THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION
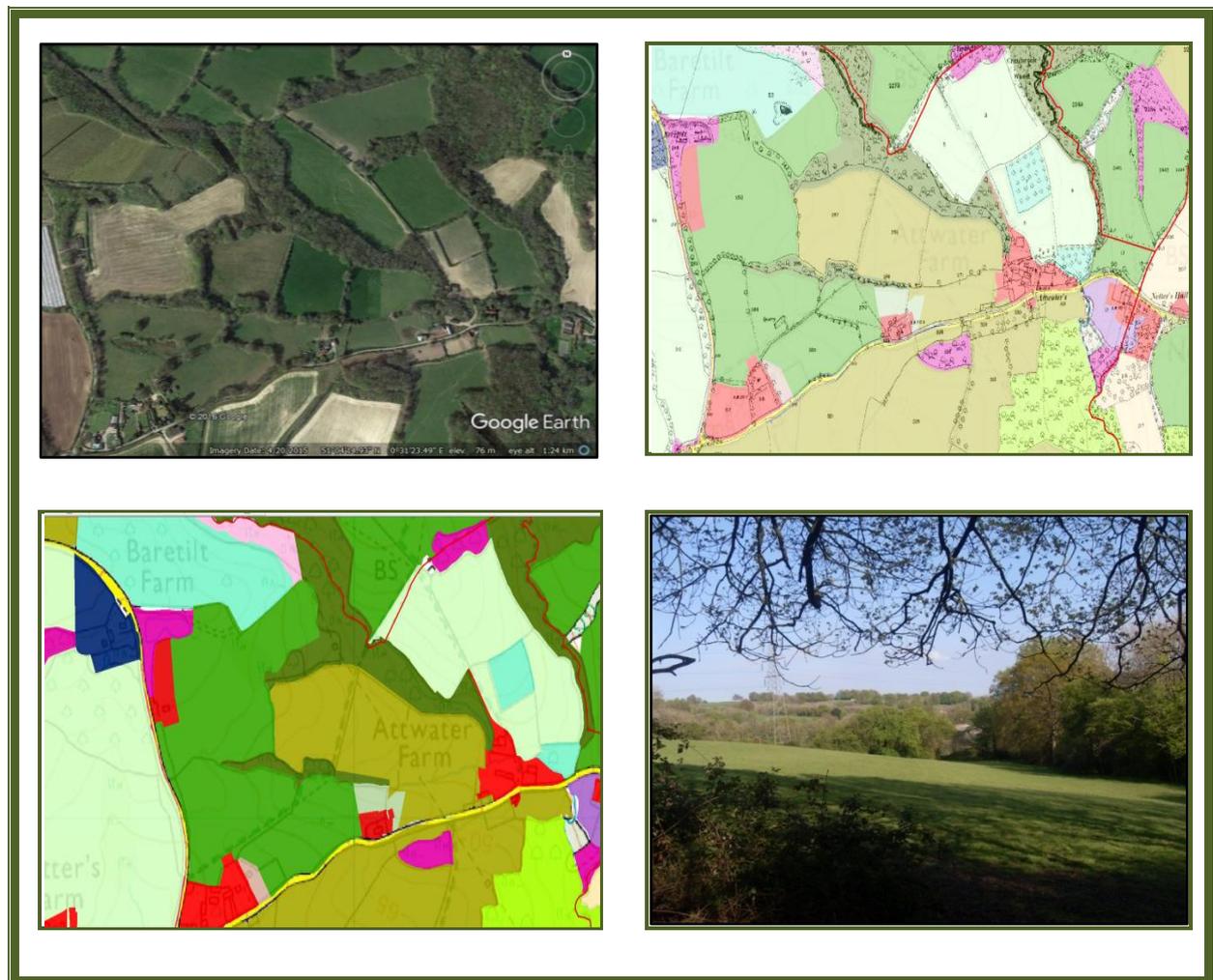
SECTION I

USER GUIDE & INTERPRETATION

REVISION OF KENT HLC (2000)
for
BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

JUNE 2017

By

Dr Nicola R. Bannister ACIFA
Landscape History & Conservation

June 2016 - May 2017

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY

(Key Sources: Adams 1976; Everitt 1987; James 1991; Richardson 1974)

Chase   Unenclosed area which was hunted over and could be held from the crown by magnates. Chases often included farmed land as well as woodland, and wood pasture. There were no special laws attached to a chase.

Common   A piece of private property upon which a number of people have legal rights over the surface, which they exercise in common. The rights were generally managed by a manorial court.

Fair   Usually held annually or biannually at specified dates in the year on greens or areas of common. Older sites of fairs could take place by prehistoric barrows, junctions of old roads, or drove ways. They could also be held at parish boundaries or top of hills.

Frith   Scrubby or poorly stocked woodland.

Forest   Preserves over which the King could hunt and subject to strict forest laws. They comprised a mix of woodland, open ground and wood pasture.

Forstal   A post-medieval Kentish term for a green, but which originally meant a fore-stall or enclosures in front of the farm for milking cows or holding stock.

Green   An open space in a village which was a traditional meeting place for the community. Fairs and markets were held on the green, but permanent buildings were not normally allowed. In pre-Domesday, the green was possibly used for defence, the animals being brought on to the green from the fields and commons beyond the village defences.

Market   Took place on particular day or days of the week on a green or a central place within the village or town often close to the church.

Playstool   A Kentish term (?) for a place for recreation, an early recreation ground where fairs were also held.

Purpresture   The process of encroachment or clearance into woodland or common which often included the erection of a house and buildings.

Trenche   A wide strip of cleared-ground either side of a routeway where it runs through woodland, to prevent ambush to travellers.

Waste   Any action which destroyed covert or 'vert' in a forest usually by felling trees – to lay waste but it also means uncultivated land which was used for grazing and as sources of fuel and materials for building.

ABBREVIATIONS

AONB   Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

FC   Forestry Commission

HE   Historic England

HER   Historic Environment Record

HW   High Weald

KCC   Kent County Council

NE   Natural England

RAWI   Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory

PREV   Previous changes in Historic Landscape Character identified from the mapping sources. Can be up to 4 periods of change = Prev 1 to Prev 4. These are given as attributes in the GIS data set.

TWB HLC   Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape Characterisation

All the photographs in the report were taken by the author (N.R.Bannister)

COPYRIGHT

Front Cover : *Attwater Farm in Hawkhurst – Historic Medieval farmstead set within its medieval assart fields and ancient woods. Clockwise from top left. Extract from Google Earth 2016; Top Right OS Epoch 1 with HLC; Bottom Right;; Photograph of Attwater's Farm from PRoW; Bottom HLC of present day landscape.*

PERIOD TABLE

Description	Archaeological Period	From	To
Hunting societies	Upper Palaeolithic	30,000	10,000 BC
Hunter-gather societies	Mesolithic	10,000-8,000	4,000-3,500 BC
The first agriculturalists	Neolithic	3,500	2,100 BC
Beginning of metal working in bronze	Bronze Age	2,100	600 BC
Beginning of metal working in iron	Iron Age	600 BC	AD 43
	Romano-British	AD 43	AD 410
	Anglo-Saxons [or Early Medieval]	AD 410	1066
	Medieval	1066	1540
	Post-medieval	1540	Present

The Archaeological and Historical Periods used in the Sussex HLC & Revised Kent HLC

Key to HLC-Prev	Description	Date	Combined
P1	Late 20th century	AD1945 – present	Post 1900
P2	Early 20th century	AD 1914 – AD 1945	
P3	Early Modern	AD 1800 – AD 1913	19th century
P4	Late Post-medieval	AD 1600 – AD 1799	Post-medieval
P5	Early Post-medieval	AD 1500 – AD 1599	
P6	Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1499	Medieval
P7	Early-medieval	AD 410 – AD 1065	
P8	Roman	AD 43 – AD 409	
P9	Prehistoric	500,000 BC – AD42	

HOW TO USE THE REPORT

The Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape Characterisation comprises a GIS data set together with a set of supporting report and technical guide.

Although separate documents which can stand alone but it is recommended that anyone wishing to use HLC in depth should read them all in sequence.

The reports in order of sequence are as follows;

Section I.   Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape Characterisation – Report & Interpretation

Section II.   Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape Characterisation – Gazetteer of HLC Typology

Section III.   Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape Characterisation – Atlas of Maps

The core of the HLC is the Interpretation, Atlas of Maps, and Gazetteer of Typology. These describe and explain the selected results of the characterisation process for Tunbridge Wells. For those wishing to use HLC for their own researches or to support searches from the HER, Section I is the key document to refer to.
The Appendices set the background for the method and for the characterisation process.

How to use the reports
If you want to know about the HLC for a particular area, then follow the Summary Guide at the beginning of Section I. For a more detailed account of an HLC see the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation reports available to view on the
http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sussex_hlc_2014/downloads.cfm

For further information on the Historic England Characterisation programme go to
https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/current/discover-and-understand/landscapes/

SUMMARY

What is HLC ?

-
- HLC is a GIS dataset which is one of several heritage 'tools' that can help make informed decisions on landscape change

- HLC is desk-top in its origin and uses historic maps and other environmental and heritage data sets to make decisions about the historic landscape character.

- HLC is not an end in itself but a starting point in understanding the historic landscape

- HLC is one of several data sets which inform and under pin the Kent HER

How to use the Tunbridge Wells Borough GIS Project

The following is a basic guide to looking at the GIS project. The data is presented for the Final unioned layer of all the parishes. The Tunbridge Wells Borough HLC (TWB HLC) final layer has been 'queried' using the 'select by Attributes' tool to show both the attributes character and for the period of origin. The latter gives a picture of the time depth and antiquity of the present landscape. The previous historic landscape character layers have also been queried to show how the historic character for areas of the Borough which have experienced several changes over time.

Opening up the project
The GIS data is loaded on to its own project. In a folder called TWB HLC GIS Final Layer.
Open up the project Tunbridge Wells HLC.mxd in Arcmap (9.3.1.)
The project contains the main layer TWB_HLC_2017_Final_Layer.shp together with extracts 'queried' from this layer. This is to illustrate some of the potential of the HLC and which are used in Sections I & III of the Report.
Also included in the project are .shp files for the key boundaries in order to assist locating areas;
Tunbridge Wells Borough Boundary [Tunbridge_Wells_Borough.shp]
High Weald AONB Boundary [High_Weald_AONB_Boundary.shp]
Kent Parishes [Kent_parish.shp]
National Character Areas for Tunbridge Wells [TWB_NCAs.shp]
These can be supplemented by other GIS data sets available to the Borough.

The Attribute Table
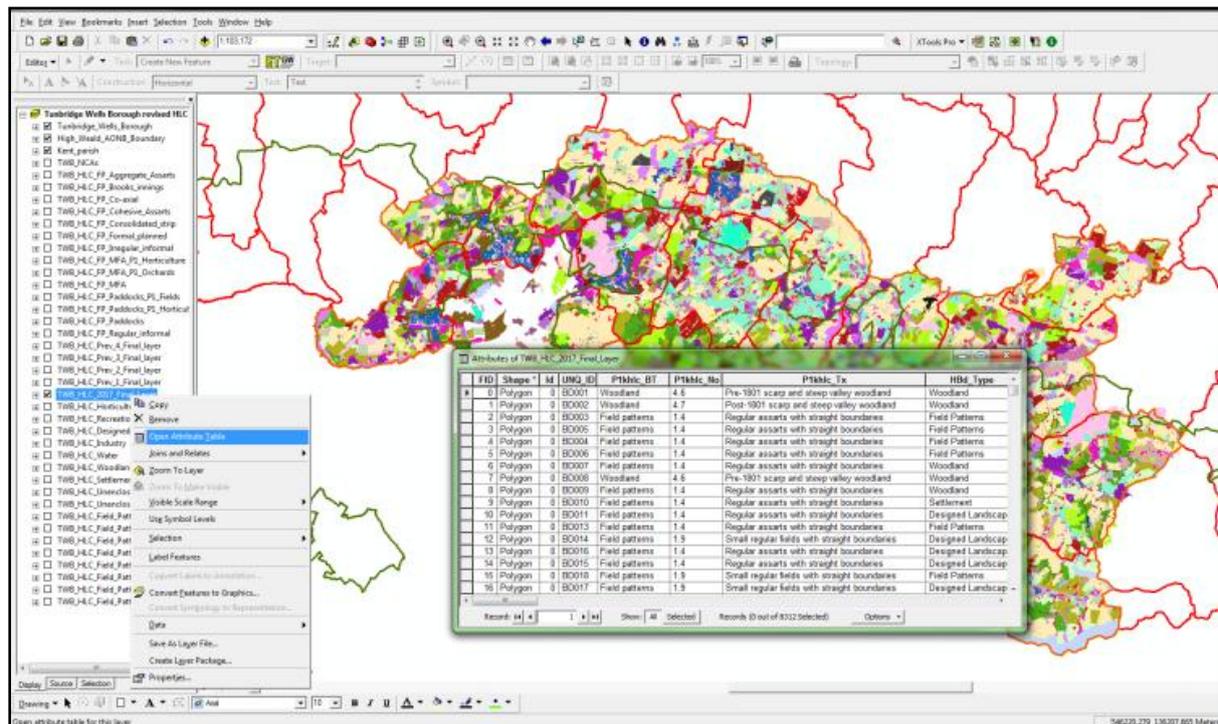
There are numerous ways for presenting the data based on the attributes in the data fields attached to each polygon. These are stored in a table attached to the data set.

To open the table Right click on the layer TWB_HLC_2017_Final_Layer.Scroll down to Open Attribute Table and the table will appear showing all the fields with the data.

When viewing queried layers from this layer the latter has to be below the queried layers otherwise for obvious reasons it will cover the queried layers.

Style Sheets [alias the legends or keys]
Several style sheets have been produced for the attributes of the data set. These are legends with the colours which match those described in the Typology Gazetteer at the end of this document. The style sheets are for the main attributes and should be self-explanatory. They are stored in a separate folder [TWB_HLC_Style_sheets]. The Arcmap opens with the style sheets already matched but to change them follow the steps below:-

Right click on the layer TWB_HLC_2017_Final_Layer. Scroll down to Properties Left click on it. It opens a menu – Layer Properties. Click on the Symbology tab.
On left side click on Categories and scroll down to Match to Symbols in a style sheet.
In the Value Field scroll down to the attribute field heading to be displayed.e.g. Mor_patt.
Right Click on Browse. Scroll down the style sheets until reach HW Kent HLC pattern.style, click on it and then on Open. Then click on Match Symbols and Apply, OK. The legend and map will change.

Style sheets have been produced for each of the groups of attributes, for the present landscape. The style sheets for Broad Types and Types can also be used for each of the PREV layer Broad Types and Types, together with the one for period.

