

Landscape Study of Bury Parish

Bury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. There are various definitions of landscape however the most frequently used is that from the European Landscape Convention which states that:

“landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”

- 1.2. The idea of landscape character being the result of inter-action between natural and human factors is particularly relevant to areas such as Bury and West Burton, and other areas of the UK where there has been a long history of human activity, which has determined the landscape around us.

Natural Factors

- 1.3. Prior to the actions of man the nature of the Sussex wildwood is likely to have been determined by the geological processes and the history of deposition of sediments within the basin of the Weald. As the parish sits at the junction of a range of different sedimentary deposits there would have been a complex mixture of different natural habitats, but they would have been predominantly wooded. The diagrams below show how the formation of the Wealden basin, (as a result of geological movement which created the Alps) pushed up sediments which were subsequently eroded to form the landforms which we know today.

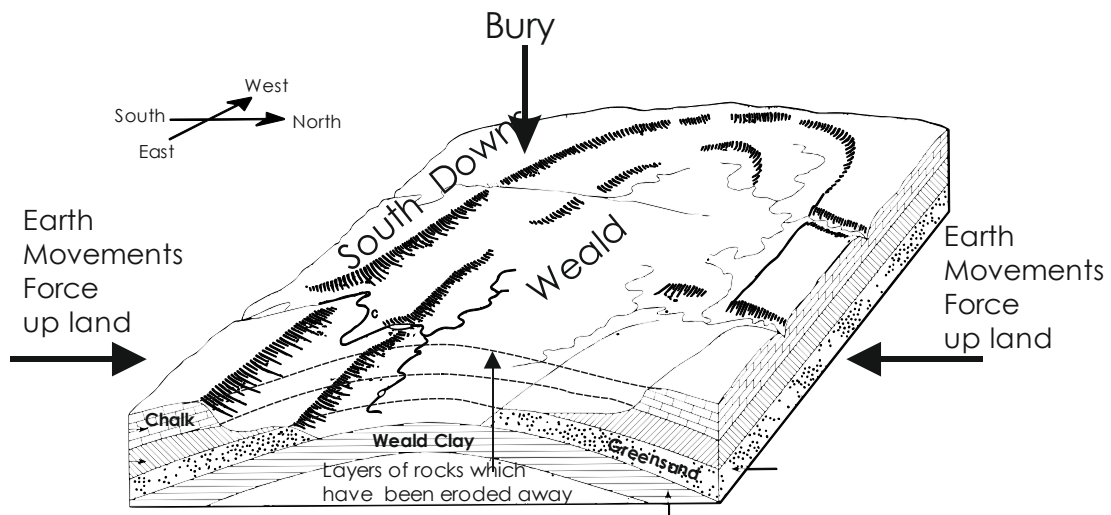
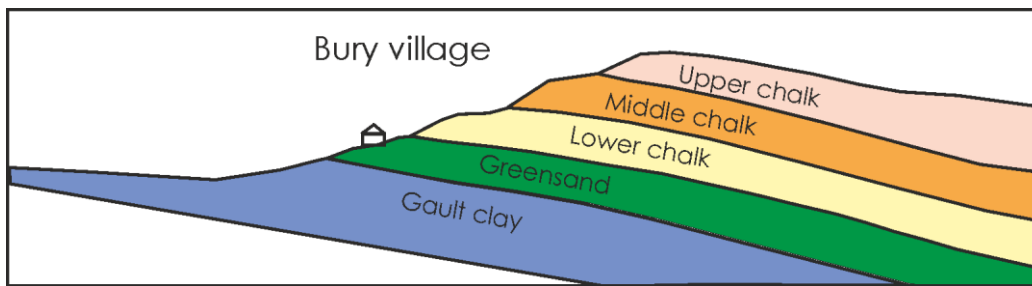


Diagram 1: Showing how the wealden dome has been eroded to form a bowl

- 1.4. The harder geology of the chalk for example led to the formation of the steep escarpment of the South Downs which rises to some 180 metres above the lowest part of the parish. Bands of different strata typically occur at the surface as a series of strips which run parallel to the chalk escarpment in an east west-direction. These include a ridge of greensand which the two villages are located upon, as well as a strip of clay and an area of sands and gravels known as the Folkestone beds.

