

Canterbury City Council

Canterbury District Local Landscape Designations Review and Recommendations

Final report

Prepared by LUC

January 2021



Canterbury City Council

**Canterbury District Local Landscape Designations
Review and Recommendations**

Project Number
10717

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1.	First Draft	██████ ██████ ██████	██████	██████	28.01.2020
2.	Second Draft, responding to Officer comments	██████ ██████ ██████	██████	██████	06.07.2020
3.	Final draft report	██████ ██████	██████	██████	11.11.2020
4.	Final report, responding to Officer comments	██████	██████	██████	22.01.2021

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Canterbury City Council (CCC) commissioned LUC to undertake a review of local landscape designations across the district to assist the local planning process. This report presents the results of the review and recommendations on local landscape designations.

1.2 The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers approximately one third of the district. This nationally designated landscape stretches from the London/Surrey border in a widening ribbon of rolling chalk downland to meet the sea at the cliffs of Dover, crossing the chalk in the southern part of the district.

1.3 This report does not consider other local designations such as settlement gaps/green wedges or countryside gaps which are subject to a separate process and different assessment criteria.

Background

1.4 Canterbury City Council has retained a number of landscape designations, because of their 'greater than local' importance and where the Council is certain that their special importance requires particular policy recognition.

1.5 Three Areas of High Landscape Value (AHLVs) were designated as Special Landscape Areas in the Kent and Medway Structure Plan:

- North Downs AHLV;
- Blean Woods AHLV; and
- North Kent Marshes AHLV.

1.6 The Canterbury AHLV and the Wantsum Channel AHLV were designated in the Canterbury District Local Plan (2006).

This study

1.7 This study comprises a full review of the landscape across the district to provide evidence to underpin a robust set of Local Landscape Designations (LLDs) to inform landscape policies. In summary, the objectives of this study are to:

- Provide up to date evidence and justification for the LLDs; and
- Inform development management and potential site allocation policies.

Clarification note on meaning of Valued Landscapes

1.8 A summary of current thinking on the meaning and terms relating to valued landscapes is set out below, with an indication of what this means for the CCC Review.

All landscapes are of value

At the outset it is important to note that all landscape is of value. This principle was established by the European Landscape Convention (ELC), which came into force in the UK in March 2007. The ELC recognises that landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. The ELC definition of 'landscape' considers that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded or outstanding. It defines landscape as: "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors".

The ELC establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. The 'all landscape' approach in CCC is represented by the comprehensive updated Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal (2020).

Valued Landscapes and the NPPF

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) re-issued in June 2019 recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services that it provides.

In paragraph 170, it states that: "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: ...protecting and enhancing valued landscapes... (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);"

It goes on to say in paragraph 171 that "Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries."

The NPPF does not offer a definition of what constitutes a 'valued landscape'. However, case law has reached a broad consensus among planning, law and landscape professionals on issues around valued landscapes. While designated landscapes, including LLDs, are likely to be considered 'valued' for the purposes of the para 170 of the NPPF, it is important to note that non-designated areas can also be 'valued'.

Case law indicates that:

- Many areas of countryside are understandably valued by local residents, but to be considered "valued" in the context of NPPF, there needs to be something "special" or out of the ordinary that can be defined;
- To be valued a site is required to show some demonstrable physical attributes rather than just popularity.

What does this mean for Local Landscape Designation in Canterbury?

The retention of LLDs in Canterbury is in line with the NPPF. This review is therefore timely and will help:

- elucidate those 'special' landscapes within Canterbury District that are valued;
- define the attributes and identify the qualities (ref NPPF) that make them worthy of local designation;
- ensure a robust and criteria-based approach to defining locally designated landscapes;
- indicate landscape areas that may be valued for other reason such as context/setting and develop appropriate recommendations.

As noted above, there will also be areas outside the LLDs that may also have a high landscape value, be locally valued and popular or possess features, attributes or qualities of value. This 'all landscapes' approach is the basis of the Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal (2020) which should be used to inform decisions.

The NPPF emphasises the great weight that should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is relevant to the Kent Downs AONB which covers some 30% of the district. Areas outside the AONB boundary may also form part of its setting and should be protected from change that would adversely influence the experience of the special qualities of the AONB.

Note: The review of the Canterbury 'setting' LLD has followed a separate process and has been provided as a separate document for discussion with the client.

Chapter 2

Method

2.1 An essential element in reviewing and proposing areas for local landscape designation is the adoption of a systematic and transparent process.

2.2 There is no generally accepted methodology for reviewing or updating LLDs in England. Natural England recommended 'Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014) includes a definition of 'Landscape Value' in Annex 1, stated as:

"The relative value or importance attached to a landscape... which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness, cultural associations or other conservation issues".

2.3 The current Landscape Institute/ IEMA Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (third edition, 2013) (GLVIA3) also includes a helpful summary of the range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes, set out in Box 5.1:

- Landscape quality (condition);
- Scenic qualities;
- Rarity;
- Representativeness;
- Conservation interests;
- Recreation value;
- Perceptual aspects; and
- Associations.

2.4 Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland have published Guidance on Local Landscape Designations (SNH and Historic Scotland 2006), the revision of which (Draft – Guidance on Local Landscape Areas, SNH and Historic Environment Scotland, 2017) was being finalised at the time of this review. This includes recommendations on the key steps to follow and criteria to use when undertaking local landscape designation studies.

2.5 The methodology for this study of the Canterbury District draws from the above guidance as well as LUC's experience in undertaking designation reviews elsewhere in the UK.

Geographic scope

2.6 The scope of this study includes a full review of the whole of the district, including the existing AHLV areas. It excludes land within the Kent Downs AONB, which is a nationally designated landscape. It does, however, consider relationships of the AONB with adjacent areas where they are relevant, for example having a distinct Kent Downs character or representing special qualities of the AONB and role as setting, as set out in the management plan. **Figure 2.1** illustrates the district showing the Kent Downs AONB and existing AHLVs.

Links to the Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment

2.7 This review has been undertaken alongside the update of the Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal (2020), also by LUC. The review uses the framework of the Landscape Character Areas (LCA), of which there are 42 within the district. However, it should be noted that the Landscape Character Assessment is based on broad variations in landscape character and not quality and value. There may, therefore, be differences in boundaries between the LCAs and LLDs. In general, where an LCA is indicated to merit designation the neighbouring LCA has also been reviewed to assess how it relates to the area and relevant qualities. It should also be noted that all LCAs within the City of Canterbury District are likely to include some valued qualities or features, even if they do not form part of an LLD.