The Style Sheet
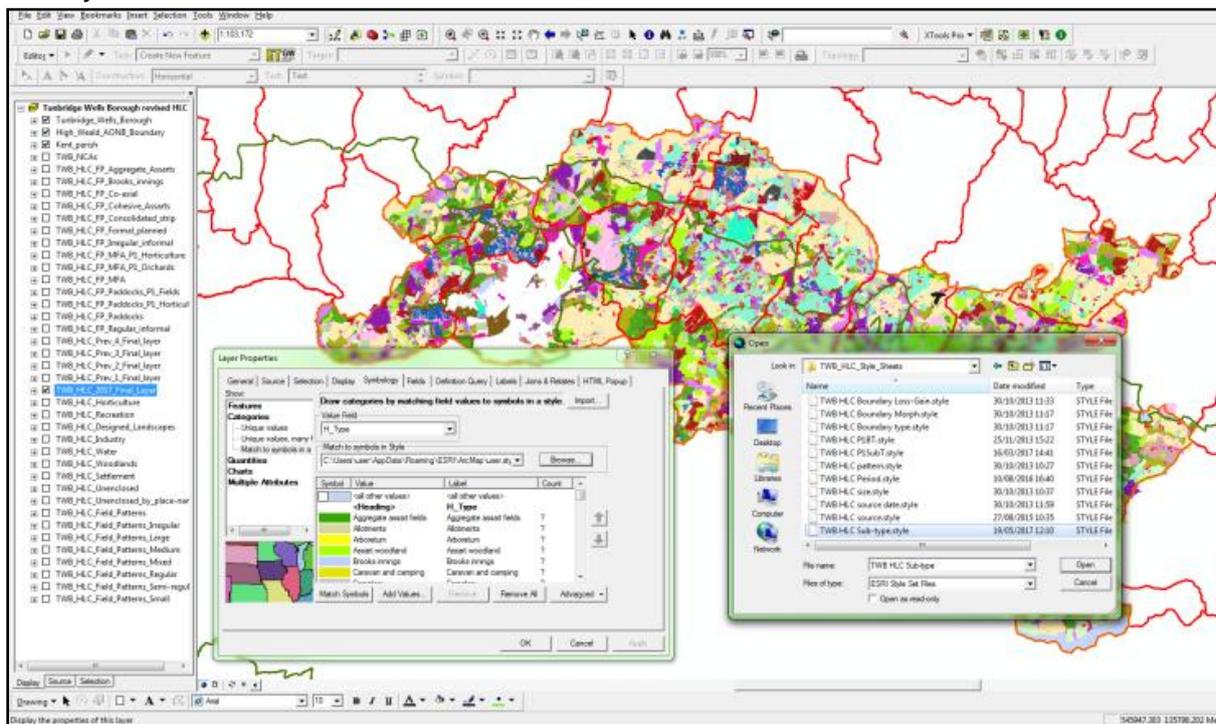
The Final layer has then been split into its component HLC Broad Types [TWB_HLC_Field_Patterns; TWB_HLC_Unenclosed; etc], which were used to produce the maps in Section III.
The Field Pattern layer has also been split into component parts based on attributes of size and shape. In order to understand the origins of the modern field amalgamation type, this layer has been presented based on its previous historic landscape character.
For example any given polygon identified in present landscape as modern field amalgamation will have a previous historic character in its PREV1_BT and Prev1_Type fields in the attribute data base. These extracted .shp file layers are named TWB_HLC_FO_MFA_P1_Orchards etc.

Presentation of 'Time slices' or periods representing a change in historic landscape character

As already mentioned above, the HLC attribute table records changes in historic landscape character in the past. The PREV1-PREV4 fields in the attribute table represent up to four changes in historic landscape character for any given polygon. They are not fixed points in time, but represent a change of character. Each 'prev' gives the attributes of Broad Type and Type, its period of origin, the source where the change is recorded and its date.

By layering extracted Prev layers in sequence over the TWB_HLC_2017_Final_Layer a postulated late medieval – early post-medieval historic landscape character map is produced.

It is also possible to query the Final layer and the Prev layers for those polygons with attributes for the period of origin which would give time-slices for fixed points in time, such as the 1940s (RAF AP) or 1890s (OS Epoch 2).

The Previous Layers
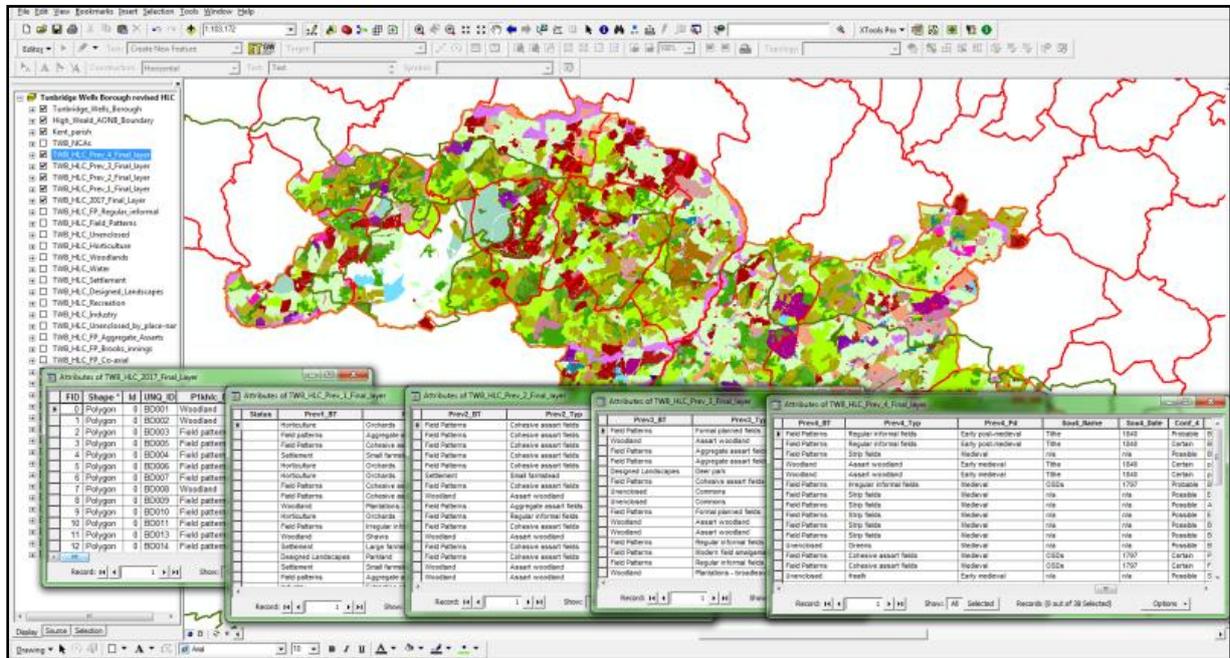
Tunbridge Wells Borough HLC showing extent of modern field amalgamation in the pale fawn colour
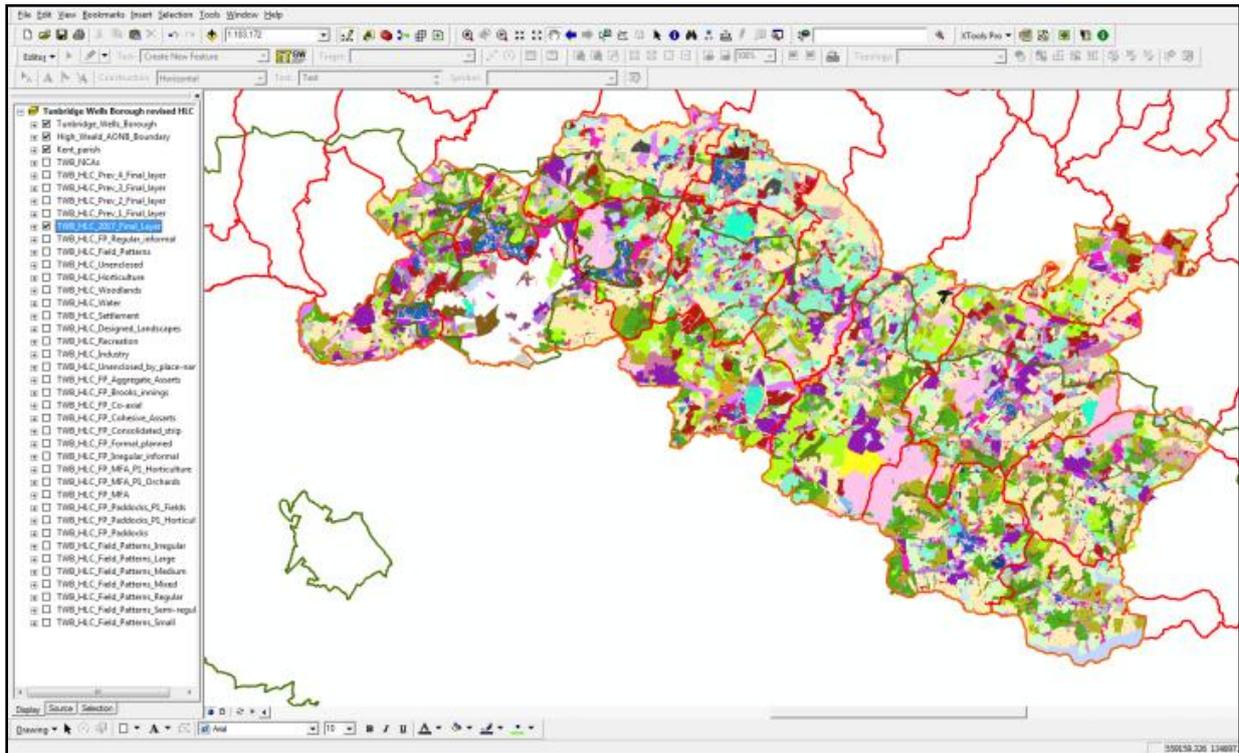
Tunbridge Wells HLC showing the modern field amalgamation by its previous historic landscape character
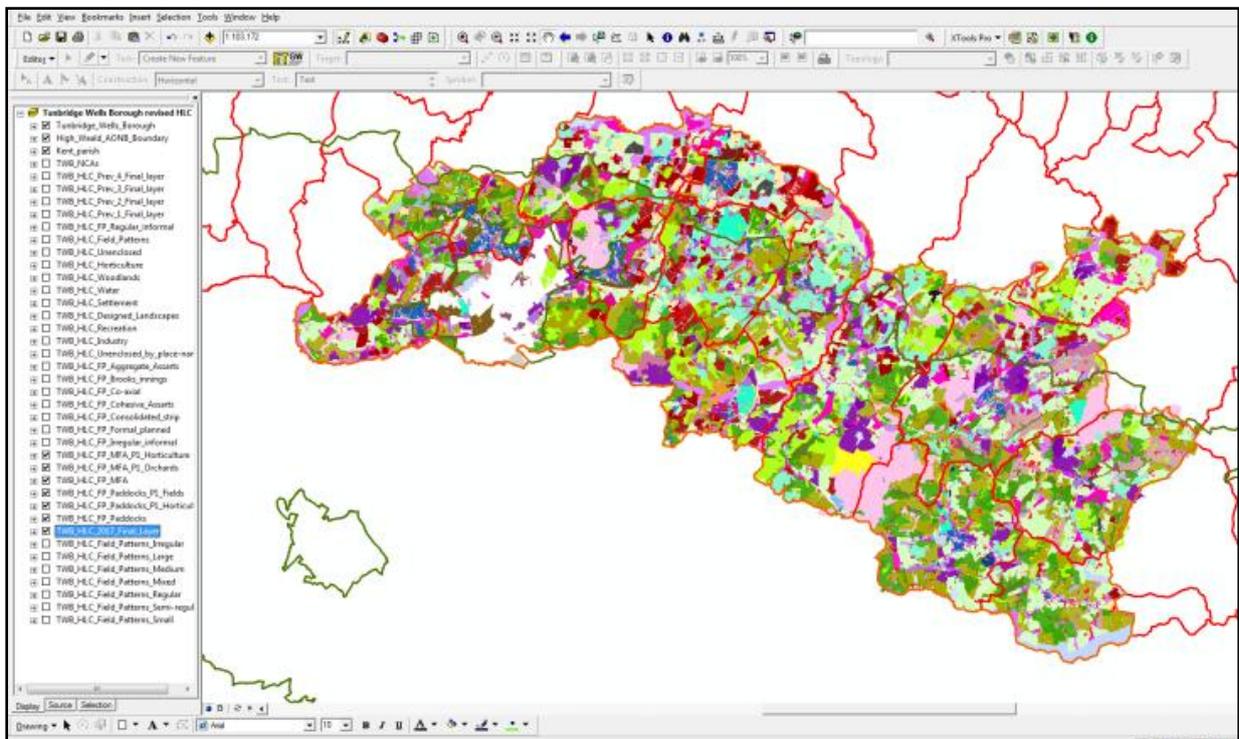
For the colour keys see - II The Gazetteer of HLC Types

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Project

Historic characterisation is a means to appreciate and understand the historic landscape not just factual but also the perception of landscapes. [1] Landscape has been defined by the European Council "as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors" [2] The convention came into force in March 2007.

The scope of the Convention in regard to the historic landscape is neatly summarised in the Highways Agency Guidance on Historic Landscape Character.[3]

"*The Convention states (Article 2 – Scope) that it covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. Historic Landscape is defined both by people's perceptions of the evidence of past human activities in the present landscape and the places where those activities can be understood in the landscape today. This definition highlights the role of perception and emphasizes the rich cultural dimension implanted in landscape character by several millennia of human actions*".

English Heritage (now Historic England) working with local authorities ran a long term project to characterise the whole of England (Wales and Scotland had their own characterisation projects). This has now been completed and a national character map is in progress. A Historic Characterisation Thesaurus of character types has been compiled from the county HLCs by Historic England. [4]Character types are defined or identified by key descriptive attributes.

The Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation was one of the first HLCs to be undertaken. Completed in 2000, it was a broad brush approach where large areas (or polygons) of similar character where captured in GIS. Due to the early form of GIS the early HLCs had the character attributes embedded in the character type description rather than as separate fields within the data set. This approach had its limitations as the resulting HLC was a single map layer with little ability to query the data captured with the polygon. As GIS tools developed in sophistication so did the HLC methodology. Later HLCs had the character attributes listed in separate fields in the data set and together with OS Mastermap enabled more refined and detailed HLCs to be undertaken.

The High Weald AONB has made extensive use of historic landscape characterisation in developing research and management policies for the High Weald Landscape. The AONB covers the High Weald in East and West Sussex and in Kent, and thus utilises the HLC data from each of the three counties. The Kent HLC was one of the first to be undertaken in 1999-2000[5] as part of the England-wide characterisation project led by English Heritage. Since then the methodology, whilst remaining true to its origins and approach has developed in the light of the GIS mapping technology. The Sussex HLC completed in 2007 is one of the most detailed and used OS Mastermap as its base.[6] There is a fundamental difference between the two HLCs; for Kent the HLC attributes are embedded in the typology descriptions, whilst for Sussex the data is attribute-led. This makes querying the data

---

[1] English Heritage 2004. Characterisation. Conservation Bulletin Issue 47 Winter 2004-5
[2] European Landscape Convention. Council of Europe, 2000. Florence October 20th
[3] The Highways Agency, 2007. *Assessing the Effect of Road Schemes on Historic Landscape Character*. 2, 58.
[4] https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/characterisation-2/
[5] Croft, A, Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001. Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation 3 vols. Kent County Council, English Heritage, Oxford Archaeology Unit.
[6] Bannister, N.R. 2010. Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation. 5 vols. East and West Sussex County Councils, English Heritage

much easier for Sussex than for Kent. The latter can only be viewed on two levels, namely Broad Type and Type.

In 2010-2011 English Heritage undertook a historic landscape research project for the Hoo Peninsula in Kent in order to gather more detailed evidence on the development of the present landscape and the survival of archaeology. As part of this project the Kent HLC was revisited and a pilot HLC undertaken which built on the existing one but followed the methodology of Sussex. At the same time a historic seascape characterisation was also undertaken.[7] The revised HLC for Hoo revealed that the enclosure landscape was much older in character than the original Kent HLC (renamed Phase 1) HLC recorded. Namely many of the 'prairie field' typology of the C20 were either much older field amalgamation or were remnants of medieval field systems.

