3.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT
3.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

3.1 General

3.1.1 This Section provides an overview of the landscape character context for the study.

3.2 National Landscape Designations

3.2.1 As shown on Figure 2.1, approximately two-thirds of Wealden District is designated as a nationally protected landscape.

3.2.2 The northern part of the District falls within the High Weald AONB, whilst part of the South Downs National Park extends into the southern part of the District.

3.2.3 The coastline of the South Downs National Park between Eastbourne and Seaford is also designated as a Heritage Coast.

3.3 National Character Areas

3.3.1 From a regional landscape perspective, Wealden District is covered by four National Character Areas as shown on Figure 2.1. The National Character Areas are defined by Natural England\(^{10}\).

3.3.2 The following National Character Areas provide the landscape context for the assessments undertaken by this study:

- The High Weald National Character Area extends across the northern part of the District.
- The Low Weald National Character Area extends through the middle part of the District.
- The Pevensey Levels National Character Area extends into the south-eastern part of the District.
- The South Downs National Character Area also extends into the southern part of the District.

3.4 County Landscape Character Areas

3.4.1 The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment\(^{11}\) identifies 40 broadly defined Landscape Character Areas in the County.

3.4.2 The County Landscape Character Areas that fall within Wealden District are shown on Figure 3.1.

3.4.3 The following County Landscape Character Areas (whole or in part) provide the landscape context for the assessments undertaken by this study:

- 1. Upper Medway Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 2. Ashdown Forest County Landscape Character Area
- 3. Upper Ouse Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 4. Central High Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 5. South Slopes of High Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 6. Upper Rother Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 7. Bewl Water Area County Landscape Character Area
- 8. Dudwell Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 9. Combe Haven Valley County Landscape Character Area
- 10. Western Low Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 11. Eastern Low Weald County Landscape Character Area
- 12. Eastbourne Levels County Landscape Character Area
- 13. Pevensey Levels County Landscape Character Area
- 14. Hailsham County Landscape Character Area
- 15. Uckfield County Landscape Character Area
- 16. Crowborough County Landscape Character Area
- 17. Heathfield County Landscape Character Area

---


County Landscape Character Areas:
1. Upper Medway Valley
2. Ashdown Forest
3. Upper Ouse Valley
4. Central High Weald
5. South Slopes of High Weald
6. Upper Rother Valley
7. Bewl Water Area
8. Dudwell Valley
9. Darwell Valley
10. Combe Haven Valley
11. Brede Valley
12. High Wealden Coast
13. Lower Rother Valley
14. Western Low Weald
15. Eastern Low Weald
16. Ditchling - Mount Harry Downs
17. Falmer Telscombe Downs
18. Lower Ouse Valley
19. Lewes Downs
20. Firle Bishopstone Downs
21. Lower Cuckmere Valley
22. Wilmington Downs
23. Lower Ouse Valley
24. Eastbourne Downs
25. Pevensey Levels
26. Rye Winchelsea Area
27. Saltdean - Peacehaven
28. Eastbourne
29. Bexhill
30. Hastings
31. Seaford
32. Lewes
33. Newhaven
34. Hailsham
35. Uckfield
36. Crowborough
37. Heathfield
38. Rye
39. Battle
40. Wealden District

1:25,000 Landscape Character Assessment Study Area
National Character Area Boundary

FIGURE 3.1
COUNTY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS IN WEALDEN DISTRICT
3.5 Local Landscape Character Types and Character Areas

3.5.1 The Local Landscape Character Types and constituent Local Landscape Character Areas identified by this study (see Section 2.2 for details) within the District’s landscapes outside of the High Weald AONB and the South Downs National Park are shown on Figure 3.2. The Local and County landscape classification within this study area is set out in Table 3.1 below in relation to the respective National Character Areas.