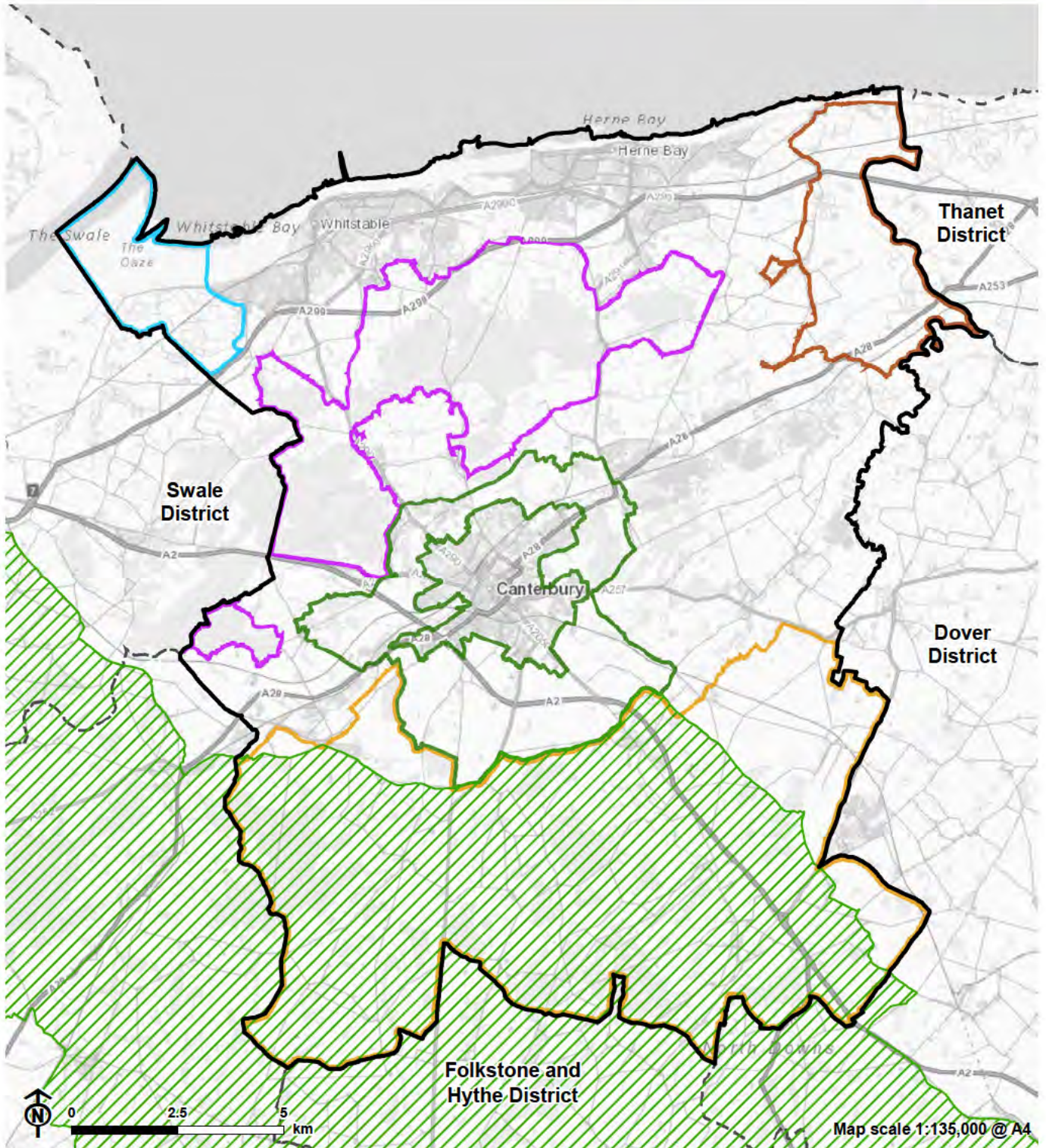
2.8 **Figure 2.2** illustrates the landscape character framework and the existing landscape designations (AHLV).

2.9 The process of updating the Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal (2020), has exposed the potential for an additional LLD to be created that encompasses the Great Stour and Little Stour Valleys. This candidate LLD (referred to as 'Stour Valley Floodplain') has been taken forwards in this review, adopting the same process and methodology that has been applied to the existing AHLV's.

Size and coherence

2.10 LLDs should be of a sufficient size and form a coherent recognisable area. An important feature or site is not, on its own, enough to merit landscape designation. The following points are relevant:

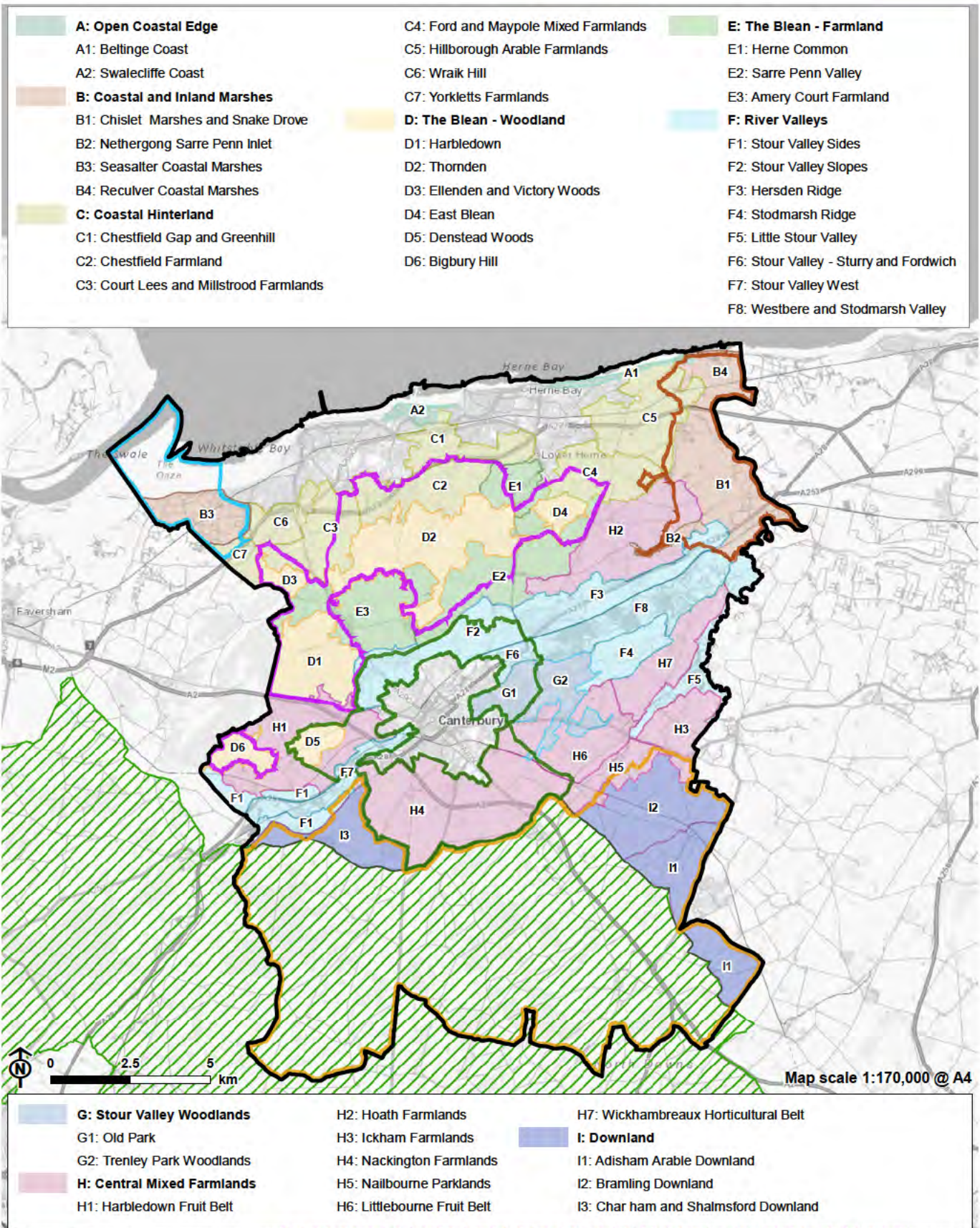
- Is the area of sufficient size to make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and planning?
- Is the area recognisable as a cohesive place or entity, of consistent character?



