4.34 Landscape Setting of Rushlake Green

Settlement Profile

4.34.1 Rushlake Green is in the High Weald AONB. It is situated four miles to the southeast of Heathfield and nine miles to the northeast of Battle.

4.34.2 Rushlake Green is on the slopes of the High Weald. Mostly linear in nature it has developed around a triangular village green to the north which is slightly raised and offers views all around giving an open feel. There is the 17th century Horse and Groom Pub and a village shop. The residential village has numerous listed buildings located around the green, originally the typical Sussex workers houses, as well as some smaller more recent homes to the south.

Landscape Character

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

- South Slopes of High Weald (5) – see Section 4.3 for details

4.34.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement in considerably wooded and slopes from north to south.

4.34.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Rushlake Green are illustrated on Figure 4.28 and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes:** To the south east, the settlement setting of Rushlake Green is dominated by a large area of Ancient Woodland. Across the rest of the settlement setting, Ancient Woodland is a feature, though present in smaller blocks. Between the woodland, the fieldscape has a significant proportion of ancient field types, including regular piecemeal enclosure, and cohesive and aggregate assarts, as well as historic planned private enclosure. To the north west, an area of post medieval designed parkland adds to the historical interest. The village green is a landmark in the village, as is the pub. Warbleton church can be seen from the green and the Chapman’s Town road. The Windmill at Punnett’s Town, 2 miles to the north-west can be seen.

- **Urban Edges:** The edges are sensitive due to presence of mature vegetation and woodland, and there are no landscape detractors.

- **Watercourses/Waterbodies:** Flitter Brook runs through the woodland behind the pub, collects in ponds and runs red with iron. Small ponds are also found in other wooded areas to the north and to the south east in Clap land wood.

- **Significant Views/Key Ridgelines:** Views to the surrounding villages such are Warbleton and Punnett’s Town give this village a greater sense of place.

- **Footpaths/Bridleways:** The village is well connected to the surrounding landscape by a series of footpaths.

4.34.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on Figure 4.28 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>Several linear landscape features, including rural road corridors, Ancient Woodlands and stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Large areas of Ancient Woodland are key landscape features, particularly in the east of the area; Small-scale landscape pattern, encompassing predominantly pastoral fields; North-south oriented stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Patchwork of pastoral fields, interspersed with regular shaped woodland. These provide an intermittent sense of enclosure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WEALDEN LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT
CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIGURE 4.28
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF RUSHLAKE 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

Scale: 1:8,000 @ A3
Landscape Sensitivity

4.34.7 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Distinctness</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
<td>Recent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>Apparent</td>
<td>Apparent</td>
<td>Apparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Tree Cover</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
<td>Enclosed</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape Value

4.34.8 The inherent 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td>High/Moderate</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.34.9 Rushlake Green has an existing Conservation Area.

4.34.10 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to</td>
<td>Landscape Setting</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.34.11 Landscape Setting Area 1 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of a strong landscape structure and inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. Pockets of Ancient Woodland within this area are visible within views northwards from the village.

4.34.12 Landscape Setting Area 2 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of a strong landscape structure and inter-visibility with the historic core of the village. The large areas of woodland within this area provide a wooded backdrop to views from the village.

4.34.13 Landscape Setting Area 3 is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the Settlement. There is little historic continuity within this area, and there is a weak strength of place overall. There is however, some inter-visibility with the historic core of the settlement.