin of the present HLC type, sub-type and 'interpretation of character' has been recorded. However where the land use of any particular polygon is known to have changed from evidence of the key sources, further HLC types, sub-types and 'interpretation of character' of the past land use have been recorded. The latter gives the HLC of the previous land use and landscape. [See section Vol. II 4.2.2. below]. However not all polygons will have evidence of previous land use recorded. By capturing the period data in the Sussex HLC in these two ways enables two approaches to the analysis the time-depth and antiquity of the landscape to be used by firstly looking at the antiquity of features within the present Sussex landscape and thus establishing its time-depth and by secondly, teasing out the time-depth of the present Sussex landscape by creating slices of landscape change (i.e. periods of change for previous HLC layers (called *hlc-prev* in the data base). It is then possible to postulate what past historic landscapes may have looked like and from which present landscapes have evolved.

There are nine periods identified; P1-P4 use periods from the key archive sources, whilst P5-P9 are interpreted. Thus potentially for any polygon there are 9 periods of previous land use. In practice the most recorded periods of change are three or four.

Table 2. *The Archaeological and Historical Periods used in the Sussex HLC*

Key to HLC-Prev	Description	Date	Combined
P1	Late 20th century	AD1945 – present	Post 1900
P2	Early 20th century	AD 1914 – AD 1945	
P3	Early Modern	AD 1800 – AD 1913	19th century
P4	Late Post-medieval	AD 1600 – AD 1799	Post-medieval
P5	Early Post-medieval	AD 1500 – AD 1599	
P6	Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1499	Medieval
P7	Early-medieval	AD 410 – AD 1065	
P8	Roman	AD 43 – AD 409	
P9	Prehistoric	500,000 BC – AD42	

4.2.1. Historic Antiquity of the Present Landscape

Often a public perception of landscapes especially of rural ones is a sense of timelessness and of little or no change. To a certain extent the latter is essentially true as often the 'bones' or structure of any landscape may remain unaltered for hundreds of years. However the HLC process acknowledges that landscapes are constantly changing in many ways and at different rates. Historic characterisation captures the essence of those processes. Through the analysis of the Sussex HLC by selection of periods set by the range of key archive sources used in the characterisation process and also by interpretation, it is possible to see to what extent the landscape has changed over the historic period and the survival rate of 'ancient' landscapes.

Map 28 [Vol. III] displays the whole of the present day Sussex HLC by the predominant age of origin as grouped into combined periods (See Table 2 above). Immediately it is possible to see that the 'grain' of the time-depth character or antiquity of the present landscape is similar to that for the Sussex HLC Broad Types [Vol. III Map 3]. Those landscapes with a more recent origin to their

present historic landscape character occur in the south and west of Sussex, along the Coastal Plain and into the South Downs, whilst some of the oldest surviving (into the present) landscapes occur throughout the Low and High Weald. In fact the Low Weald retains intact some ancient field systems, such as co-axial fields, consolidated strip fields and former strip fields, which have their origins in the early medieval period; these occur in the Western Low Weald near Horsham and also in the east near Ripe and Chalvington.

Ashdown Forest is a landscape with its origins in the early medieval period, and despite small-scale development, enclosure and afforestation, it still retains its wood pasture and open wooded heath character that a Saxon herdsman would possibly still recognise. The heart of the High Weald retains much of its early medieval and medieval origins and areas around Mayfield, Burwash and Wadhurst retain the intimate mix of fields, woods and farms which a medieval yeoman farmer would be at home in.

However, when any area of the landscape is examined in detail there will be features from the past which still survive today even for example in the modern suburban housing developments along the coastal fringes. For example, roads and the edges of housing estates may often fossilise the former field pattern by following historic field boundaries. Areas dominated by modern landscapes are likely to have a greater 'time-depth' of layers; retaining features from previous land use and also having the greater archaeological potential for buried evidence of those past land use activities. This is particularly relevant for the Coastal Plain and the South Downs, where development has revealed below ground archaeology going back to early prehistory.

The pattern of 'time-depth' can be examined in more detail by separating the Sussex HLC of the present landscape into its component periods.

a. The Historic Pre - AD 1800 Landscape [P3, P4, P5]

By combining all the periods pre-dating AD 1800 produces a map of the present visual historic landscape which has probably undergone less dramatic change than compared with the modern one [Vol. III Map 35.]. Essentially it is a rural landscape and reinforces the perception of the countryside as 'never-changing' but remaining the broadly the same. (Paradoxically seasonal changes are far more evident in the countryside than in built-up areas). Large tracts of the present Sussex landscape, especially the Low and High Weald retain essentially intact pre- AD 1800 historic landscapes.

b. The Modern (post - AD 1800) Landscape [P2, P1]

The Coastal Plain and large swathes of the South Downs are dominated by a historic landscape character which post-dates 1800 [Vol. III Map 36.]. These are landscapes where both urban and rural elements have undergone change. In the countryside, key processes which have shaped the modern landscape include, downland which has been enclosed and converted to arable, forest plantations established and fields enlarged through boundary removal. The Coastal Plain is dominated by change from rural to suburban and urban, sometimes with industrial complexes in between. Similar processes have taken place in the north of Sussex with the development of Crawley and the afforestation of Worth and St Leonard's Forests. Many of these processes result in large-scale change removing much of what went before.

c. The Medieval Period [P6 AD 1066 – AD 1400]

The Low and High Weald landscapes retain a historic character which is firmly medieval in origin. Fields and enclosures dominate covering 68% of the total medieval area and as discussed before these are fields which tend to originate from woodland clearance – assarting [Vol. III Map 31; Figure 19]. Woodland covers 22% and probably dates from a lot earlier than this. Away from the Weald, downs, heaths and commons with their associated settlements are the most frequent medieval historic landscape character type. Settlement dating from this period occurs across Sussex except for

the downs. Deserted medieval settlement farms have been identified on the chalk hills for example at West Blatchington, with the later middle ages seeing a contraction in settlement and population on the downs.⁷⁴ Larger medieval farmsteads are most common in the Weald.

The fine grain of the Wealden Greensand landscape also dates from this period as indicated by the settlements, small enclosures and 'manorial waste'. The South Downs retains pockets of chalk grassland, which had its origins well before the Medieval period. Today it preserves evidence of its prehistoric heritage in the form of extant earthworks and buried remains. The whole structure of the Weald, its settlements, woods, fields and routeways is essentially medieval and modern historic landscape character types are generally diffused within it. By contrast the antiquity of the present landscape of the Coastal Plain lies in its historic settlement and routeway pattern. The past historic landscape character of the Coast lies buried beneath the covering of post-medieval and more modern land use. This hidden 'time-depth' stretches back to early prehistory.

d. The Post-medieval [P4 AD 1600 – AD 1799 & P5 AD 1599 – AD 1400]

Historic landscape character with origins in the late post-medieval period is dominated by field enclosure (73%) and emparkment (17%) [Vol. III Map 32; Figure 20].