© Natural England copyright 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 CB:CB EB:Bean_C LUC FIG2_1_10717_A0NB_AHLV_A4P_07/02/2020 Source: Canterbury City Council, Natural England

Figure 2.1: Canterbury District - Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Area of High Landscape Value

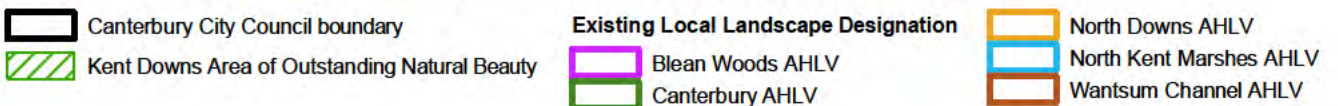
- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canterbury City Council boundary Adjacent Local Authority boundary Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | <p>Existing Local Landscape Designation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blean Woods AHLV Canterbury AHLV North Downs AHLV North Kent Marshes AHLV Wantsum Channel AHLV |
|---|--|



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CB:CB EB:Bean_C LUC FIG2_2_10717_LCA_AHLV_A4P 25/11/2020
Source: Canterbury City Council, Natural England

Figure 2.2: Canterbury District - Area of High Landscape Value and Landscape Character Areas



2.11 There will be many individual places, sites and features within the wider landscape of the district which are of high quality but not within an LLD due to the reasons above.

Key stages and tasks

2.12 The review followed four main stages, each focussing in at a more detailed level to develop the confirmed LLDs and Statements of Significance identifying their qualities.

Stage 1: Method development

2.13 This required discussion with CCC to understand the background to LLD and the desired outcomes of the study.

Stage 2: Develop criteria

2.14 The evaluation criteria are drawn from the source documents listed in Chapter 1, including the SNH guidance and Box 5.1 in GLVIA3. They also draw on criteria developed by LUC in previous local designation studies which have been assessed as robust through the examination process. They have been refined to reflect the particular landscape of Canterbury District. They are based on the following six factors:

- Local distinctiveness and sense of place;
- Landscape quality;
- Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects;
- Natural and cultural qualities;
- Recreation value;
- Associations.

2.15 For the Canterbury City LLD a further criterion was included considering 'Spatial Function' – specifically the role that the landscape plays in relation to the setting of the city (including backdrop to and views to the cathedral). This criterion does not necessarily relate to any particular attributes of landscape quality/distinctiveness.

2.16 The criteria, indicators and evidence are set out in Table 2.2. The relationship with GLVIA3 criteria is provided below.

Table 2.1: GLVIA Box 5.1 Criteria

Canterbury District LLD Review Criteria	GLVIA Box 5.1 Criteria
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Rarity Representativeness
Landscape quality	Landscape quality
Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects	Scenic quality Perceptual aspects
Natural and cultural qualities	Conservation Interests
Recreation value	Recreation value
Associations	Associations

Stage 3: Desk review

2.17 The desk review involved a rapid review of the LCAs against the criteria to identify areas of search for the LLD areas. The results are presented in Appendix A. Any area currently within an AHLV was automatically taken forward to the more detailed study and additional potential areas were identified.

Stage 4: Full evaluation and definition of boundaries

2.18 Stage 4 involved a bespoke field survey of candidate LLDs using a structured survey form (Appendix B) to consider the criteria and identify appropriate and robust boundaries. As part of the field survey the current condition and quality of the landscape was judged against that identified at time of designation.

2.19 Landscape is a continuum and the LLD boundaries are generally drawn to identifiable features on the ground such as field boundaries or roads that provide a 'best fit' and often drawn to character area boundaries for ease of reference. There will therefore rarely be a perceptible change in landscape character and quality along boundaries.

2.20 The outputs of the evaluation exercise are presented in Chapter 4 of this report for the recommended LLDs.

Note: The Canterbury City LLD has been assessed under separate criteria and options are presented to the Council in a separate document for review.

Table 2.2: Method for identifying Valued Landscapes – Canterbury District

NOTE: To go forward as an LLD 'Area of Search' the LCA will not need to fulfil all criteria equally. The area included in an LLD may be all or part of an LCA, and the evaluation should indicate any spatial differences.

Criterion	Definition	Potential Indicators	Evidence
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>A landscape which is rare/unique or special in the local Canterbury/Kent context</p> <p>A landscape with a strong sense of place derived from its combinations of elements.</p> <p>A landscape which contains character/features or elements which are considered to be important typical or rare examples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A coherent landscape character conferring a recognisable sense of place. ■ A distinct landform or topography forming a discrete or recognisable area. ■ A distinctive rare or representative land cover. ■ An area representative of a particular phase in landscape history/development. 	<p>Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)</p> <p>Field Survey</p>
Landscape quality (Intactness/Condition)	The physical state of the landscape, intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual natural and cultural elements e.g. hedgerows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Functional aspects of the landscape e.g. ecological integrity, visually coherent. ■ Presence of characteristic and valued features (as listed in the Landscape Character Assessment). ■ Presence of well managed features in good condition. ■ Absence of incongruous features/detractors or not visually intrusive. 	<p>Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>Site survey</p> <p>Presence of other designations indicative of condition</p>
Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects	<p>A landscape that appeals to the senses – primarily visual</p> <p>Perceptual and aesthetic qualities such as sense of tranquillity, remoteness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strong visual character e.g. patterns/composition of vegetation/ landform. ■ Memorable, important or distinctive views. ■ Strong visual relationship with the AONB (views to and from). ■ Qualities of expansiveness, openness, enclosure, seclusion. ■ Tranquillity or perceptions of tranquillity – peace, quietness, birdsong, dark skies, presence of water – streams, sea. ■ Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features. ■ Relative lack of human influence/absence of incongruous features. ■ Special qualities or elements of landscape value relating to Kent Downs AONB demonstrating special qualities as outlined in the management plan. Note: that this factor is relevant to those landscapes in proximity to the AONB. 	<p>Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>CPRE Night Blight/Dark Skies</p> <p>CPRE Tranquillity</p> <p>Field Survey</p> <p>Consultation comments</p> <p>AONB Management Plan</p>
Natural and cultural qualities	<p>Presence of natural and cultural attributes or particular associations that contribute to the value of the landscape.</p> <p><i>Note: Note that this criterion alone will not be enough in its own right for an LLD as likely to be covered under other designations in the Local Plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visible expression of geology creating distinctive sense of place. ■ Presence of wildlife and/or habitats/species that make a particular contribution to sense of place or scenic quality. ■ Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to sense of place or scenic quality. ■ Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape. 	<p>Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>Designations</p> <p>Conservation Areas</p>

Criterion	Definition	Potential Indicators	Evidence
Recreation value	Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where the experience of the landscape is important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of recreational activity based on experience of the landscape (e.g. walking routes, access opportunities, activities such as birdwatching). <i>Note: needs to be more than just 'popularity'</i> 	Landscape Character Assessment Field Survey Consultation OS map data
Associations	Landscapes associated with particular people such as artists or writers or events in history that contribute to their character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events. 	Local research Landscape Character Assessment Consultation
Spatial function as setting	Role of land in the setting of the City of Canterbury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional role of land as landscape setting. Visual setting including views to and from the cathedral. 	Landscape Character Assessments Purcell report on Canterbury City Conservation Area, 2020 draft

Chapter 3

Identifying LLD areas of search

3.1 This chapter presents the results of an initial desk study evaluation of all the 42 LCAs against the agreed landscape value criteria. The purpose being to reach a rapid conclusion on whether a LCA - meets, does not meet or partially meets criteria for local landscape designation (note partially may relate to a part of a geographic area or a whole area that has some value meriting designation).

3.2 This 'first principles approach' is a starting point for identifying areas that are likely to be worthy of local landscape designation and scope out areas where further detailed work is not required. It also highlights where more detailed field survey is required to investigate the landscape and define boundaries.