Current Government policy is placing increasing pressure on rural areas including AONBs for new development with significant housing schemes being proposed in many of the larger villages and small towns across the county. The High Weald AONB is currently gathering evidence in order to assist planning authorities in dealing with such proposals by providing information about how the present landscape has arrived at its present character. In order to aid policy development for such sites, the use of the HLC is becoming increasing useful and in order for the Kent and Sussex HLCs to be understood together, a pilot project involving the revision of the Phase 1 Kent HLC (based on the Hoo Project) for four key parishes Cranbrook, Hawkhurst, Goudhurst and Benenden was trialled.[8]

Over half of the AONB is coved by fields many of which date back to the medieval period and are a major contribution to the historic character of the High Weald. Arising from the pilot revision of the Kent HLC a further understanding of the field patterns in the High Weald was needed. Whilst assarts or enclosures from woodlands and wood pasture were easily recognised other field systems were occurring for which the process of enclosure and their historic function was little understood. The High Weald AONB with Historic England undertook a more detailed study of Field Systems in the High Weald (2014 - 2017). A character assessment and policy statement were produced the aim of which to circulate to local planning authorities and land managers to aid in the management of land use change, especially with development of settlement. [9]

As part of the development of Local Plans (part of the NPPF) local authorities are required to provide the evidence base for the plan. HLCs are increasingly used in underpinning the understanding the historic environment. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has commissioned two projects to research and provide the evidence base for the Local Plan (Landscape Character Assessment[10] and Heritage Asset Assessment. [11]

The Revision of the Kent HLC was seen as an integral part of deepening the understanding of the landscape of the borough of Tunbridge Wells. The project has built on the pilot HLC undertaken for the High Weald AONB. The pilot looked at four parishes within the Kent AONB and used a method developed from the Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape project. By using the same method and approach for Tunbridge Wells a systematic revision of the Kent Phase 1 HLC is being undertaken on a piecemeal basis but which enables all the different HLCs to be merged as one layer for the Kent Historic Environment Record. The TWB HLC covers the whole of the borough (except for the built up area of Tunbridge Wells itself). It was decided to omit this core of the Town as development has

---

[7] Bannister, N.R. 2011. The Hoo Peninsula Kent Historic Landscape Project Historic Landscape Characterisation and Historic Seascape Characterisation ; N.R. Bannister 2012. ibid. Stage 2 Integrative Analysis; Carpenter, E Newsome, S, Small, F and Hazell, Z. 2013 Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project. English Heritage.
[8] Bannister, N.R. 2015. Revision of the Kent HLC for the parishes of Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Goudhurst and Benenden. High Weald AONB. Draft report.
[9] High Weald AONB 2017 Field Systems in the High Weald: Method Assessment and Character Statement. High Weald AONB and Historic England.
[10] Landuse Consultants 2016 Landscape Character Assessment for Borough of Tunbridge Wells Draft
[11] In progress

already taken place here. This needs to be borne in mind when looking at the analysis of the coverage of HLC types as the total HLC covered will not equate to the total area of the Borough.

1.2.   Structure of the TWB HLC Report

The Tunbridge Wells Borough Revised HLC Report comprises three main parts;-

> *   Section I - User Guide and Interpretation (including Appendix I GIS method)

> *   Section II - The Gazetteer of Historic Character Types (describing the attributes and significance of features within the context of Tunbridge Wells)

> *   Section III – Selected Maps illustrating some of the HLC themes

1.3.   What is HLC about ?

> *   HLC provides the starting point in understanding the historic landscape; it is not an end in itself. It should always be viewed in conjunction with other heritage asset data bases including the county HER together with Ordnance Survey and other historic mapping.

*   HLC is a desk top exercise only, using historic maps, aerial photographs and related GIS data.

> *   HLC shows historic character and the attributes associated with that character, although as some HLC types are descriptive of land use, HLC is not a land use map.

> *   HLC polygons have an HLC Broad Type and Type assigned as well as selected character attributes, such as size and shape (where relevant).

> *   HLC characterises the <u>present day landscape</u> based on past land use processes. The revision of the Kent HLC however does bring an element of past historic character identified in the data fields in the attribute table as Previous Types and sub types (abbreviated to Prev). It enables an understanding of the historic time-depth and antiquity of the historic landscape to be interpreted.

Areas where little change has taken place since the medieval period are landscapes of antiquity. Areas where there have been several changes are landscapes of Time-depth because the layers of historic character are built-up like a palimpsest.

> *   HLC uses the Ordnance Survey Master Map (OSMM) and by the nature of the OS polygons, a fixed boundary has to be used. So although OSMM uses fixed features in the landscape the HLC character area does not necessarily equate to the same boundary features.

> *   The HLC does not characterise linear features such as routes or water ways except in situations where elements of these are significant enough to contribute to character; an example being a modern large dual carriage way junction and associated features. OSMM linear polygons can get caught up with the HLC polygons.

1.4.   Objectives of the TWB HLC

*   To undertake a revision of the Phase 1 Kent HLC for Tunbridge Wells Borough for those parishes not already completed by the High Weald AONB Partnership. The method follows that used for those parishes and for the Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project (English Heritage) Revised Kent HLC.[12] (Bannister 2011).

*   To demonstrate with selected analyses the breadth and depth of the revision regarding the detail.

*   To provide a detailed typology gazetteer for the revised HLC

*   To provide a summary description for each parish and for the Borough as a whole on the historic character of the landscape and what makes it both typical and distinctive.

2.   SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF THE METHOD OF TWB HLC

A detailed account of the method of building the GIS project is given in Appendix I together with detailed descriptions on the character attributes.

In Summary, the approach was to divide the Borough into its component civil parishes, which were then grouped into three phases. Each group of parishes (or phase) was digitised. The completed GIS data layer produced for each parish, together with a summary report was sent to TWB. Once each phase was completed the parishes were stitched together and at the end of the third phase the final layer was produced for the whole of the Borough (excluding the town of Tunbridge Wells). The final layer includes the parishes undertaken for the pilot for the High Weald AONB. This leaves approximately ten parishes or parts of parishes lying in adjacent boroughs/districts to be completed for the Kent HW AONB.

Table 1. Summary of Parishes covered (See Map 2 in Section III)

HW AONB Pilot	TWB HLC Phase 1	TWB HLC Phase 2	TWB HLC Phase 3
Cranbrook	Speldhurst	Capel	Bidborough
Hawkhurst	Royal Tunbridge Wells	Brenchley	Paddock Wood
Goudhurst	Southborough	Horsmonden	Lamberhurst
Benenden	Pembury	Frittenden	Sandhurst

The Final TWB HLC layer was subject to selected interrogation to show the results of the character and significance of the historic landscape of the TWB. The results are discussed in Section 3. Illustrative maps are presented in Section III with the tables of analyses in an accompanying Excel Spreadsheet. Given the detail of data capture it has not been possible to undertake a complete interrogation of the HLC. The Results presented are aimed to show the potential for querying together with identifying what is unique, typical and distinctive about the character of historic landscape of Tunbridge Wells Borough. The report also identifies the key processes which have shaped the landscape seen today and whether there are areas of distinctive historic character within the Borough.

---

[12] English Heritage Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project (2010-2012). Bannister, N.R. 2011. Historic Landscape and Historic Seascape Characterisation Unpublished report for English Heritage and GIS project.

2.1. The Data Sources

The revised TWB HLC was a desk-top exercise and thus used a combination of historic mapping, aerial photos and other GIS data such as The Kent Historic Farmsteads Characterisation and the Revised Provisional Inventory for Ancient Woodland in Tunbridge Wells Borough. Both these data sets used some of the historic mapping also used in the Tunbridge Wells HLC. For a discussion on some of historic mapping data see Section 3.2.1. in the Handbook for the Tunbridge Wells Revision of Ancient Woodland. [13] Not many areas of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells have such a good coverage of maps and thus the HLC characterisation relied on the key Borough wide maps as well as drawing on other areas with a similar character.

The following map extracts show the type of maps used in characterisation process. The area is Free Heath close to the county boundary with Sussex in Lamberhurst. In the 17th century it was in Sussex and hence does not appear either on the Andrews and Drury Map of the County of Kent (1767) nor on Edward Hasted's Map of 1797 of the Hundreds of Kent. Free Heath however is an area where there was good map coverage; not only the OS Epoch maps and Ordnance Surveyors draft drawings for the 1" but also a number of good estate maps of the 18th century which reveal a medieval landscape enclosed from woodland and wood pasture. Where the historic map coverage is this good it helps to inform how the other parts of the landscape have developed and how to recognise heritage elements in the landscape such as roadside waste funnelling into former areas of common, which have become enclosed to fields or have become built over. The maps illustrate an area called Free Heath lying in Lamberhurst. Free Heath, an area of wooded common, formed part of the larger network of heaths and commons which survived in this part of the Weald since the early medieval period. Hook Green lying just to the north on the Bayham Road retains its pasture with scattered trees. Whilst across the county boundary in Sussex, many of the former commons and greens in Wadhurst have been enclosed and some areas now built over. Free Heath is identified by its several funnel-shaped entrances which are now enclosed lanes. Yew Tree Green Farm has been built in a small area of the heath lying to the north-east. Surrounding the heath are assart fields and enclosed woods aligned along the route ways.

Figure 1. Historic Map extracts for Free Heath in Lamberhurst

Extract from Manor of Lamberhurst 1750
(KHLC U200 P1)

Extract from mp of the Bayham Abbey Estate 1801
KHLC U840 P3

---
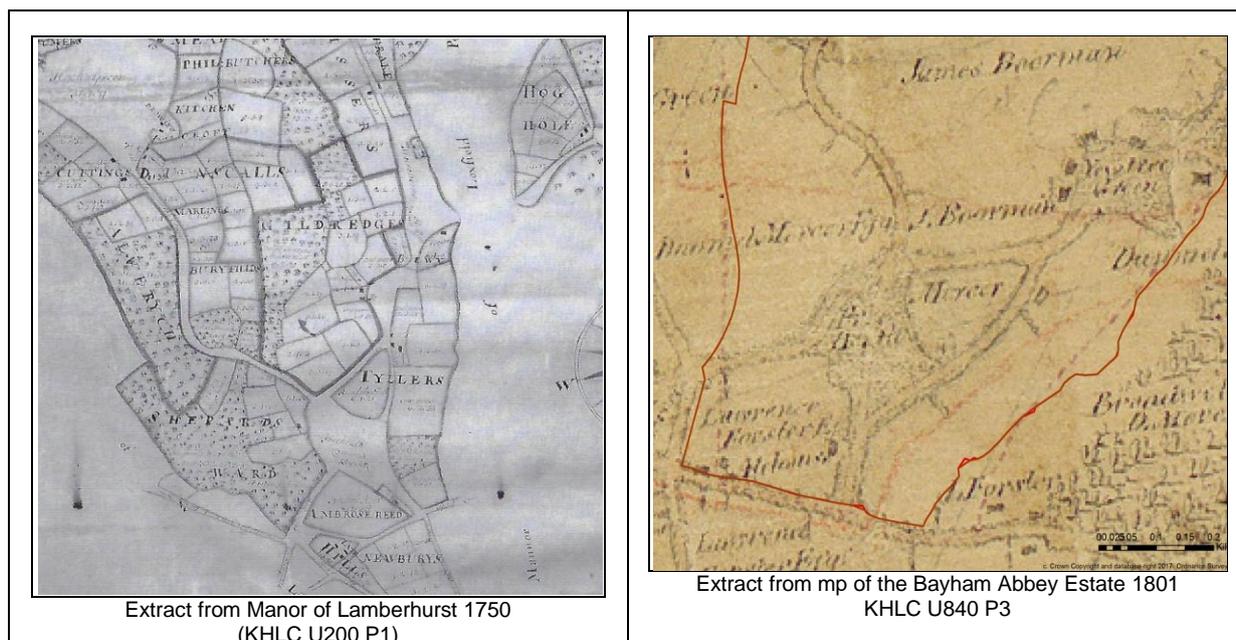
[13] Weald and Downs Ancient Woodland Survey 2007 A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Tunbridge Wells Borough, Kent. Report and Inventory of Maps

Figure 1. continued Historic Map extracts for Free Heath in Lamberhurst

Extract from Ordnance Surveyors Draft Drawings for 1" 1st Ed 1797-1801. BL On line Mapping

Extract from Tithe Map for parish of Lamberhurst (KHLC)

Extract from OS Epoch 2 25" c. 1890 (Kent HER)

Extract from OS Epoch 3 25" c. 1910 (Kent HER)

Extract from OS Epoch 4 25" c. 1930s (Kent HER)

Extract from OS Explorer Map

This part of Kent originally formed part of Sussex which is why the maps produced by Edward Hasted for his topographical and historical survey of Kent[14] is not included as it originally lay within the Hiundred of Rothfield in the Rape of Pevensey. Maps like Hasted and also Andrews and Drury are

---

[14] Edward Hasted 1797. A Topographical and Historical Survey of the County of Kent in nine volumes 2nd ed.

useful for locating some features such as parks and main routeways, but their accuracy is limited at the farmstead level. Estate maps (where they survive) and the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings for the 1" 1st Edition are the earliest relatively accurate maps which can inform on historic landscape character. All historic maps have their limitations and it should always be borne in mind the original reason for the production of the map and its limitations, as well as its value to HLC. This can then inform interpretation for present day use.

Figure 1. continued Historic Map extracts for Free Heath in Lamberhurst

| Extract from Google Earth | TWB HLC overlain with OS Epoch 2 (Kent HER) |
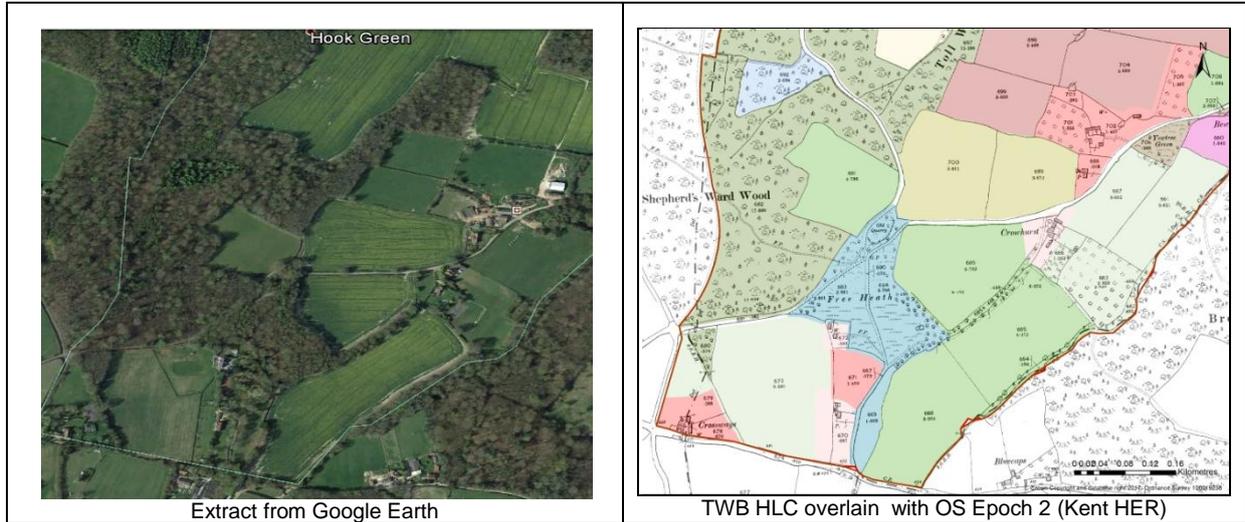
Photograph 1. View along the edge of part of Free Heath
showing the wooded character of the former heathland common

3. RESULTS

3.1. Introduction to the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

The Borough of Tunbridge Wells lies on the western side of Kent with much of the south west edge forming the county boundary with East Sussex. It lies at the eastern end of the High Weald with parts extending into the Low Weald at Paddock Wood and Frittenden. The northern boundary of the Borough abuts the town of Tonbridge and parts of the alluvial grounds of the River Medway. (See Map 1 in Section III). The eastern end of the Borough extends as ridges of higher ground divided by the wide valleys of the Rother and Brede in the parish of Sandhurst.

