4.40 Landscape Setting of Waldron

Settlement Profile

4.40.1 Waldron is situated to the west of Heathfield between the A22 and B2192 and is in the High Weald AONB. It is situated five miles to the northwest of Hailsham and five miles to the southeast of Uckfield.

4.40.2 Waldron is a small residential hamlet which has developed where two roads meet in a Y shape. The historic core is at the centre of the village. The landscape surrounding Waldron is very hilly with many trees.

Landscape Character

4.40.3 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

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

- A5: Hawkhurst Common – see Section 4.4 for details

4.40.5 The key features and characteristics of the landscape around Waldron are illustrated Figure 4.33 and summarised below:

- **Remnant Historic Landscapes**: The historic settlement setting for Waldron comprises a variety of ancient and historic fieldscapes, including large tracts of cohesive assarts to the east, and planned private enclosure to the west. These are interspersed with small areas of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure. A large block of Ancient Woodland dominates the settlement setting to the north east. Additional historic interest is generated by a Medieval ringwork within Middle Wood (west of the settlement), which is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

- **Culturally Important Landmarks**: The 12th-century parish church is dedicated to All Saints. Foxhunt Manor at Waldron dates from 1898 and there are a number of other listed buildings. There is a war memorial. Pylons can be seen from some of the views from higher ground and are landscape detractors as is a mast that can be seen from Whitehouse Lane looking north.

- **Urban Edges**: The hamlet is considered to have sensitive edges due to presence of mature vegetation.

- **Watercourses/Waterbodies**: Ponds have developed in the Ancient Woodland and a stream crosses under Whitehouse Lane to the south.

- **Footpaths/Bridleways**: The hamlet is reasonably well connected to the countryside by footpaths.

4.40.6 Areas of distinctive landscape that have been identified around the settlement are shown on Figure 4.33 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>Sunken, tree-lined rural landscape containing large swathes of mature, Ancient Woodland, such as Whitehouse Wood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Patchwork of small to medium scale ancient fields, with a strong landscape structure and a mature network of hedgerows and trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sunken, tree-lined lanes. Small-scale, ancient, predominantly pastoral fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Birchlands Farm and Herondale Manor are two human elements within this area of regular-shaped pastoral fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Medium to large-scale regular blocks of Ancient Woodland and pastoral fields.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: 1:7,000 @ A3
Landscape Sensitivity

4.40.7 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>Strength of Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>Distinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity</td>
<td>Ancient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength of Place</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Cover</td>
<td>Intermittent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Sensitivity</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contribution to Landscape Setting of Settlement

4.40.9 Waldron has an existing Conservation Area.

4.40.10 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Landscape Setting</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.40.11 Landscape Setting Area 1 is considered to make a Limited contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. It does not abut the settlement edge and there is limited inter-visibility between this area and the historic core of the village.

4.40.12 Landscape Setting Area 2 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a very strong strength of place and has strong historic continuity as a result of the patchwork of ancient fields and mature landscape structure. This area provides the eastern setting to the Conservation Area and as a result, there is strong inter-visibility with the historic core. Views to the church and war memorial can be gained from the eastern edges of this area.

4.40.13 Landscape Setting Area 3 is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a strong character, with recognisable strength of place and some inter-visibility with the historic core of the village from its northern edge. The area does not, however, abut the Conservation Area.

4.40.14 Landscape Setting Area 4 is considered to make a Moderate contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a strong character, with recognisable strength of place, however it does not abut the settlement edge and therefore has no direct physical relationship with the village.

4.40.15 Landscape Setting Area 5 is considered to make a Major contribution to the Landscape Setting of the settlement. This area has a very strong strength of place and has strong historic continuity as a result of the patchwork of ancient fields and mature landscape structure. There is strong inter-visibility with historic buildings in the historic core of the village from the eastern edge of the area.