3.3 The results of this rapid desk study assessment are set out in **Appendix A** of this report, with a summary of the results provided in **Table 3.1** below.

Table 3.1: Identifying Areas of Search – Candidate LLDs – Summary of Stage 1 Desk Review

LCA no.	LCA name	Existing AHLV & %	Desk review summary	Area of Search	Notes
A: Open Coastal Edge					
A1	Beltinge Coast	Wantsum Channel 12%	Meets criteria but very narrow/small area for LLD in own right. Distinct cliff top area along the coast. Important to protect as undeveloped coast.	Y	Undeveloped coast. Coast at Reculver is part of Wantsum Channel.
A2	Swalecliffe Coast	N	Area important for ecological interest and recreation, plus undeveloped coastal gap between towns. Protect as undeveloped coast but not as LLD due to small size.	N	Undeveloped coast.
B: Coastal and Inland Marshes					
B1	Chislet Marshes and Snake Drove	Wantsum Channel 100%	Fully meets criteria. Highly distinctive local landscape – based on former Wantsum Channel.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
B2	Nethergong Sarre Penn Inlet	Wantsum Channel 100%	Fully meets criteria. Highly distinctive local landscape – based on former Wantsum Channel.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.

LCA no.	LCA name	Existing AHLV & %	Desk review summary	Area of Search	Notes
B3	Seasalter Coastal Marshes	North Kent Marshes 100%	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive landscapes – part of extensive North Kent marshes to the west.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
B4	Reculver Coastal Marshes	Wantsum Channel 98%	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive landscape and historic Reculver Towers.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
C: Coastal Hinterland					
C1	Chestfield Gap and Greenhill	Blean Woods 6%	Important area of countryside (gap) between areas of development, with local value but does not meet LLD criteria.	N	Review southern edge in relation to The Blean.
C2	Chestfield Farmland	Blean Woods 100%	Local landscape with areas of value, including stream network and woodland but unlikely to meet criteria in own right.	Y	Take forward for detailed survey in relation to edge of The Blean.
C3	Court Lees and Millstrood Farmlands	Blean Woods 49%	Local landscape with areas of value, including stream network and woodland but unlikely to meet criteria in own right.	Y (part)	Take forward for detailed survey in relation to edge of The Blean.
C4	Ford and Maypole Mixed Farmlands	Blean Woods (28%) and Wantsum Channel (8%)	Partially meets criteria. Distinctive landform and connection between The Blean and Wantsum Marshes, including historic shoreline villages.	Y (part)	Take forward for boundary review in relation to both The Blean Woods and Wantsum Channel LLDs.
C5	Hil borough Arable Farmlands	Wantsum Channel 24%	Does not meet criteria. Not a distinctive landscape in its own right. Eastern edge provides a backdrop to the Wantsum Marshes and includes historic shoreline villages.	Y (part)	Take forward and review eastern edge to create definitive edge to the Wantsum Channel LLD.
C6	Wraik Hill	N	Does not meet criteria. Locally valued features and potential for enhancement.	N	
C7	Yorkletts Farmlands	North Kent Marshes 35%	Does not meet criteria. Provides a backdrop to the marshes.	Y (part)	Take forward to define edge of Seasalter Marshes in the north (A299).
D: The Blean – Woodland					
D1	Harbledown	Blean Woods 100%	Fully meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
D2	Thornden	Blean Woods 100%	Fully meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
D3	Ellenden and Victory	Blean Woods 100%	Fully meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
D4	East Blean	Blean Woods 100%	Fully meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.

LCA no.	LCA name	Existing AHLV & %	Desk review summary	Area of Search	Notes
D5	Bigbury Hill	Canterbury 99%	Fully meets criteria. This area could be part of Canterbury or The Blean Woods LLD.	Y	Detailed survey in relation to inclusion within Canterbury City or The Blean Woods LLD.
D6	Denstead	Blean Woods 97%	Fully meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
E: The Blean – Farmland					
E1	Herne Common	Blean Woods 55%	Does not meet criteria in own right. L key to have role as buffer/boundary to The Blean.	Y	Consider west and south boundaries in relation to The Blean Woods LLD.
E2	Sarre Penn Valley	Blean Woods 55%	Does not meet criteria in own right. Distinctive relationship with the Blean. L key to have role as buffer/boundary to the Blean.	Y	Consider role of farmland and woodland blocks in relation to The Blean.
E3	Amery Court Farmland	Blean Woods 40%	Partially meets criteria. Role as integral part of the Blean.	Y	Potential to extend The Blean Woods LLD to include a greater part of this LCA.
F: River Valleys					
F1	Stour Valley Sides	North Kent Downs 8%	Does not meet criteria. Locally valued features.	N	
F2	Stour Valley Slopes	Canterbury 78%	Not valued landscape but important views to/from Canterbury and role as setting.	N	Consider as part of setting to Canterbury as Canterbury City LLD.
F3	Hersden Ridge	Wantsum Channel 14%	Does not meet criteria. Some relationship with marshes	N	Consider east boundary in relationship to marshes.
F4	Stodmarsh Ridge	N	Does not meet criteria. Locally distinctive ridge and important setting to marshes.	N	
F5	Little Stour Valley	N	Fully meets criteria. Locally distinctive chalk valley landscape.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to consider as part of new LLD.
F6	Stour Valley – Sturry and Fordwich	Canterbury 100%	Partially meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to consider as part of new LLD or Canterbury City LLD.
F7	Stour Valley West	Canterbury 36%	Partially meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation of eastern area as part of new LLD or Canterbury setting.
F8	Westbere and Stodmarsh Valley	N	Fully meets criteria.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to consider as part of new LLD. Consider east in relationship to marshes.

LCA no.	LCA name	Existing AHLV & %	Desk review summary	Area of Search	Notes
G: Stour Valley Woodlands					
G1	Old Park	Canterbury 99%	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive woodland landscape. Dependent on keeping wider Canterbury City LLD.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to consider as part of Canterbury City LLD.
G2	Trenley Park Woodlands	Canterbury 2%	Partially meets criteria. A distinctive and historic landscape.	Y	Consider potential for new LLD, although may be too small.
H: Central Mixed Farmlands					
H1	Harbledown Fruit Belt	Blean Woods 8% Canterbury 24%	Does not meet criteria but important setting. Distinct orchard landscape, and views to Canterbury cathedral.	N	Review need for Canterbury City LLD in light of results.
H2	Hoath Farmlands	Wantsum Channel 14%	Does not meet criteria as a whole. Small area to the east at Chislet included to form boundary of Wantsum Channel.	N	Review eastern boundary in relation to the marshes, Review west along Maypole Road in relation to the Blean.
H3	Ickham Farmlands	North Kent Downs 16%	Does not meet criteria. Rural landscape with local values and distinctive built character.	N	
H4	Nackington Farmlands	Canterbury 99% North Kent Downs 1%	Does not meet criteria. Distinctive agricultural landscape. Substantial allocations and committed development.	Y	Take forward for further detailed survey for relationship with AONB and Canterbury setting, as part of Canterbury City LLD.
H5	Nailbourne Parklands	North Kent Downs 35%	Partially meets criteria. Distinctive historic landscape on edge of AONB.	Y	Review relationship to AONB and North Downs LLD and potential for inclusion with new Stour LLD.
H6	Littlebourne Fruit Belt	Canterbury 11%	Does not meet criteria. Distinctive rural fruit belt landscape with local values.	N	Review relationship with AONB and role in Canterbury setting, as part of Canterbury City LLD.
H7	Wickhambreaux Horticultural Belt	N	Does not meet criteria. Locally valued features and elements.	N	
I: Downland					
I1	Adisham Arable Downland	North Kent Downs 100%	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive chalk landscape with strong relationship to the AONB.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
I2	Bramling Downland	North Kent Downs 100%	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive chalk landscape with strong relationship to the AONB.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define special values/qualities and boundaries.
I3	Chartham and Shalmsford Downland	North Kent Downs 98%	Largely meets criteria. Distinctive chalk landscape with strong relationship to the AONB.	Y	Detailed survey and evaluation to define

LCA no.	LCA name	Existing AHLV & %	Desk review summary	Area of Search	Notes
					special values/qualities and boundaries.

