4.37 Landscape Setting of Wadhurst

Settlement Profile

4.37.1 Wadhurst is situated in the north of Wealden District on the B2099 and B2100 cross country routes in the Central High Weald. It is situated in the High Weald AONB, seven miles to the east of Crowborough.

4.37.2 Wadhurst is a large linear village. It is predominantly residential with many historical buildings throughout. There are local shopping facilities and a train station to the northwest of the village on the Hastings to London Line. A ridge that runs east to west facilitates long and dramatic views of the streams and valleys below. To the north the views are more limited.

Landscape Character

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

- Upper Rother Valley (6) – see Section 4.3 for details
- Bewl Water Area (7) - see Section 4.3 for details
- Central High Weald (4) - see Section 4.3 for details

4.37.4 At the more local scale, the landscape surrounding the settlement comprises undulating fields which are interspersed with small stream corridors and extensive patches of woodland.

4.37.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Wadhurst are illustrated on Figure 4.30 and summarised below:

- Remnant Historic Landscapes: A predominantly ancient landscape predominantly comprised of regular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts and Ancient Woodland. Wadhurst Castle, and its associated registered park and garden, add historic interest to the settlement setting.
- Significant Views/Key Ridgelines: Bewl Water and Kent can be seen to the northeast. The church is central and dominant in the village and can be seen from all around on the high ridge.
- Urban Edges: All the edges of the village are sensitive, surrounded by mature vegetation.
- Watercourses/Waterbodies: Narrow occasional streams scattered across the surrounding countryside.
- Footpaths/Bridleways: The settlement is well connected to the countryside with footpaths.

4.37.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on Figure 4.30 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                      | • An undulating landscape of sloping valley sides and narrow stream corridors which are often lined by mature Ancient Woodland.  
                        | • Open views northwards across the High Weald landscape from several locations.  
                        | • Narrow, deep, wooded ghylls. |
| 2                      | • An undulating pattern of small-scale ridges and slopes, supporting small-scale ancient pastoral fields.  
                        | • Medium/large-scale Ancient Woodland which provides an intermittent sense of enclosure. |
| 3                      | • Moderate/large-scale fields.  
                        | • Sloping landform which is interspersed with narrow stream corridors and a mature landscape structure.  
                        | • Sunken, tree-lined lanes. |
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FIGURE 4.30
LANDSCAPE SETTING OF WADHURST

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: 1:7,500 @ A3
Landscape Sensitivity

4.37.7 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>Unique/rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Very Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape Value

4.37.8 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape Capacity

4.37.9 The indicative Landscape Capacity of each Landscape Setting Area to accommodate development, 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Capacity</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.37.10 Landscape Setting Area 1 is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of its Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The wooded ghylls and stream corridors are highly sensitive landscape features and there is strong strength of place throughout, resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.37.11 Landscape Setting Area 2 is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The area has a very strong strength of place and landscape structure resulting from the pattern of small-scale ancient pastoral fields and Ancient Woodlands; resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.

4.37.12 Landscape Setting Area 3 is considered to have Very Low Landscape Capacity as a result of Very High Landscape Sensitivity and Very High Landscape Value. This area is situated within the High Weald AONB and is therefore considered to have Very High Landscape Value. The area has a very strong strength of place and mature landscape structure resulting from the intricate pattern of narrow stream corridors, resulting in Very High Landscape Sensitivity.
4.37.13 Wadhurst has an existing Conservation Area.

4.37.14 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 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Landscape Setting</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.37.15 **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 landscape structure and strength of place, in addition to strong intervisibility with historic buildings in the historic core. Wadhurst’s position on the hill, its strong strength of place with the church spire and historical buildings and the outstanding views to and from the village are considered to be sensitive and valuable.

4.37.16 **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 landscape structure and strength of place. There is strong intervisibility between historic buildings within the Conservation Area (situated on a ridge) and adjacent fields within this area.

4.37.17 **Landscape Setting Area 3** is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement as a result of its very strong landscape structure and strength of place, in addition to strong intervisibility with historic buildings in the historic core. This area provides a direct physical setting to parts of the Conservation Area.