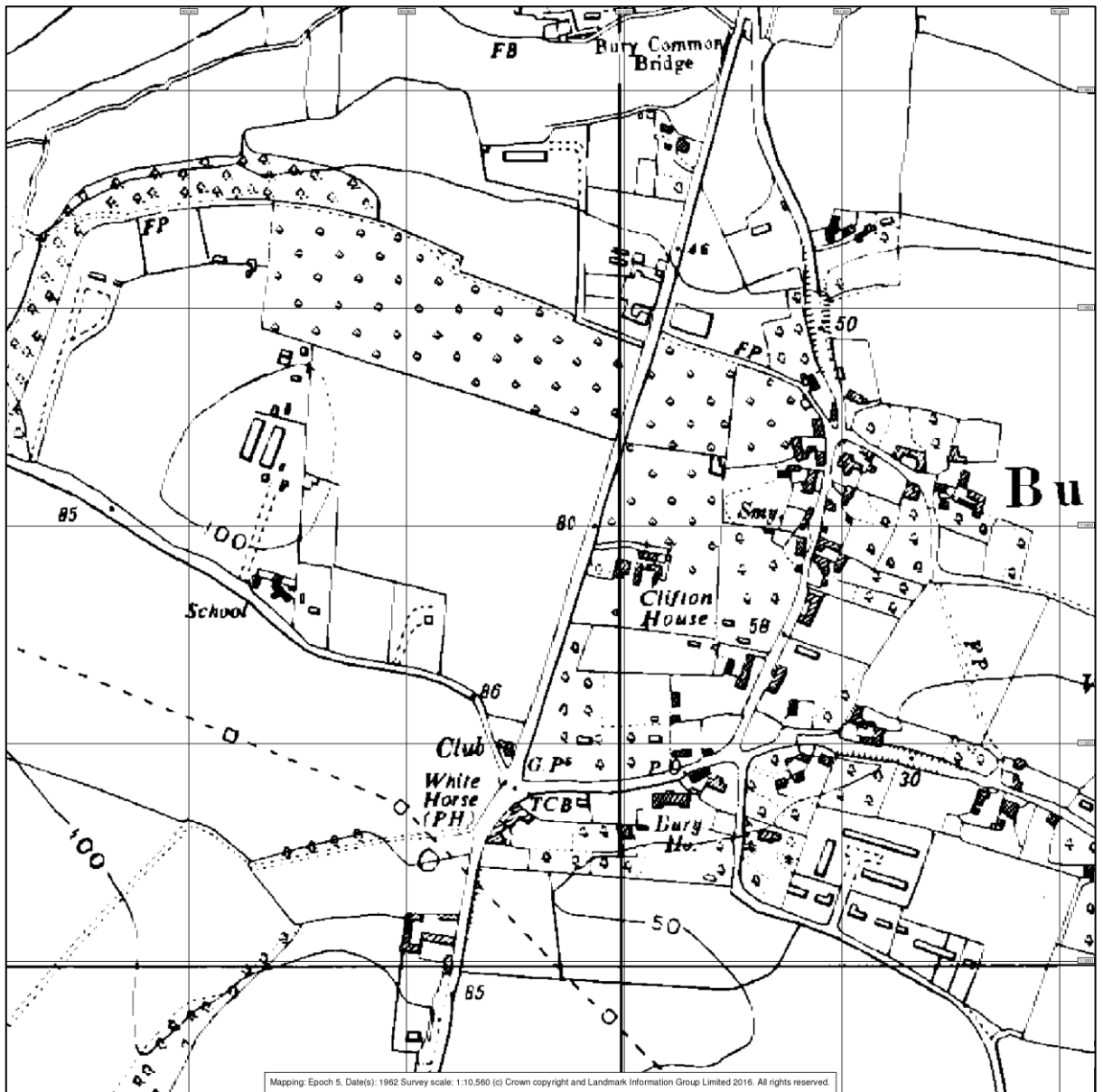


A simplified section showing the layers of different strata outcropping in the south of the parish

- 1.5. The river Arun drains the Weald to the north, through a gap in the downs where riverine erosion has formed a valley which is approximately a kilometre wide. The river is still tidal at this location and was at one time used for transporting material by barge to the village wharf.
- 1.6. The variations in the basic geology led to the formation of a whole range of different soils types, from free draining soils over the sands and gravels, through more water retentive soils on the greensand, to the heavy clays and the alluvium within the river valley. There are two small streams which flow through the parish to join the west bank of the river Arun, which forms part of the eastern boundary of the parish. Both rise as springs in the neighbouring parish of Bignor before flowing east to the Arun, to the north and south of Timberley.