Results of desk assessment

3.4 The outcome of the desk assessment indicated the following:

- LCAs which are part of the existing AHLV generally do meet criteria;
- Requirements for some boundary adjustments including some extensions and deletions;
- Canterbury AHLV does not meet LLD criteria requiring a separate review (provided to CCC as a separate paper); and
- There is potential for a new LLD based on the Stour Valley (LCAs F5, F6, F7, F8, H5).

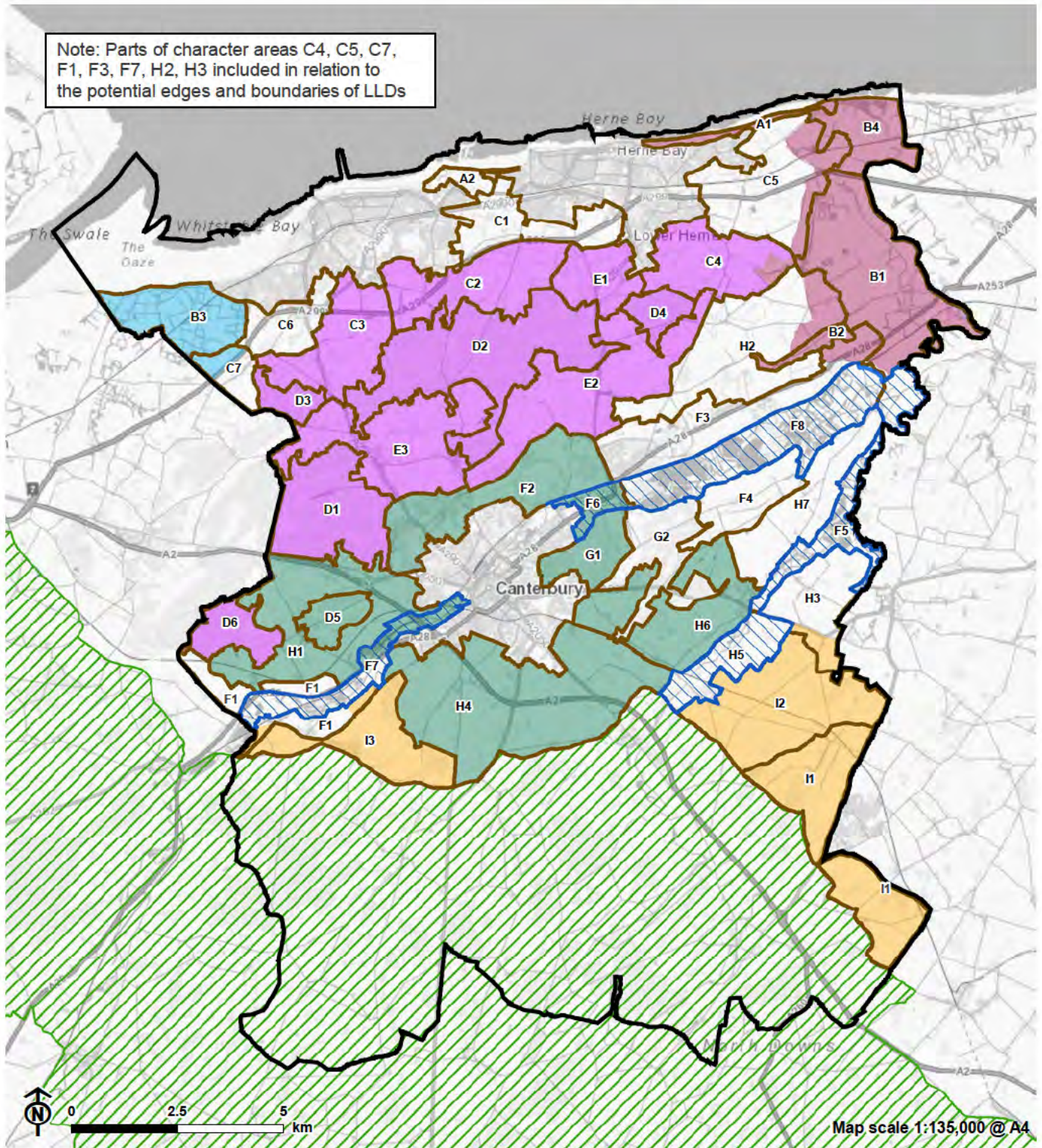
LLD Areas of Search

3.5 The Candidate LLDs – Areas of Search are indicated on **Figure 3.1**.

- North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes
- Wantsum Channel
- The Blean Woods
- North Downs
- Stour Valley Floodplain (East)

3.6 These areas formed the basis for more detailed field survey and evaluation. The results are presented in the following sections of this report. As noted, recommendations for Canterbury 'setting' designation are provided in a separate report.

Note: Parts of character areas C4, C5, C7, F1, F3, F7, H2, H3 included in relation to the potential edges and boundaries of LLDs



© Natural England copyright 2021. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 CB:CB EB Bean_C:LUC FIG3_1 Search Areas_LLD_A4P 13/01/2021 Source: Canterbury City Council, Natural England

Figure 3.1: Area of Search for Review of Local Landscape Designations

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Canterbury City Council Boundary | Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Canterbury AHLV | LCA's to take forward to stage 4 for full evaluation of: |
| Landscape Character Area (LCA) | | North Downs AHLV | North Kent Marshes AHLV |
| | | Blean Woods AHLV | Wantsum Channel AHLV |
| | | Stour Valley floodplain (proposed LLD) | |

Chapter 4

LLD Evaluation and Recommendations

4.1 The following sections present the results of the evaluation for the five candidate LLDs.

4.2 Each LLD evaluation contains:

- A photo sheet illustrating representative character;
- Summary and recommendations;
- Evaluation against the criteria; and
- Mapping

4.3 Given the complexities associated with the Canterbury City LLD a separate more detailed paper has also been provided to CCC.

A note on boundaries

4.4 Landscape is a continuum, and all boundaries will generally represent zones of transition. There will rarely be a sharp change in identified landscape qualities either side of an LLD boundary. For ease, boundaries are frequently drawn along best fit physical features including lanes and field boundaries and therefore may include areas of lesser or greater quality or areas of different character. In some cases, boundaries have been extended where an area for example adjoins an urban edge and would leave a small vulnerable gap. Likewise, there may be some areas within an LLD encapsulated by the boundary that do not meet the criteria but are part of a wider 'whole'.

