5.7 Landscape Setting of Arlington

Settlement Profile

5.7.1 Arlington is situated on a minor road off the A27 between Polegate and Lewes, in close proximity to Berwick Station. The hamlet lies approximately five miles to the north of Eastbourne and one and a half miles to the south of Upper Dicker, in close proximity to the South Downs National Park.

5.7.2 Arlington is a small hamlet which has developed around a very small historic core on a cross roads. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity within the hamlet, which has a church and pub but no other amenities.

Landscape Character

5.7.3 The landscape surrounding the settlement falls within the following County Landscape Character Area(s):

- Eastern Low Weald (15) – see Section 5.3 for details

5.7.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement also lies within the following Local Landscape Character Area(s):

- E3: Arlington – see Section 5.6 for details

5.7.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Arlington are illustrated on Figure 5.1 and summarised below:

- Remnant Historic Landscapes: The fieldscape around Arlington are predominantly comprised of ancient field patterns. Abutting the settlement edge to the south is an extensive tract of regular piecemeal enclosure, and further to the northwest and south are areas of consolidated strip fields, with a large area of isolated enclosure between the western settlement edge and the reservoir. To the north and east of the settlement edge is an area of historic planned private enclosure. Immediately adjacent to the settlement to the west are the remains of a medieval settlement designated as a Scheduled Monument, adding further historic interest to the settlement setting. There are many Willows and Alder growing along the banks of the River Cuckmere.

- Culturally Important Landmarks: The reservoir is an important landmark as is the Anglo Saxon Church and Yew Tree pub near the church. There is the remains of a moat near Underwood Farm to the south east.

- Landscape Detractors: Some of the Southern Water cleaning buildings near the south of the reservoir are prominent. Pylons cross the settlement and also pass it to the north. These are detractors. There are a number of new builds by Underwood Farm that are prominent within the landscape.

- Urban Edges: The edges of the hamlet are considered to be sensitive as a result of mature vegetation.

- Waterbodies/Watercourses: The River Cuckmere passes the hamlet to the west and there are several ponds near the farms.

- Significant Views/Key Ridgelines: The Long Man of Wilmington can be seen from several points to the north of the hamlet and glimpsed views of the South Downs can be gained through gaps in hedgerows.

- Footpaths/Bridleways: The National Cycle route 2 passes through the settlement and there is an abundance of footpaths, creating a lattice across the settlement and surrounding countryside. The Wealdway also passes through.

5.7.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on Figure 5.1 as ‘Landscape Setting Areas’. The distinctive characteristics that define each Landscape Setting Area are highlighted within the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
<th>Distinctive Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A strong sense of enclosure, particularly within Beaton’s Wood;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mature, tall hedgerows and trees lining rural road corridors;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meandering valley of the River Cuckmere to the northwest of the hamlet, lines with willow and alder in places;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arlington Reservoir, is a key landscape feature;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 2014

Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment
Chris Blandford Associates
WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 5.1
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF ARLINGTON

Landscape Setting Areas
Landscape Sensitivity (n/b see Methodology):
- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

Landscape Features and Characteristics:
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Historic
- Remnant Historic Landscape - Ancient
- Culturally Important Landmarks
- Landscape Detractors
- Sensitive Urban Edge
- Prominent Urban Edge
- Watercourses/Waterbodies
- Significant Views
- Key Ridgelines
- Footpaths/Bridleways

Conservation Designations:
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monuments
- Statutory Wildlife Designations/Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Woodlands
- Tree Preservation Orders
- South Downs National Park
- High Weald
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

0 100 200 Meters
Landscape Sensitivity

5.7.7 The inherent Landscape Sensitivity of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continuity</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Very Strong</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tree Cover</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape Value

5.7.8 The Landscape Value of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.7.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Arlington.

5.7.10 The Contribution of each Landscape Setting Area, evaluated in line with the methodology set out within Section 2.4, is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Landscape Setting Area</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Landscape Setting</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.7.11 Landscape Setting Area 1 is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a strong strength of place as a result of views to the ridges of the South Downs, and a mature landscape structure. The area does not, however, abut the settlement edge and there is limited inter-visibility between the area and historic buildings within the hamlet.

5.7.12 Landscape Setting Area 2 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a strong strength of place as a result of views to the ridges of the South Downs, and a mature landscape structure. There is also inter-visibility between the southern part of this area and the historic core.

5.7.13 Landscape Setting Area 3 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a moderate strength of place, however there is inter-visibility with historic buildings within the historic core and also a mature landscape structure of trees and hedgerows. This area provides much of the direct physical setting to the village.

5.7.14 Landscape Setting Area 4 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It has a strong strength of place as a result of the reservoir, and a strong landscape structure. There is also inter-visibility between the eastern part of this area and historic buildings within the historic core.