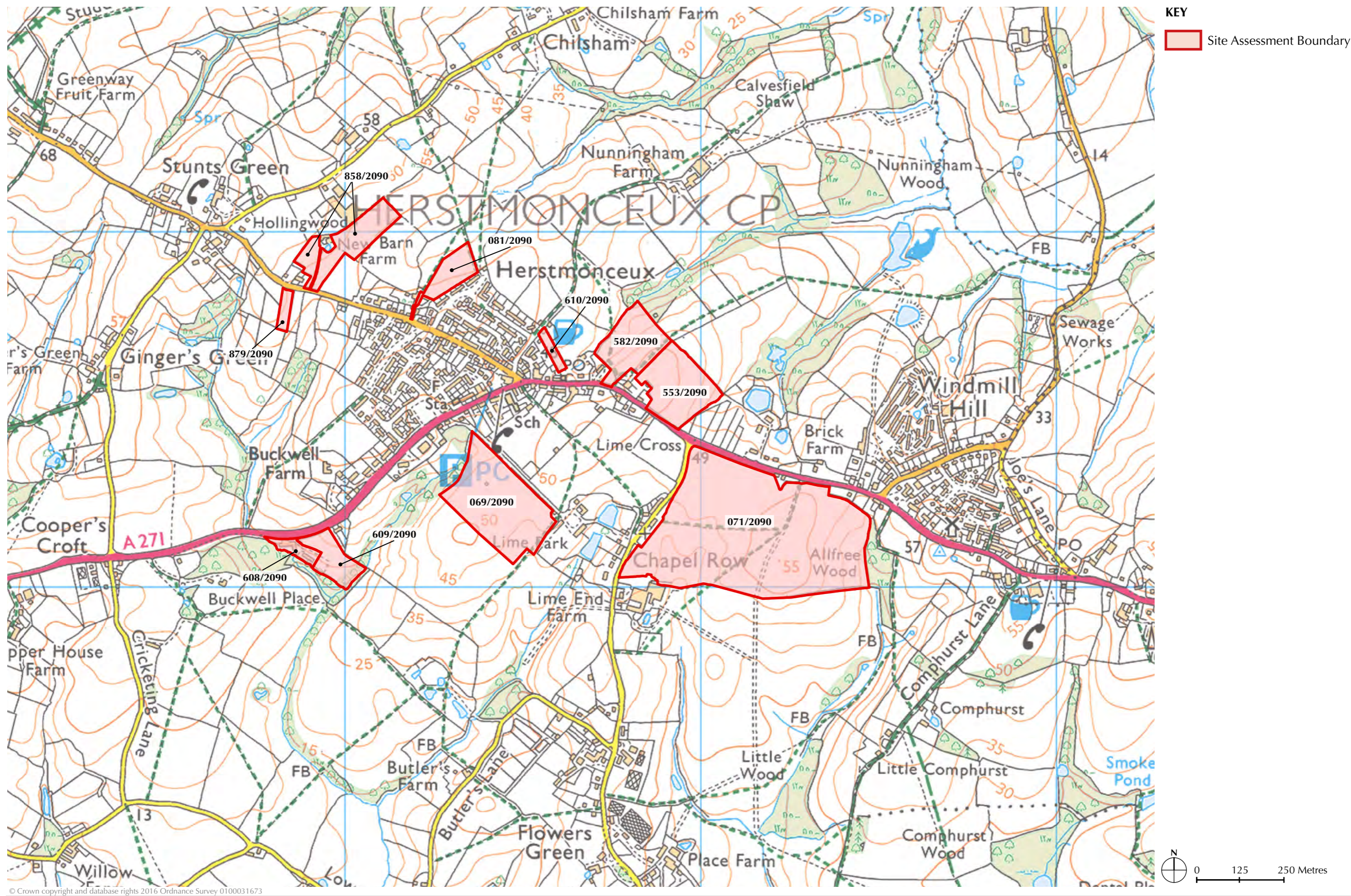


6.0 HERSMONCEUX SITES



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	069/2090
Site Address:	Land at Lime Park, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	5.7
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Outside
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site lies in open countryside on the southern side of Herstmonceux, adjacent to a path, just off the Hailsham Road (A271). The Site comprises part of a large field, partly bounded by trees and woodland and open to the rest of the field on one side. Situated adjacent to Lime Park, a public footpath runs along the Site's south-eastern edge.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.2a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herstmonceux castle and associated designed parkland landscapes. • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Sunken, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow Ancient Woodlands surrounding often deep gill streams, with their sources close to the ridgeline. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Panoramic open views towards the south and east over the Levels. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Glimpsed views towards the Site are possible from some residential properties and the public footpath, which runs along the south-east boundary of the Site. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.2a: These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) • Users of the public footpath (glimpsed views only) (High Sensitivity) • Users of the primary school playing fields (glimpsed views only) (Low Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.2a. The Site's ZVI is limited to the south only where extensive views are possible, stretching towards the hills on the edge of the Levels. The ZVI to the north, west and east of the Site is heavily constrained by vegetation and woodland.</p>	

Key views into the Site are marked on **Figure 7.2a** and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in **Figure 7.2c**.

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.2b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.2c**. Located to the south of Herstmonceux, the Site has a gently undulating topography. The topography falls more steeply towards the northern edge of the Site and the central and south-western edges of the Site are high points. It comprises part of a large regular-shaped field of improved grassland. The Site used to form part of Lime Park, a Victorian mansion, ornamental gardens and parkland. The field was once part of the parkland, which is why it is unusually large. The north-western part of the Site is adjacent to a narrow belt of Ancient Woodland, surrounding a stream within a small valley. A tarmac track to the north-east of the Site leads to Lime Park is edged by trees. A footpath runs along the south-eastern boundary which is tree-lined adjacent to Lime Park.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 3, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 3 as having a Moderate Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'there is less historic continuity within this area than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas and large-scale modern fields and a nursery detract from landscape value However, sensitive landscape features include linear belts of Ancient Woodland lining north-south oriented stream corridors.'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Distinct
Continuity	Recent
Strength of Place	Weak
Landform	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	Low
Landscape Value	High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate

The Site has a **Moderate Landscape Capacity** due to its low sensitivity and high landscape value. The strong sense of remoteness/tranquillity and the presence of a PRoW passing through the Site give it a high landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

The land to the north-west is more sensitive than the rest of the Site. This area directly abuts fragmented Ancient Woodland. All Ancient Woodland is sensitive as a result of the species and heritage assets it supports; this woodland is small and fragmented which makes it particularly vulnerable to change.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.2b**.

1. Public footpath through the Site

Reason: Retaining this historic access route into the settlement and from the Site to the wider countryside as an important green infrastructure link.

2. Maintain a buffer to Ancient Woodland

Reason: Ancient Woodland is an important landscape feature of historic and ecological value and woodland is characteristic of the High Weald landscape. The Ancient Woodland adjacent to the Site is small and narrow making it particularly vulnerable to change; a buffer would help to mitigate the effects of any potential development of the site on this woodland and its ecological viability.

3. Existing trees

Reason: Existing and particularly mature trees contribute to character and provide green infrastructure links for wildlife, allowing movement through the Site and beyond, as well as for people, whilst also restricting views towards the Site. They should be retained in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

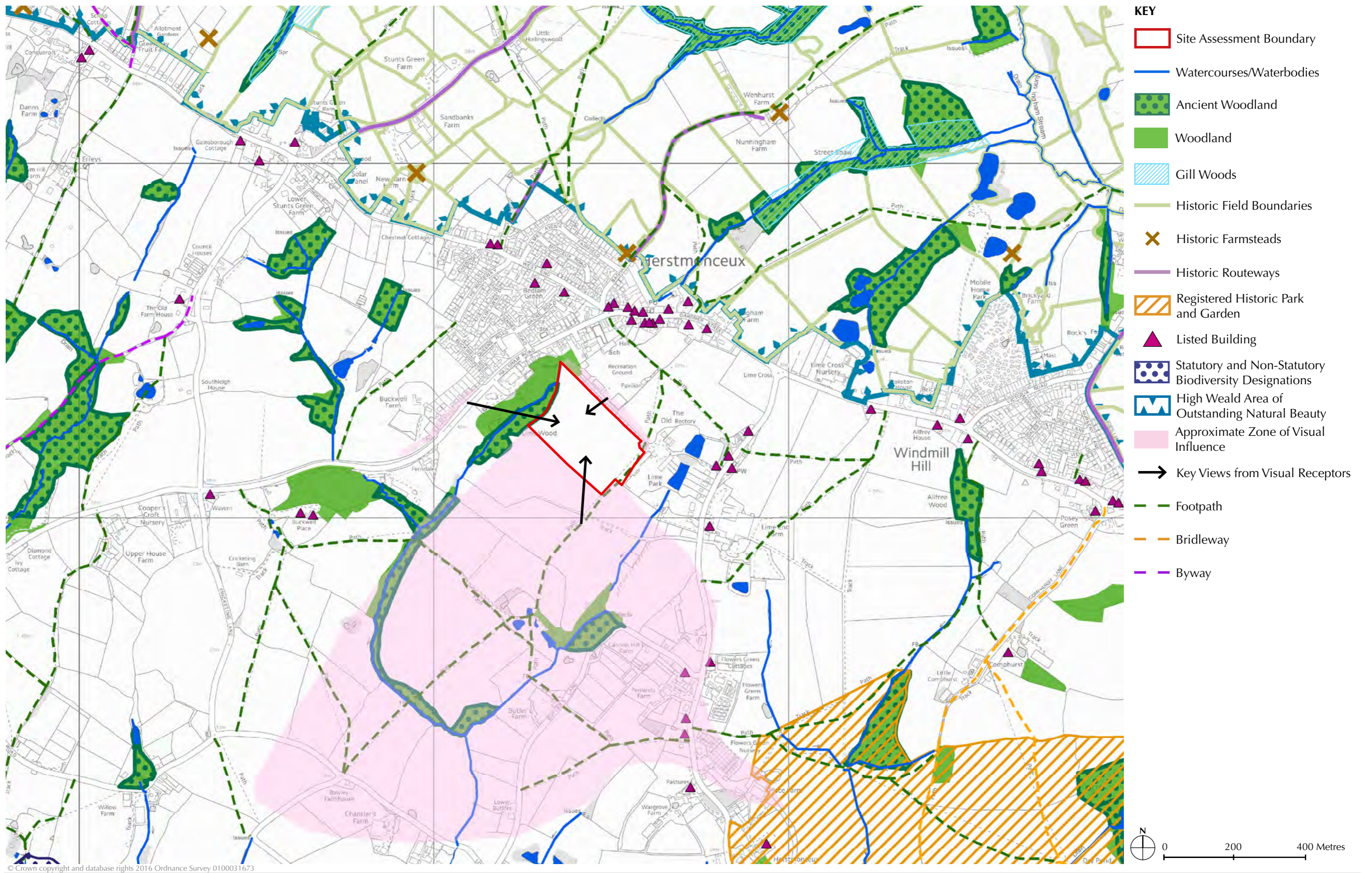
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.2b**.

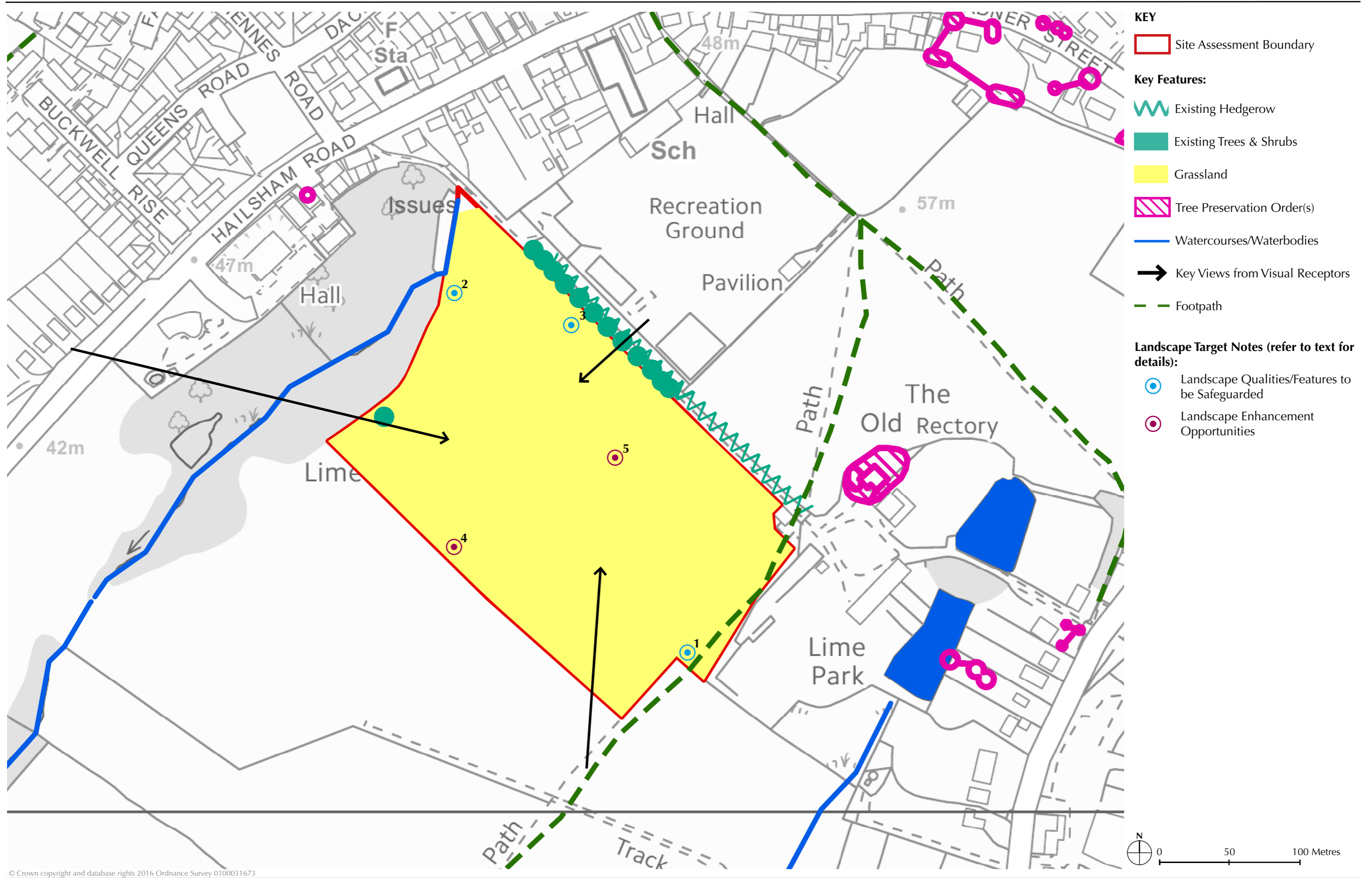
4. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: Create characteristic landscape features around the boundary and through the Site, such as thick shaws and hedgerows. Allow for natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species), to improve connectivity for wildlife in particular linking the Ancient Woodland to the north-west of the Site with the wider countryside and to help screen views of the Site, especially from the south.

5. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of this landscape that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.







Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	071/2090
Site Address:	Land at Chapel Row, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	19.35
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Part Outside/Part Adjacent
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site lies in open countryside on a ridge of high ground, in between the settlements of Herstmonceux, Windmill Hill and adjacent Chapel Row. The Site is large, comprising a group of fields to the north of Lime End Farm, and is enclosed on two sides by Gardner Street (A271) and Chapel Row. A farm track divides the Site north-south and two footpaths cross through the Site, meeting at the highest point. The designated High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) lies just to the north of the Site and is adjacent to it in places.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.3a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panoramic open views south over the Levels and north-east over the High Weald. • Herstmonceux Castle and associated designed parkland landscapes. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Small to medium-sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Sunken and/or narrow, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow Ancient Woodlands enclosing often deep, gill streams. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Locally views to the east are constrained by woodland at the Site's eastern boundary. To the west significant local views of the Site are possible, in particular from Chapel Row and when approaching Windmill Hill from the west. Views of the windmill are possible from within the Site and views experienced from this Site to the north in particular reach to a significant distance, extending to hills of the High Weald on the horizon. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.3a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of neighbouring properties, particularly in Chapel Row, Flowers Green and Windmill Hill (High Sensitivity) • Users of public footpaths and bridleways (High Sensitivity) 	

Zone of Visual Influence: The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on **Figure 7.3a**. The Site's ZVI is both extensive and far-reaching, including substantial visual influence northwards over large parts of the High Weald AONB. The Site's ZVI also extends widely southwards, including parts of Flowers Green and the historic park and gardens surrounding Herstmonceux Castle.

Key views into the Site are marked on **Figure 7.3a** and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in **Figure 7.3c**.

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.3b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.3c**. Located in between Windmill Hill and Herstmonceux and adjacent to the linear settlement of Chapel Row, the Site is on an undeveloped ridge of high ground. Within the Site, topography is gently undulating, with a high point in the centre affording long-distance views and giving the Site prominence in local and distant views towards it. The Site has undergone recent field amalgamation, affecting its historic continuity and now is a large-scale land holding with no field boundaries and thus out of character with much of the surrounding landscape context. Currently being used for intensive grazing it comprises mostly improved grassland, Lime End Farm lies at the south-west corner of the Site and is a historic farmstead. In addition to providing the landscape context to the farm, the Site is overlooked by the three nearby settlements, and numerous Listed Buildings. Allfree Wood, a narrow belt of Ancient Woodland lies adjacent to the Site's eastern boundary. The Site overall has a strong sense of tranquillity, affected only by low-level traffic noise in the far north.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 4, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 4 as having a Moderate Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'there is less historic continuity within this area than within Landscape Setting Area's 1 and 2. Sensitive landscape features include occasional hedgerows; however strength of place is strong as a result of the hill of higher land which overlooks Herstmonceux to the west, facilitating long distance open views in places.'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Distinct
Continuity	Recent
Strength of Place	Weak
Landform	Dominant
Tree Cover	Open
Visibility	Very High
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate
Landscape Value	High
Landscape Capacity	Moderate

The Site has a **Moderate Landscape Capacity** due to its moderate sensitivity and high landscape value. The Site provides the setting to a number of listed properties, there is a strong sense of remoteness/tranquillity, and PRoW pass through the Site giving it a high landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

Much of the Site, but particularly the central part on the highest ground is visually prominent in both local and longer distance views, and is most sensitive for this reason. The land to the north-west is also most sensitive as this area directly abuts a small, fragmented Ancient Woodland. All Ancient Woodland is sensitive as a result of the species and heritage assets it supports; this woodland is small and fragmented which makes it particularly vulnerable to change.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.3b**.

1. Field boundaries and their vegetation

Reason: The field boundaries around the Site contribute to the local field patterns. The trees and/or hedgerows which mark these boundaries are typically mature and contribute to green infrastructure by providing links around the Site and beyond it to key landscape features such as the fragmented Ancient Woodland along the eastern boundary. The hedgerow between the Site and the A271 is in good condition and provides existing green infrastructure benefits, such as removing air pollutants, providing a wildlife corridor and creating a sense of place and it helps to filter some views towards the Site from the road.

2. Maintain a buffer to Ancient Woodland

Reason: Ancient Woodland is an important landscape and ecological feature and characteristic of this area. The woodland adjacent to the Site is small and fragmented and as such is highly sensitive. A buffer will help to mitigate the effects of potential development on this woodland, which is particularly important given its size and fragmented nature. Some trees along the Site's boundary with this Ancient Woodland are also protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) designation, maintaining a buffer will ensure these trees continue to achieve the characteristics for which they were designated.

3. Public footpaths through the Site

Reason: Retaining these access routes from Chapel Row and into the wider countryside as an important green infrastructure link. Public footpaths are often historic networks of access routes.

4. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: the Site is located in a visually prominent position adjacent the High Weald AONB where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area and where sensitive design and consideration of the setting of the AONB will be needed. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in any potential development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

5. Key views towards the Site

Reason: The Site is located in a visually prominent position, both when viewed locally and from long distances. Its undeveloped character provides an important visual break between Windmill Hill and Herstmonceux. These views of the undeveloped ridgeline between the settlements should be maintained through sensitive design in any potential development of this site. This is particularly important where these views contribute to the setting of the High Weald AONB.

6. Existing trees

Reason: Existing and particularly mature trees within and/or around the boundary of the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing links for wildlife through the Site and beyond it, particularly along the eastern edge. They also help to visually contain the Site, particularly from the road and neighbouring properties. The Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice should be followed for retention of trees on development sites.

7. Rural character of Chapel Row

Reason: This is a country lane whose character is determined by its narrow, hedged boundaries and verges. Avoiding/reducing intrusive highway engineering (e.g. urbanising features such as wide visibility splays, lighting and associated suburban features) on rural lanes will help to retain this character.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

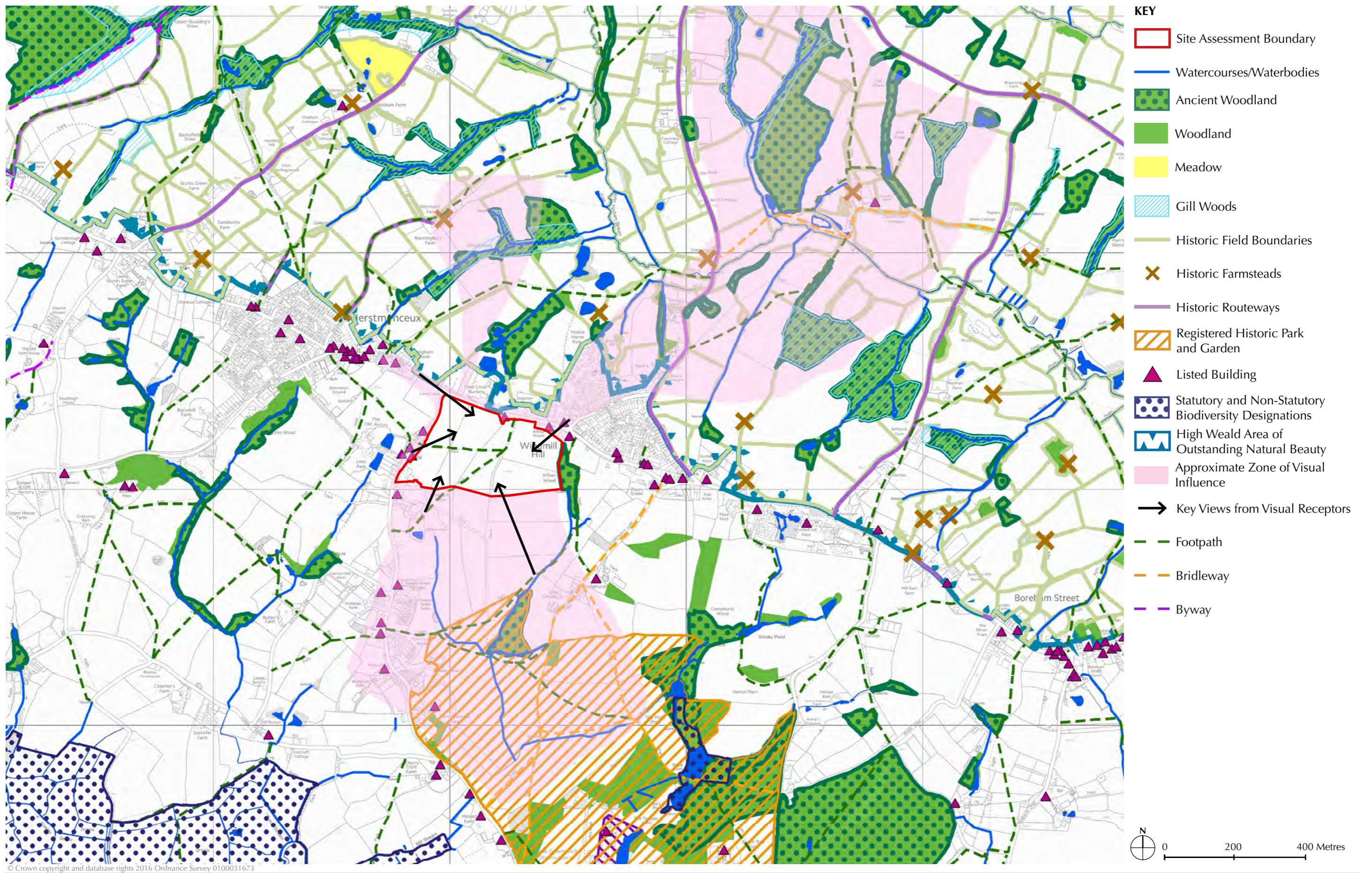
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.3b**.

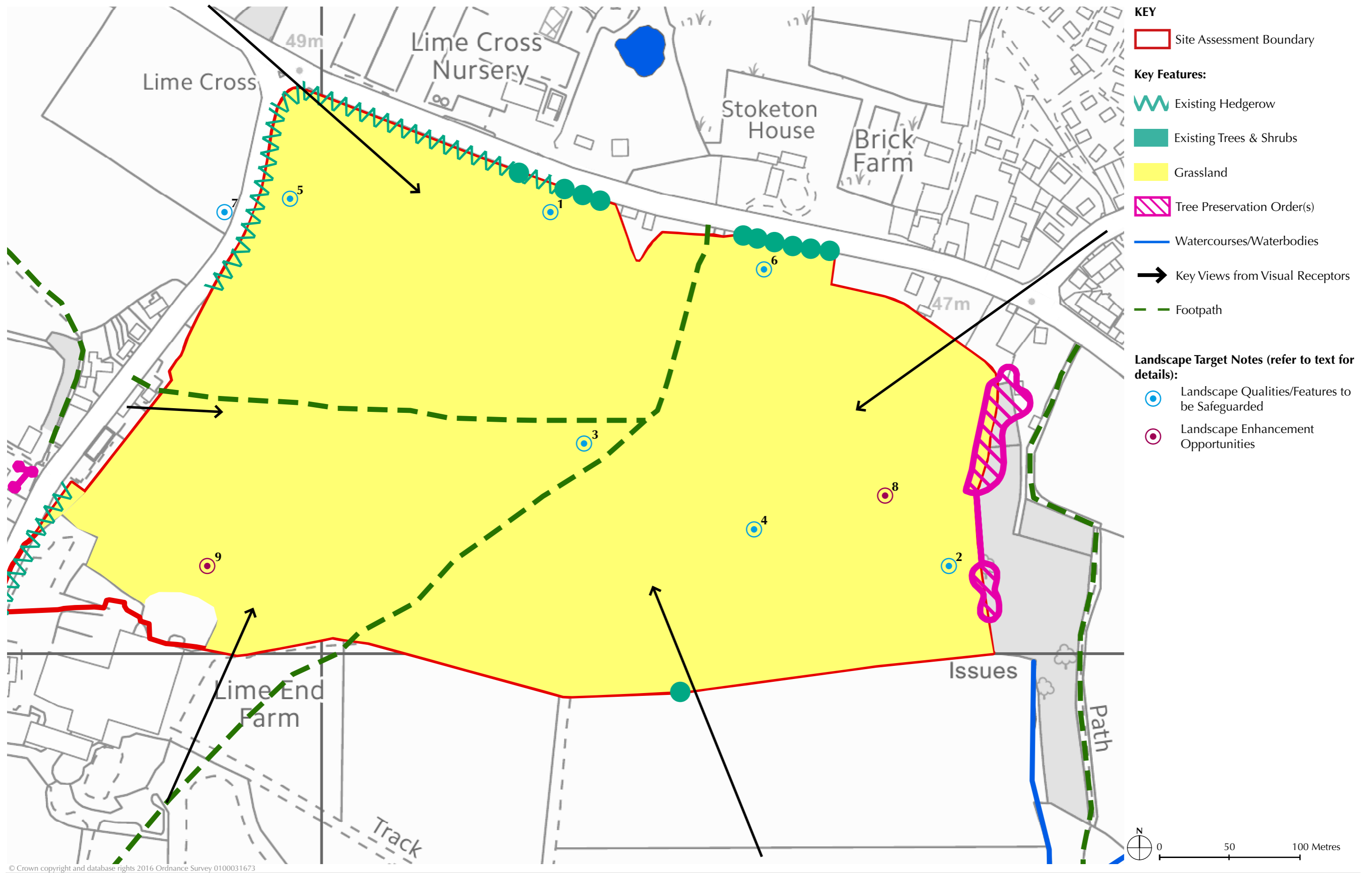
8. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: To create new, and enhance existing characteristic landscape features such as hedgerows, shaws and small woods, to break up views of potential new development from further afield whilst ensuring the Site is more permeable for wildlife. This Site has lost many of its field boundaries To allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species) to improve connectivity within and beyond the Site, particularly between Allfree Wood and the wider countryside.

9. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features, particularly characteristic of this landscape and/or the neighbouring High Weald AONB that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.







Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	081/2090
Site Address:	Site North of James Avenue, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	1.23
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Part Within/ Part Adjacent
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site is located to the rear of existing residential development, part within and part adjacent to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), north-west of Herstmonceux. The Site comprises part of a medium-sized field of grass, enclosed only on two sides, by a hedgerow and the back gardens of properties. The remaining sides are open to the rest of the field. A public footpath runs adjacent to the Site's western edge.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.4a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Small to medium-sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Sunken and/or narrow, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields and meadows, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow Ancient Woodlands surrounding often deep gill streams, with numerous ponds. • Panoramic open views towards the north and east over the High Weald. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Local views to the Site from neighbouring residents are possible. Views experienced from this Site to the north-east reach to a significant distance, extending to hills of the High Weald on the horizon. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.4a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of the public footpath (High Sensitivity) • Residents in neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.4a. The Site's ZVI is limited to the north-east where far reaching and extensive views are possible over the High Weald AONB landscape. In other directions, the Site's ZVI is locally restricted by topographic variation and land cover.</p> <p>Key views into the Site are marked on Figure 7.4a and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in Figure 7.4c.</p>	

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.4b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.4c**. Located to the north-west of Herstmonceux, the Site has a gently undulating topography, falling slightly northwards, away from the edge of the settlement. It comprises part of a medium-sized irregular-shaped field of semi-improved grassland, bounded on one side by the back gardens of neighbouring properties; a hedgerow bounds the Site to the north-east, which marks a historic field boundary. The remaining sides of the Site are open to the field. The Site is characteristic of its wider landscape and typical of the High Weald with its complex of small-scale irregular fields and numerous scattered farmsteads. A footpath runs along the western edge of the Site, bisecting the field. The Site has a moderate sense of tranquillity, affected only by low-level noise from local farms.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 1, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 1 as having a Low Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'Pockets of Ancient Woodland contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. Furthermore, this area is within the High Weald AONB. Mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and the pattern gently undulating small, medium and large-scale fields contribute to high landscape sensitivity'*.

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare
Continuity	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong
Landform	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	High
Landscape Value	High
Landscape Capacity	Low

The Site has a **Low Landscape Capacity** due to its high sensitivity and high landscape value. Its location adjacent to the existing urban edge gives a more limited sense of remoteness/tranquillity, but balanced against this is its location within the High Weald AONB, giving the Site a high landscape value overall.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

The part of the Site within the High Weald AONB is the most sensitive as this is a nationally designated landscape and this part of the Site is formed of historic field boundaries which contribute to the unique landscape character of the High Weald.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.4b**.

1. Field boundaries and their vegetation

Reason: The boundaries of the field and smaller land parcel are historic and contribute to the unique ancient field patterns characteristic of the High Weald. The hedgerows and trees around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing existing well-connected vegetation which enables species movements through and beyond the Site to surrounding key landscape features whilst reinforcing historic landscape character. They also help to visually contain the Site.

2. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: The Site is located within the High Weald AONB where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in the development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

3. Public footpaths through the Site

Reason: Retaining these often historic access routes from Herstmonceux into the wider countryside as an important green infrastructure link. To also maintain the pattern of historic routes and tracks which are identified as part of the characteristic features of the High Weald, in accordance with targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

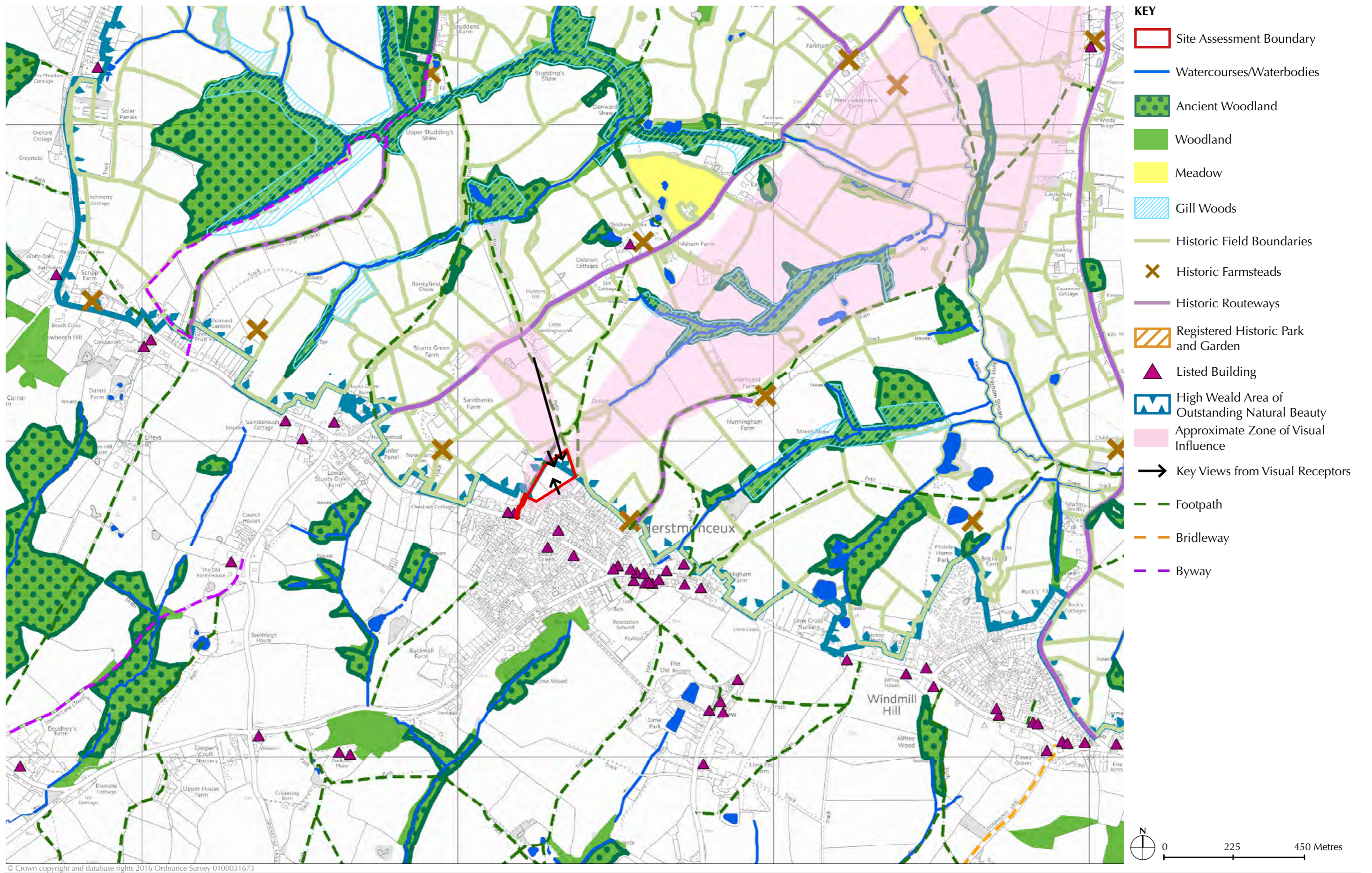
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.4b**.

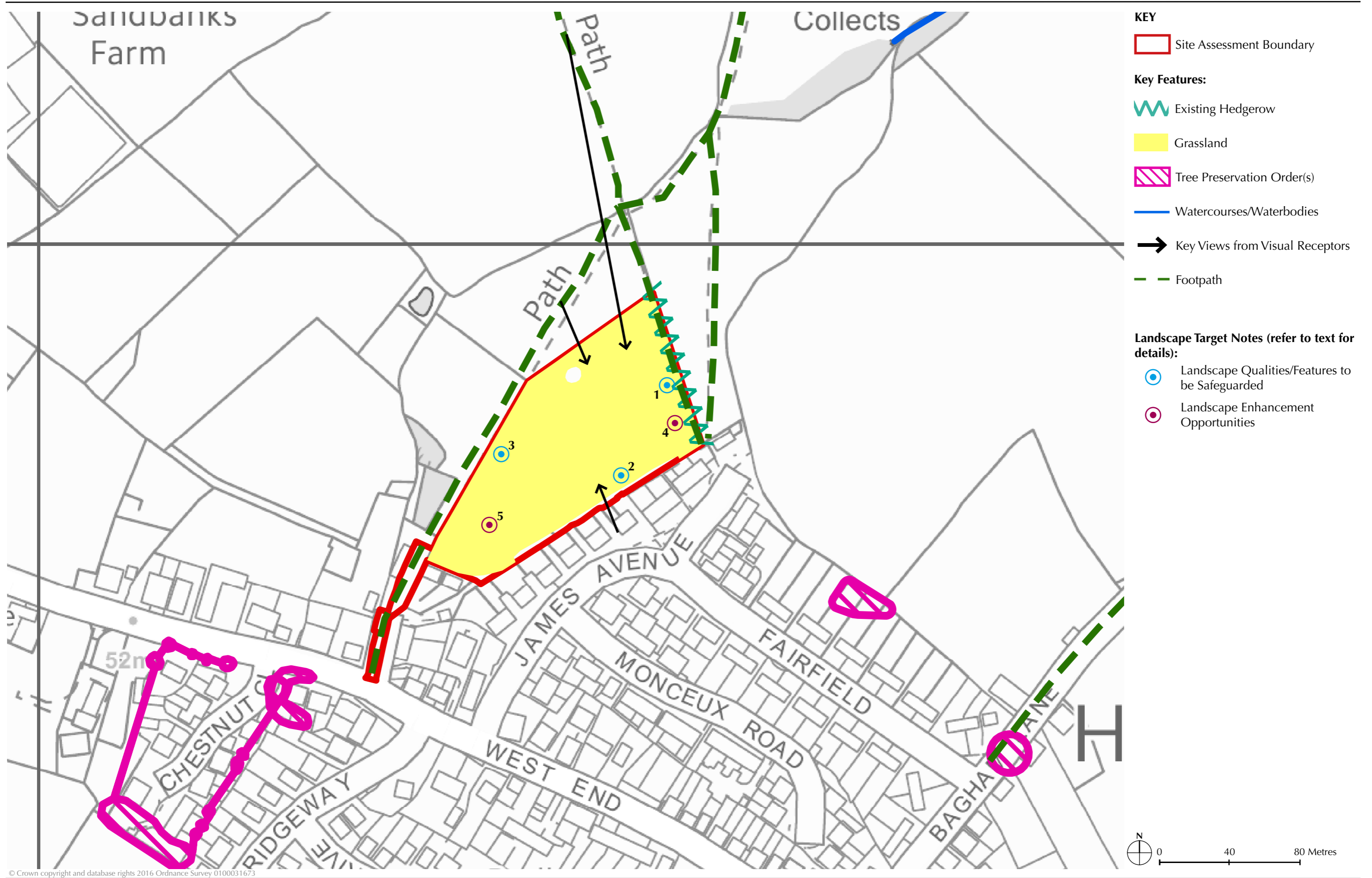
4. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: To enhance landscape features which are characteristic of the High Weald. To provide improved connectivity along the historic field boundary through management or additional planting in accordance with targets in the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

5. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of the High Weald AONB that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.







Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	553/2090
Site Address:	Higham Farm, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	3.23
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Within
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site lies in the open countryside, in between Windmill Hill and Herstmonceux in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Adjacent to Gardner Street (A271) and next to Lime Cross Nursery the Site comprises a medium-sized field of grassland, bounded by hedgerows on all sides. A public footpath runs along the Site's north-western boundary.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.5a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Small to medium sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Sunken, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow and often deep, stream corridors (gills) are typically lined by Ancient Woodlands have their source close to the ridgeline. • Numerous ponds within woodlands and along streams. • Scattered settlement patterns of historic farmsteads. • Panoramic open views towards the north over the High Weald. 	
Visual Context	
<p>The Site is on a ridge of higher ground, the centre of the Site is the high point, so local views where they appear are significant. The windmill is visible from the Site, which is also overlooked by properties to the south-west. Views experienced from this Site to the north reach to a significant distance, extending to hills of the High Weald on the horizon. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.5a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) • Users of the public footpaths (High Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.5a. The Site's ZVI is extensive northwards over the High Weald AONB landscape. Views are locally restricted primarily by trees, and local variations in topography.</p>	

Key views into the Site are marked on **Figure 7.5a** and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in **Figure 7.5c**.

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.5b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.5c**. Located on a ridge of high land in between Herstmonceux and Windmill Hill, the Site gently slopes downhill to the north-east. It comprises a single small field of semi-improved grassland, surrounded on three sides by mature hedgerows and trees. The south-west boundary is marked by the back gardens of properties and is open to Gardner Street. The Site forms part of a coherent and unified wider landscape and it is typical of the High Weald, with its complex of small-scale irregular fields and numerous scattered historic farmsteads. The south-west corner of the Site has been developed thus affecting the Site's historic continuity. However, the majority of the field boundaries remain intact and are historic, contributing to the character of the AONB in this location. There is a limited sense of tranquillity on this site, resulting from road noise from Gardner Street and being overlooked by existing properties.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 1, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 1 as having a Low Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'Pockets of Ancient Woodland contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. Furthermore, this area is within the High Weald AONB. Mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and the pattern gently undulating small, medium and large-scale fields contribute to high landscape sensitivity'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong
Landform	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	High
Landscape Sensitivity	High
Landscape Value	Very High
Landscape Capacity	Low

The Site has a **Low Landscape Capacity** due to its high sensitivity and very high landscape value. Its location within the High Weald AONB and coherent ancient landscape pattern and good condition gives the Site a very high landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

Central parts of the Site are visually prominent in longer distance views from the High Weald, and are most sensitive as a result.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.5b**.