The Royal town of Tunbridge Wells expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries when it developed as a spa town. Iron-rich (Chaleabyte) springs provided mineral waters exalted for their health-giving properties. Being so close to London it was an alternative destination to procure mineral waters than going to Bath, in the west country; hence its name - the wells or springs of Ton or Tunbridge). Prior to the expansion of the town, the historic settlement was mainly confined to scattered farmsteads, small hamlets and common edge settlements, with a few later medieval village settlements, such as at Benenden or Goudhurst. The central part of the Borough also comprises part of the eastern end of a long ridge of high ground underpinned by Tunbridge Wells sandstone which extends from Haywards Heath eastwards. Here the relatively poorer soils provided areas for the creation of medieval hunting forests and chases which remained unenclosed into the later post-medieval period. Waterdown Forest lay just south of the town of Tunbridge Wells and parts were enclosed to form the southern edge of the town. Today, the modern forests of Bedgebury and Hemstead are smaller outliers of this woodland ridge. Another strong influence to the countryside around Tunbridge Wells in the medieval period was the Lowy (or territory) of Tonbridge (Castle) which was wrested from the Archbishop and Saxon thanes and granted to the powerful Clare family by William I after the Conquest. The South Frith (or chase) extended through the eastern part of Tunbridge Wells. People still settled and farmed in the area but it was controlled by the Clare family from Tonbridge Castle.

Nearly half of the Borough lies within the High Weald AONB. The High Weald National Character Area extends over the majority of the Borough. A small part around Frittenden together with the northern edges of Capel, Paddock Wood and Horsmonden extend into the Low Weald National Character Area. (See Map 2 in Section III).

3.1.1. Geology and Soils

The Borough of Tunbridge Wells lies at the north eastern side of the Kentish High Weald, where the sandstones and clays of the Hastings Beds of the High Weald meet the heavy clay of the Low Weald. The western end of the Borough is underlain with Tunbridge Wells Sandstone, which naturally outcrops in the Town of Tunbridge Wells. Where watercourses have cut valleys through the sandstone, Ashdown Beds and Wadhurst Clay outcrop; the latter is the source of ironstone which has attracted human exploitation from prehistory into the post-medieval. The Ashdown Beds were a source of stone for building, and many historic vernacular dwellings are built of the honey-coloured stone. The interface of the High and Low Weald results in soils which are free draining but also fertile, providing good growing environments for orchards, top fruit and also hops. Nearly every historic farmstead had its own hop garden and distinctive oast houses. The clays also provided the material for the bricks and tiles. Down in the Medway valley the soils are derived from fertile river alluvium.

In the east of the Borough Wadhurst Clay and Ashdown Beds underlie the main ridges, whilst river and marine alluvium provide fertile soils in the valleys of the Hexden Channel and Rother. At the extreme north of the Borough the sandstones give way to the Weald Clay of the Low Weald, where the heavy clay soils are can be difficult to cultivate and give rise to extensive pasture lands.

3.1.2.. Topography

Much of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells lies within the main water catchment area of River Medway, with the Rivers Teise and Bewl draining northwards out of the High Weald into the Medway Valley. Another important water catchment boundary runs between the River Medway in the north and west and the River Rother to the south and east. This catchment boundary is a line of higher ground which runs through Goudhurst, Cranbrook and Benenden parishes. It was a historically important physical boundary and one which shaped prehistoric routeways, Saxon Wealden commons and post-medieval land ownership.[15]

Higher undulating hills in the west contrast with small narrow valleys opening on to the Low Weald plain. At the extreme eastern end of the Borough lies the ridge of high ground between the River Rother and the Hexden Channel.

The underlying geology together with the resulting topography significantly contributes to the historic character of the Borough. The minerals and stone have provided the raw materials for iron making and for building. Clay has been used for brick making. This has shaped the character of settlement. The heavier clay soils provided valuable timber for building fuel and other uses.

Photograph 2. From Sandhurst SW across the Rother valley to Sussex

3.2. A summary of the key historical processes shaping the Borough

The main source for this section is *The Kent and Sussex Weald* by Peter Brandon (2005). Evidence for human interaction has resulted in the present historic character of the borough of Tunbridge Wells. As shown in Section 3.6. a large part of the historic landscape seen today is Saxon and medieval in origin which in turn was influenced by the Roman and prehistoric periods.

i.   Prehistoric

Hunting and sourcing of woodland resources – seasonal hunting camps and possible farming with settlement and woodland management. Iron manufacture. Laying out of early routeways into the Weald.

ii.   Roman

Iron exploitation and associated timber management. Possible settlement associated with iron working, Utilising earlier settlement and routeways.

iii.   Early medieval

Transhumance or seasonal movement of domestic animals leading to seasonal and then all year round permanent settlement. Development of small-scale scattered farming settlement and establishment of drove way network. Establishment of early place-names based on the dens or swine pastures. Gradual clearance of woodland.

---

[15] Bannister, N.R. and Bartlett, D. 2009. An initial investigation of an early routeway and boundary, possibly prehistoric, in Bedgebury Forest. Archaeologia Cantiana CXXIX 295-312.

iv.   Medieval

Expansion of farmed settlement and break-down of the droving system, development of small nucleated centres for trade and craftsmen, iron production, The feudal control of the Lowy of Tonbridge Castle over the eastern part of the Borough. Breakdown of external feudal manorial control enabling further establishment of farms and development of villages and hamlets.

v.   Post-medieval

Iron production and allied crafts / industries. Intensive Woodland management of enclosed woods. Expansion of the leisured use landscape, parks etc. Development of spa. Last enclosures of commons and greens. Reorganisation of field patterns and farmstead layout with changes in farming systems.

vi.   Early Modern

Improved communications through expansion of Railways, and turnpiking of roads, incoming of moneyed business men leading to gentrification of some farms, smaller country estates. Further expansion of the Tunbridge Wells Town and its influence in the surrounding countryside. Farming improvements and increase in field reorganisation.
Increase in horticulture, hops and other cash crops for London market. Final end of droving system.

vii.   Early 20th century

Afforestation of woods creating PAWS, the expansion of villages and settlements.
Decline in orchards, increased mechanisation of agriculture, decline in livestock keeping. Further settlement expansion of villages and the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

viii.   Late 20th century

Further mechanisation of agriculture, removal of historic farmsteads from agrarian use and conversion of farm buildings to residential; expansion of gardens into farm yards and adjacent fields.

ix.   Early 21st century

Changes in horticultural practices with decline in orchards and conversion to arable, increase in polytunnels. development of solar farms, Pressure to increase housing building.

3.3.   DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUERIES TO INTERROGATE THE HLC

To have systematically queried all of the data was beyond the resources set out for this HLC project. So the interrogation of the data was limited to what it could inform about the overall historic character of the Tunbridge Wells Borough; what defines its character and their attributes ? What is unique and special and how the historic elements relate to each other. As field patterns and enclosures are by far the largest contributing element to historic character, and the rural landscape is under-pinned by its fields, the interrogation has looked at the Field Patterns in most detail. In particular the analysis has also looked at the areas of both Horticulture and Modern Field Amalgamation in more depth because although these are areas where significant landscape change has occurred elements of past landscape character will survive. This has been shown in detail as the 'Field Systems in the High Weald' Project has shown. [16] The results of the interrogations are presented in the Section 3.4.

---

[16] High Weald AONB 2017 Field System Method Assessment and Character Statement. Unpublished Report for Historic England

3.4. INTERPRETATION OF THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH HLC

The revision of the Kent HLC has produced a more detailed character data set, which can be interrogated in detail, where the HLC is attribute-led (instead of descriptive-led as the Kent 2000 HLC).

This can be seen clearly by the comparison of the Kent 2000 Broad types with the Revised TWB HLC 2017 Broad Types (Maps 2 and Map 3 in Section III). The revised HLC records in more detail four key features;-

*   Firstly, the increase in woodland coverage, from large tracts of forests to smaller coppices and shaws;

*   Secondly, the increase in the identification of the number of scattered settlements (farmsteads and hamlets);

*   Thirdly, the increase in the identification of smaller areas of Designed Landscapes,

*   Fourthly, the break-up of orchards coverage since 2000.

In all 8310 HLC polygons were 'captured' covering a total of 33835ha of the Borough. This is not the total area of the Borough – it omits the built up area of Royal Tunbridge Wells as well as linear features.

3.4.1. HLC Broad Character (Broad types) [Map 3 in Section III]
The dominant historic character type making up the Borough HLC landscape are field patterns at 51% (ha of total HLC coverage), with woodland at 24%(ha). Essentially Tunbridge Wells Borough is a woodland landscape, one which has derived from woods, wood pasture and wooded heaths. The result is an intimate mix of woods of all types with settlements of all periods, and field systems which have originated either directly from woods or have been modified in later centuries. Designed Landscapes contribute 6%(ha) as does Settlement to the historic character. The latter however does exclude much of the built up area of Royal Tunbridge Wells (which was not included in the characterisation). Most of the settlement is in the form of scattered settlements with a few areas of more centralised concentrations such as Paddock Wood and Southborough, with smaller areas around Pembury, Speldhurst and Bidborough (the latter probably from the influence and proximity to Tunbridge Wells itself).

The identification of valley fields in the Types (see below) rather than the broad types 'hides' the character type at this level than compared with the Kent 2000 HLC (Map 3)

3.4.2. Detailed HLC Character (Types) [Map 4 in Section III]
The field patterns are dominated by assarts - 13%(ha of total HLC coverage) and modern field amalgamation - 20% (ha). The higher figure for this latter field type is discussed in detail in Section 3.4.4. iv. A contributing factor to modern changes in field patterns is the recent (21st century) grubbing of orchards to arable fields. Orchards still contribute 8% (ha) of historic character, and are concentrated in the middle and the north of the Borough on the interface lands between the Low and High Weald. Ancient assart woodland contributes 6% (ha) and Gill woodland 4% (ha) to the overall historic character with plantations on ancient sites (PAWS) a further 8%(ha). Character types of areas less than 500 ha contribute to less than 1% (individually) of the historic character such as Small farmsteads, and a large proportion of the HLC is formed of these types. Large farmsteads contribute 2% (ha) but total number 752 individual polygons, whereas Small farmsteads contribute 711 individual

polygons. This reflects the relative difference in their size (and number of buildings). So although these types are small in size they do make a significant contribution when looked at by number.

3.4.3. Discussion on Time-depth and Antiquity [Map 5 in Section III]

The HLC enables the antiquity and time-depth of the present landscape of Tunbridge Wells Borough to be analysed through the period of origin of each of the HLC polygons. Whilst it is perceived by many people that the landscape, especially the countryside is unchanging with a sense of timelessness, the HLC recognises that actually the landscape is constantly changing in many ways. Some parts of the landscape have changed more than others through the interaction of humans with the natural environment.

Using the key mapping sources and data, each of the HLC polygons was assigned an approximate period of origin. Where the data sources showed evidence of landscape change these were recorded in the Previous [PREV] data fields in the GIS data table. Potentially up to four episodes of landscape character change within the historic period could be recorded for any given polygon, based on the mapping and data sources available.

Figure 2. The amount of landscape character change across Tunbridge Wells Borough
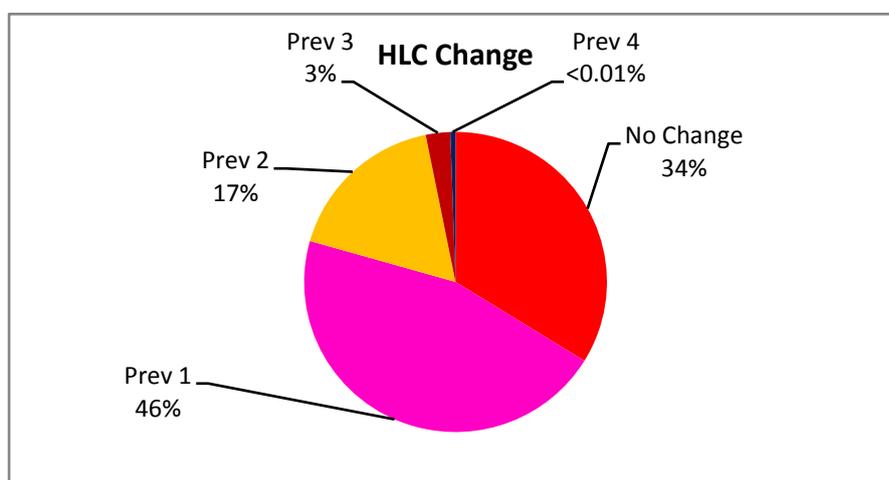
For the whole of the Borough 34%(ha) of the historic character has remained unchanged, and nearly half 46%(ha) has undergone one period of landscape change based on the historic mapping sources. This suggests that much of the Borough is of considerable antiquity with the historic character surviving through the centuries. However the nature of the change even for one period might exhibit a considerable impact on the historic character, such as removal of woodland or extensive settlement development depending on its scale and extent. Other changes might be more gradual such as the regeneration of woodland on greens and commons.

Where there has been a number of landscape changes this contributes to the time-depth of the landscape. Distinct layers of historic character have resulted in a present day landscape made up of elements or different attributes from these different periods. For example, former orchards dating from the 19th century (modern period) now arable fields, may retain boundaries and field shapes surviving from the medieval period when the fields were 'assarted' or cleared from wood pasture. Veteran trees and old routeways may also still survive and contribute to the local distinctiveness of the immediate area. These attributes or elements are now considered heritage assets when looking at the historic resources of any area in the planning process.[17]

The approximate period of origin for each polygon's HLC type was recorded both for the present landscape and for the previous landscape character changes. Approximately 27%(ha) of the historic landscape character of the Borough dates from at least the late Medieval period (AD 1540) or earlier, with 10% dating from the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1799). (See Map 5. in Section III). Thus over

---

[17] National Planning Policy Framework 2012

a quarter of the Borough exhibits considerable antiquity in its historic character, dating from the medieval period. The medieval character occurs mostly in the south of the borough in the areas of assart fields, historic farmsteads and ancient woods; whereas much of the north of the Borough dates from the modern period and 20th century reflecting the more extensive landscape change that has taken place. As to be expected 36%(ha) of the historic character of the Borough dates from the late 20th century with settlement expansion and changes in field boundaries the dominant processes for change. Within these areas will be elements and character attributes which date from earlier periods which have survived through into the 20th century. It is these areas which need more detailed research to understand the processes of survival and loss of the historic character with on the ground observations and more archive research.