Human Factors

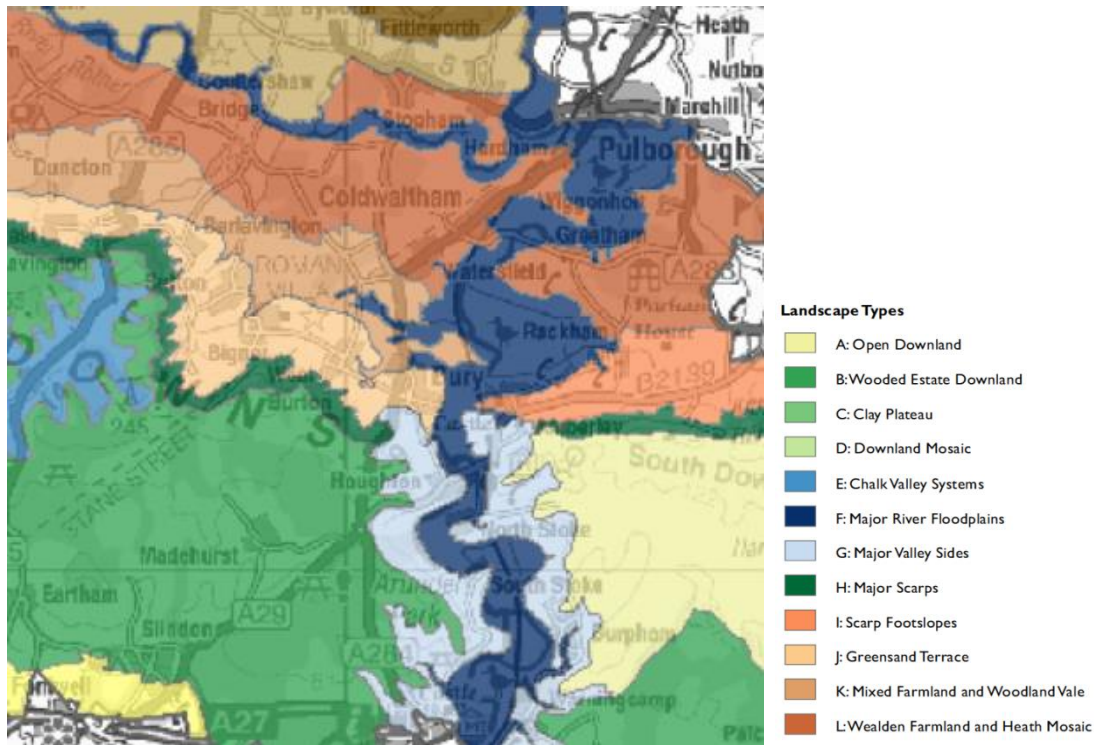
- 1.7. The various waves of colonising people who farmed the area needed to work with the land and developed a farming system which made use of the more easily worked soils. Hence the areas which remained un-cleared and predominantly wooded are areas such as the escarpment which were too steep, or areas such as the heaths on the Folkestone beds which were unable to support crops on a longer term basis.
- 1.8. Many of the patterns of field boundaries and copses are likely to have existed since before the Norman conquest. Generally the pattern of parish boundaries was determined during the Saxon period, and Bury is typical of many parishes in having a range of different soil types which provided for a range of uses, including chalk for sheep grazing, greensand for cropping and clay for cattle. Although just a distant memory to some the greensand areas of the village were once used for orchards, which are shown on the map extract of the village in 1962 below.



Map extract of Bury from 1962

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 2.1. The process of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has been developed as a way of classifying and analysing landscape. Landscape Character assessments are designed to ‘nest’ one above the other such that more detailed description and analysis is provided at the regional county and local scales.
- 2.2. Bury and West Burton are covered by the character assessment undertaken on behalf of the AONB unit and subsequently updated by the National park as the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (SDILCA). This is the most detailed level assessment of the parish and lists the following different character areas as occurring within the Parish.
 - Landscape Type B: Wooded Estate Downland
 - Landscape Type F: Major River Floodplains
 - Landscape Type H: Major Scarps
 - Landscape Type I: Scarp Footslopes
 - Landscape Type J: Greensand Terrace
 - Landscape Type L: Wealden Farmland And Heath Mosaic
- 2.3. Mapping of the different character areas reflect the complexity of the geology and soils which was described and illustrated earlier.
- 2.4. The SDILCA forms part of the Bury Neighborhood Plan evidence base and can be found on the South Downs National Park web site at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-advice/landscape/>



Landscape character assessment mapping taken from the South Downs Integrated landscape character assessment. Bury village at the centre.