1. Field boundaries and their vegetation

Reason: the field boundaries of this Site contribute to the unique ancient field patterns. The trees which mark these boundaries are typically mature and contribute to green infrastructure by providing links through the Site and beyond it to key landscape features such as the woodland to the north. They also help to visually contain the Site.

2. Existing trees

Reason: Existing and particularly mature trees within and/or around the boundary of the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing links for wildlife through the Site and beyond it, particularly along the road. They also help to visually contain the Site, particularly from the road and neighbouring properties. The Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice should be followed for retention of trees on development sites.

3. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: The Site is located within the High Weald AONB where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in the development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

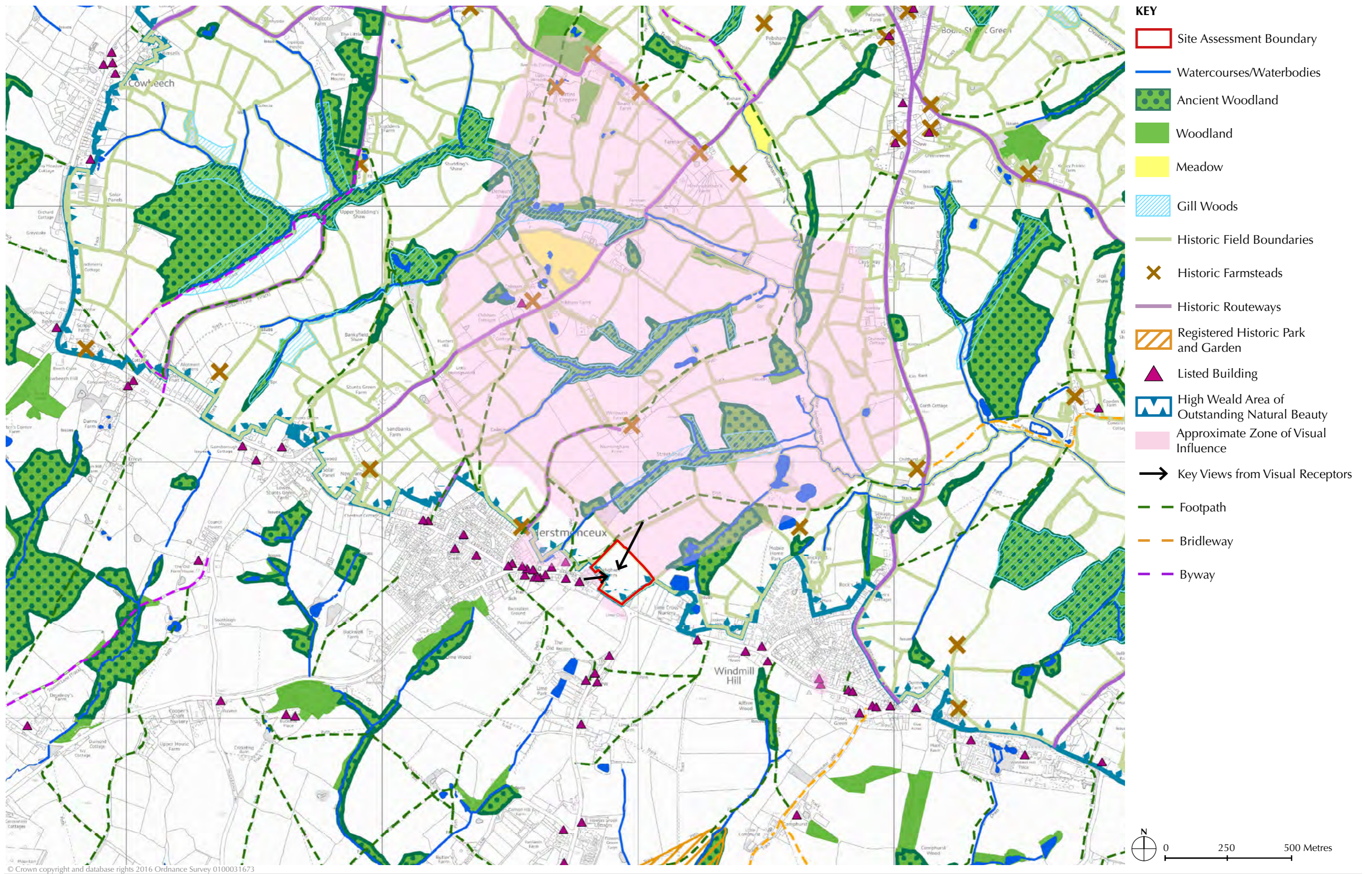
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.5b**.

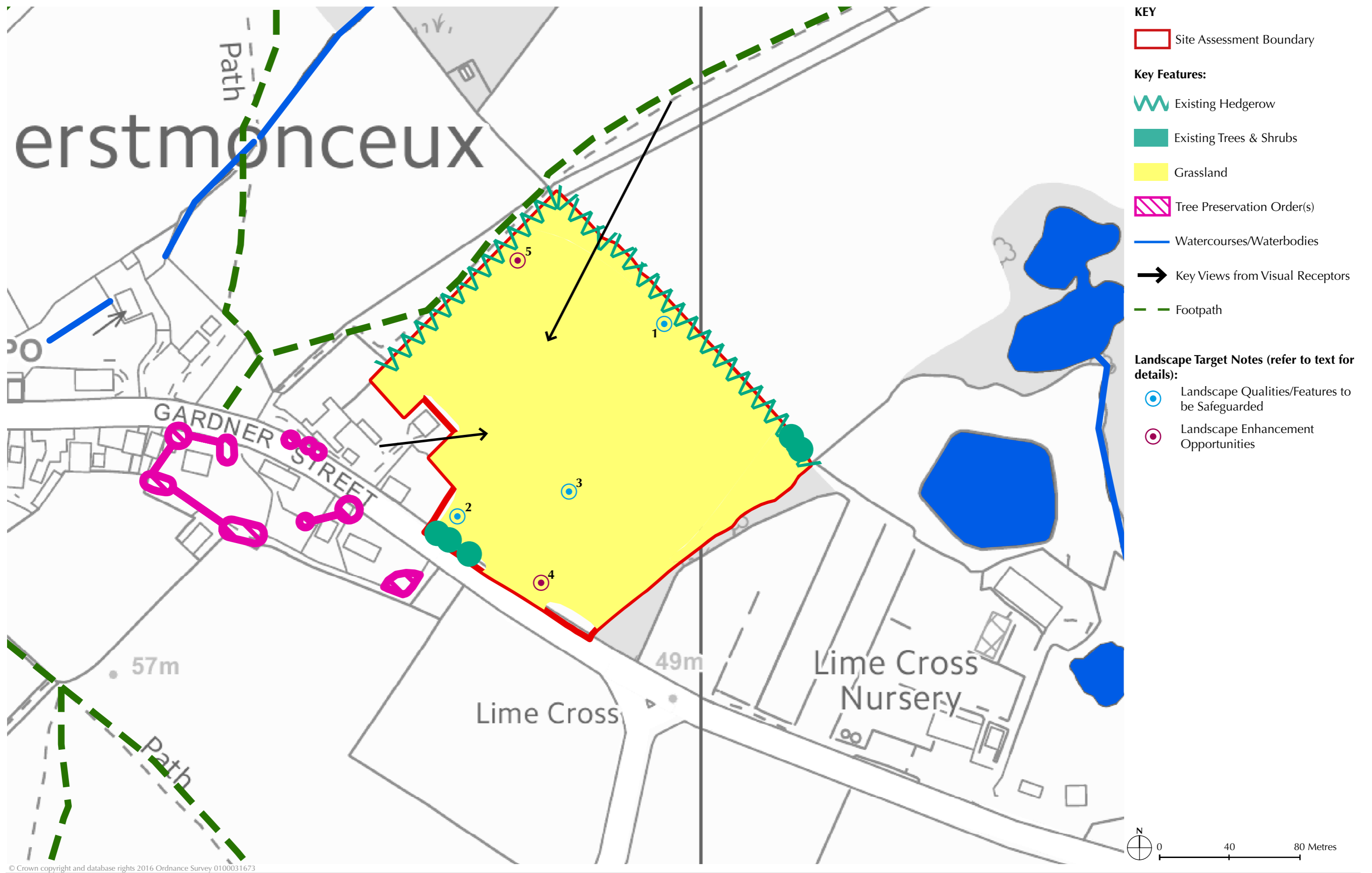
4. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: To enhance landscape features which are characteristic of the High Weald AONB. Allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species) to provide improved connectivity for wildlife, and filter views of the Site along the boundary adjacent to Gardner Street (A271) and existing properties in accordance with targets in the AONB Management Plan.

5. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To ensure new green infrastructure features and/or key sensitive features characteristic of the High Weald AONB are managed in accordance with objectives and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.





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Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	582/2090
Site Address:	Land at Gardner Street, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	2.59
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Within
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site lies to the rear of existing residential development on the north-eastern edge of Herstmonceux in between Windmill Hill and Herstmonceux in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Accessed via Gardner Street (A271) the Site comprises a medium-sized field of grassland, bounded by hedgerows on all sides. Two public footpaths cross through the Site.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.5a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Small to medium sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Sunken, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow and often deep, stream corridors (gills) are typically lined by Ancient Woodlands and have their source close to the ridgeline. • Numerous ponds within woodlands and along streams. • Scattered settlement patterns of historic farmsteads. • Panoramic open views towards the north over the High Weald. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Views experienced from this site to the north reach to a significant distance, extending to hills of the High Weald on the horizon. Local both residents and users of the public footpaths have views of the Site. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.6a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) • Users of the public footpaths within and around the Site (High Sensitivity) <p>Zone of Visual Influence: The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.6a. The Site's ZVI is extensive northwards over the High Weald AONB landscape. Views are locally restricted primarily by trees and local variations in topography. The Site is located on the north-west facing slope of a valley. The eastern boundary is the highest point, being close to the ridge-top.</p>	

Key views into the Site are marked on **Figure 7.6a** and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in **Figure 7.6c**.

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.6b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.6c**. Located on a ridge of high land in between Herstmonceux and Windmill Hill, the Site is located on a valley slope, gently sloping downhill to the north-west. It comprises a single small field of semi-improved grassland surrounded on three sides by hedgerows and trees. The south-west boundary is marked by the back gardens of properties and is open to Gardner Street. The Site forms part of a coherent and unified wider landscape and it is typical of the High Weald, with its complex of small-scale irregular fields and numerous scattered historic farmsteads, and narrow gill woods. Field boundaries remain intact and are historic, contributing to the character of the AONB in this location. There is a moderate sense of tranquillity on this site, resulting from traffic noise from Gardner Street and being overlooked by existing properties. Two public footpaths run through the Site.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 1, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 1 as having a Low Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'Pockets of Ancient Woodland contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. Furthermore, this area is within the High Weald AONB. Mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and the pattern gently undulating small, medium and large-scale fields contribute to high landscape sensitivity.'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Unique/Rare
Continuity	Recent
Strength of Place	Moderate
Landform	Dominant
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	High
Landscape Sensitivity	High
Landscape Value	High
Landscape Capacity	Low

The Site has a **Low Landscape Capacity** due to its high sensitivity and high landscape value. Its location adjacent to the existing urban edge gives a limited sense of remoteness/tranquillity and reduces the Site's landscape value, but balanced against this is its location within the High Weald AONB, coherent ancient landscape pattern and good condition giving the Site a high landscape value overall.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

The northern part of the Site is most sensitive as it is adjacent to a small isolated Ancient Woodland.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.6b**.

1. Field boundaries and their vegetation

Reason: Field boundaries which mark this site are historic and contribute to the unique ancient field patterns characteristic of the High Weald AONB. The trees and hedgerows around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing links for wildlife through the Site and beyond it to key landscape features such as the woodland to the north. They help to visually contain the Site and their retention is an objective within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

2. Maintain a buffer to Ancient Woodland

Reason: Ancient Woodland is an important landscape feature of historic and ecological value and woodland is characteristic of the High Weald. The Ancient Woodland adjacent to the Site is gill woodland - small and narrow making it particularly vulnerable to change, a buffer would help to mitigate the effects of any potential development of the site on this woodland and its ecological viability. The retention of Ancient Woodland (particularly gills) and enhanced ecological functioning of woodland are targets in the AONB Management Plan.

3. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: The Site is located within the High Weald AONB where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in the development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

4. Public footpaths through the Site

Reason: Retaining these historic access routes from Herstmonceux into the wider countryside as an important green infrastructure link. To also maintain the pattern of historic routes and tracks which are identified as part of the characteristic features of the High Weald, in accordance with targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.6b**.

5. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: To enhance landscape features which are characteristic of the High Weald. Allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species) to provide improved connectivity for wildlife, and filter views of the Site along the boundary adjacent to Gardner Street (A271) and existing properties in accordance with targets in the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

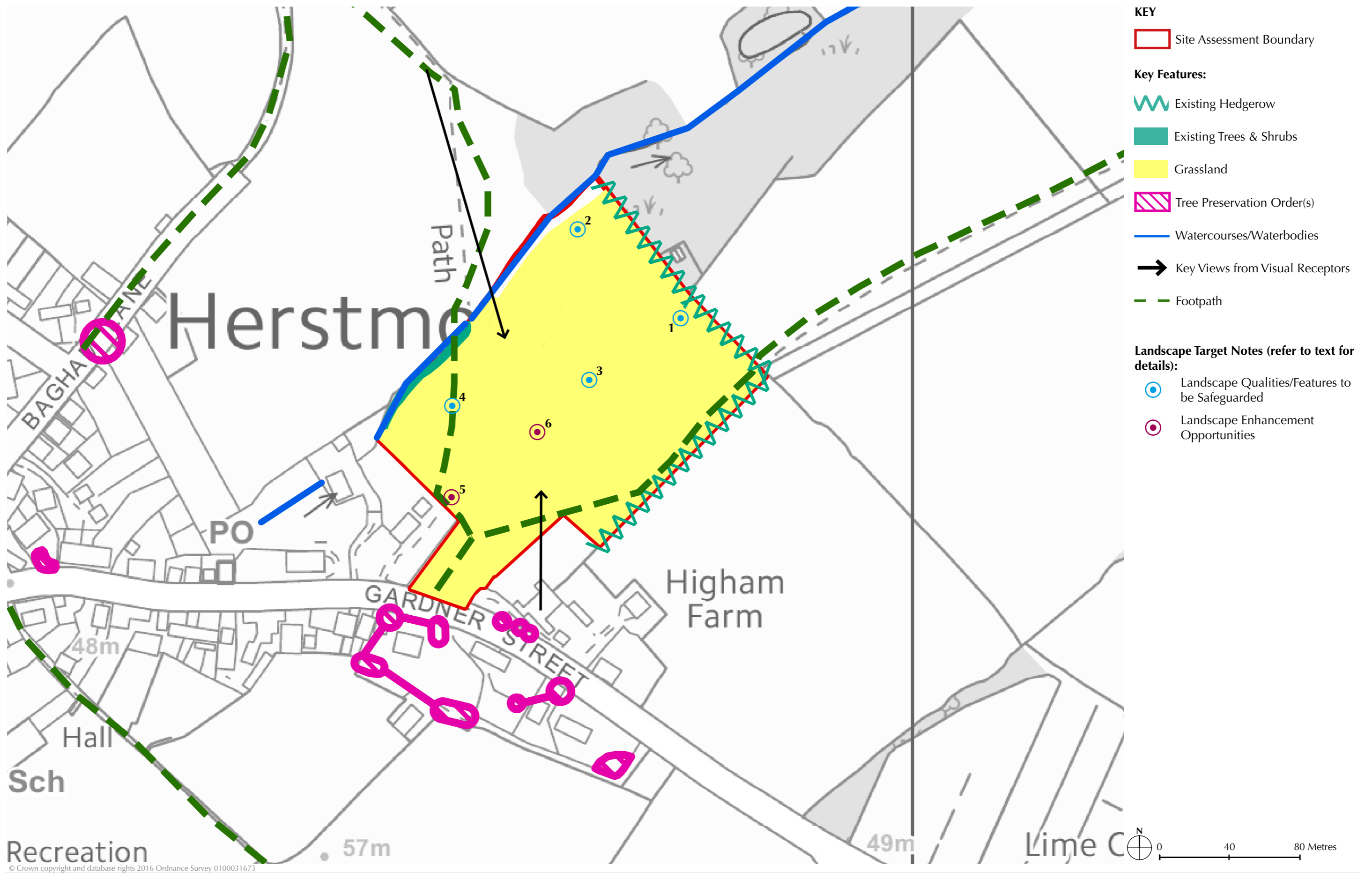
6. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of the High Weald AONB that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.



- KEY**
- Site Assessment Boundary
 - Watercourses/Waterbodies
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Woodland
 - Meadow
 - Gill Woods
 - Historic Field Boundaries
 - ✕ Historic Farmsteads
 - Historic Routeways
 - Registered Historic Park and Garden
 - ▲ Listed Building
 - High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Approximate Zone of Visual Influence
 - ➔ Key Views from Visual Receptors
 - Footpath
 - Bridleway
 - Byway

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Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	608/2090
Site Address:	Land at Collins Honda, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	0.52
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Outside
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site is located in open countryside beyond the southern edge of Herstmonceux. Adjacent to the A271 Hailsham Road, this small Site is previously developed, currently used for car sales with existing buildings and hard-standing. The Site lies adjacent to woodland along its south-western boundary and it is surrounded by hedgerows.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.5a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale landscape of irregular-shaped pastoral fields forming the southern slopes of the High Weald. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Small to medium-sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws. • Narrow and often deep, stream corridors (gills), typically lined by Ancient Woodlands. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Views in to the Site are possible from the main road running adjacent to the Site. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.7a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of the A271 (Medium Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.7a. The Site's ZVI is very limited to the immediate surroundings, as a result of mature trees and woodland within and around the Site and the Site's location in a small valley.</p> <p>Key views into the Site are marked on Figure 7.7a and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in Figure 7.7c.</p>	

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.7b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.7c**. Located in open countryside, the Site is steeply undulating from the road down to the yard in the south-east which is the Site's lowest point. It comprises an existing developed site, mostly hard-standing with large buildings present. The Site has open views to the road and currently used as a car sales garage. Surrounded by woodland and trees, the Site has a strong sense of enclosure and feels particularly remote in the south-eastern corner. The Site is a small part of a larger field, and has a strong sense of tranquillity which diminishes closer to the A271.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 3, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 3 as having a Moderate Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'there is less historic continuity within this area than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas and large-scale modern fields and a nursery detract from landscape value. However, sensitive landscape features include linear belts of Ancient Woodland lining north-south oriented stream corridors.'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Indistinct
Continuity	Historic
Strength of Place	Weak
Landform	Dominant
Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	Low
Landscape Value	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	High

The Site has a **High Landscape Capacity** due to its low sensitivity and moderate landscape value. Its location adjacent to existing development and the road gives a more limited sense of remoteness/tranquillity and gives the Site a moderate landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

The land to the south-east is the most sensitive as this area directly abuts Ancient Woodland. All Ancient Woodland is sensitive as a result of the species and heritage assets it supports; this woodland is small and fragmented which makes it particularly vulnerable to change.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.7b**.

1. Maintain a buffer to Ancient Woodland

Reason: Ancient Woodland is an important landscape feature of historic and ecological value and woodland is characteristic of the High Weald. The Ancient Woodland adjacent to the Site is small and narrow making it particularly vulnerable to change; a buffer would help to mitigate the effects of any potential development of the site on this woodland and its ecological viability. The retention of Ancient Woodland and enhanced ecological functioning of woodland are targets in the AONB Management Plan.

2. Existing trees

Reason: Existing and particularly mature trees within or around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing existing vegetation which enables species movements through the Site whilst reinforcing local landscape character. They also help to visually contain the Site. Retention of trees should follow the Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

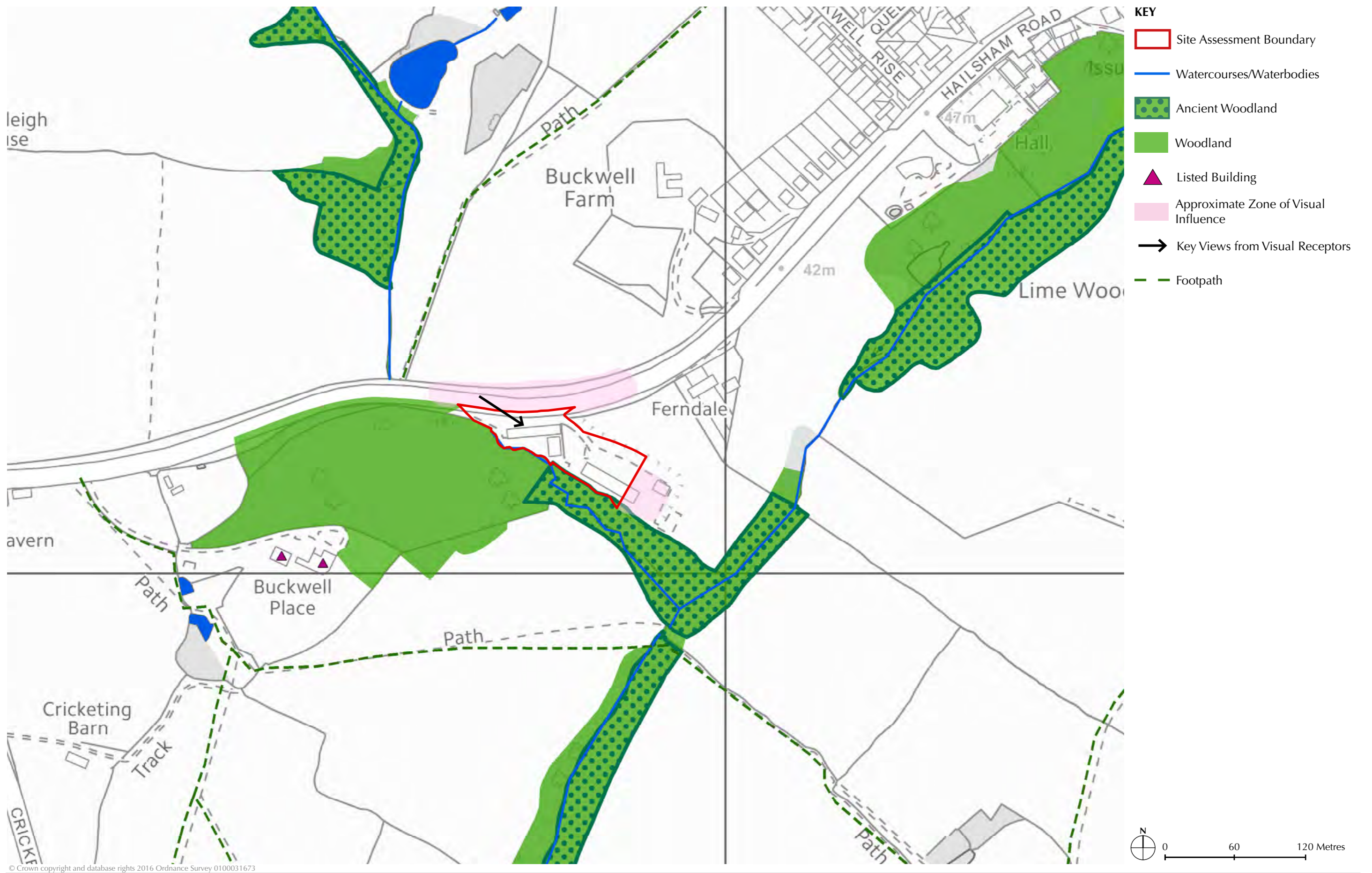
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.7b**.

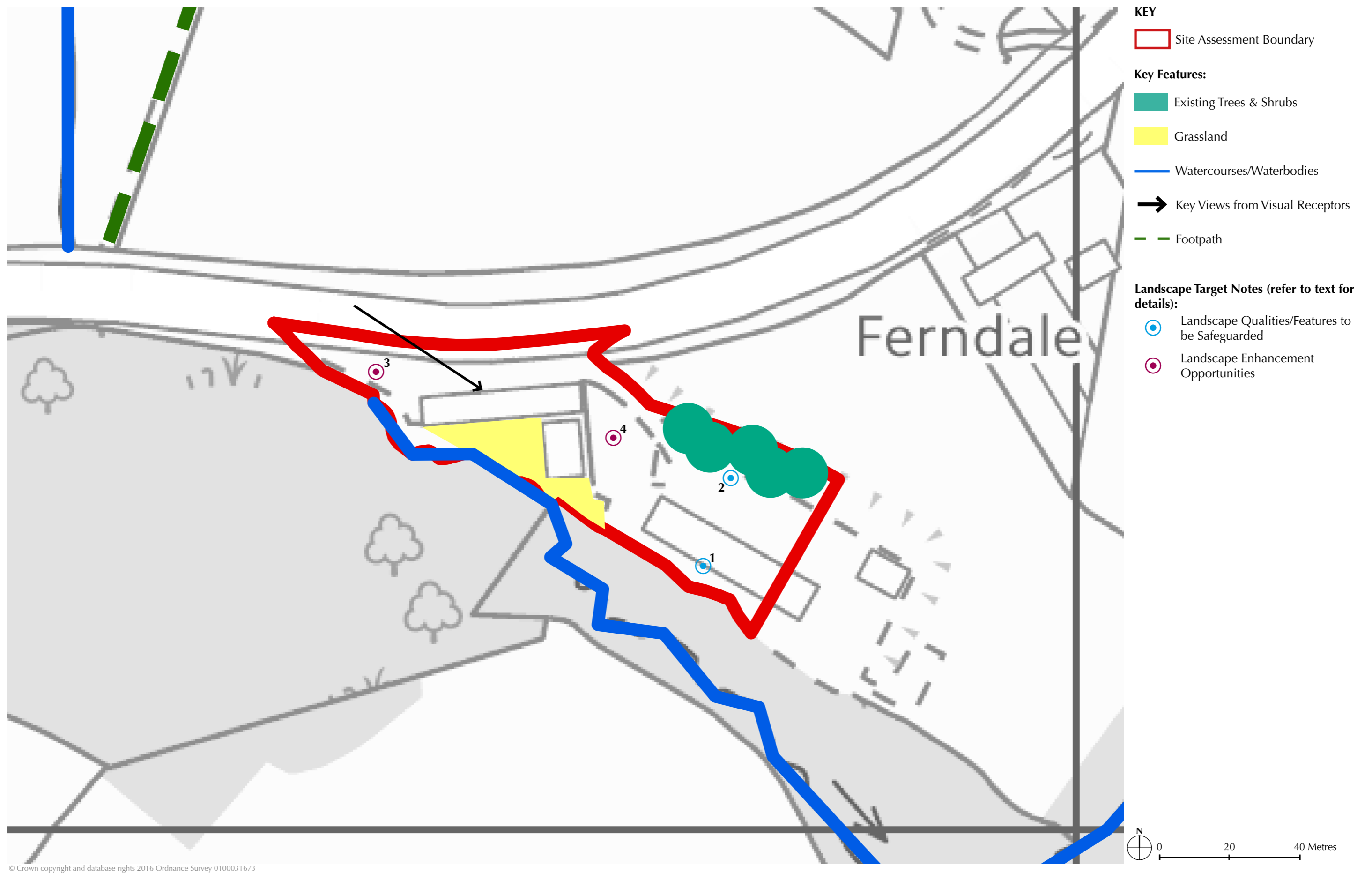
3. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: To create a wooded or hedged boundary to the Site along the A271. Allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species) to maintain the wooded character of the road and provide a buffer between the main road and the Site.

4. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of this landscape that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.







Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	609/2090
Site Address:	Land Adjacent to Collins Honda, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	1.40
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Outside
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site is located in open countryside beyond the southern edge of Herstmonceux. Adjacent to the Hailsham Road, the Site is previously developed with existing buildings and hard-standing, surrounded by hedges and woodland. Existing residential properties lie adjacent to the Site's north-eastern edge.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.8a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale landscape of irregular-shaped pastoral fields forming the southern slopes of the High Weald. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Small to medium-sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws. • Narrow and often deep, stream corridors (gills), typically lined by Ancient Woodlands. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. 	
Visual Context	
<p>The Site is overlooked by existing properties and glimpsed views towards the Site are possible from here. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.8a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of the A271 (Low Sensitivity) • Residents of neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.8a. The Site's ZVI is very limited to the immediate surroundings, as a result of mature trees and woodland within and around the Site and the Site's location in a small valley.</p> <p>Key views into the Site are marked on Figure 7.8a and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in Figure 7.8c.</p>	

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.8b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.8c**. Located in open countryside on the side of a small valley, the Site steeply slopes downhill to the north. It comprises a small field of semi-improved grassland and small area of hard-standing being used as a car park. Surrounded by Ancient Woodland and trees, the Site has a strong sense of enclosure and feels particularly remote in the south-eastern corner. It is characteristic of its wider landscape context, of small irregular fields bounded by thick hedges or shaws. The Site is a small part of a larger field and has a strong sense of tranquillity in the south-eastern corner which diminishes closer to the A271.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 3, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 3 as having a Moderate Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'there is less historic continuity within this area than within adjacent Landscape Setting Areas and large-scale modern fields and a nursery detract from landscape value. However, sensitive landscape features include linear belts of Ancient Woodland lining north-south oriented stream corridors.'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Distinct
Continuity	Ancient
Strength of Place	Strong
Landform	Dominant
Tree Cover	Enclosed
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	High
Landscape Value	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate

The Site has a **Moderate Landscape Capacity** due to its high sensitivity and moderate landscape value. Its location adjacent to existing development and the road gives a more limited sense of remoteness/tranquillity and gives the Site a moderate landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

The southern part of the Site is the most sensitive as this area directly abuts a small, fragmented Ancient Woodland. All Ancient Woodland is sensitive as a result of the species and heritage assets it supports; this woodland is small and fragmented which makes it particularly vulnerable to change.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.8b**.

1. Existing trees

Reason: Existing and particularly mature trees within and/or around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing existing vegetation which enables species movements through the Site whilst reinforcing local landscape character. They also help to visually contain the Site. Retention of trees should follow the Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice.

2. Maintain a buffer to Ancient Woodland

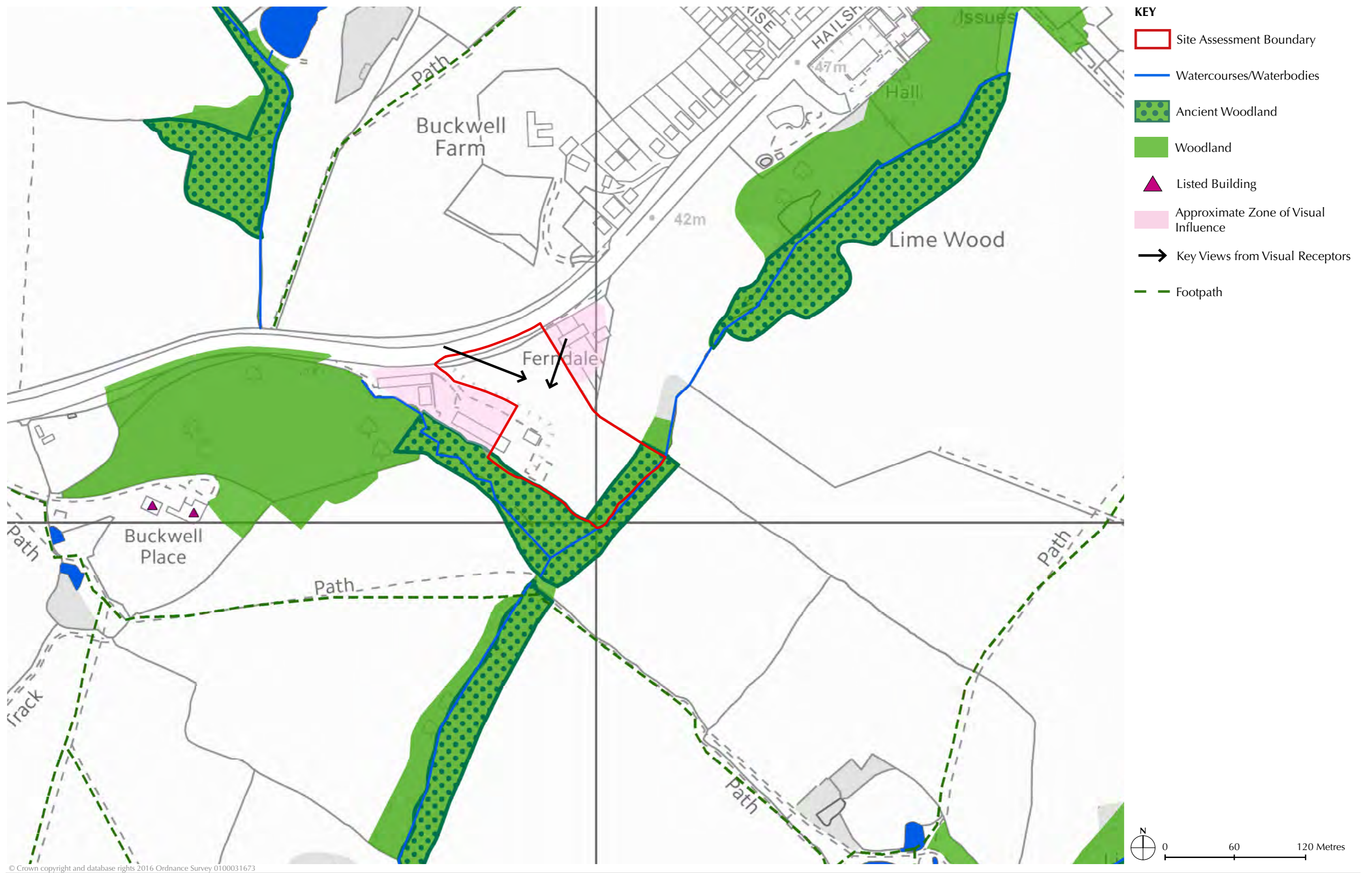
Reason: Ancient Woodland is an important landscape feature of historic and ecological value and woodland is characteristic of the High Weald. The Ancient Woodland adjacent to the Site is small making it particularly vulnerable to change; a buffer would help to mitigate the effects of any potential development of the site on this woodland.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.8b**.

3. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of the landscape that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.







Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	610/2090
Site Address:	Land at Braemar, Bagham Lane, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	0.32
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Adjacent
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site lies close to the centre of Herstmonceux, on its northern side adjacent to existing residential development. Located adjacent to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Site comprises a large garden and additional field of grass. To the south-west, the Site is surrounded by large gardens and properties and an existing property, garden and large field on the eastern side. The rear of shops on Gardner Street form the Sites southern boundary, which is mostly trees.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.9a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale landscape of irregular-shaped pastoral fields surrounded by hedgerows and shaws many of which retain their historic patterns. • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Sunken and/or narrow, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow Ancient Woodlands surrounding often deep, gill streams. • Numerous ponds associated with woodland and streams. • Long-distance open views towards the north and east over the High Weald. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Local views of the Site are possible from the right of way adjacent to the Site and glimpsed views are possible from residents within neighbouring properties. Views experienced from this Site to the north-east reach to a significant distance, extending to hills of the High Weald on the horizon.</p> <p>Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.9a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of the public footpath close to the Site (High Sensitivity) • Residents of neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.9a. The Site's ZVI is limited to the area north-east of the Site, as a result of the settlement of Herstmonceux constraining views south and west.</p>	

Key views into the Site are marked on **Figure 7.9a** and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in **Figure 7.9c**.

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.9b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.9c**. Located on a valley side, close to the ridge-top, the Site's topography gently slopes downhill towards the south. It comprises a long and narrow parcel of land comprising a large mature garden laid to lawn and a small field of semi-improved grassland. The Site is bounded by hedgerows and mature trees. It has a moderate sense of tranquillity, as it is overlooked from most sides and the southern part of the Site is affected by some traffic noise from Gardner Street.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

Not applicable to this site.

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Indistinct
Continuity	Recent
Strength of Place	Very Weak
Landform	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	Low
Landscape Value	Moderate
Landscape Capacity	Moderate

The Site has a **Moderate Landscape Capacity** due to its low sensitivity and moderate landscape value. Its location adjacent to the settlement edge gives a limited sense of remoteness/tranquillity and gives the Site a moderate landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

The garden is the least sensitive part of the Site as it has undergone the most changes.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.9b**.

1. Existing trees

Reason: Existing and particularly mature trees within and/or around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing existing vegetation which enables species movements through the Site whilst reinforcing local landscape character. They also help to visually contain the Site. Retention of trees should follow the Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice.

2. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: The Site is located adjacent to the High Weald AONB and exposed in views from it, where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in the development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

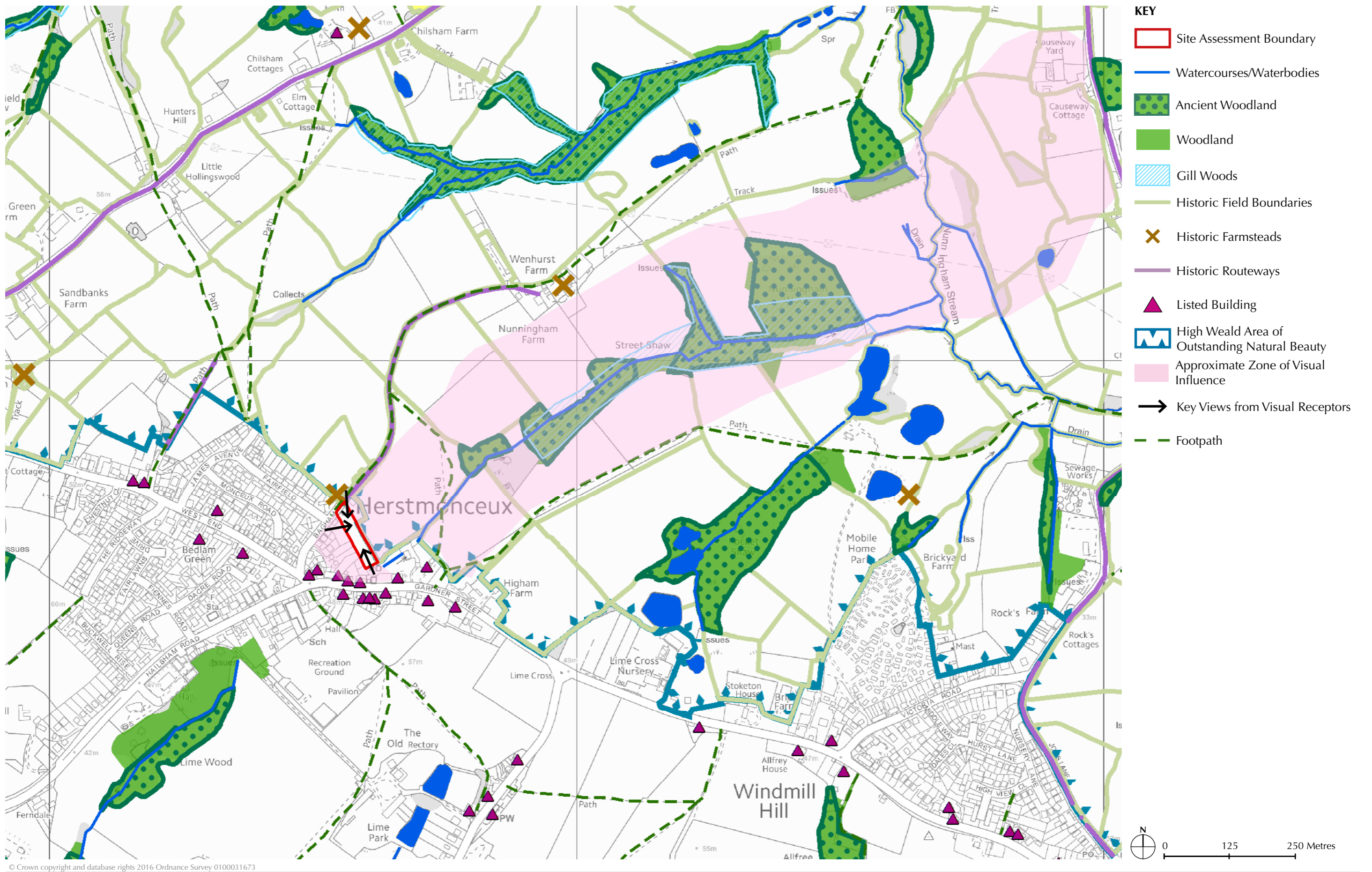
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.9b**.