3.4.4.   Discussion on the contribution of Field Patterns [Map 6 to Map 17]

Field patterns contribute over 50% of the historic character of the Tunbridge Wells Borough covering over 17,000 ha. These field patterns comprise a number of readily identifiable patterns based on enclosure origins and subsequent management, in relation to farmsteads and other historic features in the landscape. The Field Pattern polygons are groups of fields described by attributes based on shape, size, boundary morphology and type of fields as well as being assigned a HLC character type.

Photograph 3. Orchards near Grovehurst in Goudhurst

i.   Field Patterns Character Type by pattern [Maps 7 - 10 in Section III]

The character attribute of pattern is for the pattern of an identified group of fields or areas of horticulture which form an HLC polygon. Horticulture is included because orchards are laid out within fields (either reorganised or within an historic system). Regular fields make up 43%(ha) of the pattern, with irregular (24%ha) and no pattern (22%ha). [See Map 6 in Section III]

The regular field pattern as one would expect, is dominated by regular informal fields (21%ha), where the pattern either rectangular or square in layout characterises the groups of the fields. Cohesive assart fields contribute 19%(ha) as does modern field amalgamation (see discussion in Section 3.4.4.iv.)

ii.   Field Patterns by Size [Maps 11 – 13 in Section III]

The character attribute of size is for the approximate size of groups of fields within an identified polygon. Generally, the average size of fields in the Weald, are much smaller than the national average, because they have always been small of around 5ha.[18] Internal boundary loss within groups of fields has a significant impact on size but still many of these modern reorganised fields are small by comparison with areas, say in East Anglia. (See Section 3.1.g. in Appendix I for the discussion on the Method for the size allocations).

The HLC has identified that 42% (ha) of the characterised fields are 'large' (over 20ha) [Map 12] with 31% (ha) medium (10-20ha) [Map 13].

---

[18] See Brandon 2003. Chapter 7 The custom of the Country – Agriculture: In The Kent and Sussex Weald. for discussion on Wealden field sizes.

The large fields are dominated by modern re-organised fields (See Section 3.4.4. iv. for discussion), Whilst 'medium' sized groups of fields are dominated by cohesive assart fields (26%ha) and regular informal fields (23%ha). Small fields are dominated by regular informal fields (38%ha) with aggregate assarts 16%(ha). [Map 14 in Section III].

iii.   Field Patterns by Boundary Type [Map 15 in Section III]

The character attribute of boundary type refers to the form of the divisions between fields. [See Map 15]. The identification is based on aerial photographs and historic mapping. Wooded hedges make up 42%(ha) of the character of field boundaries which is a significant contribution to the overall wooded character of the Borough. Hedges contribute 37%(ha) so that nearly 80% of field boundaries comprise a living shrub component. Fences (8%ha) are grouped around settlement and are strongly associated with the sub-division of historic field patterns into paddocks. Wooded hedges occur predominately in the southern half of the Borough with hedges to the north extending into the Low Weald. Ditches mark out the enclosures in the valleys of the Rivers Medway, Teise, Rother and Hexden Channel.

Additional analysis of the HLC data using the query selection on the boundary morphology (straight or sinuous etc.) will provide further detail on the character of field patterns.

iv.   Modern field amalgamations [Map 16 – 17 in Section III]

A significant part of the field systems in Tunbridge Wells Borough have undergone some degree of boundary rationalisation in the past. This is identified by the amount of internal boundary removal that has taken place over the past 250 years (the period of historic mapping) for any given polygon of grouped fields. Where more than 50% of the internal boundaries have been removed this is identified as amalgamation. In some cases all the internal boundaries may be removed such as Brattles Farm in Brenchley. [19] Such modern fields contribute nearly 40% of the historic character. **However,** these are areas (together with paddocks and horticulture) which represent 'time-depth' in the historic landscape, with the changes in land use layered over each other. Some elements or attributes of the past character will still survive to some degree or another. So Modern field amalgamation fields also contribute to the historic character of the landscape, and should be looked at in depth when proposing landscape change.

By layering the past (PREV) layers for modern fields (with those for paddocks and orchards) with present day Field Patterns it is possible to see the historic field pattern character of the present enclosure landscape. [See Map 17 in Section III]. This map reinforces the historic character of field patterns across the Borough. It can be seen that the assart fields are grouped in the southern parts of the parish and along the higher ridges with more regular informal fields along the ridge top roads and

also into the area of the Low Weald. Irregular informal fields occur along the river valleys with more formal planned fields in areas where there were former commons, and greens. The fields in the south east corner of Royal Tunbridge Wells, which have undergone significant boundary removal do still retain elements of the wooded assart landscape of dispersed farms in the form of remnant wooded hedges, the farmsteads and parts of ancient woods.

Photograph 4. Modern fields at Elphicks farm, Horsmonden

---

[19] See KHLC U2115 P2 1656 Brattles Farm

v.   Assart fields [See page 8 in Section II]

As already stated assart fields (both aggregate and cohesive see Gazetteer of Types in Section II for definition) occur mainly in the southern part of the Borough, lying within the HighWeald. They are of particular character in the 'hurst' parishes of Lamberhurst. Goudhurst, Hawkhurst and Sandhurst. This is where the farmsteads and fields were settled from the Saxon swine pastures or dens. These parishes mark the terminating ends of the large Saxon Wealden commons which were attached to the

manors to the north and east. Assarts are also frequent in the area of the wooded ridge which formed part of the medieval Lowy of Tonbridge. The aggregate assarts general indicate later medieval enclosures and farmsteads of the woods and wood pasture or where an already established farmstead is expanding its fields, by clearing more woods. This can occur when a farmstead is being split as part of gavelkind inheritance, creating farmsteads with the names prefixed by 'Great' and 'Little'. Together assarts contribute 26%(ha) of the historic character of the field patterns.

Photograph 5. Assarts at Dundle Wood, Lamberhurst

vi.   Regular informal fields [See page 33 in Section II]

Where fields do not exhibit attributes to fit them in other character types and have a regular field pattern they are assigned this character type. It is postulated that these represent a period of field re-organisation in the late medieval or early post-medieval from an earlier field pattern. This field type is more closely associated with villages and the older farmsteads, occurring along the ridge top routes and on the slopes into the Low Weald. Frittenden, a parish mainly lying on Weald Clay is dominated by these field types, with extensive regular field patterns. Far more research is needed to understand the origins and relationship of this field type with other field patterns and with historic farmsteads.

vii   Formal planned fields [See page 22 in Section II]

Fields exhibiting a planned layout where the boundaries are straight contribute to 4%(ha) of the historic landscape character. They tend to occur in the west of the Borough, close to areas of commons, greens or where such unenclosed areas once existed (often evident by place-names). For

example The Down at Lamberhurst was once larger than today having been enclosed to fields, or areas in Brenchley. Although later in date than assarts these fields are important evidence of private enclosures of the unenclosed wood pasture landscape.

Hook Green lying close to the county boundary with Sussex has a planned field pattern around it, indicating that the green was a much large common on a drove way from Kent into Sussex. In nearby parishes in Sussex of Frant and Wadhurst, there were numerous commons and greens.

Photograph 6. Formal planned fields at Hook Green

viii.   Irregular informal fields [See page 25 in Section II]

This field type is mostly found in the river and stream valleys. Although contributing only 5%(ha) they are topographically defined. Historically these were after the arable fields very valuable fields for the production of hay. Hay enabled stock to be over-wintered and thus an ability not only for meat through the winter but also the ability to increase stock numbers. Many such hay meadows are now cultivated; where they still survive as pasture they are a rare example of former valley meadows.

ix.   Consolidated strip fields [See page 16 in Section II]

These fields are very rare (less than 1%) and tend to survive in Cranbrook, with small areas in Paddock Wood (formerly in Brenchley parish). Identified as a type, this field pattern needs far more research to understand how it originated as a field system and how it might have worked in this part of Kent.

x.   Co-axial fields [See page 19 in Section II]

Co-axial fields are another rare (1.5%ha) example of field systems surviving in the Borough. The origins and function of these field systems is little understood in the Weald and more research is needed. They tend to occur in pockets in the eastern parishes of Cranbrook and Benenden aligned with ridge top routes. They appear to be topographically determined but the laying out and enclosure must have taken place in more open environment, than woodland. This suggests that the land had already been cleared either by grazing or by another system of enclosures to enable this to take place. At Horsmonden, south of the village a group of co-axial fields were enclosed from a former heath. Long axial boundaries orientated north to south were subdivided by short sinuous boundaries to create roughly square shaped fields. These were then laid down to Orchards and subsequent boundary rationalisation has eroded much of the original pattern.

At the Borough scale these are rare field systems but at the local level (within the parish) may contribute significantly to local distinctiveness of the area as well as being evident of a particular form of historic land management.

3.5.   Other HLC Character Types

The following examines the other HLC types in brief. It is possible to undertake more detailed analysis of the character attributes (similar to that for Field patterns), for these types as well.

3.5.1.   Woodland Character [Map 18 in Section III]

Woodland as already mentioned contributes to 24%(ha) of the historic landscape character. The HLC woodland cover comprises large extents of ancient woods and plantations, and the smaller gills, coppices and shaws. Of the 8308ha of land characterised across the Borough, Ancient assart woodland contributes 20%(ha) and Plantations on Ancient sites a further 26%(ha). Together with Gill woodland (13%ha) and Shaws (3%ha), ancient woods (dating from before AD1600) contribute to over 60% of the woodland character covered in the HLC. The larger areas of woods are concentrated on the higher ground along the main ridges. Woodland of any type is rare in the areas of the Borough extending into the Low Weald and ancient assarts are rare along the ridge between the Rother and Hexden Channel suggesting that this area was cleared of woodland, possibly in the early Saxon period or perhaps even before. The large 'frith' at Bedgebury in Hawkhurst parish is a PAWS site as well as the parts of the South Frith (now Pembury Woods). There is s significant amount of Ancient Woods in the southern part of Goudhurst around Combewell.

The assart fields tend to be strongly associated with the areas of gill woods and smaller ancient assart in the east of the Borough or with the larger areas of ancient woods around Tunbridge Wells

itself. Areas of regenerated secondary woods tend to occur near areas of former common, such as at Rusthall.

Woodland together with Field patterns dominate the historic character of the Borough, and when all the wooded hedges and shaws are added, trees and woodlands are a key historic element of the landscape.

Photograph 7. View from Goudhurst south towards Bedgebury Park and modern Forest on the ridge of higher ground showing the historic woodland landscape of the High Weald.

3.5.2. Settlement Character Type [Map 19 in Section III]

Settlement contributes to 7%(ha) to the historic landscape character of the Borough. The rural historic character of the borough is again illustrated by the dominant HLC type of Large Farmsteads (28%ha); these are the centres from which the Field Patterns are pinned and extend from. Ownership and changes in farming processes may have significantly altered the original medieval organisation and working relationship with the farm buildings but the physical relationship is still present in the layout, and shape of the fields. Smaller farmsteads contribute a further 13%(ha). These historic farmsteads are scattered across the landscape of the Borough along droves and ridge top routes and around smaller greens and commons. The historic character of scattered farmsteads dates from the at least the early post-medieval period and probably earlier given the first recorded date of many place-names.

The character of the historic farmsteads can also contribute to the historic landscape character and there are definite relationships between the character of farmsteads, the field patterns and routeways (see Section 3.8). [20]

It was in the later medieval period that settlement began to become concentrated in villages and hamlets centred on farmsteads on routes (6%ha of the historic character of settlements). These

---

[20] Lake & Edwards 2006 Farmsteads and landscape. Towards an integrated View. Landscapes 7.1.,1-36; Lake, Edwards and Bannister 2014. Farmsteads and Landscape in Kent. Archaeologia Cantiana CXXXIV p105-139).

provided places to trade, develop crafts and services as well as providing spiritual support to the population of farmsteads. Small cottages and associated domestic dwellings filled in around the farms, the homes of farm labourers, woodland workers and other craftsmen.

Photograph 8. Old Place Farm, Sandhurst overlooking Rother valley

Photograph 9. Medieval cottages in Goudhurst Village from church tower

A significant change in the form of settlement came in the Modern period with the development and spread of the railways. Small (and larger) estates developed close to stations such as Paddock Wood. The railway enabled a rapid expansion of settlement In Royal Tunbridge Wells, with large estates developing at Southborough, Bidborough and Pembury. At Hawkhurst smaller country houses were built expanding the village from the historic area of the Moor by the medieval church to the High Street (a ridge top route).

3.5.3.   Discussion on the results of Designed Landscapes [Map 20 in Section III]

Designed Landscapes is an HLC type which was been recognised in more depth in the revised HLC compared with the Kent (Phase 1) 2000. Originally only larger parks were recorded in 2000. The HLC for Tunbridge Wells Borough has 'captured' the historic designed parkland and also larger landscaped gardens in this broad character type (7%ha of HLC). As one would expect parkland contributes 61%(ha) of the Designed Landscape Character Type. This is a total of 124 polygons. The large landscaped gardens contribute 36%(ha) representing over 530 individual polygons. The majority of these are 20th century in origin, where large gardens have been developed around historic farmsteads (which have been converted to residential).

Most parkland character dates from the Late post-medieval and modern periods. A few have developed from former deer parks such as at Glassenbury in Goudhurst, whilst others have been created from a farmed landscape such as Scotney Castle. Here Edward Hussey III created an informal 'Picturesque' landscape by removing field boundaries, leaving the hedgerow trees and in filling with specimen tree planting to create a wood pasture parkland landscape with veteran trees

Photograph 10. The Park at Scotney looking towards the Nineteenth century Mansion

Parkland is also important for the preservation of heritage elements of past land use character; at Scotney are boundary banks, dams to former mill ponds and old tracks. At the Rectory Park close to the church at Horsmonden a range of linear and platform type earthworks lie preserved in the pasture, suggesting a possible shrunken settlement. A map of the parish dated 1675 shows the church located on a funnel track leading from a 'green'. [21] See map below

Photograph 11. Rectory Park at Horsmonden
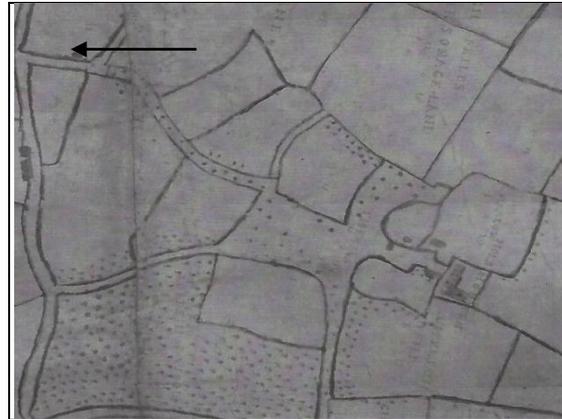
Figure 3. Extract from KHLC U180 P1 1675 Map of Horsmonden

The larger landscaped gardens are strongly associated with settlement, whereas the parkland tends to occur along the ridge tops and is often associated with former woodland and fields The northern part of the Borough into the Low Weald has very few parks and large gardens. This is a consequence not just of the historic development of settlement but the intractability of the heavy Wealden clay soils.