- 2.5. The SDILCA also refers to landscape condition, sensitivity and potential future forces for change, for each of the landscape character areas referred to above.
- 2.6. It should be recognised that the character assessment covers a n extensive and variable area, and that there are tendencies for certain characteristics to be absent from some local areas, whilst others may be present, particularly, in situations, such as the Parish of Bury and West Burton, where a number of character areas meet. If a more local level assessment were to be undertaken, it is likely that the structure would follow the same structure as the SDILCA, but that a more focussed list of character areas.
- 2.7. The SDILCA has suggested some of the key features which occur within each of the different character areas within the village, as well as the key views and landmarks listed earlier. Using the structure of the SDILCA we find the following key features within the parish which are worthy of appropriate management and protection:

Landscape Type B: Wooded Estate Downland

- 2.8. The land on the downs is characterised by the mix of woodland, which creates an enclosed landscape with contained views, and contrasts with the more dramatic long distance views from higher, more open areas, including sections of the South Downs Way.
- 2.9. There is consequently a need to maintain the contrast between open farmland and enclosed woodland, particularly on the steeper slopes.

Landscape Type F: Major River Floodplains

- 2.10. The floodplains are characterised by their flatness and openness, which allows extensive views across the valley from the wider landscape and higher ground. There is therefore a need to ensure that any proposed change to the edge of the floodplain is carefully undertaken due to the high visibility and sensitivity of this area.

Landscape Type H: Major Scarps

- 2.11. The scarp is a visually distinct landscape type forming the northern edge of the chalk rising steeply from the lower lying land of the Greensand and the Weald. It forms a prominent backdrop, skyline and landmark feature for a wide area beyond the South Downs. The scarp is either open or wooded, with areas to the west of Bury Hill being wooded, and land to the east, which runs into the sides of the Arun Valley including more open arable land. The wooded areas are important for the enclosed sunken bostal routes which once carried sheep up onto the downs, and now provide important secluded access links to the South Downs Way.

Landscape Type I: Scarp Footslopes

- 2.12. The Scarp Foot slopes are dominated by the wooded chalk scarp and forms a transition between the escarpment to the south and the areas of greensand ridge to the north. In Bury and West Burton this zone includes the main road linking the two parts of the parish passing the village school, and the route of the chalk stream which rises at the spring line in Bignor. The route of the stream (which passes through parish common land at Pill Pond) and the crossings of the stream are a pleasant amenity feature of this area.

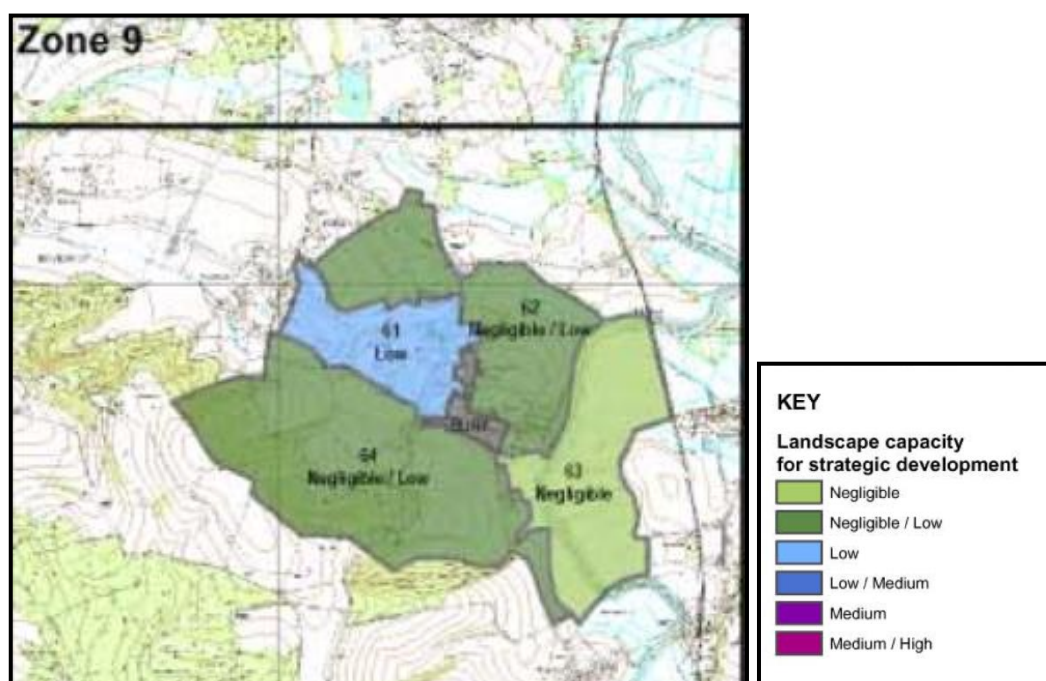
- 2.13.