3. Restore/enhance landscape features

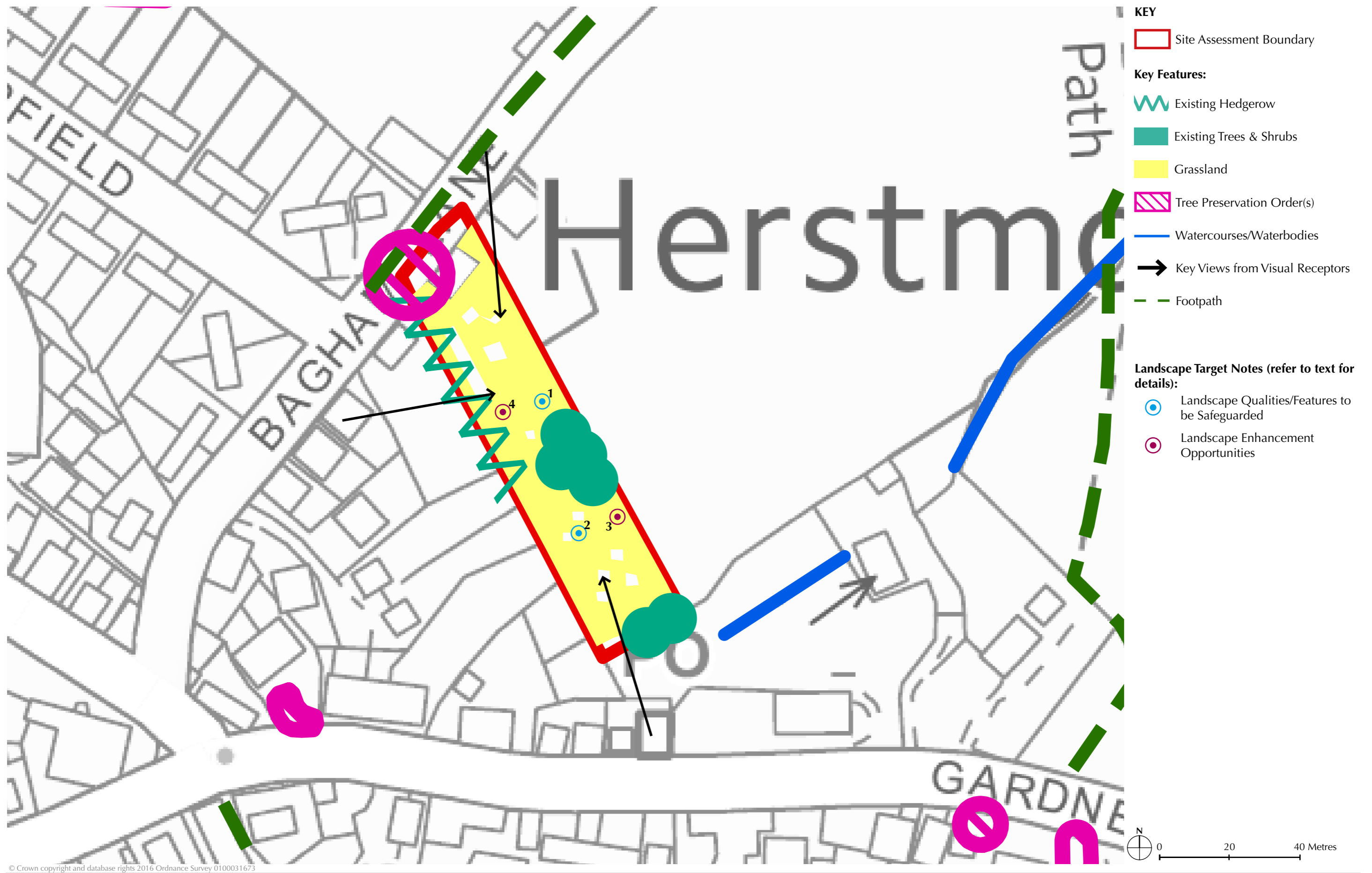
Reason: To allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species) to reinstate a hedgerow along the Site's north-eastern boundary, in order to screen the Site from views from the wider landscape and provide improved green infrastructure links around the Site for wildlife.

4. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of this landscape that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.



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610/2090



Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	858/2090
Site Address:	New Barn Farm, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	2.5
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Within
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site is located in open countryside between Stunts Green and Herstmonceux within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Site comprises three small fields (one of which is further divided) of grass, enclosed by hedgerows and shaws. The southern edge of the Site lies adjacent to Stunts Green Road. The remaining sides are open onto open countryside. The Site is adjacent on its north-western side to existing farm buildings at New Barn Farm.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.10a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Small to medium-sized woodlands provide a sense of intimacy and enclosure. • Sunken and/or narrow, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small to medium-scale irregular fields and meadows, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow Ancient Woodlands surrounding often deep gill streams, with numerous ponds. • Panoramic open views towards the north and east over the High Weald. 	
Visual Context	
<p>The Site is visible from the rights of way network to the north-east, from neighbouring properties, and the adjacent Stunts Green Road. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.10a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of the public footpath (High Sensitivity) • Residents in neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) • Users of Stunts Green Road (Medium Sensitivity) • Workers at New Barn Farm/Sandbanks Farm (Low Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.10a. The Site's ZVI is fairly extensive stretching to a significant distance in the north-east across the High Weald. The ZVI includes some residential properties along the western edge of Herstmonceux, and a number of small fields south of Stunts Green Road.</p>	

Key views into the Site are marked on **Figure 7.10a** and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in **Figure 7.10c**.

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.10b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.10c**. Located to the north-west of Herstmonceux, the Site has a gently undulating topography, falling slightly eastwards. It comprises two small irregular-shaped fields of semi-improved grassland, bounded on most sides by hedgerows and trees. The field boundaries around and within the Site are historic and the Site forms part of a coherent wider landscape of surviving historic irregular-shaped fields, narrow ancient gill woodlands, scattered historic farmsteads and numerous tracks and paths. The Site forms part of the landscape context to New Barn Farm, and the track accessing the farm is likely to be associated with this historic farmstead. The Site has a strong sense of tranquillity, affected by occasional farm noise.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 1, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 1 as having a Low Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'Pockets of Ancient Woodland contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. Furthermore, this area is within the High Weald AONB. Mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and the pattern gently undulating small, medium and large-scale fields contribute to high landscape sensitivity'*.

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare
Continuity	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong
Landform	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	High
Landscape Value	Very High
Landscape Capacity	Low

The Site has a **Low Landscape Capacity** due to its high sensitivity and high landscape value. Its location within the High Weald AONB and coherent ancient landscape pattern and good condition gives the Site a very high landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

None.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.10b**.

1. Field boundaries and their vegetation

Reason: The boundaries of the fields are historic and contribute to the unique ancient field patterns characteristic of the High Weald. The hedgerows and trees around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing existing well-connected vegetation which enables species movements through and beyond the Site to surrounding key landscape features whilst reinforcing historic landscape character. They also help to visually contain the Site.

2. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: The Site is located within the High Weald AONB where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in the development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

3. Rural character of Stunts Green Road

Reason: This road contributes to both the character of the local area and the wider High Weald AONB whose boundary runs along the road's northern edge. Avoiding/reducing intrusive highway engineering (e.g. features such as kerbs, widening, wide visibility access splays, lighting, speed bumps etc.) on rural lanes and historic routeways is a target in the AONB Management Plan.

4. Existing trees

Reason: Existing trees, particularly those that are mature, contribute to character and provide green infrastructure and restrict views towards the Site, they should be retained in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

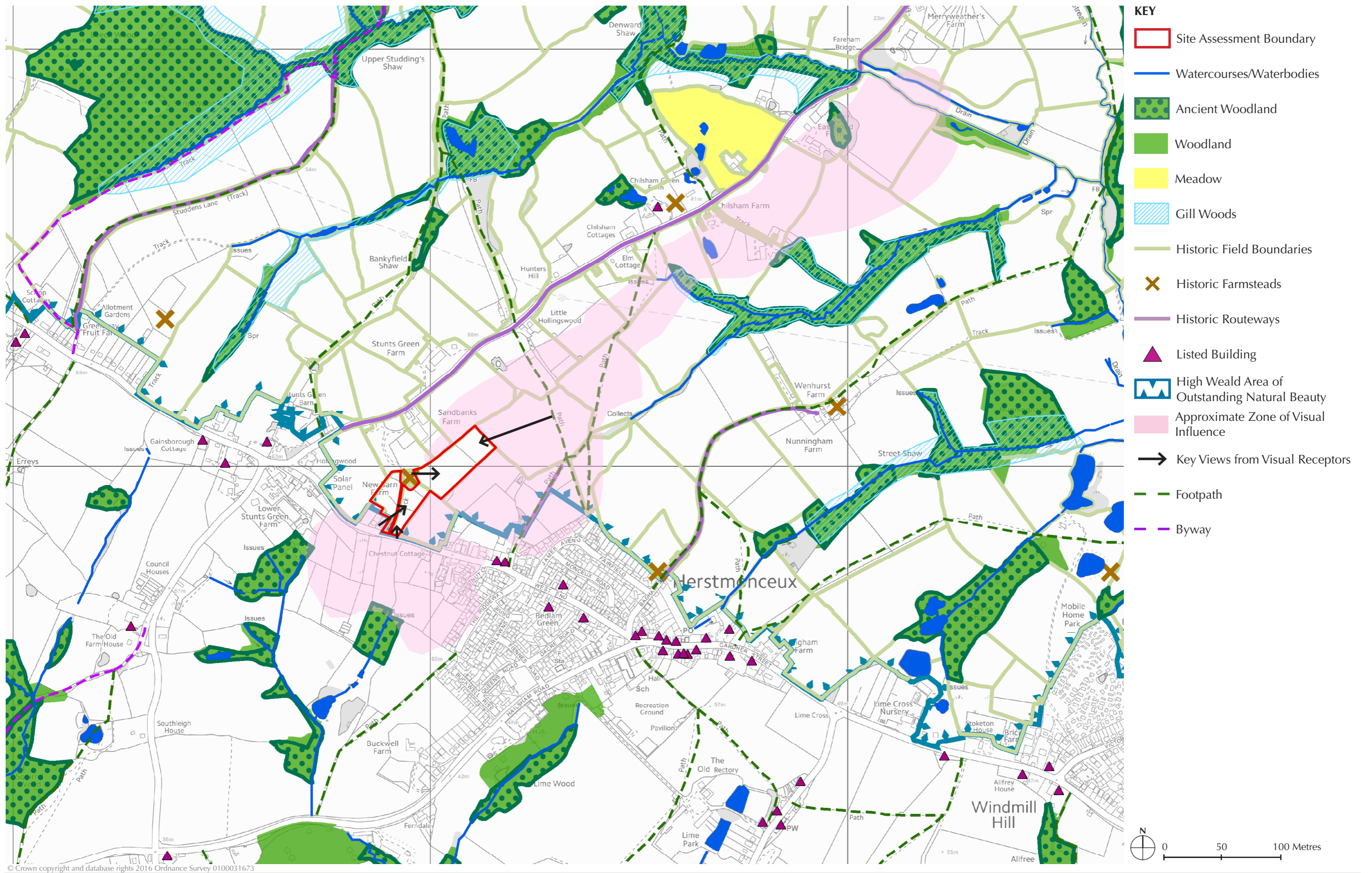
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.10b**.

5. Restore/enhance landscape features

Reason: To enhance landscape features which are characteristic of the High Weald. Opportunities exist to restore characteristic vegetation along the southern boundary, between the Site and the existing residential properties. To allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species), to provide improved connectivity along the historic field boundary through management or additional planting in accordance with targets in the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

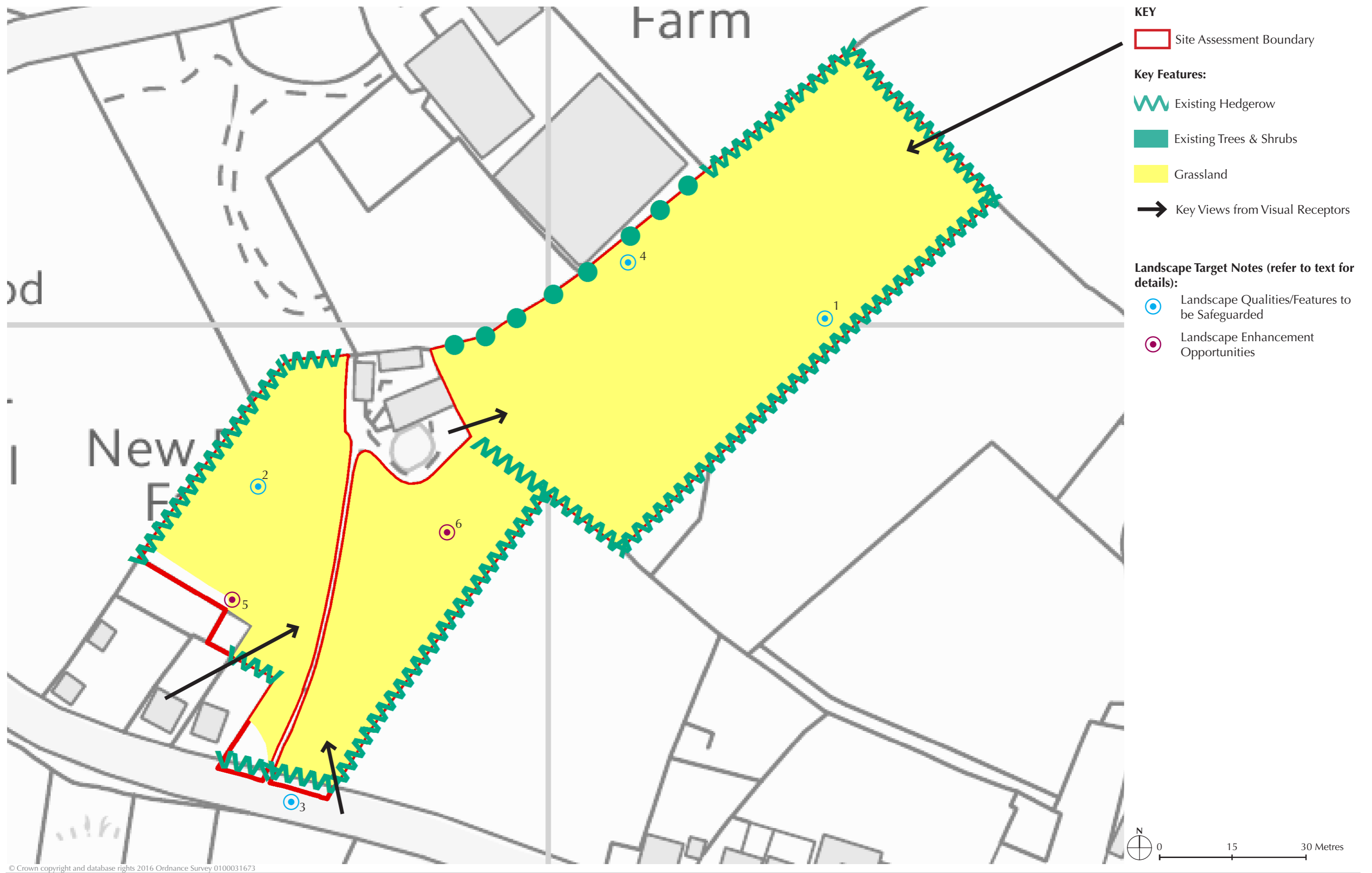
6. Positive management of key landscape features

Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of the High Weald AONB that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.