3.5.4.   Discussion on the results of Horticulture [Map 21 in Section III]

The historic character type of Horticulture contributes to nearly 6%(ha) to the overall historic landscape character of the Borough. This is completely dominated by orchards and top fruit growing concentrated in the northern half of the Borough on the 'interface' lands between the Low and High Weald. Here the sandy soils are inter-mixed with the clays to produce a more nutrient rich and freely draining loam. Orchard growing was far more extensive than today and is a character type which has undergone significant change in the early 21st century since the first Kent HLC was undertaken. Larger orchards have become more fragmented as areas have been grubbed to arable fields. A more detailed analysis of the data will reveal the historic trends in development of this character type.

Photograph 11. Orchards at Horsmonden

Photograph 12. Hop Gardens in Sandhurst

---

[21] KHLC U180 P 1 1675 Map of Horsmonden

Many orchards date from the modern period, planted when railways provided links to the London markets and beyond. Perishable top-fruit could be moved more quickly arriving at further destinations in fresh condition. There are fewer orchards to the east of the borough, mainly confined to the valley sides and slopes of the ridges. One character type not identified in the HLC is that of Hop gardens.

The data sources made it difficult to identify and capture Hop gardens in the HLC. The Tithe Map Schedules were too detailed for systematic searches in the time allowed for the project, but they were an extensive and characteristic element of the Modern and early 20th century landscape. However today hop gardens are rarely seen in the landscape. Since the last Kent HLC in 2000, the extensive hop gardens at Spelmonden in Goudhurst have been grubbed out (pers. obs.). It is likely that the few remaining have been 'captured' within the Orchards HLC type description or included with other Field Pattern character types.

### 3.5.5. Remaining Character Types [Maps 22-24 in Section III]

The Gazetteer lists the other HLC character types which occur more rarely and tend to be more modern in origin. However, one character type which is of considerable antiquity and also rare within the landscape are areas of unenclosed, namely commons, greens and heaths. Map 22 shows these areas identified by either character type or by place-name. Commons are a feature of Royal Tunbridge Wells; Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells and Southborough are remnants of much larger commons which extended across this higher ground of the Tunbridge Wells Sandstone, and which also lay within the southern part of the Lowy of Tonbridge. Elsewhere in the Borough these unenclosed areas survive either as small greens or as place-names which indicate a green or common origin. Once much more extensive these unenclosed areas lay on the drove ways leading into the swine pastures or dens of the Kentish High Weald, or as in the east of the country along the ridge top routes. Very likely these are the last remains of the Saxon wood pastures, which were used into the post-medieval period possibly by drovers moving stock through the landscape. These were places to over-night and water stock; others were used as places for fairs and markets. Some small greens as for example The Down in Lamberhurst have small artisan cottages around their edges and along the funnel droves leading into them. The adjacent fields may have a more regular pattern indicating planned enclosure as at Hook Green and The Down. Across the Borough these areas add to the local distinctiveness of the parishes and make a significant contribution to the quintessential rural character of the English countryside.

Photograph13. The Down at Lamberhurst

Industry is not a significant historic character type in the Borough, but as Map 23 shows, it does occur near to Paddocks Wood and in parts of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Of the Industrial character types 'Solar farms' contribute to the largest area and do have a significant impact at the local level. Paddock Wood has attracted light industry through the railway and with the availability of land into which the development could expand. Small-scale industrial complexes do occur in some parishes associated with settlement or farmsteads. The scale is important with new development; new warehousing has been constructed on the old station site at Hawkhurst. The large buildings dwarf the adjacent units and residential houses and extend beyond the small-scale character of features in the locality (pers. obs.).

Water is not a significant character type, with lakes and ponds being of only local significance [Map 24 in Section III]. However ponds are closely associated with some field patterns and reflect land use when marl was dug to spread on the land or iron stone was dug. The exact relationship of extraction pits with boundaries i.e. which came first, needs further research.
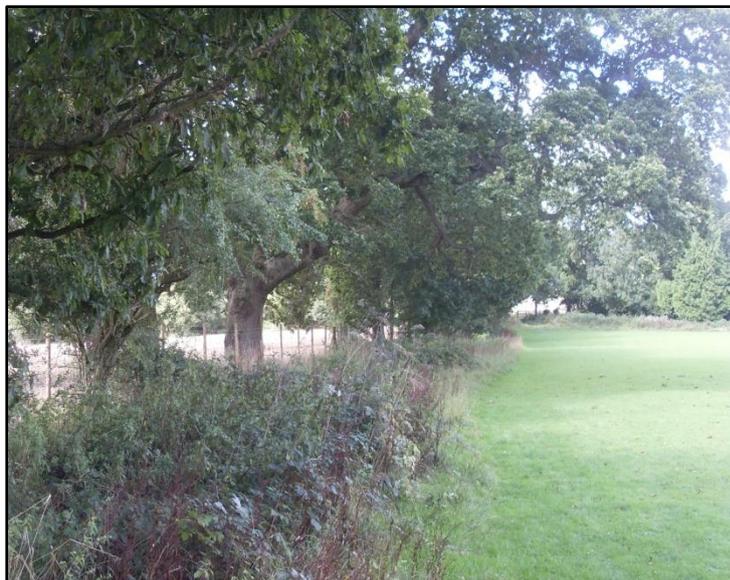
Photograph 14. Boundary bank at Benenden

Golf courses dominate the historic character type of recreation [Map 25 in Section III] due to the large area of ground they cover. Sports grounds and cricket pitches are strongly associated with schools. There are several large schools in the Borough from Tunbridge Wells to Benenden and the scatter of this character type reflects this. Many such grounds are located within an existing field pattern so the outer boundaries will probably date from the origin of the field pattern, for example at Benenden, bounding a play field where a large earth bank topped with mature oaks may date from the Saxon period.

3.6.   Discussion on Previous Historic Landscape Character [Maps 26 – 27 in Section III]

As discussed in Section 3.4.3. the historic landscape character of the Borough exhibits considerable antiquity especially in the area of the High Weald. The landscape of the northern side of the Borough is one of change but it is a landscape in which change has taken place within an ancient framework under-pinned by the Saxon and medieval elements of the routeways, historic farmsteads and villages, ancient boundaries and remnant ancient woods. This is the borderland between the High Weald medieval swine pastures and the Low Weald medieval farmed landscape, with its swine pasture origins. The transition of soils from sands to clayey loams enables a wide variety of crops to be grown stimulated and in response to external changes in market demand and development of improved transport links.

The previous layers fields of the GIS data set enable a range of queries to be undertaken to establish the extent of historic landscape character change, when it took place and its date of origin as a character type. When looking at areas, where there have been changes in the character, it is important to look at these PREV layers to see what the present historic character has been derived from and approximately when those changes took place in order to understand the historic attributes and surviving heritage assets which contribute to the present local distinctiveness of any area.

Using the Previous Historic landscape character layers, it is possible to postulate what the late medieval landscape may have looked like. Map 26 in Section shows the broad historic character type dominated by fields with the woodland along the main east west ridge of the High Weald. Settlement is scattered throughout the landscape in farmsteads and small hamlets on edges of commons as for example in Horsmonden. The *Parroc* (or Paddock) Wood is visible in the parish of the same name enclosed from the historic parish of Brenchley. Medieval deer parks lay in the parishes of Goudhurst Cranbrook and Lamberhurst and early post-medieval designed landscapes also appear. In the extreme South east corner the tidal marshes of the Rother Valley are shown. At this time the amount of unenclosed lands was small indicating the extent of medieval enclosure of much of the Weald.

Map 27 shows a more complex picture of the postulated medieval landscape, with extensive assart type fields across the landscape. The north western part of the Borough had a significant density of formal planned fields (the origins of which are not clear) which must have been enclosed from an open landscape. Possible areas of former wood pasture occurred in Pembury Woods (formerly the South Frith or Chase of the Lowy of Tonbridge) and at also at Bedgebury, where Bedgebury Park Wood may have originated as a wood pasture.

Co-axial type fields and consolidated strip fields tended to occur in the eastern part of the Borough, with a strong association with settlement. The former closely associated with the ridge top routes and the later with the settlements of Cranbrook, and Benenden.
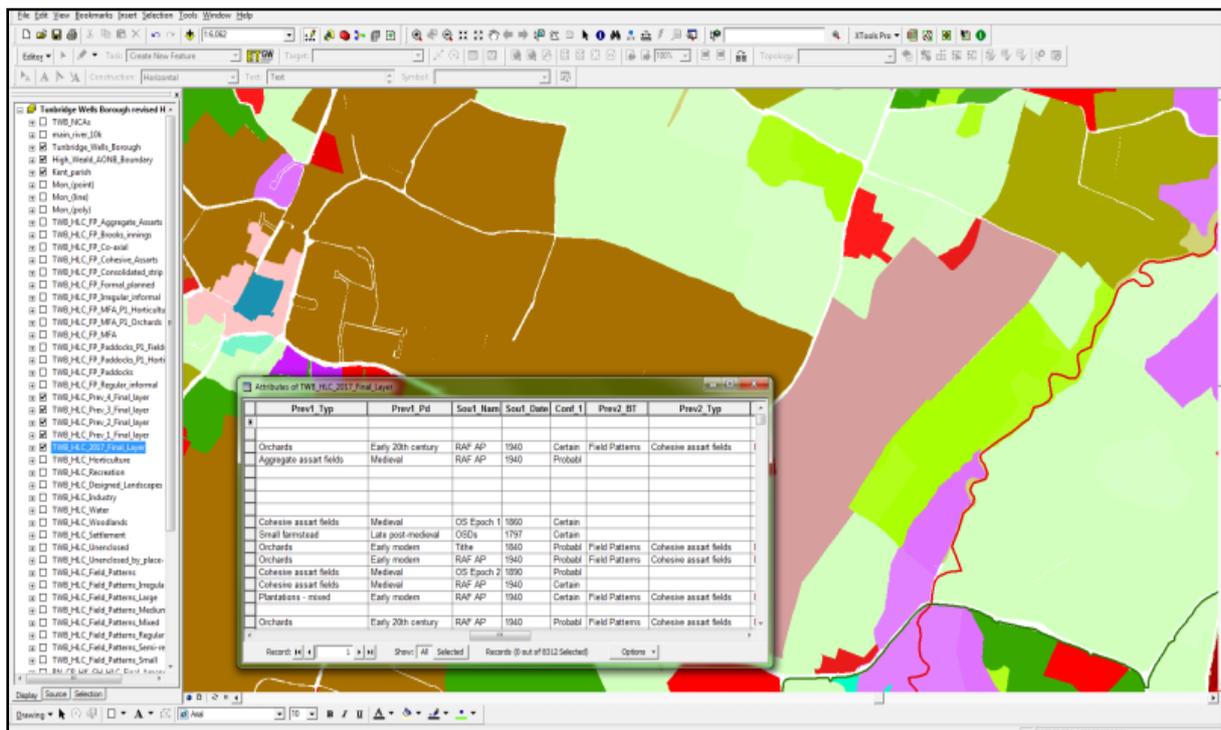

Figure 4. Screen Shot from GIS Project showing the HLC attribute table with fields for PREV layers (switched on in layout)

3.7.   Historic Landscape Character Areas [HLCAs]

An attempt has been made to identify and describe within Tunbridge Wells Borough areas of similar historic landscape character based on the Broad Types and HLC Types. Much of the historic character has been determined by the underlying geology and the resulting topography of the landscape. The Borough is one of relatively poor (sandy / heathy) and difficult (heavy clay) soils – Generally Grade 3 but with Grade 2 in the alluvial valleys. The character has also been determined by external forces such as the Saxon demand for grazing pastures and timber with the regional organisation of agricultural estates expanding from the north and east. [22] Within the Weald the development of permanent settlements and the expansion of farming within the Saxon structure has created a unique and internationally important medieval rural landscape surviving for nearly 1000 years into the 21st century.

The identification of Historic Landscape Character Areas from the HLC (Broad Types and Types) was undertaken by eye, layering the HLC with the OS topographical map. By looking at the composition of the Types and their distribution, it was possible to identify areas of similar historic character which are discussed below. The production of a GIS map of the different HLC areas should be the subject of an additional GIS task, beyond the time resources of this project. The following describes areas of similar historic character which were identified in the Borough based on key themes across the historic landscape.

i.   Forested Ridge

Extends south east from Speldhurst through Tunbridge Wells towards the Sussex border at Bayham Abbey and then to Bedgebury Forest. The area is cut by the valley of the River Teise on the borders between Lamberhurst, Goudhurst and Horsmonden.

This is an extension of the Wealden Forest Ridge identified by the enclosed medieval forests such as Worth, Tilgate St Leonard's, the unenclosed heathland of Ashdown Forest and to the south of Tunbridge Wells in Sussex, Waterdown Forest. Bedgebury and possibly Hemstead are outliers of this woodland but were never medieval forests in their own right (the term forest here applies to the Forestry Commission appellation). Enclosed woods and modern forests dominate this area which extended into the eastern part of Tunbridge Wells. Designed landscapes are also closely associated with these areas of woods. The town of Royal Tunbridge Wells which grew up in the Late post-medieval period around the chalybeate springs which rise in this locality lies on this ridge of higher ground.

ii.   Woodland Landscapes

Occur along the Kent border with Sussex, especially around Hawkhurst and parts of Lamberhurst. These are some of the areas of last assart clearances, small historic farmsteads intermixed with ancient assart woods, gills, shaws and coppices. Historic farms have names indicating origins from woodland clearance, there is an intimate mix of small irregular fields, narrow winding lanes, and few greens. It is part of the historic iron production area in Kent with forges and furnaces at Lamberhurst, Goudhurst and Hawkhurst.

iii.   Ridge-top Lands

A line of fields, small woods aligned along a key ridge top routeway (the A21 follows part of this route); settlement extending from Benenden north west through Cranbrook, Goudhurst, Lamberhurst to Tunbridge Wells. This is an area of continuous settlement since at least the medieval period, and along which the village centres developed. Regular fields extend down the valley sides. Small greens and commons were left unenclosed and around which further hamlets grew up. Small settlements continued to be developed into the modern period with infilling and ribbon development taking place.

---

[22] Witney, K.P. 1976. The Jutish Forest A study of the Weald of Kent from 450 to 1380 AD. Athlone Press.

This is an area where settlement type is mixed and where there has been possible significant changes to field patterns.

iv.   Low/High Weald Interface

An area identified by the later medieval villages from Goudhurst west to Tudeley and Pembury, together with scattered farmsteads and significant areas of designed landscapes. This is an area where new country houses were built especially in the 19th century in amongst the older historic farmsteads. It is closely associated with the following HLCA.

v.   Orchard growing areas

Defined by the early modern fruit growing area around Paddock Wood and Horsmonden which extends into the Low Weald. The orchard growing area developed in a medieval landscape of assarts, commons, and more regular enclosures around the historic farmsteads and settlements in Brenchley and Horsmonden. The development of the railway and a key junction at Paddock Wood enabled a rapid transport service to London markets and beyond. This led to the establishment of extensive orchards and hop gardens across the area, with significant changes to the field pattern. Many orchards have now been grubbed especially within the Medway valley and the fields converted to large scale arable production. Small modern settlements associated with fruit-growing lie scattered across the landscape.

vi.   Low Weald Farmed landscapes

Paddock Wood, Frittenden and north end of Cranbrook lie in the Low Weald proper. There is less ancient woodland and more scattered historic farmsteads. There is a greater variation in field patterns, with more regular and planned type fields. Paddock Wood is a 20th century settlement with extensive planned estates and industrial areas associated with the railway. It lay on a main drove through the Lathe of Aylesford. The name Paddock comes from the word *parroc* or park and is possibly where the Hundred Court for the seven Hundreds of the Weald met. [23]

By contrast Frittenden is a Low Weald parish which retains much of its medieval character and some interesting areas of field patterns. Despite large scale boundary removal in the southern and eastern part of the parish this is very typically Low Weald rural countryside. The village is located on rising ground and once had a green or common close to the Manor Farm. Along Mill Lane are some examples of planned fields lying close to Cherry Tree Farm a historic farmstead which is still in agrarian use.