North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes



Chapter 5

North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes

Candidate LLD name	North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes		
Summary Information			
Relationship to existing local landscape designation	<p>North Kent Marshes AHLV, designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA) in the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006).</p> <p><i>The North Kent Marshes AHLV identifies an open and ecologically important landscape defined by open flat grazing land, with broad skies, few landscape features and a strong sense of remoteness, wildness and exposure. It forms part of an extensive complex of coastal marshes that flank the Swale Estuary along its northern and southern shores (Canterbury District Local Plan, 2017)</i></p>		
Extent of area	<p>The candidate LLD covers the small area of low-lying coastal marshland extending from the district boundary with Swale in the west to the settlement boundary of Whitstable to the east. It forms a distinctive flat undeveloped coastal marsh landscape between Whitstable and Faversham and is part of the larger North Kent Marshes which extend along the Swale and Thames Estuary.</p>		
Landscape character context (% coverage by the existing AHLV)	<p>B3: Seasalter Coastal Marshes (100%)</p> <p>C7: Yorkletts Farmland (35%) – a small area along the southern edge adjoining the A299</p>		
Evaluation			
Desk review (see Table 3.1 and Appendix A)	LCA	Take forward	Notes
	B3	Y	Distinctive landscape with strong sense of place – fully qualifies.
	C7	Y (part)	Does not meet criteria but consider inclusion of part of this area to create defensible boundary to northern edge of North Kent - Seasalter Marshes LLD.
Full Evaluation	See overleaf		
Boundary commentary	<p>See Figure 5</p> <p>The boundaries are appropriate and defensible defining the area of similar character and quality. Boundaries are formed by Seasalter Lane making the rising ground and edge of the Whitstable urban area to the east and the district boundary to the west and contiguous with the South Swale Marshes LLD within Swale Borough.</p> <p>To the north the LLD extends across the inter tidal mudflats to the district boundary which is broadly defined by the Low Water Mark.</p> <p>The southern boundary is more difficult to define and is marked by the rising ground (10 m contour) towards Yorkletts. To the east this is encapsulated by Seasalter Lane, while to the west it is formed by gradually rising ground with no definitive feature marking this change in character on the ground.</p> <p>For this reason, the boundary here has been pulled south to the A299 Thanet Way, although this encapsulates a small area at Brook Dene Farm/Mount Pleasant that does not meet the evaluation criteria.</p>		

Recommendations

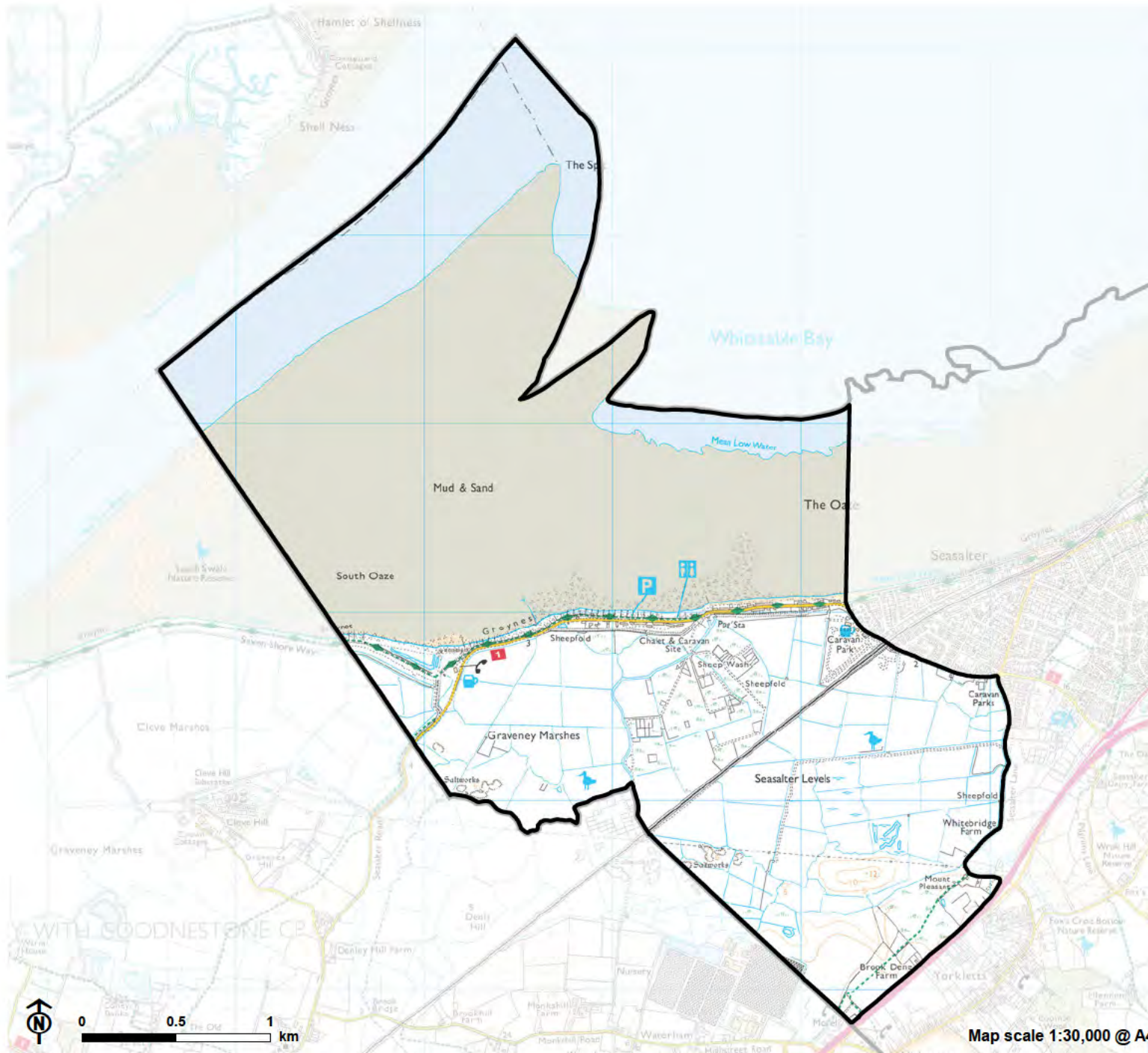
- Retain the existing AHLV as an LLD and retain existing boundaries which are robust and defensible, incorporating small areas of non-coastal marsh landscape at the edges.
- The aim should be to encourage integrated management with the contiguous coastal marshes within Swale and along the Thames Estuary as part of the North Kent Marshes. There is an opportunity to enhance the boundaries along the urban edges notable along Seasalter Lane and the interface with the A299 retaining the long open views across the marshes and Swale from the elevated road and avoiding any change or development that would block this transition.
- In the longer term managed re alignment may result in parts of this area to the north/west being inundated allowing the restoration of coastal marshland.
- Rename as 'North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes' (formerly referred to as 'North Kent Marshes') to match local naming of other LLDs in Canterbury District.