Landscape Type J: Greensand Terrace

- 2.14. The Greensand Terrace is a strip of higher ground running parallel to the escarpment which runs through the centre of the parish, and includes the centres of the two settlement areas within the parish, Bury and West Burton. Although once an area of orchards there are now very few relic fruit and walnut trees. Erosion of the soil by passing wagons and livestock caused the lanes across this part of the village to become sunken into the surrounding land, and this characteristic feature occurs in West Burton and parts of the Street and Church lane in Bury, where the soft greensand geology is exposed, and held together by trailing tree roots. Careful maintenance of the trees and shrubs along the edges of the sunken lane are necessary to prevent the loss of the enclosed character of these routes.

3. LANDSCAPE CAPACITY

3.1. Chichester District Council commissioned a landscape capacity study of various parts of the District in 2009 in order to identify potential sites for future strategic development. This covered the Parish which was, at that time, included within the Sussex Downs AONB. Details of the technique used and methodology are included within the report which is available at : <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/studies>. The parish was subdivided into 4 numbered areas in accordance with the mapping below and the sensitivity, value and capacity were assessed following the authors method, which is based on national guidance and was appropriate to the scale of the study.



3.2. The results are shown on the extract from the report at Table 1, which show that the capacity of the landscape to accommodate strategic development within the 4 sub areas varied from negligible to low.

No	Landscape Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Landscape Capacity
61	Bury Western Matrix	Substantial	Moderate	Low
62	Bury Northern Foothills	Substantial	Substantial	Negligible / Low
63	Bury River Arun Valley	Major	Substantial	Negligible / Low
64	Bury Southern Downland Edge	Substantial	Substantial	Negligible / Low

4. DESIGNATIONS, VIEWPOINTS AND LANDMARKS

- 4.1. The parish is located within the South Downs National Park, which was designated in 2012, and replaced the former Sussex Downs and East Hampshire Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's). Both are national landscape designations which provide for the highest level of protection within the planning system.
- 4.2. As a result of this designation and the visibility of certain areas of the parish the sensitivity of the area is considered to be either sensitive or major within the landscape capacity study. Areas which are more highly visible are generally considered to be more sensitive, as are the settings of important heritage features such as Bury church. The area of the Arun valley (beyond the parish boundary) is given a high sensitivity rating.

Important Viewpoints

- 4.3. The Parish is located in the South Downs National Park designated for its natural beauty and outstanding landscape and is situated at the base of the downs on the edge of the Arun valley
- 4.4. The National Park Authority have undertaken a view-shed analysis of the park. This has identified viewpoints and landmarks within the South Downs, none of which occur within the Parish. Although Bignor Hill and Houghton Bridge are considered to be representative viewpoints of the area, as is a point on the Monarchs way at Houghton which looks south along the Arun Valley. Views from Amberley mount looking west across the Arun Valley show Bury village from a distance too. The full study is available at : <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Viewshed-Study-Report.pdf>.
- 4.5. The report also includes recommendations regarding the management of change to the typical views, and a number of these are relevant to Bury Parish and have been listed at Appendix 2.
- 4.6. Bury Parish is situated on the edge of the relatively open Arun Valley floodplain and parts of the village (and the church in particular) are visible across the valley and from the top of the South Downs. The iconic view of the village is from the layby on the A29 half way up Bury hill, where the church tower can be seen rising from the wooded fringes of the settlement.
- 4.7. Although not listed as key viewpoints on a National Park wide scale, there are a number of local viewpoints which have been identified which provide pleasure to local people:
 - Views across the river from Bury Wharf and the river embankment
 - Across the Arun valley from the top of Bury Hill on the A29 and South Downs

- Views northwards of the village from A29 lay by on Bury Hill
- Southwards towards the downs and along the river from Houghton Lane.
- Towards the downs from Bury school
- Towards the downs and Roman villa westwards from the footpath linking West Burton to Bignor
- Views south from Lord's piece towards the Downs

4.8. The whole Parish is scenic and attractive views of the surrounding landscape can be seen from most roads, lanes and footpaths. However, woodland and sunken lanes enclose and prevent some views, principally on the scarp of the Downs, to the north of Bury village and West Burton and to the north and west of Bury Gate.

4.9. Residents' opinions derived from our survey acknowledged the importance and protection of the views both to and from the South Downs. These include views from the Coffin Trail and other public rights of way and open spaces looking towards the Downs and views from the scarp slopes of the Downs towards the parish.