Photograph15. Planned fields at Frittenden – Mill Lane

Photograph 16. Regular fields Broadlake Frittenden

---

[23]   Du Boulay, F.R.H. 1966. *The Lordship of Canterbury*. An essay on medieval society. Nelson.

vii.   River Valleys

Meadows and extensive arable fields occupy former non-tidal parts of rivers such as River Teise and Bewl. Brooks innings characterise the former tidal areas such as River Rother and Hexden Channel to the east and the River Medway to the north. The ditches which form the boundaries dividing the fields can be 'hidden' by growing crops suggesting large modern fields as the photograph shows.

These were the marshy and estuarine areas in the medieval period and earlier, where movement through the landscape was by boat rather than on foot. Once enclosed and then drained, the soils provided highly fertile areas for crops. Settlement is rare, and generally confined to the lower slopes of the ridge top lands in the east.

Photograph 17. Brooks Innings on the River Rother at Sandhurst

The wide open landscapes of the valleys especially along the Medway have attracted the setting of at least two Solar Farms, which although they lie within an existing field pattern exert a strong industrial character within a rural context.

Photograph 18. Solar panels at Marden

3.8. HERITAGE THEMES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

As stated in Section 1.3. HLC forms one of a number of heritage data sets which describe and the record the heritage character of the Kent Landscape. Ideally, when examining any area of landscape as part of land use change and to inform future management (whether for example it is development or woodland planting or new solar farms) these data sets together with historic mapping should be consulted in depth, in order for a more complete picture of the historic character and development to be understood.

3.8.1. Tunbridge Wells Borough HLC and The Kent Historic Farmsteads Characterisation [Maps 28 – 31 in Section III]

An example of how two sets of data can be brought together to provide further understanding on settlement in the rural landscape. By layering the Kent Historic Farmstead character data over the HLC it is possible to see the relationship of Historic Farmstead types with Field Pattern types. The character type of farms is that as shown on OS Epoch 2 (c. 1890), before many farmsteads underwent significant change in the 20th century. The majority of farmsteads in Tunbridge Wells Borough are of either of Loose Courtyard Plan, Dispersed Plan or Regular Courtyard Plan. [24] Loose Courtyards and Dispersed Plan form historic farmsteads appear to be associated with assart field patterns whilst Regular Courtyard Plans appear to be more strongly associated with the Regular Informal fields [See Map 30].

This suggests that the historic character of historic farms with their fields is one of buildings in dispersed and open character with yards or open forstals set within irregular fields – the open character of the farmstead suggests origins with droving/moving livestock along driftways from fields into the farm holdings developing in an organic form.

The more regular courtyard historic farms associated with regular fields, suggests some form of planned organisation or relationship between fields and farmstead. More research is needed in this area to understand the process of development of farmsteads and their relationship with field patterns and routeways.
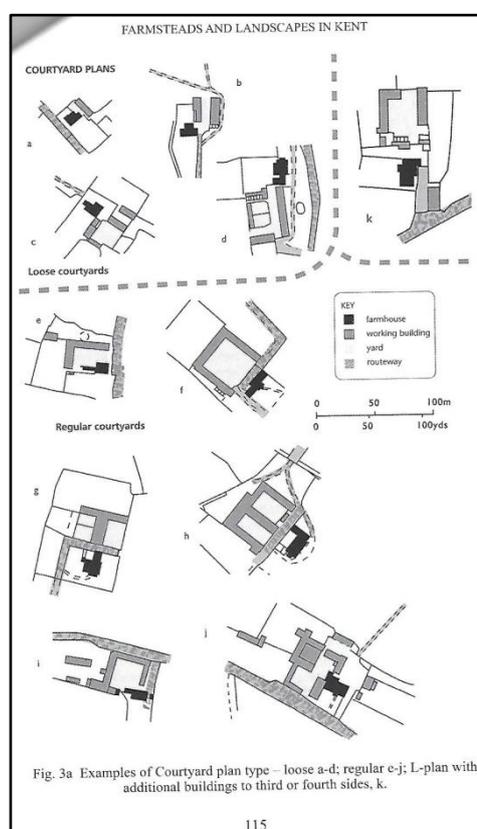
Figure 5. Extract from Lake et al 2014

Medieval farmsteads i.e. those with evidence of a medieval building (generally the farmhouse or part of the farmhouse) still extant are characterised by dispersed farmstead plan which occur in the areas of assart fields especially into the southern part of the borough [See Map 30 in Section III] Intermixed with these are Loose Courtyard Farms, with a few regular courtyards associated with regular informal fields. (See Map 31 in Section III) Other plan forms occur more rarely across the borough but are found more towards the Low Weald and around the higher ground in the western part of the borough. These rare plan forms maybe a re-working of the farmstead around a medieval core, in response to field re-organisation in the post-medieval and modern periods

---

[24] See Lake and Edwards June 2009 Historic Farmstead Mapping Handbook. Unpublished Report English Heritage; Historic England 2015 Farmstead Assessment Framework; Lake, J., Edwards, B. & Bannister, N.R. 2014. Farmsteads and Landscapes in Kent. Archaeologia Cantiana CXXXIV 105-139.

3.8.2.   Implications of the TWB HLC for the NCAs (Low and High Weald)

Map 31 also shows that areas where medieval field systems remain intact and historic farmsteads retain historic buildings relatively unchanged the historic character of the landscape is of considerable antiquity, with the medieval character surviving into the present day. This is of particular relevance in the High Weald and reinforces the character statement in the High Weald Management Plan that it is an example of a surviving medieval landscape recognised to have international importance.[25]

In the boundary zone between the two character areas and extending into the Low Weald the picture is more complicated. Here, whilst large areas have under gone significant change in their historic character, the Low Weald does retain areas of considerable antiquity and rarity in the form of ancient field systems, historic farmsteads and heritage features such as small greens, drove ways etc. Given that much of the Low Weald was probably settled permanently before the High Weald and given the nature of the droves and the expansion of the swine pastures, some fields and farmstead sites may be of Early medieval (Saxon) or even earlier in origin. In Frittenden, Romano-British artefacts have been recovered at Bettenham and Iron Age iron working sites to the south east of the village have been identified which potentially support early settlement.

In modern times where change has taken place in the Low Weald it has created a historic landscape which characterises periods of fruit and hop production, field and farm re-organisation and in areas settlement expansion at the expense of ancient woodland (Paddock Wood), unenclosed heath (Horsmonden) and farmland (Brenchley).

3.8.3.   Implications of the TWB HLC with the TWB LCA[26]
Assessing the Landscape Character Areas identified in the recent assessment with the HLC is another interrogation GIS project in its own right. The results of the HLC should inform the character descriptions.

---

[25] High Weald Management Plan 2014-2019 Statement of Significance p26. HW AONB JAC March 2014
[26] Landuse Consultants March 2016 Tunbridge Wells Borough Landscape Character Assessment Draft 1

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1. Fields and Farms

The initial analysis of historic farmsteads together with the HLC highlights the value of looking at the wider landscape in relation to the farmstead character, its origins, and relationship with its fields. This has highly significant implications when looking at changes in historic farmsteads today, whether it is conversion of buildings to residential or providing new farm buildings within the historic curtilege. The capacity of farm buildings to convert to residential as well as providing further residential units

depends upon its historic character. Whilst dispersed plans may offer opportunities for additional dwellings, the very process can easily destroy the historic layout and character of the farmstead, closing off access to its fields and the open areas between historic buildings.

Unaltered historic farmsteads set within complete or near complete field systems are important heritage assets in their own right was well as significantly contributing to the recognisable historic landscape character of the Borough.

Photograph Attwater's Farm in Hawkhurst; medieval farmstead
Set within its medieval assart fields

4.2. Designed Landscapes

Across the Borough are some fine examples of nationally important historic parkland landscapes such as at Scotney Castle or Bedgebury Park. The HLC does highlight the extent of the larger landscaped gardens and smaller areas of parkland which occur in many parishes and in particular in and around Tunbridge Wells. Most date from the modern and early 20th century, and whilst not the work of

nationally important landscape designers, they do reflect the work of wealthy Victorian and Edwardian families and the interest in developing smaller plant collections. The Kent Gardens Compendium and the revised Tunbridge Wells Parks and Gardens Register record most of these. In the late 20th century the trend for historic farmsteads to be taken out of agrarian use has resulted in the extension of gardens into the adjacent field patterns and woodland. Whilst exemplar versions of these are the historic gardens of the future, many more are poor and can lead to other forms of less desirable landscape change.

Photograph Dunorlan Park in Royal Tunbridge Wells

4.3.   Settlement

The undertaking of this HLC has been carried out in the light of huge demand for land for development to meet housing needs. [27] Considering new areas of development should take account of the local historic character not only of existing settlement but also of the surrounding countryside. Whilst larger estates are 'deemded economically cost-effective' and can meet a parish's housing target at one go so to speak, they can severely alter the local historic character and have knock-on effects with the adjacent landscape.

The Farmstead Assessment Framework together with the High Weald Field systems Assessment Framework can help in guide decision-making.[28]


Photograph View of the Medway valley from Goudhurst church

The HLC is a tool to help make more informed decisions about where and how much development to allow. Many Wealden villages and settlements are at a small-scale with dwellings intimately associated with farm land and woodland. This is an attribute which needs to be conserved if the local Wealden character of the Borough is not to be eroded and suburbanised.

4.4.   Woodland

The RAWI for Tunbridge Wells formed the key database for the HLC. The latter develops the relationship of woodland with adjacent field patterns, settlement and historic routeways. The Borough contains a significant amount of ancient woodland including PAWS woods. The amount of gill woodland is also highly significant not just for its contribution to the historic character but to ecological diversity and preservation of heritage features. Sensitive and traditional active management of woods remains an issue, with many coppice woods becoming over stood.

Ancient shaws together with wooded extraction pits provide important corridors rich in biodiversity and archaeology linking woods and contribute to the historic woodland landscape.
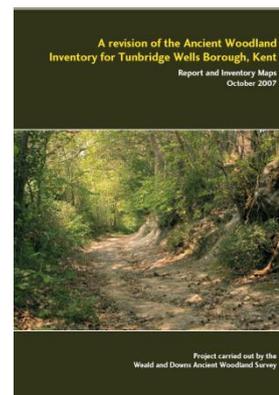
4.5.   Horticulture

The extent of historic landscape character derived from horticulture has seen a marked decline with grubbing out of orchards and hop gardens, replaced with extensive arable fields growing corn and break crops. Old orchards are a nationally rare habitat and those that remain tend to be small, lie close to settlement and thus are vulnerable to grubbing foe settlement. Heritage features associated with them such as tar tanks, and hop pickers huts and camps are also disappearing.

4.6.   Unenclosed

These areas are highly significant due to their rarity. Many can only be identified as place names or 'ghosts' in the pattern of field boundaries. Small wooded over commons would benefit from some form of active management and could be areas targeted for community projects (subject to their ownership).

---

[27] Government White Paper 2017 'Our Broken Housing Market'
[28] Historic England 2015 Farmstead Assessment Framework; High Weald AONB and Historic England 2017 Field Systems in the High Weald Assessment Framework and Character Statement

5.   FURTHER WORK

The analysis and synthesis of the Tunbridge Wells HLC presented here has just 'scratched the surface' of the potential of the data set. It can be queried in many different ways depending on what is being 'asked'. It can also be presented in different forms, either as series of maps or as an inter-active digital map. The HLC has a range of uses but key is its role in informing all forms of landscape change, not just development, but for targeting resources for environmental management, understanding historic development of parishes and local areas to inform strategic planning.

5.1.   Further analyses

A line had to be drawn in order for this stage of the Project to be completed however the following are objectives for future consideration; -

1.   Production of Historic Landscape Character Area GIS Map together with descriptions on historic processes (which could be in an interactive format with hyper links)

2.   Production of an interactive digital HLC where character type polygons are hyper linked to Character Type Descriptions (in Gazetteer)

3.   Detailed analysis of TWB HLC with the LCA for Tunbridge Wells Borough

4.   A more detailed analysis of the TWB HLC with queried themes from the Kent HER and with other data sources, such as the RAWI, and Kent Historic Farmsteads Characterisation (which has been touched on above).

6. REFERENCES

Adams, I 1976. *Agrarian Landscape Terms: a glossary for historical geography*. Institute for British Geographers Special Publication No 9.

Bannister, N.R. 2010. *Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation.* East and West Sussex County Councils, English Heritage. 5 vols.

Bannister, N.R. 2011. *The Hoo Peninsula Kent Historic Landscape Project Historic Landscape Characterisation and Historic Seascape Characterisation*. Unpublished report for English Heritage.

Bannister, N.R. 2012. *The Hoo Peninsula Kent Historic Landscape Project Historic Landscape Characterisation and Historic Seascape Characterisation* Stage 2 Integrative Analysis. Unpublished report for English Heritage

Bannister, N.R. 2013. The p*arishes of Hawkhurst & Cranbrook Historic Landscape Characterisation Revision of Kent HLC.* Unpublished report for Kent High Weald AONB Unit

Bannister, N.R. 2015. *Revision of the Kent HLC (2000) for the parishes of Goudhurst, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook and Benenden* for the Kent High Weald AONB. Draft.

Bannister, N.R. and Bartlett, D. 2009. An initial investigation of an early routeway and boundry, possibly prehistoric, in Bedgebury Forest. *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXXIX 295-312.

Brandon, P. 2003. *The Kent and Sussex Weald,* Chichester, Phillimore

Carpenter, E; Newsome, S; Small, F and Hazell, Z. 2013 *Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project.* English Heritage.

Chatwin, D & Gardner, M. 2005. Rethinking the early medieval settlement of woodlands: evidence from the western Sussex Weald. *Landscape History*, 27 p31-49).

Croft, A, Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001*. Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation* Kent County Council, English Heritage, Oxford Archaeology Unit. 3 vols.

Du Boulay, F.R.H. 1966. *The Lordship of Canterbury. An essay on Medieval Society.* Nelson

English Heritage 2004. *Characterisation.* Conservation Bulletin. Issue 47 Winter 2004-5

Environment Agency 2008. *Think Soils. Soil assessment to avoid erosion and runoff*.

Environment Agency, Natural England and DEFRA. *Catchment Sensitive Farming.*

Everitt, A 1987. *Continuity and Colonisation. The evolution of Kentish settlement*. Leicester University Press.

Harris, R. 2004. *The Making of the High Weald.* Unpublished report for the High Weald AONB Unit.

Hasted, E. 1797.*The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*. Vol VII 2nd Ed.

Highways Agency 2007. Assessing the effect of road schemes on historic landscape character 2 58

High Weald AONB 2014. *High Weald AONB 2014-2019 Management Plan.* HW AONB JAC

High Weald AONB & Historic England 2017*. High Weald Field Systems Character Statement and Method Assessment.* Unpublished Report for Historic England.

Historic England 2015 *Farmstead Assessment Framework.* Informing sustainable development and the conservation of traditional farmsteads.