- KEY**
- Site Assessment Boundary
 - Watercourses/Waterbodies
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Woodland
 - Meadow
 - Gill Woods
 - Historic Field Boundaries
 - ✕ Historic Farmsteads
 - Historic Routeways
 - ▲ Listed Building
 - High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Approximate Zone of Visual Influence
 - ➔ Key Views from Visual Receptors
 - Footpath
 - Byway

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Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	
General Information	
Settlement/Area:	Herstmonceux
Site Reference Number:	879/2090
Site Address:	Land at Stunts, Herstmonceux
Site Size: (ha)	0.34
Landscape Assessment Type:	Full
Site within/adjacent/outside the High Weald AONB:	Adjacent
Location and Description	
<p>As shown on Figure 7.1, the Site is located in open countryside, along Stunts Green Road, adjacent to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), to the west of Herstmonceux. The Site comprises a single narrow field of scrub, enclosed by hedgerows and trees. The northern edge of the Site lies opposite a small row of existing residential properties along Stunts Green Road. The remaining sides of the Site are open to fields.</p>	
LANDSCAPE BASELINE	
Landscape Character Context	
<p>The landscape and visual context of the Site is shown on Figure 7.11a. The key characteristics/features which provide the context to this Site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear ridge-top settlements on east-west ridges, numerous scattered hamlets of 'Greens' and 'Streets' and historic farmsteads. • Undulating landscape of small-scale ridges and valleys. • Sunken and/or narrow, tree or hedge-lined historic lanes. • Small irregular fields, bounded by thick hedges or shaws, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Networks of tracks and footpaths run from the ridge-top into valleys, many of which retain their historic patterns. • Narrow, often isolated Ancient Woodlands surrounding gill streams, with numerous ponds. • Opportunities for long-distance views towards the south. 	
Visual Context	
<p>Local views to the Site from neighbouring residents are possible. Key views from visual receptors are shown on Figure 7.11a. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of Stunts Green Road (Medium Sensitivity) • Residents in neighbouring properties (High Sensitivity) <p><i>Zone of Visual Influence:</i> The approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) is shown on Figure 7.11a. The Site's ZVI is locally extensive, covering fields around the Site in all directions except in views north. To the north the ZVI is restricted by trees.</p> <p>Key views into the Site are marked on Figure 7.11a and typical views are illustrated by the photographs in Figure 7.11c.</p>	

Site Landscape Character

The landscape features within the Site are mapped on **Figure 7.11b** and illustrated on **Figure 7.11c**. Located to the north-west of Herstmonceux, the Site is generally level. It comprises a small rectangular-shaped field parcel, of predominantly scrub with some semi-improved grassland. Surrounded by dense scrub, hedgerows and trees the Site is characteristic of its wider landscape and typical of the High Weald with its complex of small-scale irregular fields and numerous scattered farmsteads. The Site has a strong sense of tranquillity, and provides a feeling of being in the countryside.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY EVALUATION

Contextual Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity:

The Site lies within Landscape Setting Area (LSA) 2, as identified in The Wealden Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment (2014). This Assessment evaluated LSA 2 as having a Low Landscape Capacity for accommodating development, because *'It contains pockets of Ancient Woodland which contribute to historical continuity, high landscape value and an intermittent sense of enclosure. The area is also within the High Weald AONB. The numerous sunken lanes, alongside significant open views from ridges towards the historic Observatory result in High Landscape Sensitivity.'*

Site Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT
Distinctiveness	Unique/rare
Continuity	Ancient
Strength of Place	Very Strong
Landform	Apparent
Tree Cover	Intermittent
Visibility	Moderate
Landscape Sensitivity	High
Landscape Value	High
Landscape Capacity	Low

The Site has a **Low Landscape Capacity** due to its high sensitivity and high landscape value. The coherent ancient landscape pattern and good condition gives the Site a high landscape value.

Significant variations in landscape sensitivity within the Site:

None.

OUTLINE LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

Key Landscape Constraints (Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded)

This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.11b**.

1. Field boundaries and their vegetation

Reason: The boundaries of the field contribute to the unique ancient field patterns characteristic of this landscape. The hedgerows and trees around the Site contribute to green infrastructure by providing existing well-connected vegetation which enables species movements through and beyond the Site to surrounding key landscape features whilst reinforcing historic landscape character. They also help to visually contain the Site.

2. Local vernacular building styles

Reason: The Site is visually prominent, located just outside the High Weald AONB where the priority is to enhance the architectural quality of the area. Use of local materials and sensitive layout of spaces and soft landscaping in the development of the Site would help enhance the distinctive local settlement character, in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and targets within the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

3. Rural character of Stunts Green Road

Reason: This road contributes to both the character of the local area and the wider High Weald AONB whose boundary runs along the road's northern edge. Avoiding/reducing intrusive highway engineering (e.g. features such as kerbs, widening, wide visibility access splays, lighting, speed bumps etc.) on rural lanes and historic routeways is a target in the AONB Management Plan.

4. Existing trees

Reason: Existing trees, particularly those that are mature, contribute to character and provide green infrastructure, by providing key links for wildlife and contributing to sense of place. They restrict views towards the Site; they should be retained in accordance with the Wealden Design Guide and best arboriculture practice.

Potential Landscape Enhancement Opportunities

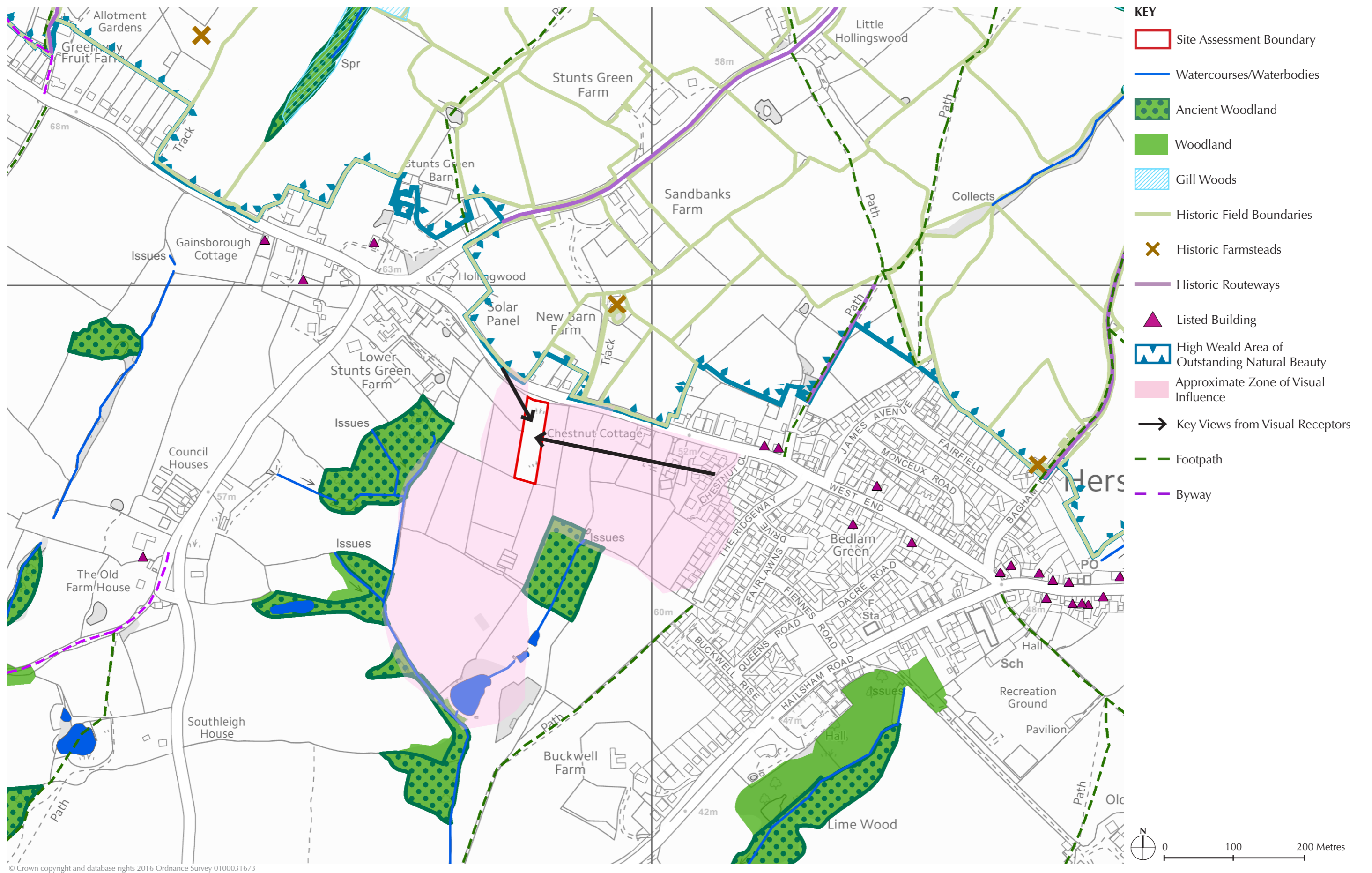
This section should be read in conjunction with the target notes shown on **Figure 7.11b**.

5. Restore/enhance landscape features

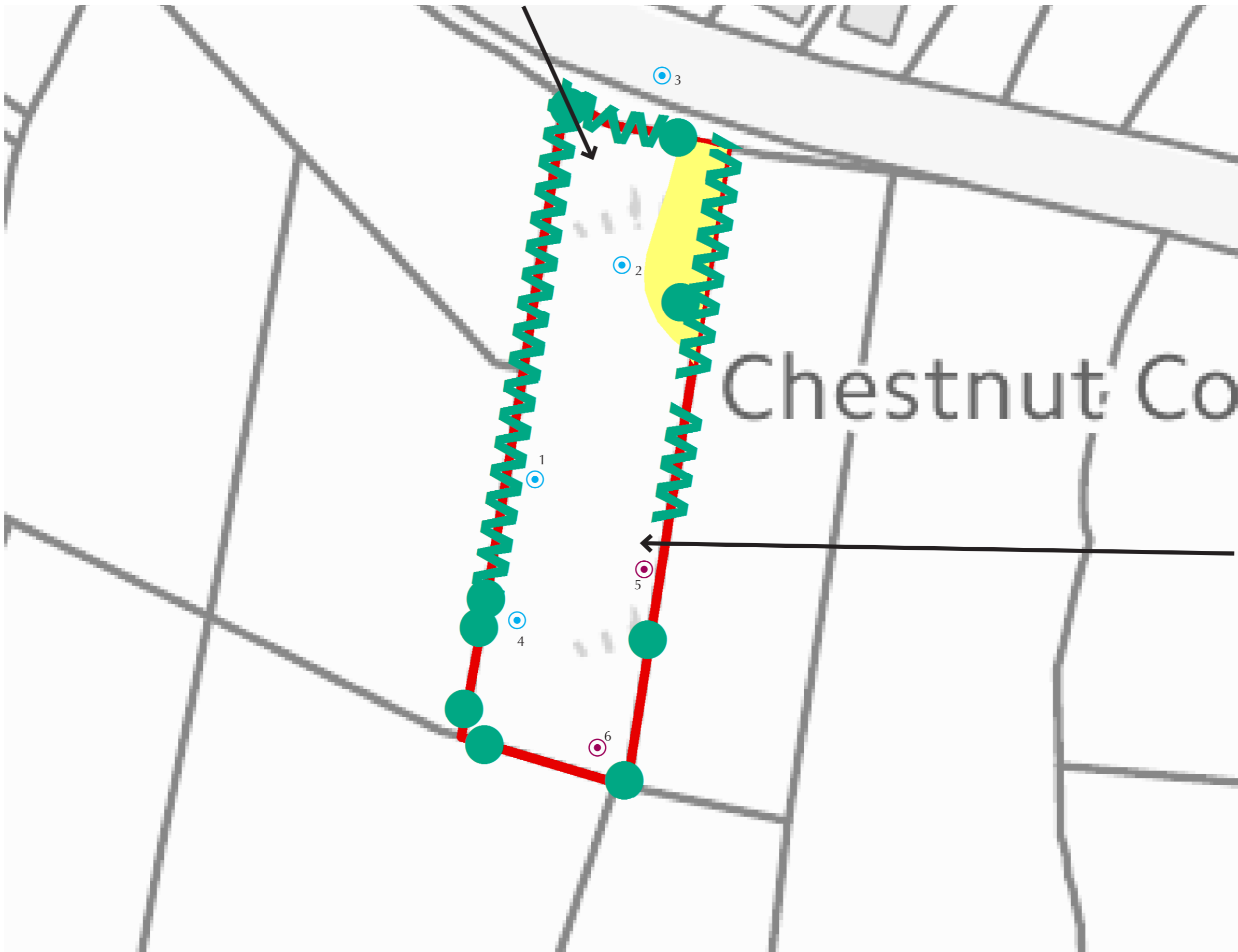
Reason: To enhance landscape features which are characteristic of this landscape. To provide improved connectivity along the field boundary through improved management and/or additional planting. Allow natural regeneration (or supplement with locally sourced and locally appropriate native species).

6. Positive management of key landscape features

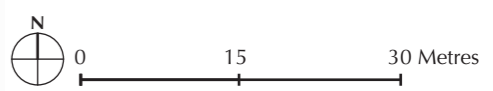
Reason: To positively manage key features characteristic of the landscape that are retained and/or restored on Site and around the boundary ensuring their character, condition, value and multiple benefits for people and wildlife are retained.



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- KEY**
- Site Assessment Boundary
- Key Features:**
- ~ Existing Hedgerow
 - Existing Trees & Shrubs
 - Grassland
 - ➔ Key Views from Visual Receptors
- Landscape Target Notes (refer to text for details):**
- ⊙ Landscape Qualities/Features to be Safeguarded
 - ⊙ Landscape Enhancement Opportunities



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Aerial Image of Site



Typical View into Site



Typical View out of Site