Fields were created as part of formal enclosure of open fields, commons and heaths. These fieldscapes occur largely on the downs, the Coastal Plain and around the Levels and marshes of Pevensey and Rye. There appears to be a considerable amount of field reorganisation during this period continuing from the early post-medieval and it appears to occur across Sussex.

The process of emparking was probably reaching at its height in this period and many of the designed parkscapes surviving today had their formal landscapes laid out in this period. Many of the large landed estates in West Sussex date from this period, though for any individual park there may be several phases of landscaping evident a number of the recreational parks of the post-medieval period had their origins as deer parks in the medieval period/middle ages.

The early post-medieval [AD 1500 – AD 1599] historic landscape character is dominated by fieldscapes (93%) [Map 33; Figure 21]. The majority of the fields are informal enclosures and there appears to be a concentration across the Low Weald possibly reflecting a period of field re-organisation. Further early post-medieval enclosures occur in the river valleys and marsh lands – the brooks innings, reflecting a period of draining and improving of flood plains. Inland informal enclosure through parts of the High Weald was also taking place, again possibly due to reorganization of an existing field system. These areas of field re-organisation may be associated with farm expansions and amalgamations. A number of the parkland landscapes date also from this period, for example the development of Tudor deer parks reflecting increased wealth and status through industry or through royal patronage.

e. The Nineteenth Century [P3 Modern AD 1800 – AD 1913]

Historic landscape character originating in the 19th century is dominated by field enclosure (44% of total area of 19th century) [Vol. III Map 34; Figure 23]. This process is generally enclosure from heaths, commons, downs and remnants of open fields. Parkscapes and large landscaped gardens contribute to 14% (of the total area) and occur most frequently in the western High Weald and extending southwards into the Low Weald. This patterning of change reflects the influence of the railways and settlement of non-farming incomers with money from the city. It also reflects the availability of farms and lands in the High Weald which were becoming available as agriculture declined (a process very prevalent today).

⁷⁴ P. Brandon and B. Short 1990 *The South East from AD 1000*. Longman p103-106

The settlement expansion along the coast seen in the 20th century had begun mostly in the 19th century around former fishing villages and small harbours. Brighton, Littlehampton and Worthing however had their recreational seaside origins in the latter part of the 18th century. Bognor developed from the early 19th century onwards. Afforestation in the western South Downs and also in the forests of Worth and St Leonards is visible in this century, with the development of the Continental approach to woodlands as 'high forest' managed for the production of straight, clean-trunked timber trees by estates and larger landowners. Within the High and Low Weald expansion in the form of dispersed settlement (mostly small farmsteads and cottages) was taking place together with smaller scale expansion in the villages, hamlets and along roadsides.

f. The Twentieth Century [P1 Late C20 - AD 1946 to present & P2 Early C20 - AD 1913 – AD 1945]

Twentieth century historic landscape character occurs right across Sussex but dominates the Coastal Plain, South Downs and coastal fringes of the High Weald [Vol. III Map 35; Figure 18.]. By area, modern field amalgamation is the main process driving change closely followed by settlement expansion and afforestation. Golf courses are a modern phenomenon in the rural landscape, though some examples do date from the latter part of the 19th century, for example at the Devil's Dyke on the South Downs. Regeneration of woodland on former commons and heaths is another localised process of change, which is often imperceptible to the present local community. The gradual, incremental change caused by scrub and woodland development may only be noticeable by those who have lived in the area a long time – social and economic mobility bring in newcomers who accept the landscape as they find it.



Birling in the South Downs

[East Sussex County Council]

In the early 20th century expansion of large scale nurseries and commercial horticulture as well as industrial brickworks and gravel workings occurred in the Coastal Plain around Chichester [Vol. III Map 36; Figure 22], which in turn has been largely swept away in the late 20th century by housing development. Settlement in the form of extensive high density housing estates along the coastal fringes and around the 'railway towns' is a key process of change in this period. The gentrification of the landscape continued from the 19th century with the creation of large landscape gardens and country villas, again with a larger concentration in the towns developing near to the railway links.

It could be argued that the historic character of the present landscape is becoming far more complex and more fragmented, not less.

4.2.2. Historic Landscape Characterisation: Change and Extent

The historic landscape character for the Sussex landscape in the past has also been captured as part of individual HLC polygon attributes where that information has been available from the key sources used in the characterisation process or where it has been possible to postulate the previous land use. These are termed the *hlc-prev* layers and for any given polygon there might be between 0 and 5 or records depending on its land use history, For example a housing estate [present historic character] might be built on the site of woodland which had regenerated in the 1920s [P2] on an old brickworks site of the 1860s [P3] which was formerly part of a field system [P3]. Not all polygons may have had their land use in the past identified, (about one third of the approximate 45,000 polygons of the Sussex HLC).

The following map Map 37 [Vol. III] shows those polygons which have undergone change and by which period. The pattern shows that the greatest amount of observed change occurred from the Late Post-medieval to the Early 20th century but this may also be in part due to a reflection of the available archive sources used in the characterisation process. The HLC previous layers should be seen as a guide rather than absolute as more detailed site or area specific research will provide greater detail.

Table 3. *Period Table for the previous landuse character and sources*

Key to "HLC-Prev"	Description	Date	Combined
P1	Late 20th century	AD 1945 – present	Post 1900
P2	Early 20th century	AD 1914 – AD 1945	
P3	Early Modern	AD 1800 – AD 1913	19th century
P4	Late Post-medieval	AD 1600 – AD 1799	Post-medieval
P5	Early Post-medieval	AD 1500 – AD 1599	
P6	Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1499	Medieval
P7	Early-medieval	AD 410 – AD 1065	
P8	Roman	AD 43 – AD 409	
P9	Prehistoric	500,000 BC – AD 42	

For each period of change the sequence of maps [Vol. III Maps 38 - 47] shows those polygons which have changed and from what past historic landscape character compared with the present HLC character seen today. The early 20th century has seen the greatest amount of change in area with fields, woods and unenclosed being developed to settlement [Vol. III Maps 38 - 39]. However it was in the Late post-medieval and Early Modern periods that significant amounts of downland became enclosed [Maps 40 – 44]. The greatest amount of observable change in the medieval period is the enclosure of deer parks to either farmland, woodland or designed parkscapes [Vol. III Maps 46 – 47].

a. Land use change in the early 20th century AD 1914 – AD 1945 [HLC-prev 2 (P2)]

Those HLC polygons for the present landscape which changed in the period from the present to the early 20th century are shown on Map 38 and what those polygons changed from on Map 39 [Vol. III]. Settlement dominates with the expansion of the suburbs along the Coastline and the development of Crawley New Town (post 1945) to the north of Sussex. This development was at the expense of fields and in particular on the Coast around Worthing and Bognor on former nurseries, market gardens (and to a lesser extent allotments), which were not economically viable due to transport costs and cheaper imports. The railway towns of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill show suburban expansion across not only fields but also designed landscapes, namely post-medieval gentrification of small parklands and gardens which grew up close to the railway settlements.

Across the Downs the extensive areas of chalk grassland can be seen on Map 39 [Vol. III] which had been enclosed and ploughed up during, between and after the two World Wars. In the rural areas the extent of modern field amalgamation can be seen by the polygons which remain green on both maps.

The process of the conversion of heaths, woods and in particular, farmland to large golf courses can be seen happening in this modern period.

b. Land Use change in the Early Modern period 19th century [HLC-prev 3 (P3)]

Those HLC polygons for the present landscape which changed in the early modern period (19th century) are shown on Map 40 [Vol. III] and what they changed from on Map 41 [Vol. III].

The process of modern field amalgamation began in this period in particular across the Downs as well as the enclosure of the chalk grasslands and their conversion to arable fields.

The settlement expansion along the Coastline is also very apparent, with housing estates being built on fields. Nurseries and market gardens were economically viable and expanding at this time. The railway towns are beginning to appear, with Burgess Hill for example expanding on to heathland, [See section 2.5. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Vol. I - User Guide]. The development of the airborne communications is shown by the number of airfields present around Chichester which were built in the latter part of the early modern period during World War I and are now used for commercial and pleasure light aircraft.

c. Land use change in the Late Post-medieval 18th century [HLC-prev 4 (P4)]

Those HLC polygons with their origins in the 18th century are shown on Map 42 [Vol. III] and the land use which they changed from on Map 43 [Vol. III].

The South Downs around Brighton and the downland hinterland were undergoing the greatest amount of land use change during this period. The development of Brighton as a recreational watering place by the sea across the former open fields and chalk downlands can be seen by comparing the two maps. At the same time the Downs were undergoing enclosure through parliamentary acts to convert the open grazing pastures to fields. However the Downs were not the only area undergoing wholesale change. Inland to the north at the western end of the High Weald large tracts of the medieval forests of Worth, St Leonard's and Tilgate were being either enclosed to fields or planted up with commercial trees for timber. Another land use change occurring in this area was the creation of parklands through post-medieval gentrification, probably a consequence of the 'forest' lands becoming available through enclosure.

To the east Hastings and Bexhill were also expanding as places for settlement and recreation, and further east along the coast large areas of the marshlands around Rye, Winchelsea and Pevensey were being drained and enclosed.

In fact the loss of heaths, commons, greens and downs appears to have been at its greatest in this period, reflecting the decline and breakdown of the traditional medieval commonly grazing and remnant transhumance methods of managing stock. This was brought about by developments in agricultural technology in the 18th century and by the gradual break-down of the manorial system of land organisation.

d. Land use change in the Early Post-medieval – Tudor period [HLC-prev 5 (P5)]

The number of polygons exhibiting change in this period is significantly less than those previous. [Vol. III Maps 44 & 45]. This probably reflects not only a period of relatively land use stability but also the reduction in the number of key archive sources which date back to this period. Here the characterisation process relies more on informed interpretation.

The enclosure and draining of the Sussex area of Romney Marsh around Rye and Winchelsea began during this period, with the building of key coastal defence walls. The Crumbles near Eastbourne were also being reclaimed as well. To the north of Eastbourne, the area around Ringmer had a number of deer parks, such as the Broyle, Ringmer, Plashett etc. some of which are shown as being dis-emparked at this time. The expansion of Chichester can also be seen beyond the walls of the Roman settlement, in particular to the north of the city, with enclosure of open fields to the east.

e. Land use change in the Medieval period [HLC-prev 6 (P6)]

Maps 46 and 47 [Vol. III] show those polygons which underwent change between the Medieval period and the early post-medieval. As with the latter, the land use change is based in informed interpretation rather than key archive sources. The HLC does however capture the disemparking of medieval deer parks of which there were a significant number across Sussex, in particular the western Low Weald north of Petworth and the eastern Low Weald north of Lewes. In fact the greatest number appears from the HLC to have been in the Low Weald, near enough to the administrative centres of the Rapes but not on valuable farmland. Smaller deer parks were also emparked in the High Weald. The draining and enclosure of the Pevensey Levels is also shown during this period of change.

4.2.3. The Medieval landscape modeled by HLC

By layering all the previous periods of change over the present HLC of Sussex, it is possible to model what the Late Medieval to Early Medieval landscape character might have looked like [Vol. III Map 48]. A number of features can be observed about the Medieval landscape.

a. Woodland

The relatively unchanged amounts of woodland compared with the present day historic landscape character. This indicates the amount of ancient woodland still present in today's landscape and thus the relatively undisturbed nature of the soils and habitat. It also highlights the potential for undisturbed archaeological remains of the prehistoric, Roman and early-medieval periods within these ancient sites.

b. Unenclosed / unimproved

The amount of unenclosed and or unimproved landscapes commons is highly visible in the medieval landscape. These areas of unenclosed lands or 'manorial waste' was at that time an important part of the rural economy, Most lowland farmers had access to unenclosed grazing whether it was on the downs, or the extensive heaths on the greensand. This practice of moving stock probably had its origins in the prehistoric period but was more highly developed in the early medieval period and led to the creation of longitudinal (east-west) parishes and rapes territories which encapsulated a broad spectrum of soils and landscapes within Sussex, for example Ditchling from the top of the South Downs deep into the heart of the Weald [See Vol. II 4.4.2. below]. Many of these extensive commons, heaths and downs survived into the post-medieval period, but disappeared fast in the early 20th century. Today only fragments survive. However this map does highlight how extensive they were and how important commons were in the landscape, affecting the orientation of routeways and the development of settlement. It also gives an indication of the land organization of medieval rural economy which supported a subsistence farming way of life.

c. Settlement

The light and dispersed character of the settlement pattern with few large centres of population is very apparent. These centres comprised villages and market towns such as Midhurst and Petworth in West Sussex, and Mayfield and Crowhurst in East Sussex, which were gradually expanding in the early post-medieval period as trade and commerce developed fuelled by the proximity and links with London and the Continent.



d. Parklands

The high number of deer parks, preserves of the feudal lords, which were particularly common in the Low Weald. The medieval hunting forests occurred further north on the northern ridges of high ground in the High Weald. This possibly suggests that when deer parks were being emparked the land in the Low Weald was still comparatively unenclosed with remnants of the transhumance system still operating and thus it was possibly easier for feudal lords to take land out of farming.

e. Industry

Industry is not highly visible in the medieval landscape, probably because it was intimately associated with farming and woodlands. This map also shows the landscape before the capitalisation of industry, where industrial activities comprised numerous small-scale and local businesses, from mineral extraction, glass and iron manufacture, milling and fulling, to production of goods from the local timber and underwood. This relationship of industry with the rural character may become more apparent if themed layers from the HER are overlain with this map.

f. Marsh and Wetlands

As with unenclosed heaths and downs, communal grazing marshes were a common feature of the medieval period despite the attempts of individuals and religious houses to enclose and drain those wetland areas. The marshland areas are visible on Romney Marsh, the Pevensy Levels and around Chichester Harbour.

4.3. AREAS OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

One of the strengths of HLC lies in how the information can be grouped together to identify broader themes and areas. Patterns of and relationships of and between HLC types can be identified to create areas of discrete or cohesive Historic Landscape Character.⁷⁵ The following section looks at how the Sussex HLC can be grouped to create areas of shared historic landscape character [HLCAs]. Such areas can provide useful subdivisions of the county for the purposes of describing and managing local distinctiveness.

4.3.1. A Methodological Approach

A method was developed as part of the HLC for the Black Country⁷⁶, where the most frequent HLC polygon type was used as a way of defining discrete character areas. All settlement related polygons were merged together and then the character of the remaining areas, was assessed from the pattern of the other non-settlement polygon types. A review of the methodology of creating historic character areas has been undertaken by the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.⁷⁷ Here 5 different approaches to the method were assessed;

Approach 1 – Using Personal Perception and Engagement;

Approach 2 – Using the attributes of the Historic Landscape Types;

⁷⁵ The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB have undertaken a review of the methodology for creating Historic Character Areas as part of the development of Historic Environment Action Plans [HEAPs]. Five approaches were identified and reviewed. Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB 2009 Creating Historic Character Areas Methodology. Version 1 Draft.

⁷⁶ Quigley, P. & Shaw, M. 2010. Characterisation in an Urban Setting: The experience of the Black Country. *The Historic Environment: policy & practice*. Vol 1. No. 1 27-51

⁷⁷ Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB 2009 Version 1.

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- Approach 3 – Using Historical Development;
- Approach 4 – Using Existing Boundaries;
- Approach 5 – Using Homogeneity and dominant Historic Landscape Types.

Sussex has a much finer grained and more dispersed character compared with that for Black Country, and where enclosure is the dominant HLC polygon type. Initial attempts were made to unionise or join together those HLC polygons which were associated with each other, for example the 'interpretation of character type' of 'aggregate assarts' with 'gill woodlands', but the Sussex data set proved far too large and ArcView programme kept 'falling down'.

Therefore the approach used for Sussex combines Approach 2 – attributes of Historic Landscape Types with Approach 5 – identifying both homogeneity and dominant Historic Landscape Types. The layer of Fieldsapes was viewed by sub-type character and combined with the modern field amalgamation theme as an overlay. This is shown in Vol. III Map 39. From this map lines were drawn around areas of apparent discrete and cohesive field patterns to produce a new layer of HLC areas. These lines were drawn by eye but it may be possible to use the ArcView Spatial Analysis programme to produce such a map using association and relationship of polygon types. The advantage of the method adopted here is that the HLC PO is also familiar, through HLC and related work, with the way other people perceive the division of Sussex, and this would inevitably not only influence her mapping, but also ensure that it was more likely to be understood, accepted, and most importantly, used.

4.3.2. Description of HLC Areas

This exercise produced a selection of over 30 different areas [Vol. III Maps 50-51]. The HLCAs have been given descriptive names based on their location.

Table 4. *List of The Sussex Historic Landscape Character Areas.*

Area Number	HLCa Name	Area Number	HLCa Name
Area 1	Pevensley Levels	Area 20	Eridge Park & Woods
Area 2	Crowhurst	Area 21	Worthing Coastal Plain
Area 3	Chalvington & Ripe	Area 22	Downs to north of Hove
Area 4	Downs above Newhaven	Area 23	Coastal hinterland of Bognor
Area 5	Friston & Eastbourne Downs	Area 24	Downs dip slope at Chichester
Area 6	Horam & Warbleton	Area 25	Selsey Bill & Chichester Harbour
Area 7	Rother Valley (East Sussex)	Area 26	West Downs Scarp slope
Area 8	Rye & Winchelsea	Area 27	Downs scarp at Storrington
Area 9	Rother Valley Catchment	Area 28	Midhurst & Rother Valley (West Sussex)
Area 10	Ashdown Forest	Area 29	Rother Valley & West Chiltington
Area 11	Brede Valley	Area 30	Fernhurst
Area 12	Hastings & Bexhill	Area 31	North Chapel
Area 13	Battle & Fairlight	Area 32	Crawley
Area 14	Eastbourne	Area 33	Worth & St Leonard's Forests
Area 15	Brighton & Coastal settlement	Area 34	East Grinstead & West Hoathly
Area 16	Downs scarp west of Lewes	Area 35	Haywards Heath & Cuckfield
Area 17	Uckfield & East Hoathly	Area 36	Adur Valley & catchment
Area 18	Danehill	Area 37	Coastal Plain around Chichester
Area 19	Ashurst & Medway Valley	Area 38	Arun Valley at Surrey border

In West Sussex the areas generally follow the WNW-ESE grain of the landscape as shaped by the underlying geology. In East Sussex the valleys of the Rivers Brede and Rother also shape the HLCAs together with the former marshlands of Romney and Pevensley.

Vol. III Maps 52 & 53 shows the HLCAs overlain with the modern parishes. Some parishes fall wholly or largely within individual character areas a larger proportion of the parishes lie across two or more HLCa boundaries. This reflects in part the historical development of parishes from Saxon territories which utilised the soils & habitats derived from different geological deposits. Where parishes straddle

more than one HLCA suggests that those parishes originated by claiming territory over topographical and geological areas where different resources could be exploited, for example those parishes at the western end of the South Downs scarp and those straddling river valleys.

Future HLC analysis for each area could look at what the defining characteristics were both in the present landscape and in previous periods. A comparison could also be made with National Character Areas [NCA] and with Landscape Character Areas [LCA] in particular for West Sussex, where landscape character assessments have taken place.

The Shropshire Landscape Typology integrated HLC Types with Landscape Character Areas drawn by the local authority and the Landscape Description Units of the Living Landscapes Project, providing a framework for the county's landscape which is easily understood and readily used.⁷⁸ A similar approach was used in the East of England where the county's HLCs were brought together and after some fine-tuning of the data used to produce a regionalised HLC which was then used to feed into the Region's "Integrated Regional Landscape Framework".⁷⁹

The work on the Historic Landscape Character Areas for Sussex can be developed much further. Some thought could be given to following a similar process for Sussex, taking the Landscape Character Assessments and undertaking a synthesis of the Sussex HLC with the Landscape Character Areas. The principal aim would be to ensure that the LCAs take full cognisance of the historic character of (or within) the modern landscape. It would also be of interest to undertake an analysis of the previous historic character for each of the HLCAs to see how these landscapes have changed over time and whether the present HLCAs boundaries would still be valid for previous periods of landscape change.

4.4. PARISH STUDIES

Historic Landscape Characterisation provides information about the bigger picture, on a county and district scale, but it can also be the starting point for understanding smaller areas of the landscape.

The study of individual parishes as part of community projects, local characterisation exercises and parish plans and village design statements, would all benefit from a study of the HLC as a means of understanding the historic processes which have shaped the present landscape.

The following section describes four parishes across Sussex, looking at the extracts of the HLC for each, giving examples of both the present landscape and also past HLC. The four parishes represent a cross section of the historic landscapes across Sussex and lie within different Joint Character Areas.

- 4.4.1. Burwash in the High Weald, East Sussex [No. 1 in Figure 13].
- 4.4.2. Ditchling a longitudinal parish, straddling the downs scarp, into the Low Weald, East Sussex [No. 2 in Figure 13].
- 4.4.3. Aldingbourne on the Coastal Plain, West Sussex [No. 3 in Figure 13].
- 4.4.4. Kirdford in the Low Weald, West Sussex [No. 4 in Figure 13].

The method was to extract the HLC for each parish as a separate .shp file and undertake some initial analyses on each, looking at the constituent features of fieldscapes, woodlands, settlement and where relevant, designed landscapes, and unenclosed and unimproved landscapes.

⁷⁸ Shropshire County Council 2006 The Shropshire Landscape Typology.

⁷⁹ Wessex Archaeology 2009 East of England Integrated landscape Framework: Stage 2a Phase 2.

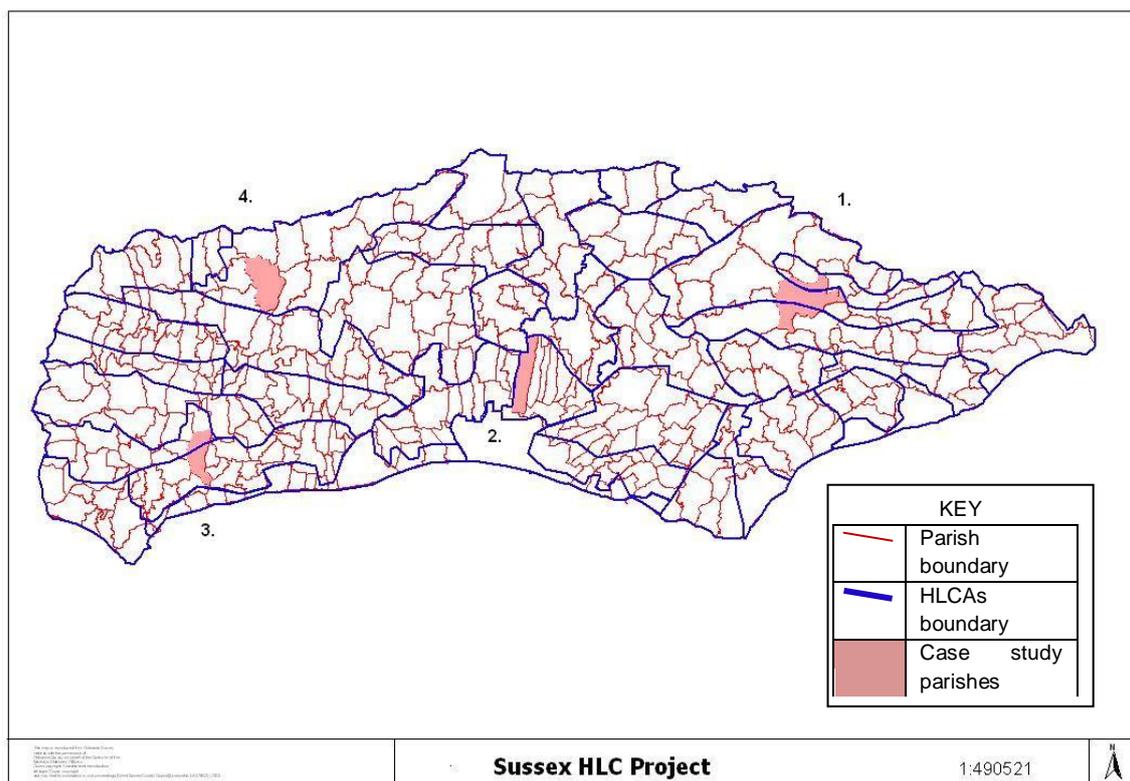


Figure 13. *Location of the case study parishes in relation to the boundaries of the historic landscape character areas [HLCAs].*

For each parish period layers were selected from the HLC – previous data to identify where change had occurred and from what historic landscape type to that present today. Combining these previous period layers over the present HLC gives a postulated impression of what the parish may have looked like in the late medieval – early post medieval period, before significant more recent landscape change took place.

From this study, the Wealden parishes of Burwash and Kirdford showed the greatest degree of historic landscape survival with many areas originating in the medieval period and surviving through to today. Aldingbourne had the greatest amount of time-depth, i.e. the landscape had undergone significant changes with the enclosure of open fields and common, more settlement expansion at Westergate at the expense of the early medieval hamlet of Aldingbourne. Human occupation at Aldingbourne dates back to early prehistory. Ditchling also had both considerable time-depth with landscape change occurring on the downs and around the village, but also survival of ancient elements such as the fields and settlements around Ditchling Common.

The HLC can then be used with other sources of information to test these summaries by undertaking more detailed research both of documents and in the field to build up a more detailed picture of landscape change and continuity.

4.4.1. Burwash, High Weald, East Sussex

Burwash lies within the High Weald National Character Area and in the heart of the High Weald AONB. Historically, the parish lies within the Hundred of Hawksborough in the Rape of Hastings held in 1086 by the Count of Eu. Warbleton was the only settlement in Hawksborough Hundred recorded in Domesday.

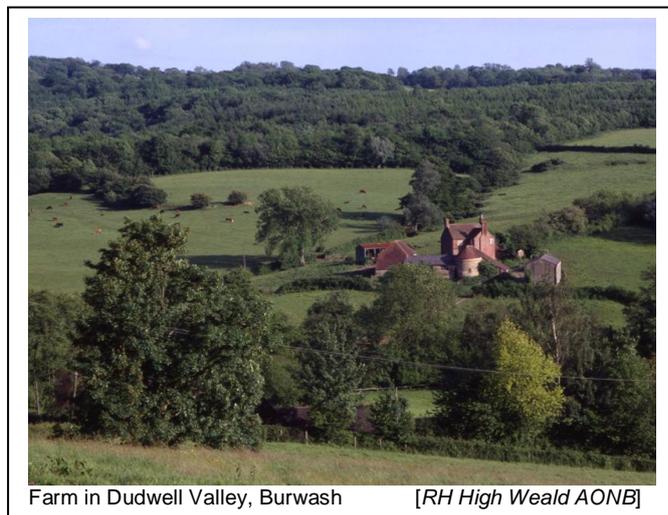
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The geology comprises rocks of the Hastings Beds; in the northern half of the parish Wadhurst Clay with Tunbridge Wells Sand are the main formations whilst to the south are the Ashdown Formation of sandstones, and siltstones. The valley of the River Dudwell has cut through to expose limestones and mudstones. River alluvium deposits occur in the valleys of the Dudwell and Rother.

The parish of Burwash straddles a ridge of hills running east west and which divide the valleys of the Rother to the north and the Dudwell to the south. Smaller streams drain from these hills into the rivers creating some steep narrow valleys or gills, often filled with trees. The village of Burwash is situated on top of the ridge and is one of a number of ridge top settlements linked by a main routeway from the heart of the Weald to Hastings and the coast. To the south lies the Forest of Dallington and the large estate of Brightling. The rest of the country comprises small, dispersed farms with their fields and woods. Evidence of the iron industry survives in the form of place names, and small pockets of woodland concealing water filled pits. The hammer ponds have long been silted up. The HER records a number of bloomeries and cinder deposits across the parish.

The Burwash landscape has a sense of being quintessentially English; it was a source of inspiration for Rudyard Kipling, who lived at the former iron master's house at Bateman's, and from where he wrote some of his finest poetry and prose about the Sussex landscape, including the landscape fantasy born of known or likely local historic events in *Puck of Pook's Hill*.⁸⁰

Evidence for prehistoric use and occupation within this area comes from records of chance finds of flints, for example at Willingford Bridge near Burwash Weald a Mesolithic assemblage of cores, scrapers, blades micro-burins and other worked pieces has been recorded; in Dallington Forest a small assemblage of Neolithic implements was found by a forestry worker. This evidence suggests the resources of the woodland and its associated habitats were being exploited by groups of hunter gatherers around 4000-3000 BC. Nearby at Brightling recent research has recovered extensive evidence for Mesolithic occupation.⁸¹



Place-name evidence suggests that settlement within the parish of Burwash was taking place in the latter part of the Saxon period and was well established in the village itself by the time the Domesday record was taken. The church of St Bartholomew dates from the Norman period (tower and nave c.AD 1190 to AD 1250) with a 13th century chancel arch.

The topographical grain of the parish is easily seen from Map 54 [Vol. III], showing the HLC by broad types. The ridge top with its settlement is easily picked out as are the valleys of the Rother and Dudwell and

the smaller wood-filled valleys running into them. The larger areas of woodland of Dallington and edge of Brightling are also visible in the south of the parish. The lines of iron and marl pits can also be seen in the Dudwell valley as small plots of woodland. This character can be seen more clearly when the map of sub-character types is plotted [Vol. III Map 55].

⁸⁰ N. R. Bannister 2004. *Historic Landscape Survey of Batemans, Burwash, East Sussex*. Unpublished Report for the National Trust.

⁸¹ B. Haken 2009. *Hunter Gatherers of Brightling Ridge: A survey of Lithic scatters within and surrounding Brightling Parish in the High Weald East Sussex*. MA Dissertation University of Sussex.

Informal fields occupy the valleys with assarts on the hills and valley sides. A small group of formal fields occur in Burwash Weald and indicate enclosure from probable heathland. The larger areas of woodland to the south on the Ashdown beds have been planted to conifers and chestnut, whilst the ancient woodland in the gills and lower slopes of the valleys still retain their traditional coppice with standards.

Field patterns dominate the parish [Vol. III Maps 54 - 56]. The valley of the River Dudwell retains its small irregular fields whilst these are flanked by blocks of cohesive assarts stretching up to the ridge top. Aggregate assarts are concentrated around those areas which still retain woodland. A certain amount of modern field amalgamation has taken place over blocks of fields and appear to be associated with individual farmsteads. The group of formal private planned fields around Burwash Weald, form a distinct area as does a small area in Dallington Forest representing



some late enclosure from the former woodland and woody heath. The river valleys also retain areas of informal and regular piecemeal enclosure indicating some field reorganisation of a former field pattern. The oldest field patterns are likely to be the cohesive and aggregate assarts and the irregular shaped meadows in the valleys. The formal fields probably date from the early to late post-medieval, whilst modern field amalgamation is a 20th century process.

There are distinct areas of woodland character, with gills occupying the western side of the parish on the Wadhurst Clay and Tunbridge Wells Sand, large replanted ancient woods to the south on the Ashdown Beds and small shaws and regenerated woods in the lower valley of the Dudwell on the junction of the Wadhurst clay and the limestone and mudstones of the Ashdown Formation [Vol. III Map 57].

Historically settlement was confined in the main to the ridge top, with dispersed farmsteads on the valley sides occupying territories running from the ridge top and into the valley below [Vol. III Map 58]. Expansion of settlement has taken place along the A265 and the northern route to Ticehurst, with small scale expansion around the historic farmsteads. The influence of gentrification of the landscape has also taken place in the parish at Franchise manor, The Glebe and Winter's Farm. Elsewhere large landscape gardens occur at Burwash Weald and associated with some of the dispersed farmsteads and post-medieval fragmentation by later land use activity such as boundary removal.

Maps 59 and 60 [Vol. III] show those areas of Burwash which have undergone land use change by the period in which they have changed. The greatest amount of change has taken place in the early 20th century and early modern period with boundary removal, development of settlement and creation of large gardens and parkscapes. The medieval changes are possible reclamation of marshland along the river valleys.

Map 60 can then be split by the period themes to show what the previous layers of land use were for those polygons where it is known or can be postulated, Maps 61a - 64b [Vol. III] illustrate those polygons which have changed, at what period and from what HLC sub-character type to present sub-character type. The replanting of ancient woods in the south of the parish is apparent in the early 20th century as is the extent of modern field amalgamation, generally from former cohesive assart fields. In the 19th century the enclosure of the wooded heath at Dallington Forest is apparent, as well as the creation of numerous large landscaped gardens.

The late post-medieval period is characterised by the scrubbing over of former extraction pits usually iron and marl pits especially in the valley of the Dudwell [Map 63a, 63b].

By the early post-medieval and medieval period the amount of recorded change identified from the archive sources is much less. Reclamation of former fresh water marshes in the western end of the Rother valley may have taken place at this time [Map 64a, 64b].