4.10. The landscape character varies throughout the parish but a major part of the settlements of Bury and West Burton are within the Greensand Terraces. The visual influence and views from the Greensand Terraces are described in Sections J1 and J2 of the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment 2011:

J1 *The Greensand Terrace landscape comprises the bench of Upper Greensand which outcrops at the foot of the steep chalk scarps in the western part of the South Downs. The bench of Upper Greensand narrows towards the east, becoming almost imperceptible to the east of the Arun Valley - the Greensand Terrace landscape type therefore only occurs to the west of the Arun Valley where the Upper Greensand has the most visual influence on the landscape. To the east of the Arun Valley the Upper Greensand forms part of the wider Scarp Footslopes landscape type.*

J2 *There are views over adjacent lowland landscapes from the edge of the Greensand Terrace, as well as panoramic views over the Greensand Terrace from the adjacent chalk scarp.*



Local Landmarks

4.11. The conservation areas within the Parish include various local landmarks, which include trees as well as buildings. These include:

- Bury Church
- Bury Manor (Now Dorset House School)
- Galsworthy House
- Bury Wharf
- Cookes House in West Burton and its mature Cedar tree.
- Old signposts at Bury and West Burton crossroads
- Others?

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. It is clear that our landscape is part of the parish and that we should seek to retain what makes it special through the use of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.2. It is considered that policies could be introduced to:

- Protect the Sunken Lanes
- Conserve the trees and woods in the Parish
- Conserve and protect the common land
- Protect the views
- Protect the varied Wildlife habitats

APPENDIX 1 - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS TAKEN FROM THE SOUTH DOWNS INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

LANDSCAPE TYPE B: WOODED ESTATE DOWNLAND

A distinctive ridge of chalk dominated by large woodland blocks and estates in the central part of the South Downs extending from the Hampshire/West Sussex border in the west to Worthing in the east.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Chalk geology forming an elevated ridge with typical folded down land topography, with isolated patches of clay-with-flints (part of a former more extensive clay cap) which has given rise to acidic soils.
- Supports extensive woodland including semi-natural ancient woodland plus beech, mixed and commercial coniferous plantation. The extensive woodland cover creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the south.
- Woodland is interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by hedgerows. A sporting landscape with woodland managed for shooting and areas of cover crops for game.
- Woodland cover creates an enclosed landscape with contained views, occasionally contrasting with dramatic long distance views from higher, more open elevations.
- Occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland are found on the steeper slopes and ridge tops, for example at Harting Downs.
- Ancient settlement earthworks, field systems and other archaeological features are often buried beneath the woodland.
- Large number of prehistoric and later earthworks providing a strong sense of historical continuity; round barrows, cross-ridge dykes and forts situated on the ridge-line form important landmark features.
- Settlement pattern is characterised by villages and shrunken hamlets of Saxon or early medieval origin interspersed by scattered farmsteads of 18th -19th century origin. Chalk flint is the dominant building material, often edged with red brick.
- A landscape transformed in the 18th century with the establishment of great landed estates, with much of the down land bought up to create large holdings and planted up with woodland for economic and aesthetic reasons. The area remains an estate landscape with strong sporting traditions.
- Large number of designed parkland landscapes with important visual influences – estate walls, avenues, follies as at Stansted, Uppark, Goodwood, Arundel.
- A deeply rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement.

LANDSCAPE TYPE F: MAJOR RIVER FLOODPLAINS

The major river floodplains are a distinct low lying landscape type, in the eastern part of the South Downs. They form the base of valleys that have carved through the chalk uplands and contain rivers flowing towards the coast. They extend from the Arun in the west to the Cuckmere in the east. In addition, the Lower Rother, a tributary of the Arun, has been included in the landscape type.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Wide flat valley floodplains forming the base of distinctive U shaped valleys cutting through the chalk - topographically and visually distinct from the sloping valley sides.
- The valleys have historically formed a natural link between the Weald, down land and sea.
- Rivers meander across the floodplains in broad loops. Some sections are embanked with artificially straightened courses. Historically the rivers were navigable.
- Extensive open valley floor, with long views, enclosed and contained by the rising valley sides. Tree and woodland cover frequently mark the edge of the floodplain.

- Land cover of rectilinear small scale grazed pastures, reclaimed from the former marshy margins of the river from the medieval period onwards.
- Remnant areas of wetland, reed beds, fen, floodplain grassland and marsh – of high biodiversity interest and supporting large numbers of birds.
- Fields are bound by ditches and occasional hedgerows. Groups of willows and alders occur sporadically alongside the river and drainage channels.
- The Arun and Ouse Valley widen out to include a more extensive area of drained pastures and seasonally flooded water meadows – at Amberley Wild Brooks and the Lewes Brooks.
- Roads often mark the boundary of the flat floodplain and valley sides; railways occasionally on embankments within the floodplain.
- General absence of settlement on the floodplain, with small nucleated villages characterising the lower valley sides, with views to church spires being a distinctive feature. Occasionally larger settlements (often former ports) extend onto the valley floor, in lower reaches of the river.
- Important historic attributes include medieval bridges – and water management features including water meadows and mills.
- Away from transport corridors the valleys retain an unspoilt and tranquil pastoral character.