Full Evaluation – North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes	
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>A highly distinctive landscape forming part of the extensive North Kent Marshes bordering the Swale and Thames Estuary. It is cut off from the estuary by the sea wall and the landscape is typical of low lying, open flat expanses of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. Fields are segregated by straight and sinuous reed filled drainage ditches. Management of the area is almost entirely by grazing livestock. The area retains significant ecological interest, notably along the ditches and as part of the larger Thames marshes.</p> <p>The whole area has a strong sense of place forming an important open landscape between Whitstable and Faversham viewed from the railway and the A299, with a distinct marsh character and connected to a mostly open undeveloped coastline, with extensive mudflats.</p>
Landscape quality	<p>The landscape is an intact grazing marsh, with a degree of ecological integrity, although contains some detracting features and elements.</p> <p>Visual detractors include pylons to the south, extending from the Cleve Hill Substation, and the railway line which subdivides the area. The urban edge of Seasalter, and, in particular associated holiday parks, are highly visible across the flat landscape. There is some evidence of undergrazing and continuing adhoc 'plotland' uses which influences perceptions of landscape quality. There is also evidence of extreme overgrazing around the boundary with Graveney.</p>
Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects	<p>The area has strong scenic qualities: high levels of tranquillity, relative remoteness and darkness persist over the marshes. It is a flat landscape with dramatic skies which reflect changes in weather and light and allow panoramic views, backed by the rising slopes of Wraik Hill leading towards Victory Wood and the rest of The Blean.</p> <p>The sense of openness and expansiveness is enhanced by the general absence of built development, although the urban edge of Seasalter with a large peripheral caravan park is visible to the north and intermittent development extends along Faversham Road on the coastal edge.</p>
Natural and cultural qualities	<p>Almost all of the LLD area falls within the eastern extent of the Swale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. The eastern part of this area is also part of the Seasalter Marshes Local Nature Reserve (LNR), managed by the RSPB.</p> <p>Medieval (or earlier) salt workings are present across the marshes and can be discerned as small hummocks in the flat topography. One of these, near Monkshill Farm is designated as a Scheduled Monument. In World War II, the Battle of Graveney Marsh was the last ground engagement involving a foreign force to take place on the mainland of Great Britain. There remains a visible legacy of the makeshift plotland landscapes that developed in the early 20th century.</p>
Recreation value	<p>There is limited recreational access to the area, apart from the Saxon Shore Way along the coastal road to the north. The Saxon Shoreway, as a regionally promoted route is well used and provides access along the seawall and provides open views across the Estuary and the Seasalter and Graveney Marshes.</p>

Associations

The social history, associations and memories of the Seasalter plotlands has been recorded in an essay and drawing by Dennis Hardy and Colin Ward, *Arcadia for all - The legacy of a makeshift landscape (2008)*.

Figure 5: North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes Local Landscape Designation



Canterbury City Council boundary

Local Landscape Designation

North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes^{1 2}

1 Name changed to 'North Kent Marshes - Seasalter Marshes' (formerly referred to as 'North Kent Marshes') to match local naming of other LLDs in Canterbury District.

2 No boundary changes proposed.



Map scale 1:30,000 @ A4

Wantsum Channel



Chapter 6 Wantsum Channel

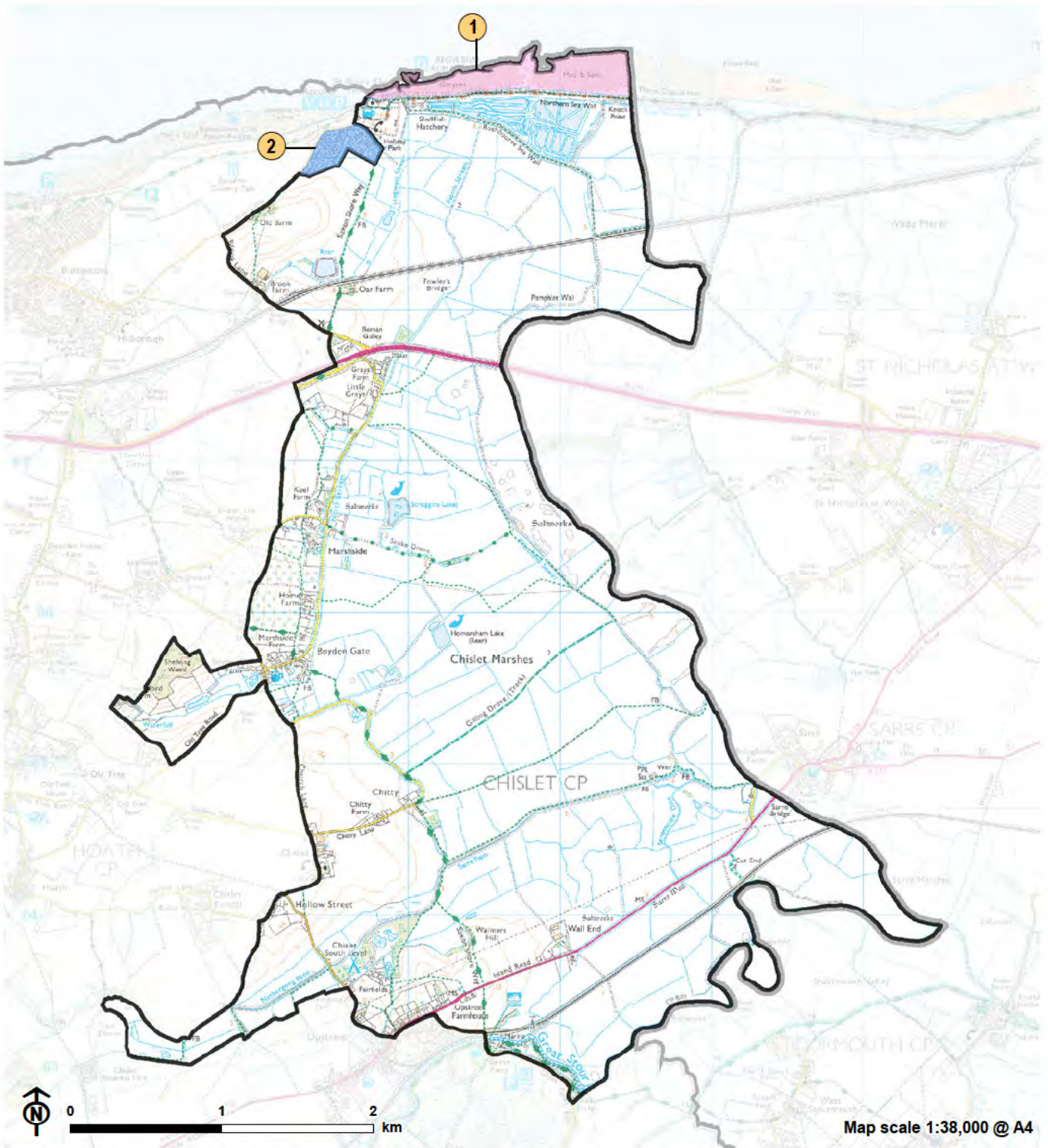
Candidate LLD name	Wantsum Channel																															
Summary Information																																
Relationship to existing local landscape designation	<p>AHLV, designated in the Canterbury District Local Plan (2006).</p> <p><i>The Wantsum Channel AHLV has been designated because of the strategic importance of this landscape in East Kent. The Wantsum Channel once separated the Isle of Thanet from the rest of Kent. The marshes form a dramatic open landscape of ditches and fields, reclaimed from the sea. The settlement pattern reflects the ancient coastline with most villages located on the old shoreline. (Canterbury District Local Plan, 2017)</i></p>																															
Extent of area	<p>The proposed LLD covers the low-lying flat agricultural landscape of the former Wantsum Channel in the east of Canterbury district which meets the sea at Reculver. It is contained by the district boundary to the east (although the Wantsum Channel landscape continues into Thanet District), with the edges of the channel marked by the rising elevation of the land, and including two minor channels to the west at Boyden Gate and Nethergong Penn.</p>																															
Landscape character context (% coverage by the existing AHLV)	<p>A1: Beltinge Coast (12%) B1: Chislet Marshes and Snake Drove (100%) B2: Nethergong Sarre Penn Inlet (100%) B4: Reculver Coastal Marshes (98%) C4: Ford and Maypole Mixed Farmlands (8%) - river channel in east C5: Hillborough Arable Farmlands (24%) – small area on edge of marshes F3: Hersden Ridge (14%) – small area in east F8: Westbere and Stodmarsh Valley (2%) – small area encompassing the Great Stour River H2: Hoath Farmlands (14%) – small area in east</p>																															
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Boundary commentary	<p>See Figure 6</p> <p>The eastern and southern boundary is within the District boundary with Thanet with the Wantsum Channel continuing across this edge.</p> <p>The northern boundary extends along the sea wall and for consistency with the North Kent - Seasalter Marshes LLD, it is recommended that this boundary is extended slightly further north to district boundary represented by the low water mark. (see note 1 on map). This boundary extends along Reculver Lane and Brook Lane. It excludes the Holiday Park development (see note 2 on map) but includes the rounded slopes at Old Barn which rise up from the channel edge marked by the Saxon Shore Way.</p> <p>The western boundary is more difficult to define – the channel landscape and former marshland essentially extends to the 5m contour, although this is sometimes difficult to determine on the ground along a physical boundary. The immediate inland edge has close links to the Wantsum channel landscape, both highly visible enclosing the flat marshland and with a string of settlements developing along the historic shoreline at Marshside, Boyden Gate, Chislet, Chitty and Upstreet.</p> <p>The existing western boundary is therefore considered to be appropriate following the minor lane on the mid slopes and taking in a small area of the adjacent farmland/orchard landscape immediately west of the former shoreline settlements. It includes the minor inlet and slopes west of Boyden Gate, including Shelving Wood on the upper slopes, and the 16th century Shelving Wood Farmhouse. The boundary follows Old Tree Road along the upper contours, which is a defensible boundary although recognising that this incorporates a large arable field which is above the 10m contour.</p> <p>The boundary continues along Church Lane incorporating Chislet and following minor roads and trackways to incorporate the whole of the Nethergong Penn inlet.</p> <p>The southern boundary is drawn in to exclude the settlement on higher land at Upstreet and incorporates a small area on the higher arable slopes at Island Road, including small industrial units at Wall End. The boundary continues along the eastern boundary of the Great Stour at Grove Ferry with the valley west of the Great Stour (Wickhambreaux Valley) being included within a new LLD along the Great Stour. In Canterbury, the southern boundary of the LLD is formed by the District boundary although recognising that a landscape of similar character and quality extends the Stourmouth Valley and Sarre Marshes in Thanet.</p>
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Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Retain the existing AHLV as an LLD, with minor modifications as noted above, with a further LLD proposed to cover the Stodmarsh/Stour Valley to the west. ■ The aim should be to encourage integrated management with the contiguous coastal marshes of the Wantsum Channel to the east within Thanet. ■ In the future managed re alignment may allow for inundation and opportunities for restoration of coastal marshland in the northern part of the area creating a new landscape and ecological resource. 	

