5.16 Landscape Setting of Muddles Green

Settlement Profile

5.16.1 Muddles Green is situated approximately half a mile to the south of Chiddingly, five miles to the northwest of Hailsham and half a mile to the north of Golden Cross on A22 main road corridor.

5.16.2 Muddles Green is a small hamlet attached to Chiddingly. There are a mixture of houses, some newer and close to the road, others are older or listed, set back with larger gardens. There is a school, village shop and art gallery. It lies in a section of the Low Weald which gradually rises northwards from the South Downs, the topography surrounding it is one of small hills of which there are seven within the parish, namely Holmes Hill, Gun Hill, Thunders Hill, Stone Hill, Burgh Hill, Pick Hill and Scrapers Hill. Four of these hills surround Muddles Green in the valley, the streams running from them are part of the watershed of the River Cuckmere.

Landscape Character

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

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

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

- D5: Chiddingly – see Section 5.5 for details

5.16.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Muddle’s Green are illustrated on Figure 5.9 and summarised below:

- Remnant Historic Landscapes: The settlement setting to Muddles Green is predominantly comprised of small scale ancient fieldscapes. The northern and eastern part of the settlement setting is primarily made up of regular piecemeal enclosure, divided by narrow strips of irregular piecemeal enclosure along watercourses. To the west is an extensive tract of cohesive assart landscape, with aggregate assarts also present to the south. The settlement setting is scattered with small to medium sized blocks of Ancient Woodland.

- Culturally Important Landmarks: The church at Chiddingly can be seen from Scraper’s Hill. A surrealist art gallery and gardens is situated by the farm/village shop, next to the school. There are several listed buildings in the hamlet.

- Landscape Detractors: Some farm buildings on Burgh Hill Farm are landscape detractors that can be seen from the school.

- Urban Edges: The edges of Muddles Green are all considered to be sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation.

- Watercourses/Waterbodies: Tributaries of the River Cuckmere flow mainly to the north of the village. Ponds are dotted around the village. A larger pond is found next to the SSSI nature reserve at Burgh Hill Farm

- Significant Views/Key Ridgelines: The South Downs are visible in the distance from several places in the village and its surroundings.

- Footpaths/Bridleways: The village is very well connected to the surrounding villages and countryside by footpaths which in turn link to the Weald Way and Vanguard way in Chiddingly.

5.16.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on Figure 5.9 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>
</table>
| 1                      | - A gently sloping patchwork of ancient arable and pastoral fields, which are lined with mature hedgerows;  
                          - East-west running stream corridor;  
                          - Isolated farmsteads. |
| 2                      | - Large, regular-shaped areas of Ancient Woodland;  
                          - Numerous ponds are key landscape features. |
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FIGURE 5.9
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF MUDDLES GREEN

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
Landscape Sensitivity

5.16.7 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very Strong</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td></td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Cover</td>
<td></td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape Value

5.16.8 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

5.16.9 There is currently no Conservation Area within Muddles Green.

5.16.10 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Landscape Setting</td>
<td></td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.16.11 Landscape Setting Area 1 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place, and strong inter-visibility between Muddles Green, Chiddingly Church and the South Downs. Valuable landscape features include pockets of Ancient Woodland, the east-west running stream corridor and mature hedgerows.

5.16.12 Landscape Setting Area 2 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong strength of place, and strong inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement. The large, regular-shaped areas of Ancient Woodland provide a backdrop to views south and westwards from the village, providing a strong landscape structure at the village edge and limiting long distance, open views across the landscape.