LANDSCAPE TYPE H: MAJOR SCARPS

The scarp is a visually distinct landscape type forming the northern edge of the chalk rising steeply from the lower lying land of the Greensand and the Weald. It forms a prominent backdrop, skyline and landmark feature for a wide area beyond the South Downs. The scarp is either open or wooded along its length.

Note that there are a large number of internal scarps within the South Downs – these have been included as part of the chalk down land landscape and have not been identified separately.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- A linear landscape forming the northern and eastern edge of the chalk - deeply indented winding belt, with a steep scarp faces and a high prominent ridgeline creating a strong skyline, although this is softened in areas of woodland cover.
- Occurs along the full length of the South Downs from the distinctive chalk hangers in Hampshire (Selborne) to meet the sea at the dramatic white cliffs of Beachy Head.
- Remarkably consistent in height and slope profile throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.
- From open summits there are panoramic views across the lowlands to the north.
- The scarp forms a distinctive backdrop ridgeline in views from this area – a symbolic feature of the South Downs.
- Precipitous upper slopes are grazed grassland, scrub or clothed in dense woodland ‘hangers’ - mixed farmland extends onto the shallower lower slopes in places.
- The scarp contains some of the most extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat within the South Downs.
- Notable for the absence of buildings on the slope itself.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks, known as bostal tracks, cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands. Some ‘gaps’ cut by valleys form important communication routes.
- Large number of recreational sites – frequently associated with hilltop historic monuments or panoramic viewpoints, plus areas of open access land (on chalk grassland).
- Occasionally marked by chalk pits on the scarp slopes and masts along the crest which are highly prominent in views.

LANDSCAPE TYPE I: SCARP FOOTSLOPES

The Scarp Foot slopes landscape comprises the lowland shelf that lies at the foot of the steep northern scarp of the South Downs east of the Arun Valley. This landscape type is dominated by the chalk scarp which

forms a dramatic backdrop. The foot slopes themselves form a transition between the steep chalk scarp to the south and the Low Weald to the north.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Complex geology comprising bands of lower chalk, mudstones and sandstones giving rise to a locally undulating landform.
- Forms a transition between the steep chalk scarp to the south and the Low Weald to the north.
- Large, straight-sided arable fields close to the scarp foot which have encroached up onto the scarp in places.
- Mosaic of farmland and woodland comprising irregular fields of arable and pasture bounded by an intact network of thick hedgerows, with hedgerow oaks, and woodland.
- Streams, arising from springs at the foot of the chalk flow northwards in narrow, hidden stream valleys, some enshrouded in woodland.
- Villages, located on the spring line, are often associated with springs, mill ponds and mills. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop.
- Varied building materials – consisting of a mixture of flint, brick, sandstone, clunch, rendering and half timber.
- Underhill lanes, often surviving as rural lanes or rough tracks, indicate the course of ancient coaching lanes at the scarp foot.
- Historic picturesque parkland landscapes are important landscape features.
- Impressive panoramic views onto the foot slopes from the adjacent scarp and downs reveal a balanced woodland and farmland mosaic.

LANDSCAPE TYPE J: GREENSAND TERRACE

The Greensand Terrace landscape comprises the bench of Upper Greensand which outcrops at the foot of the steep chalk scarps in the western part of the South Downs. The bench of Upper Greensand narrows towards the east, becoming almost imperceptible to the east of the Arun Valley - the Greensand Terrace landscape type therefore only occurs to the west of the Arun Valley where the Upper Greensand has the most visual influence on the landscape. To the east of the Arun Valley the Upper Greensand forms part of the wider Scarp Foots slopes landscape type.