James, N.D. 1991. A Dictionary of Forestry and Woodland Terms, Blackwell, Oxford

Lake, J. & Edwards, B. 2006 Farmsteads and landscape. Towards an integrated View. *Landscapes* 7.1.,1-36.

Lake, J., Edwards, B. and Bannister, N.R. 2014 farmsteads and Landscapes in Kent. Archaeologia Cantiana CXXXIV, 105-139

Landuse Consultants 2016. *Tunbridge Wells Borough Landscape Character Assessment.* Draft December 2016

Leslie K & Short, B. 1999. *An historical atlas of Sussex.* Phillimore Press Chichester.

Martin, E. and Satchell, M. 2008*. Wheare most Inclosures be. East Anglian Fields:History, Morphology and Management.* East Anglian Archaeology. Report No. 124. Archaeological Service. Suffolk County Council.

Richardson, J. 1974. *The Local Historian's Encyclopedia.* Historical Publications Ltd.

Somerville, E. 2003. Sussex from environmental change to Landscape history. In Rudling D ed. The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000. Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd. University of Sussex. p235-246.

Vera, F. 2000. Grazing Ecology and Forest History.

Wallenberg, J.K. 1931. *The Place-names of Kent.* Uppsala

Wallenberg, J.K. 1934. *Kentish Place-names.* Uppsala

Weald and Downs Ancient Woodland Survey 2007 *A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Tunbridge Wells Borough, Kent.* Report and Inventory of Maps

Witney, K.P. 1976. The Jutish Forest. A study of the Weald of Kent from 450 to 1380. Athlone Press.

Wooldridge, S.W. & Goldring, F. 1960, *The Weald.* Collins New Naturalist Series.

APPENDIX I

METHOD OF THE REVISION

The same approach and method that was used for the Hoo Peninsula HLC and for the four pilotr parishes in the High Weald AONB Pilot (Cranbrook, Goudhurst, Hawkhurst and Benenden HLC). Was used for the Tunbridge Wells Borough HLC. [29] The project was built in the same way with the attribute table having the same attribute fields as Hoo and the High Weald. This means that in any future revised HLCs for Kent can be combined as one layer representing a pilot updated version of the Kent HLC (2000) and will facilitate ease for up-loading onto the Kent HER at Kent County Council Heritage Section. The High Weald AONB pilot parishes were merged with the additional Tunbridge Wells HLC to create a seamless layer across the whole Borough, leaving several further parishes to be completed for the Kent High Weald AONB which lie in adjacent Boroughs and Districts.

Table 1.   Structure of HLC Attribute Table which is attached to the GIS polygon .shp layer

Name of Attribute Field	Description
FID	ArcGIS identifier
Shape	Polygon
Id	HLC Unique polygon identification number
P1khlc_BT	Phase 1 Kent HLC Broad Type
P1khlc_no	Phase 1 Kent HLC typology number
P1khlc_Txt	Phase 1 Kent HLC Sub Type text
HBd_Type	HLC Broad Type text
H_Type	HLC Sub type text
Period	Period of origin of polygon
Per_Conf	Confidence of assigning Period
Sou_Name	Name of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type
Sou_Dat	Date of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type
Mor_Patt	Pattern of sub type i.e. fields etc.
Mor_Size	Size of sub type components i.e. fields
Ex_Bou_Mor	External boundary morphology
In_Bou_mor	Internal boundary morphology
Boun_lost	% Amount of boundaries lost over the 250 year period of the data sets
Boun_Gain	% Amount of boundaries gained over the 250 year period of the data sets
Boun_type	Type of boundaries i.e. dividing fields
PN_Root	Place-name root (either suffix or prefix) which provides clues to land use history
PN_Date	Date when place-name first recorded
Status	Status of sub type e.g. industry active or inactive
Prev1_BT	HLC Broad Type text – Previous Landuse Change 1
Prev1_Typ	HLC Sub type text - Previous Landuse Change 1
Prev1_Pd	Period of origin of Prev 1 polygon
Sou1_Name	Name of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 1
Sou1_Date	Date of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 1
Conf_1	Confidence of assigning Period
Name of Attribute Field	Description
Prev2_BT	HLC Broad Type text - Previous Landuse Change 2
Prev2_Typ	HLC Sub type text – Previous Landuse Change 2
Prev2_Pd	Period of origin of Prev 2 polygon
Sou2_Name	Name of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 2
Sou2_Date	Date of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 2
Conf_2	Confidence of assigning Period
Prev3_BT	HLC Broad Type text Previous Landuse Change 3
Prev3_Typ	HLC Sub type text Previous Landuse Change 3
Prev3_Pd	Period of origin of Prev 2 polygon
Sou3_Name	Name of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 3

---

[29] English Heritage Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project (2010-2012). Bannister, N.R. 2011. Historic Landscape and Historic Seascape Characterisation Unpublished report for English Heritage and GIS project.

Sou3_Date	Date of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 3
Con3_1	Confidence of assigning Period
Prev4_BT	HLC Broad Type text Previous Landuse Change 4
Prev4_Typ	HLC Sub type text Previous Landuse Change 4
Prev4_Pd	Period of origin of Prev 4 polygon
Sou4_Name	Name of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 4
Sou4_Date	Date of Source used to identify HLC Broad Type and Sub-type in Prev 4
Conf_4	Confidence of assigning Period
Notes	Free text field for notes and any name for polygon
Conf_Hhlc	Confidence of assigning attributes
Compiler	Name of Project Officer
Parish	Name of Civil parish which polygon lies in
Historic Maps	List of any Estate maps which cover the area of the polygon free text field
Area	Area of the polygon – used to in Excel Spreadsheet

3.1.   Description of Attribute Fields

The following sections provide more detailed descriptions of the main attribute fields as listed in Table 1 above.

a.   P1KLC, Broad Type and Sub-type

The definitions and descriptions for the Kent HLC Phase 1 Broad types and types are given in Croft et al. (2001). In the Kent HLC Phase 1 the attributes describing the historic character for each polygon are embedded in the description of the types – for example "Large regular fields with straight boundaries". See Maps 1 in the reports for each of the Phase 1 parishes. Such an approach makes it difficult to undertake detailed and selective querying and analysis of the data except in a very broad brush approach.

b.   HLC Broad Type and Type

See the Section II - Gazetteer of Typology for the detailed descriptions of each HLC Type and Maps 4 & 5 in Section III. The Typology Gazetteer was first prepared for those parishes undertaken by the High Weald AONB (Goudhurst etc.).

c.   Period of origin of historic character type

This is the period of origin the present day HLC Types as informed by the attributes, historic mapping and sources and by informed decision by the author. The period attributes were also used for each of the Previous HLC (Prev1-Prev4). See Map 6 in Section III.

Table 2.   The Archaeological and Historical Periods

Description	Date	Combined
Early 21st century	AD2000 - present	Post 1900
Late 20th century	AD1945 – AD1999	
Early 20th century	AD 1914 – AD 1945	
Early Modern	AD 1800 – AD 1913	19th century
Late Post-medieval	AD 1700 – AD 1799	Post-medieval
Early Post-medieval	AD 1540 – AD 1699	
Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1539	Medieval
Early-medieval	AD 410 – AD 1065	
Roman	AD 43 – AD 409	
Iron Age	c. 700 bc – AD42	
Bronze Age	c. 2300 bc – c. 700 bc	
Neolithic	c. 4500 bc – c. 2300 bc	
Mesolithic	c. 8000 bc – c. 4500 bc	

d.   Confidence of assigning period

This attribute describes how confident the author is of assigning the period origin to this present HLC layer of the polygon.

Table 3.   Confidence

Form	Description
Certain	Definite period date available
Probable	Informed decision based on sources
Possible	Informed decisions based on sources and Digitiser's knowledge
Uncertain	Assigned but not sure

e.   Sources

These were the main historic sources used for the HLC which covered the Kent High Weald area, See Table 4. And See Section 2.1. in Section I Uses and Interpretation

Table 4 List of Data Sources for the Kent High Weald HLC

Name of Data	Period Covered	Source	Format	Role in HLC
Primary Sources				
OS MasterMap	Current	Kent County Council	Digital	Primary mapping data for HLC for present landscape
OS 1:25,000 (Explorer)*	2007	HW AONB & KCC	Digital and Paper	General overview and additional mapping information 1:25,000
Aerial Photographs*	2008	HW AONB & KCC	Digital	Primary visual data for HLC for present landscape
RAF Aerial Photographs	1940	Kent County Council HER	Digital	
OS Epoch 4	c. 1930s	Kent County Council & HW AONB	Digital	Historic baseline Map OS 25" 4th Edition
OS Epoch 3	c. 1910s	Kent County Council & HW AONB	Digital	Historic baseline Map OS 25" 3rd Edition
OS Epoch 2	c. 1890s	Kent County Council HW AONB	Digital	Historic baseline Map OS 25" 2nd Edition
OS Epoch 1*	c. 1880s (based on 1860-70 survey)	Kent County Council HW AONB	Digital	Historic baseline Map OS 25" 1st Edition
Kent Historic Environment Record (HER)	All periods	Kent County Council	Digital	Key information on relict historic features which contribute to landscape development/ character
Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings for 1" 1st Edition	c. 1797	British Library web site	Digital	Key information about the pre-modern landscape
Secondary Sources				
Geological Map	current	Kent HER	Paper	Physical attributes
OS 1" 1st Edition*	1801-1810	Kent History and Library Centre	Paper	Historic Base-line Map
Andrews & Drury Map of Kent 1767	1767	Kent History and Library Centre	Paper	Historic Base line Map
Edward Hasted's Historical and Topographical History of Kent	1797	Kent History and Library Centre	Paper	Historic Base line Map

Table 4. continued

Name of Data	Period Covered	Source	Format	Role in HLC
Selected Estate Maps *[NB See Note at end]*	C18	Kent History and Library Centre; HW AONB	Paper	Historic Base line maps where available
Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory*	All Periods	HW AONB	Digital and paper	Defer to this in all woodland cases
Parks & Gardens Register		English Heritage, Kent HER and TWBC	Digital	Key information on relict historic features which contribute to landscape development/ character
Phase 1 Kent HLC	2000	Kent County Council	Digital	Base for developing HLC
Wallenberg	1931-34	KHLC	Paper	Place-names of Kent

f.   Morphology of pattern of OS MasterMap polygons

This is the morphological pattern of the polygons, where the internal contents are sub-divided, mainly Enclosures, Woodland and some forms of settlement e.g. planned estates.

Table 5.   Pattern of Enclosures etc.

Form	Description
Regular	A regular, well-defined pattern
Semi-regular	A discernable pattern but with some irregularity within it
Irregular	No discernable pattern to the enclosures
No pattern	For those polygons which do not have an internal pattern or have lost it such as modern field amalgamation
n/a	Not applicable

g.   Morphology of size

Relative size of the pattern within each polygon, for those broad types where the internal contents are sub-divided, such as Enclosures, Woodland, and some form of settlement e.g. planned estates

Table 6 Size of Enclosures

Form	Description for Enclosures & woodlands*
Large	Enclosures greater than 25 hectares
Medium	Enclosures between 4 to 35 hectares
Small	Enclosures less than 4 hectares
n/a	Not applicable

* This size description is the one used for Buckinghamshire HLC

Table 7 Size of Settlements

Form	Description for Settlement
Large	Large detached properties in a planned layout, with gardens
Medium	Semi-detached properties in a planned layout, with gardens
Small	Terraced housing, with small or no gardens
n/a	Not applicable

h.   Internal / external boundary morphology

The character of the lines of internal and external boundaries which contribute to the pattern of Broad Types such as Enclosures, Woodland.

Table 8.   Boundary morphology

Form	Description
Straight	Straight with no bends, creating right angled junctions, e.g. planned or regular enclosures
Curved	Where the boundaries have a pronounced curve e.g. park pales
Sinuous	Winding, irregular line e.g. irregular enclosures
Dog-leg	Distinct right-angled bends within the lengths of boundaries, e.g. former strip fields, or modern field amalgamation
n/a	Not applicable

i.   Boundary loss and gain since late C19

This attribute is used for Enclosures to assess how boundary numbers have altered since the Late C19. It is an informed 'guesstimate' based on observation between OS Epoch 2 and OS MasterMap. Boundary Gain would be typical of creation of horse paddocks, whereas Boundary Loss is the main attribute to defining Modern field amalgamation.

Table 9.   Boundary change as an approximate % from 130 years ago

Form	Description
0 - 25%	Where none to 25% of internal boundaries have been lost or gained
26% - 50%	Where 26% to 50% of internal boundaries have been lost or gained
51% - 75%	Where 51% to 75% of internal boundaries have been lost or gained
76% - 100%	Where 76% to 100% of internal boundaries have been lost or gained
n/a	Not applicable

There are two separate attribute fields, one for boundary loss and one for boundary gain, which use the same attribute form.

j.   Boundary type

This attribute is for Enclosures. It describes the form or structure of the boundaries, as observed from the Aerial photos. See Maps 6 in the report for the phase 1 parishes for the Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

Table 10.   Boundary structure

Form	Description
Wooded Hedges and shaws	The boundaries comprise lines or belts of mature trees and shrubs, linear woodlands
Hedgerows	Managed lines of shrubs with or without trees
Fences	Fences of post and rail, wire etc.
Grassy Balks	No upright structure but just lines of rough grass between fields
Ditches	Man-made cut ditches, sometimes called 'wet fences'
n/a	Not applicable

k.   PREV1 to PREV4

These represent up to four changes in historic landscape character for any given polygon. They are not fixed points in time, but represent change events. Each 'prev' gives the attributes of Broad Type and Type, its period of origin, the source where the change is recorded and its date. See Maps7 of the reports for the Phase 1 parishes for the Borough of Tunbridge Wells for a reconstruction of the Late medieval – Early post-medieval historic character, created by layering in the GIS project the periods from each of the Prev layers with Prev 4 at the top and the present day HLC type at the bottom.

I.   GIS Method

The HLC was built by 'capturing' groups of similar Ordnance Survey MasterMap polygons 2016, based on historic HLC attributes, merging them together to form a discrete HLC polygon. Those HLC attributes of the polygon were assigned to the Attribute Table. ArcGIS 9.3 was used with Microsoft Office 2007 hosted on Windows 7 (which did throw up some initial issues with the running of the ArcGIS 9.3).

A GIS project was built with key data sets as listed in Table 1. loaded in layers. The HLC was built on a parish by parish basis and then each one unionised to create the final Tunbridge Wells Borough HLC a .shp file. A copy of GIS project together with the extracted layers from the final layer has been supplied with the reports and GIS files.

There was not time or the resources in this Project to produce a GIS hyperlink folder between the GIS HLC and the HLC Character Types given in the Gazetteer. This is a suitable task for a student intern, perhaps working with the High Weald AONB.

NB. A range of selected estate maps were also used in the characterisation. Most are held at the Kent History and Library Centre as .jpeg images in disc. The maps ranged from large manorial maps covering nearly a complete parish such as the Manor of Lamberhurst 1750 (U200 P1) the Estate map for Bayham Abbey 1801 (U840 P3) or the map of Horsmonden 1675 (U180 P1).

There were more smaller maps covering individual farmsteads such as Crithole Farm 1790 in Goudhurst U280 P1) or The Few, Broadford in Horsmonden 1648 (U405 P1).

Most maps are listed on the on-line catalogue for the Kent History and Library Centre
https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-history-and-library-centre

51