Table 3.1: Local & County Landscape Classification and National Character Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES</th>
<th>LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS</th>
<th>COUNTY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS</th>
<th>NATIONAL CHARACTER AREAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: Ridges and Valleys</td>
<td>• A1: Fletching and Maresfield</td>
<td>• 1. Upper Ouse Valley</td>
<td>122: HIGH WEALD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A2: Rudlett’s Common and Five Ash Down</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A3: Busted</td>
<td>• 4. Central High Weald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A4: Blackboys and Framfield</td>
<td>• 5. South Slopes of High Weald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A5: Hawkhurst Common</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A6: Horam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: Ridges and Slopes</td>
<td>• B1: Cowbeech Hill</td>
<td>• 3. South Slopes of High Weald</td>
<td>10. Combe Haven Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• B2: Magham Down and Flowers Green</td>
<td></td>
<td>25. Pevensey Levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• B3: Herstmonceux Castle and Wartling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• B4: Ninfield and Hooe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys</td>
<td>• C1: Fletching and Piltdown</td>
<td>• 1. Upper Ouse Valley</td>
<td>121: LOW WEALD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• C2: Uck Valley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• C3: High Cross</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• C4: Little Horset</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Wooded Clay Vales</td>
<td>• D1: East Hoathly and Halland</td>
<td>• 14. Western Low Weald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• D2: Laughton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• D3: Upper and Lower Vert Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• D4: Golden Cross</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• D5: Chiddingling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• D6: Upper Dicker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• D7: Wilmington and Abbots Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Open Clay Vales</td>
<td>• E1: Laughton Place</td>
<td>• 15. Eastern Low Weald</td>
<td>131: EASTERN LOW WEALD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E2: Selmeston, Chalvington and Ripe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E3: Arlington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E4: Wilmington Green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E5: Hailsham and Lower Horsebridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• E6: Hellingly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Open Levels</td>
<td>• F1: Down and Whelpey</td>
<td>• 23. Pevensey Levels</td>
<td>124: PEVENSEY LEVELS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• F2: Walter’s Haven</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• F3: Marney and Hooe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• F4: East Polegate Levels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Settled Levels</td>
<td>• G1: Pevensey and Hankham</td>
<td></td>
<td>24. Eastbourne Levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• G2: Pevensey Farm</td>
<td></td>
<td>25. Pevensey Levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H: Coastal Levels</td>
<td>• H1: Pevensey Bay</td>
<td></td>
<td>25. Pevensey Levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I: Urban Dominated Landscapes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• 15. Hailsham</td>
<td>16. Uckfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 16. Uckfield</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that the Local Landscape Character Type I (Urban Dominated Landscapes) are not described in the assessment, and are only shown on Figure 3.2 for context.

In order to provide an understanding of the landscape context for the study areas, the report sets out the findings of the assessments within the framework provided by the above landscape classification.
FIGURE 3.2
LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES & CHARACTER AREAS

Local Landscape Character Types

A: Ridges & Valleys
A1: Fletching & Maresfield
A2: Budlett's Common & Five Ash Down
A3: Buxted
A4: Blackboys & Framfield
A5: Hawkhurst Common
A6: Horam

B: Ridges & Slopes
B1: Cowbeech Hill
B2: Magham Down & Flowers Green
B3: Herstmonceux Castle & Warling
B4: Ninfield & Hooe
B5: Fleming & Piltdown
B6: Lick Valley
B7: High Cross
B8: Little Horsted

C: Gently Undulating Wooded Valleys
C1: Fletching & Piltdown
C2: Uck Valley
C3: High Cross
C4: Little Horsted

D: Wooded Clay Vales
D1: East Hoathly & Halland
D2: Laughton
D3: Upper & Lower Vert Wood
D4: Golden Cross
D5: Chiddingly
D6: Upper Dicker
D7: Wilmington & Abbots Wood

E: Open Clay Vales
E1: Laughton Place
E2: Selmeston, Chalvington & Ripe
E3: Arlington
E4: Wilmington Green
E5: Hailsham & Lower Horsebridge
E6: Hellingly

F: Open Levels
F1: Down & Whelpney
F2: Waller's Haven
F3: Marney & Horse
F4: East Polegate Levels

G: Settled Levels
G1: Pevensey & Hankham

H: Coastal Levels
H1: Pevensey Bay

I: Urban Dominated Landscapes

Local Landscape Character Areas

D1: East Hoathly & Halland
D2: Laughton
D3: Upper & Lower Vert Wood
D4: Golden Cross
D5: Chiddingly
D6: Upper Dicker
D7: Wilmington & Abbots Wood

E1: Laughton Place
E2: Selmeston, Chalvington & Ripe
E3: Arlington
E4: Wilmington Green
E5: Hailsham & Lower Horsebridge
E6: Hellingly

F1: Down & Whelpney
F2: Waller's Haven
F3: Marney & Horse
F4: East Polegate Levels

G1: Pevensey & Hankham

H1: Pevensey Bay