There are views over adjacent lowland landscapes from the edge of the Greensand Terrace, as well as panoramic views over the Greensand Terrace from the adjacent chalk scarp.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- A distinct terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent escarpment defining its outer edge.
- Cut by a series of small streams that rise from springs near the foot of the chalk escarpment, and have eroded narrow, deep valleys as they cross the Greensand terrace.
- Deeply sunken lanes have eroded downwards to reveal exposures of the Greensand geology and gnarled tree roots.
- Fertile soils supporting large fields of arable, interspersed with pasture, woodland and orchards. Road verges with botanical interest.
- Distinctive hanger woodlands, remnants of ancient woodland, cling to the steepest slopes.
- Areas of former hop gardens are marked by poplar shelter belts.
- Villages are located at regular intervals along the spring line, often associated with artificially dammed mill ponds and mills. The chalk scarp often forms a dramatic backdrop.
- Buildings constructed from local 'Malmstone', with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.
- A strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement.
- Dominated by the adjacent steep chalk escarpment, with views over the adjacent lowlands from the edge of the Greensand scarp.

LANDSCAPE TYPE L: WEALDEN FARMLAND AND HEATH MOSAIC

The Wealden Farmland and Heath Mosaic lies on the sandstones of the Folkestone Formation, to the north of the chalk escarpment of the South Downs. The geology gives rise to a well drained, sandy lowland landscape supporting a mosaic of oak-birch woodland, conifer plantations, open sandy heaths, and rough grazed pasture.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Flat or gently undulating lowland 'plateau' landscape on outcrops of sandstones of the Folkestone formation.
- Well-drained sandy, acidic soils support a mix of nationally important heath land habitats including open heather heath, acid grassland, bracken, gorse, woody scrub, and oak-birch woodland.
- Small to medium sized fields of rough grazed pasture and horse paddocks bounded by hedgerows with gorse and bracken and hedgerow oaks. Clusters of oak trees and Scots pine trees form visual accents.
- An irregular and intimate mix of semi-natural habitats and agriculture creating valuable foraging and over-wintering sites for a range of bird species.
- Ponds, mires and wet grassland in low lying areas.
- Commons (traditionally used for rough grazing or heath-cutting) often covered by woodland plantations, but some remnant unenclosed commons providing open access.
- Settlement is relatively late, typically comprising isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin set within areas of recent enclosure, and 'squatter' settlement on the edges of the common land. Building materials include local sandstones.
- Generally straight lanes and tracks provide access to heath land and heath edge settlements.
- Numerous Bronze Age barrow cemeteries are signs of a prehistoric ritual landscape.
- Large number of sand pits indicating the economic value of the sands of the Folkestone Beds.
- Views limited by dense woodland cover.

APPENDIX 2: EXTRACTS FROM THE SOUTH DOWNS VIEW CHARACTERISATION AND ANALYSIS STUDY

Views from the scarp looking north across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills

The aim is to ensure that there remain opportunities to access and appreciate these panoramic views, and to ensure the special qualities recorded above are retained. In particular, it will be important to:

- Maintain the ability to access and appreciate the panoramic views across the Rother Valley as well as the views along the scarp.
- Maintain the settlement pattern of small settlements nestled within the valley and at the scarp foot, amongst trees.
- Maintain the undeveloped character of the downs and greensand hills, particularly their scarps and skylines, and maintain the traditional settlement pattern of villages along the valley and scarp foot.
- Ensure that development within the valley is integrated into its rural landscape context, fitting with the scale and character of the rural villages and using local building materials.
- Maintain the distinctive profile of the scarp face and its iconic chalk grassland and woodland habitats.
- Maintain the scale and shape of the distinctive field patterns (particularly the irregular medieval fields) and well wooded character of the mixed farmland within the valley.
- Maintain the ridge of undeveloped heathland and woodland to the south of the river, in the centre of the valley, which contrasts with the more settled farmland to the north and south.
- Maintain the well wooded character of the view.
- Maintain heritage assets, such as church towers and country houses, as features and landmarks within the views.
- Refer to guidance for landscape types J, K, L, M and N (LCAs J2, K1, L2, M1 and N1) contained in the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment.

Views associated with major river valley floodplains

The aim is to ensure that there remain opportunities to access and appreciate these views over the valleys, and to ensure the undeveloped and unspoilt nature of the valleys within the views are retained. In particular, it will be important to:

- Maintain the ability to access these viewpoints and the dramatic topography that enables these breathtaking views.
- Maintain the distinctive U shaped valley topography and meandering course of the rivers.
- Maintain the rich variety of wildlife and habitats (particularly the iconic chalk and wetland habitats).
- Maintain the mostly 'unspoilt' nature of the valleys and general lack of intrusive development which result in a sense of tranquillity. Consider opportunities to remove existing intrusive development from views.
- Maintain the distinctive farming patterns and picturesque villages picturesque with an intimate relationship with their landscape.
- Refer to landscape type F (major river floodplains) and G (major valley sides) for more detailed guidance, as set out in the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment.