

## Character Types and Areas

### General comments

1. 'ghyll' is 19th century appellation which were used as annotated OS maps – they should properly be called 'gill woods'. as in 1.9 LCA
2. The term 'historic landscape' refers to all past periods. There should not be an assumption that it only means medieval landscapes; All periods are historic; medieval landscapes are ones of antiquity whereas those which have undergone change will exhibit 'time-depth' and be landscapes of time-depth – palimpsests or layers of historic land use change. This also pertains to historic farmsteads (i.e. not 20th century ones)
3. Don't under estimate the importance of water ways as a means of transport. The rivers today are much smaller and more silted than in the medieval period when small fat-bottomed boats could move deep into the weald avoiding the heavy clay and meeting with the drier ridge top routes.
4. I struggle with the word 'natural' rather preferring semi-natural but perhaps this is a LCA term and I see the 'natural' not having any human interaction or influence and 'semi-natural' as being a product of human interaction over the centuries. Meadows, hedges, woods all need human management in order to retain their bio diversity.

1.9 Would mention that the extensive woodland coverage preserves a rich and varied extant woodland archaeology heritage  
Pannage – not just pigs but also cattle (and sheep) – stock movement gradually replaced by stock rearing farms hence the settlements with den, hurst names

1.12. Romans came here because of knowledge of the Iron Age (native) iron production – Classis Britannica etc.

1.14. Assarting = later enclosure but there were probably areas of earlier enclosure such as potentially co-axial fields or fields around settlements with early Saxon place names such as ingas

Table 1.1. Iron Age Development of Iron ways was IA not Roman (they followed the older prehistoric tracks)  
Drove roads – rather they are drove ways / tracks the former suggest the very long distance routes from Wales

Weald Highest survival of and density of medieval buildings

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
FRUIT BELT	1. Matfield/Brenchley	Summary	Some historic settlements centred on small greens
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	The historic farmsteads pre-date the orchards, oasts and hops
		4	How can the 'invisible' gill woodland still be seen to give the richly textured landscape and visual contrast between higher ground and valleys ?
		5	OK Woodland strips or shaws
		6	The working managed landscape is essential Late post-medieval and modern in origin formed within a medieval settlement, woodland, and routeway framework
		7	OK
		8	Oasts have a strong connection with the field patterns but are generally 19 <sup>th</sup> century in date, whereas the farmsteads themselves are much older
		9	OK
		Evidence of past use	
		1	The orchards and fruit growing are a historic landscape pattern in their own right. There should not be an assumption that the term historic landscape refers just to the medieval period. This is a landscape of considerable time-depth. I would argue that the lanes, historic farmsteads and many of the remaining boundaries are part of the earlier medieval landscape, the internal fields and boundaries have become modified through commercial fruit growing. Some woods were cleared as part of the conversion to orchards for example in the NE
		2	OK
		3	Farming was also an important source of wealth and contributed to the timber-framed farmhouses across the area. Agree with the gardens
		4.	Ringwork at Castle Hill formed part of the defences of the Medway established by the conquering Normans
		5	OK
		Nat Landscape	
1-4	OK		
5	Traditional orchards are more likely to be laid out in older original fields which		

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			retain historic boundaries. Also retain historic features of such orchards tar tanks, hop pickers huts etc.
		Valued features	
		1.	OK
		2.	OK but should mention the historic character of the farmsteads either loose court yard, drift way or regular court yard, with oasts located to one side to avoid risk of fire
		3	The different characteristic features of routeways, such as varying width to verges, relationship with ponds, small greens and forstals
		4	Gill woods are highly significant features
		5-10	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
<b>FRUIT BELT</b>	<b>2. Horsmonden</b>	Key Charac	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	Field boundaries are always 'purely functional' - they divide the landscape into enclosures in order for it to be farmed - keeping stock away from crops etc. They were generally not created as an aesthetic feature (unless part of a designed landscape). Holly hedges - functional - source of fodder for stock in winter
		5	OK
		6	Oast houses are not medieval they generally date from late 18th and early 19th century though some kilns may be built on to the side of an earlier building Horsmonden - is the early post-med to Early modern settlement on former heathland and common which took advantage of the trade along the roads. The medieval settlement of Horsmonden was to the south overlooking the River Teise, probably established when water transport was more common. With improvements in road use and the silting up of rivers hence the move of the settlement away to the cross roads, where trade and markets could be established and be more viable.
		Past use	
		1	Repeating what was said in the previous character area about the iron industry which one is it in ?
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	The medieval landscape pattern has been significantly altered by the post-medieval orchards and settlement but some areas still retain elements of the medieval character
		Nat Landscapes	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	Ditto my comment about traditional orchards retaining historic features of orchard and hop management plus retaining pre-orchard field pattern and boundaries

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		4	OK
		5	Roadside ponds may also be associated with small 'greens' or forstals in front of farms where driven stock could water and be penned overnight. Some ponds were used for wagons to drive in to water dry wooden wheels and stop the metal rims falling off when the wood dried out
		Valued	I would add the outlying medieval hamlet of Horsmonden church and farmstead on edge of Teise valley

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
FRUIT BELT	3. Goudhurst	Summ	OK
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	No dens were not generally isolated areas in the High Weald. Dens or swine pastures extended from the Greensand Hills across the Low Weald and into the High Weald, strung out along the droves from the parent manor (settlements). See Witney 1976. The dens in the High Weald mark the 'end of the droves and the expansion into the Wealden woods
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		Past use	
		1	Disagree - the medieval landscape is still present in the underlying structure
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	I would argue that the River Teise also had a significant contribution to the development of Goudhurst in the medieval period as a means of transportation
		5	Smuggling took place across the countryside it was just that the Hawkhurst Gang operated in this locality and had gained a fearsome reputation
		Nat Landscape	
		1-4	OK but my comment re traditional orchards holds true here as well
		Valued Features	All OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
<b>FRUIT BELT</b>	<b>Cranbrook</b>	Summ	OK
		1	OK
		2	Good mention water-courses here but have not in previous character areas
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	“an informal regular pattern of small and medium fields early med or med” is this from the HLC ? if so not really correct – the enclosure pattern (from HLC) comprises regular orchards, areas where significant boundaries have been removed, pockets of medieval assarts and late med and early post-med regular informal fields
		6	OK
		7	Hemsted is part PAWS but was also a medieval den with farmstead. Angley Wood is recorded in the 13th century (belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury)
		8	Multiple yarded farmsteads may also be on ancient droves there is not mutually exclusivity – the yarded farms may have developed form drift way or loose courtyard farmsteads
		9	The town has also retained its independent shops and kept out the high street chain shops which helps to conserve its historic character and uniqueness
		Past use	
		1	The areas of the Low and High Weald lay within the forest of Andresweald so much of Tunbridge Wells Borough was in the ‘ forest’ see P Brandon p 13. So why only say Cranbrook is in Andresweld
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	The historic field pattern is more complex – no mention of the orchards to SE and the changes in field boundaries there
		Nat Landscape	
		1	There are areas of secondary woodland within it and it included the dens of Dockenden and Chittenden, numerous archaeological features
		2	OK
		3	Ditto comment about orchard related features such as tar tanks etc, and also that the

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			orchards may be planted within a much older field pattern
		4	OK
		Valued features	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK retains many independent shops and business enterprises, with few high street names which contribute to its historic character.
		8	Totally agree - this is now under threat from development and the connection between the historic town edge and the rural area will be lost



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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
WOODED FARMLAND	5. Speldhurst	Sum	OK
		Key Character	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	OK
		9	OK
		10	OK But need to take account that the areas of Southborough of this area lay within the Lowy of Tonbridge and included the South Frith area which were hunting chases - See Hasted vol V. Hence the survival of commons and woodlands
		11	OK
		12	OK
		13	OK
		Past use	
		1	The influence of the Lowy of Tonbridge and South Frith; a hunting chase for the Clares of Tonbridge Castle in the 11th and 12th centuries. Prehistoric activity with Mesolithic communities making use of the rock outcrops as shelters and camps
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	The name hurst also occurs to the SE as well; Goudhurst, Lamberhurst Sandhurst etc.
		8	OK
		9	OK
		Nat Landscape	

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		1	Sandstone outcrops important for archaeological deposits as well
		2	OK No mention of the hedges characteristic holly etc. were used as sources of fodder for livestock and cut in conjunction with grazing on the commons
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	what about other church yards ?
		6	OK
		7	OK
		Valued features	
		7-11	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
WOODED FARMLAND	6. Benenden	SUMM	OK
		Key Charac	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	Benenden School is Hemstead Park (Tudor parkscape) but site of Roman Settlement
		9	As are all dens (not just in Benenden) Benenden is an 'Estate' village part of Hemsted Park. Parts of designed landscape extend into the village such as south of the Cranbrook road
		10	North South Roman Road through Benenden School from Stream Farm
		11	Same comment here about the meaning of historic
		Past use	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	The scheduled Roman Ford is at Stream Farm
		5	OK
		6	Spelling of Pocket ?
		Nat Landscape	
		1	Wood contains pen stocks for iron works, ridge and furrow from former orchards and hop gardens as well
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK

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		Valued features	
		1-5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK an estate village improved and laid out by the family at Hemsted in late 18 and 19 th centuries
		8-9	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
<b>WOODED FARMLAND</b>	<b>7. Sissinghurst</b>		
		Sum	OK
		Key Charact	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	OK
		9	OK Sissinghurst was called Milkhouse Street
		10	Oasts later than the medieval farmsteads
		11	OK
		12	OK
		Past use	
		1	OK don't forget the moat
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		Nat Landscap	
		1	OK
		2	Old Park Wood - site of the former deer park of Glassenbury - hence name. Full of archaeology now a 'plotted' wood
		3	Roundhill Park Wood contains the original entrance and drive to Sissinghurst Castle when it was a Tudor mansion. Wood pasture at front entrance is 19th century
		4	OK
		Valued features	
		1-7	OK

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		8-11	OK
		Detractors	
		1	Severe congestion at Sissinghurst due to weight of traffic

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
<b>WOODED FARMLAND</b>	<b>8. Bayham</b>		
		SUM	OK
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	OK
		Past use	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	Lamberhurst lay at the end of the Kentish droveways and den system. It is the borderland with the Sussex Rapes and settlement from Hastings, PEvensey etc.
		7	OK
		Nat land	
		1-7	OK
		Valued features	
		1-5	OK
		6-10	OK but need to mention the frequency of 'greens and commons'

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
WOODED FARMLAND	9. Ashurst	SUMM	OK
		Key Charac	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK Groombridge an estate village
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		Past use	
		1	OK
		2	OK0
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		Nat Land	
		1-3	OK
		Valued features	
		1-4	OK
		5-8	OK



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WOODED FARMLAND	10. Kilndown	SUMM	OK
		Key CHaract	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	Ironways is a term for the prehistoric links between the IA bloomeries in the weald and the manufacturing IA centres outside of the Weald and to the hillforts. See Margary and Witney
		6	OK
		7	OK agree free-range egg production – satellite farms for Fridays Egg producers based near Cranbrook. Combewell Priory – medieval site now almost lost to the poultry farm. Kilndown was also an estate village for Scotney and Bedgebury
		8	OK
		Past landuse	
		1	Don't forget the C19 mansion of Scotney Arts and Crafts built by Edward Hussey III
		2	To the east of The Down and now cut through by the A21 by-pass and overlain by the golf course was the site of the medieval deer park of Scotney, traces of the pale are preserved in some of the boundaries edging present Scotney
		3	Large hop pickers camp preserved at Little Scotney Farm in the woodland. Otherwise many huts now being lost to conversion or demolished
		4	OK
		5	OK
		Nat Land	
		1	OK
		2	Combewell Wood part of the medieval priory of Combewell retains old pen stocks and medieval field boundaries – a plotted woodland
		3	OK
		4	Present Scotney Park is a picturesque parkland, many oaks are remnants of former field boundary trees. Medeval mill with dammed pond survive as earthworks in the park

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		Valued features	
		1-4	OK
		5-8	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
WOODED FARMLAND	11. Hawkhurst	SUMM	OK
		Key Charact	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	Confused Are the historic farmsteads the 19 th century out farms ? Surely not The outfarms represent changes in farming practices in C19 centred on the medieval sites but with expansion of cattle management into the wider landscape. OUTFarms not associated with historic routeways more to do with the tenureship of farms. Hawkhurst - The Moor is the medieval and early settlement of Hawkhurst church established by Archbishop of Canterbury in C13- the ridge top village is the expansion in the early post -med onwards along The High Street. Ditto with Sandhurst (which is similar to Horsmonden) the medieval settlement with church grew up close to the water way - main form of transport; then expanded along routeway as Rother silted up.
		6	OK
		Past use	
		1	OK
		2	Why just Sawyers Green - are many more examples
		3	OK
		4	See 5 above
		5	OK
		Nat land	
		1-6	OK
		Valued featr	
		1-5	OK
		6-8	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
LOW WEALD FARMLAND	12. Frittenden pastures	SUMM	OK
		Key Charact	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	My comment on oasts not being medieval Late post-med and modern
		9	OK
		Past land	
		1	OK
		2	Also marling - digging of calcareous clay to spread on fields probably most common origin of ponds as they are generally in the corners of fields
		3	OK Hop picker huts still survive in some fields
		Nat land	
		1-4	
		Valued features	
		1-3	OK
4		4-6	OK
		Detractors	Extensive field enlargement NE of Bettenham

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
LOW WEALD FARMLAND	13. Paddock Wood and Five Oak Green		
		SUMM	OK - but transport also a strong characteristic
		Key Character	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK - also small hamlets associated with 'greens' Paddock Wood was a large area of woodland here Parrock Wood Capel and Tudeley medieval settlements
		7	The oasts are generally not medieval- are referring to the hamlets being medieval ? - probably early post-med
		8	Clusters of cowls represent the industrial expansion of hop growing for the larger breweries.
		Evidence past use	
		1	Marling wasn't just medieval - it reached its peak in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century. Marl pits were dug in field corners in order not to interrupt the cropping of the field. Where ponds are now in middle of the fields the boundaries have been removed.
		2	Low Weald is the area of earliest expansion of the droves and dens
		3	OK
		4	Total agree
		Nat Land	
		1-3	OK
		4	Comment re traditional orchards and old field boundaries still stands here
		5	OK
		Valued features	
		1-3	OK
		4-8	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
FORESTED PLATEAUX	14. Pembury	SUM	OK
		Key Charactr	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK But this is the area of South Frith part of the Clare's chase in the Lowy of Tonbridge - the heaths were probably a form of wood pasture in the medieval period
		6	OK
		7	OK - absence of settlement probably due to the medieval influence of the Lowy
		8	OK
		Past use	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK Lowy South Frith
		7	The road was not called Wood gate. A gated entrance into South Frith was located on this road.
		Nat Land	
		1-6	OK
		Valued Features	
		1-5	OK
		6-8	OK
		9	Medieval landscape pattern

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
FORESTED PLATEAU	15. Bedgebury	SUMM	OK
		1	OK
		2	Probably woodland cover not a medieval 'forest' a modern one. Now a recreation area focus
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK But SW-NE Bedgebury is traversed by prehistoric track, ironway and drove. See Bannister, N.R. & Bartlett, D. (2009) An initial investigation of an early routeway and boundary, possibly prehistoric, in Bedgebury Forest. <i>Archaeologia Cantiana</i> 129, 295-311
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	Running, horse-riding - Also used for outdoor pop concerts
		Past use	
		1	Forest is 20 <sup>th</sup> century appellation. It has remained wooded
		2	OK pen stocks in Bedgebury
		3	OK
		4	This suggests that the iron ways are influenced by the boundaries of the character area ! Sense
		5	Area of Hawkhurst Station now an industrial business centre with large warehouses out of character with the area
		Nat Land	
		1-2	OK
		3	All ASNW could potentially be a continuation of the Saxon Andredsweld - reason for saying it here ?
		4	OK - more likely to be a continuation of Andredsweld due to their inaccessibility
		Valued features	
		1-3	OK
		4-7	OK

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<b>RIVER VALLEYS</b>	<b>16. Rother valley</b>	SUMM	OK
		Key Charact	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		7	OK
		Past use	
		1	No settlement because this was an estuary in early med to med times with historic settlement on valley sides. Ditto no crossing roads - do have tracks and paths leading down to valley where former wharves ferries may have been
		2	OK
		3	OK
		Nat Land	
		1-5	OK
		Valued feat	
		1-3	OK
		4-7	OK



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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
<b>RIVER VALLEYS</b>	<b>17. Medway valley</b>	SUMM	OK
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	OK
		Past use	
		1.	Ok but remnants of older boundaries, the lanes crossing the landscape key routes at fording points, also small bridges over ditches, sheep washes etc.
		Nat Land	
		1-2	OK
		Valued features	
		1-3	OK

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<b>RIVER VALLEYS</b>	<b>18. Teise Valley</b>	SUMM	OK
		Key Charac	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	OK
		5	OK
		6	Oasts generally not medieval but 18 -19 <sup>th</sup> century built next to or within medeivla farmsteads
		Past use	
		1	OK The river teise in early med and med times (and prehistoric was an inland water way linking the Medway with the Weald. Water transport more important then, now rivers and valleys silted.
		2	OK
		3	Lamberhurst The Down a green and area for drovers to hold stock, also site of fairs
		4	OK Hop pickers huts now increasing rare around Spelmonden
		Nat land	
		1-4	OK Alder carr was coppiced as source of hop poles
		Valued features	
		1	OK
		2-5	OK

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Landscape Character Areas	Local Character Areas	Page ref	Comments
<b>OPEN FARMLAND</b>	<b>19. Bayhall</b>	SUMM	OK
		Key Charac	
		1	OK
		2	What remains of the medieval landscape - long boundaries, shaws, tracks and historic farms provide the reference points for landscape restoration. Bayham Abbey Estate Map also a good source of what was there before
		3	OK These are the remnant medieval features
		4	OK
		5	OK - industrial farming
		6	OK
		7	OK
		8	OK
		Past use	
		1	OK
		2	OK
		3	OK
		4	Add para on modern farming and effect on historic landscape
		Nat land	
		1	OK
		Valued Feature	
		1-6	OK
		7-8	OK