By combining all previous period layers over the present HLC sub-character of Burwash it is possible to postulate what the Late Medieval and Early Post-Medieval landscape may have looked like [Map 65].

Several points to note from Map 65;

- How relatively unchanged the amount of woodland is compared with Map 57 [Vol. III].
- The numerous extraction pits visible like pock-marks across the landscape.
- How dispersed the settlement pattern was.

4.4.2. Ditchling, East Sussex

The parish of Ditchling straddles the South Downs and the Low Weald National Character Areas and lies partly within the South Downs AONB.

Historically it lies within the Hundred of Streat in the Rape of Lewes and belonged to William of Warenne in 1086. It is a typical example of the longitudinal parishes with their southern territories on the South Downs and their northern territories in the Low Weald. The historic village centre lies close to the spring line at the foot of the Downs on a hill on the Folkestone Formation and Lower Greensand and the Roman road which follows the Greensand Ridge runs through the parish. Ditchling as a place-name is first recorded in the will of King Alfred [AD 873-888] as 'Dicelinga' or people of Dichel. The church of St Margaret is 13th century.

Evidence for prehistoric settlement and land use survives on the Downs, in the form of barrows, field systems, flint finds and entrenchments. Saxon cemeteries are also to be found on the crest of the Downs escarpment overlooking the Wealden vale to the north. The village and surrounding countryside provided inspiration to a number of artists such as the sculptor Eric Gill in the early part of the 20th century, the simplicity of form in his work is thought to be influenced by the contours of the Downs.

Ditchling is a rural parish with a centralised village and few scattered farms, mostly lying on the clay in the Low Weald. The parish is dominated by the geology and topography of the chalk scarp face of the South Downs covered by woodland, scrub and chalk grassland. To the north lies Ditchling

Common, a remnant of unenclosed manorial 'waste'. A few orchards are also present on the Low Weald Clay.



Ditchling

[East Sussex County Council]

Looking at the HLC in more detail, informal and formal fields dominate the field pattern with small areas of assarts occurring in the extreme north of the parish around Ditchling Common [Vol. III Maps 56 – 57]. The present settlement pattern at Ditchling is probably Saxon in origin. The field pattern within the parish still preserves evidence of the early Saxon organisation. Immediately to the north of the village is evidence of the open field system of farming

with fields which are characteristic of strip fields, and consolidated strip fields [Vol. III Map 68].

To the west of these are more regular shaped fields indicating formal planned private enclosure, possibly of parts of the former common. Between the village and the foot of the downs are informal fields both irregular and regular, together with a few assarts suggesting both field reorganisation and woodland clearance [Vol. III Map 68]. On the top of the downs, there are extensive fields formed by modern amalgamation. There is also a group of aggregate assarts together with a group of irregular piecemeal enclosure fields. This indicates that enclosure of the sheep walks on the downs was taking place in a piecemeal fashion.

Woodland is comparatively rare in Ditchling [Vol. III Map 69]. Regenerated scrub and wood occurs on the downs escarpment, where a decline in sheep grazing has allowed secondary growth to develop. Jointer Copse is a small fragment of ancient woodland lying close to the settlement of Ditchling, its survival indicating perhaps the importance of a supply of underwood for the settlement as fuel and for other uses such as fencing, tools and buildings. The remaining woodland is scattered through the parish and is mostly in the form of regenerated wood or narrow shaws.

As already observed settlement in this parish is concentrated around a historic core with few historic dispersed farmsteads [Vol. III Map 70]. Wick Farm at the foot of the downs may have a medieval origin as a dairy centre, whilst small historic common edge settlement occurs at Ditchling Common. Ditchling has a strong medieval and early post-medieval antiquity to the present landscape but with considerable time-depth on the downs. The strong north-south linearity to the parish was probably laid down in the early medieval period, when the centres of settlement moved from the downs in to the clay vale.

Despite the considerable antiquity of the Ditchling landscape, large areas have undergone change, especially in the early 20th century [*hlc-prev* P2]. Maps 71 and 72 [Vol. III] show those areas which have changed and at what period.

Maps 73a - 76b [Vol. III] gives a break-down of each of the periods where change has occurred showing the 'change from' HLC sub-type [previous] to the 'change to' HLC sub-type [present].

The first interesting process is the enclosure of the downs which began in the late post-medieval and 19th century. However what this does not show is whether the enclosed fields were ploughed or still managed as grazing pastures. Around Ditchling itself, development expanded into the adjacent consolidated strip fields and formal enclosures. The common lying to the north of the village was also being encroached upon with secondary woodland spreading over part of it.

Map 77 [Vol. III] is a composite map of the sub-character types from each of the previous HLC layers overlying the present HLC of Ditchling. This gives a postulated HLC for the medieval period. There is a very clear demarcation in areas of different land use, which is strongly influenced by topography and geology. The Downs comprised unenclosed chalk grassland, whilst to the north lay the common. The arable fields lay around the centralised settlement and to the west was the site of a possible deer park. Woodland was apparently scarce even then in the parish but was probably obtained from detached manorial territories further north in the Low Weald.

4.4.3. Aldingbourne, Coastal Plain

Aldingbourne lies within the Coastal Plain National Character Area but abutting the South Downs NCA. Historically it lies within the Box and Stockbridge Hundred (which was first combined in 1271) and in the Rape of Chichester. Aldingbourne is first recorded in AD 683 in a charter granting lands to the monastery at Selsey. The name Aldingbourne probably derives from 'Ealda's stream'. St Wilfrid's minster church has walling which possibly dates from the Saxon period, with late 11th or 12th century blocked arcading to an aisle. Within the wall of the church are remains of Roman tiles.

There is evidence for human activity in the area from the Palaeolithic period preserved in raised beach deposits. Neolithic and Bronze Age flint assemblages have been recorded. Roman settlement is indicated by burial and cremation sites. A scatter of Saxon pottery was recovered close to the church, supporting the Saxon origins of the present settlement. Tote Copse Castle is (?) late 11th century to early 12th century. Thus the archaeological record indicates considerable time-depth of human occupation at Aldingbourne.

The geology is complex here, with extensive drift deposits overlying the chalk and clay. The drift consists of raised storm beach deposits in the north of the parish with undifferentiated Head overlain with Brickearth covering the rest of the parish. Former small streams flowed southwards and these can be traced by raised beach and tidal flats deposits. Topographically the ground is relatively flat but with some gently undulating.

The HLC for Aldingbourne parish shows a linear settlement surrounded by fields, nurseries and larger gardens [Vol. III Maps 78-79]. This settlement is the village of Westergate. Aldingbourne is a shrunken settlement to the north west

The informal field pattern dominates with localised areas of formal fields [Vol. III Map 80]. The settlement is dominated by post-medieval expansion around the core of the early medieval village [Vol. III Map 81]. Woodland is very scarce.

There has been a significant amount of field amalgamation throughout the parish of Aldingbourne. The remaining field patterns show planned layouts in various forms giving a regular character to the field pattern [Vol. III Map 80]. In 1777 there was an Inclosure Act for Aldingbourne which led to the enclosure of Westergate Common and the remaining open fields.⁸²

The drift deposits have given rise to sporadic extractive and processing industries within the parish both in the present [Vol. III Map 81] and in the past [Vol. III Map 84]. Orchards and nurseries are a frequent feature using the fertile soils derived from the brickearths [Vol. III Map 81].

Historic settlement was sparse and confined to the small hamlets of Aldingbourne and Westergate. The latter has expanded with post-medieval development along the road, whilst Aldingbourne has probably shrunk during that time [Vol. III Map 82].

The historic landscape character of Aldingbourne is essentially modern in origin with some field patterns probably dating from the early post-medieval period [Vol. III Map 83]. The settlements and their associated roads are the oldest features in the landscape. Field amalgamation and settlement expansion are the main processes for change.

In contrast Map 84 shows those areas which have undergone change and at what period; the early 20th century and the post-medieval periods showing the greatest amount of change. Maps 85a – 89b [Vol. III] show for each period what the HLC was and to what it is in the present landscape. Essentially, there has been a fragmentation of the field pattern with loss of boundaries and changes to settlement, industry and horticulture.

By combining the different periods of previous HLC layers over the present HLC of Aldingbourne it is possible to view what the parish may have appeared like at the end of the early post-medieval period [Vol. III Map 80]. Similar to today fields and agriculture probably dominated the landscape, with large and small farmsteads and small hamlets scattered around. The medieval deer park dominates the parish.

⁸² W.E. Tate 1949 *Sussex Inclosure Acts and Awards*. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* Vol. LXXXVIII p115-156.

The HLC does highlight interesting landscape questions and provides leads for further research. For Example, what does the name Westergate mean? West in relation to Eastergate to east and Woodgate to south possibly of a common or of group of strip fields as shown on T. Yeakell and W. Gardner's Map of Sussex. Western of two or more gates? If so, gates to what ? Settlement seems to be west of an area of regular piecemeal enclosure, presumably of open fields ? Or of grazing common ?

4.4.4. Kirdford, Low Weald, West Sussex

The modern civil parish of Kirdford lies in the heart of the western Low Weald National Character Area and in the District of Chichester. It is a landscape of gently undulating hills and vales; a tributary of the River Arun flows west to east through the southern part of the parish and further streams flow into it. Settlement is scattered and a network of narrow twisting lanes links the farms and small hamlets together.

The underlying geology comprises for the most part Weald Clay with beds of Wealden limestone and sandstone. River alluvium fills the valley of the River Arun and River Terrace deposits lie in the southern part of the parish.

Historically, Kirdford lies in the Hundred of Rotherbridge and in the Rape of Arundel. The present parish is much smaller than the earlier large ecclesiastical parish which reached to the county boundary with Surrey. Plastow and Loxwood are modern parishes which have been carved from it. To fully understand the historical development of this landscape, the whole of the historic parish would need to be analysed.

The earliest recorded reference for Kirdford is in 1228 as 'Kinredeford' Cynedryds ford; probably recording a crossing over what is now called the River Kird. The church of St John the Baptist (formerly St Mary's) originates from the 12th and 15th centuries. Flints from the Mesolithic and Bronze Age have been recovered within the parish suggesting that the Wealden forest resources were being exploited in prehistory. Roman pot sherds have also been found. The area lies in the heart of the western Wealden iron producing area and thus Roman presence is not unexpected. Iron and glass production have taken place in the parish, as well as areas of small scale limestone extraction.

The present historic landscape character of Kirdford is one of woods, fields, unenclosed land in the form of wooded over commons and scattered settlements, with small areas of designed gardens and parkscapes [Vol. III Map 91-92]. This is a landscape of antiquity, which a late medieval yeoman farmer would feel at home in.

The fields comprise a mix of assarts and informal fields [Vol. III Map 93]. The assarts are most frequent around the edges of the commons and ancient woodland, whilst the informal fields surround the village of Kirdford. The fields around the village are probably a reorganization of an early field pattern. There is a clear pattern in the distribution of different fieldscapes across the parish. The Informal fields of regular piecemeal enclosure occur around the village of Kirdford, with irregular piecemeal fields lying in the valleys of the River Kird and its tributary streams. The assarts lie both to the north and the south of the parish, with aggregate assarts closely associated with the remnants of commons. Within these fieldscapes are pockets of field amalgamation, associated with individual farmsteads.

Woodlands are a characteristic feature of Kirdford, occurring mostly towards the edges of the parish [Vol. III Map 84]. The wooded character is enhanced by the secondary woodland growth on the commons and greens. Interestingly some of the larger areas of ancient assart woods lie on the

junction between the informal fields and the assarts, suggesting that these woods were important sources of raw materials for the settlement at Kirdford and thus the woods were enclosed with the fields. Towards the edges of the parish lay the wood pasture commons for stock.

The settlement at Kirdford comprises a historic village core which probably originated as a small farmstead close to a drove way crossing point on the River Kird [Vol. III Map 95]. A few historic farmsteads lie scattered across the parish and along the edges of the commons. Expansion has taken place northwards along the lane out of the village, with further expansion around the edges of the commons. Small informal parkscapes and large gardens are associated with some of these former farmstead settlements. The historic landscape of Kirdford is essentially medieval, with early post-medieval fields around the village. Modern field amalgamation and wooding over of the commons has altered the landscape in the 20th century [Vol. III Map 96].

Map 87 [Vol. III] shows those areas of the landscape which have undergone change and the period in which they changed. By looking at each period of change it is possible to see how the landscape of Kirdford has altered [Vol. III Maps 98a – 101b]. In the early part of the 20th century orchards were grubbed up and fields enlarged in the north of the parish [Maps 88a & 88b]. In the late post-medieval period areas of fields and commons were being planted up with trees and some farms were becoming gentrified with informal parklands [Vol. III Maps 100a – 100b]. In the early post-medieval period the deer park of Medhone lying on the western edge of the parish was enclosed to fields. The Western Low Weald has a relatively large number of deer parks some of which became incorporated into later parkscapes whilst others were enclosed to farm land and woodland.

Informal fields around the medieval settlement of Kirdford and ancient fields from assarts are located further away indicating possibly later clearance from the woodland and wood pasture [Vol. III Map 102]. The areas of commons are fragments of these former unenclosed grazing wood pastures. Settlement beyond the village comprises scattered farms set within their own fields and smaller farms around the edges of the commons. Some of the larger blocks of ancient woods lie between the informal and assart fields

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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.