Full Evaluation – Wantsum Channel	
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>The area is based on the former Wantsum Channel - it is a highly distinctive landscape forming part of the sea strait separating mainland England with the Isle of Thanet, providing a route between the Thames Estuary and the English Channel. Natural processes caused the Wantsum Channel to gradually silt up, with a road connecting Thanet to the mainland by 1485.</p> <p>The Wantsum Channel represents a distinct phase in landscape history/development perceived in the landform and settlement pattern. Today, the low-lying open fields bound by drainage ditches form a discrete and recognisable area, distinct from the rising topography to the west and the coast to the north. To the east the former inlets at Shelvingford and Sarre and Nethergong Penn are distinctive valleys extending into the surrounding farmland. It has a strong and unique sense of place.</p>
Landscape quality	<p>An intact landscape, with a degree of ecological integrity associated with the streams and drainage ditches. The area is actively managed for arable farming and sheep grazing has been reintroduced within some areas.</p> <p>The area includes some detractors in the form of road crossings, pylon lines and poles, occasional industrial units and the holiday park and shellfish hatchery on the coast at Reculver. Overall, these are small scale land uses set within a coherent landscape of coastal arable farmland, with some areas of</p>

	grazing. The shellfish hatchery although relatively low key has an important history as part of the UK's oyster industry
Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects	<p>An extensive flat, low lying area of reclaimed marshland with large open fields separated by reed-lined drainage ditches and channels which create a distinctive pattern. Expansive open views extend across the marshes to the rising slopes (former shoreline) at either side, including east to St Nicholas at Wade in Thanet and the Chislet edge to the west. The Reculver Towers are a focal point for views at the coast forming a land and navigation mark guarding the northern entrance to the Wantsum. The landscape continues to provide a sense of space and separation between Canterbury District and the Isle of Thanet.</p> <p>The openness and limited development reinforce the experience of tranquillity, dark skies and perceptions of remoteness.</p>
Natural and cultural qualities	<p>The former grazing marshes are now mostly in arable cultivation although retain ecological interest along the ditches and channels which are rich in marginal vegetation and bird life. Many of the former drove ways are also floristically rich within an otherwise intensively cultivated landscape. Much of the area is part of a Local Wildlife Site, while the coastline is nationally and internationally designated (SSSI, SPA, SAC).</p> <p>Numerous cultural features are symbolic of the historic channel. Medieval salt pans are a feature across the area. The settlements on the edge of the marsh are Conservation Areas and include a large number of traditional buildings as well as modern infill. A series of distinctive brick bridges across the North Stream at Marshside gives access from the settlement into the marshes along drove ways. The Sarre Wall contains the A28 connecting Thanet to Canterbury and forms a broad causeway across the marshes. The road replaced the ferry in 1485, as the channel began to silt up. Other artefacts include historic sheep washes. The Whitstable Oyster Company shellfish hatchery at Reculver has a long history, dating back to the 1400s, and currently represents a third of the UK's oyster industry.</p> <p>Reculver was an early Roman fort, built to guard against Saxon raids, later the site of an Anglo-Saxon monastery and medieval church with its imposing towers (Scheduled Monument).</p>
Recreation value	The landscape has good access by Public Rights of Way (PRoW), many of which are historic routes and follow the droves across the marshes. The Saxon Shore Way long distance footpath also runs through the area. Reculver and the associated Country Park is a popular site for visitors.
Associations	A landscape with strong historic associations as part of the Wantsum Channel.



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CB:CB EB:Nicholson_M LUC FIG6_AHLV_Changes_Wantsum_Channel_A4P_07/07/2020
Source: Canterbury City Council

Figure 6: Wantsum Channel Local Landscape Designation

Canterbury City Council boundary

Local Landscape Designation

Wantsum Channel

Proposed Changes

Addition

Removal

Proposed Boundary Changes

① Extend to district boundary represented by the low water mark.

② Excludes the existing holiday park development.

A paved road with white edge lines curves through a dense forest. The trees are lush green, with some showing early autumn colors. The road surface is dark asphalt, and the surrounding vegetation is thick and vibrant. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the road.

The Blean Woods

Chapter 7

The Blean Woods

Candidate LLD name	The Blean Woods																																		
Summary Information																																			
Relationship to existing local landscape designation	<p>The Blean Woods was designated as Special Landscape Area (SLA) in the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006).</p> <p><i>The Blean Woods AHLV identifies landscapes important to the character and setting of the Blean Wood Complex. It is an important objective of the Council and other agencies to preserve and enhance this landscape, with long term objectives to meet habitat network potential for woodland and heathland, particularly where it improves habitat connectivity of the Blean woodlands. (Canterbury District Local Plan, 2017)</i></p>																																		
Extent of area	<p>The LLD covers the woodland and farmland on the clay hills between the city of Canterbury to the south and the coast to the north. The landscape has a unique history and a strong sense of place. It is one of the most extensive complexes of ancient woodland in the south east of England.</p>																																		
Landscape character context (% coverage by the existing AHLV)	<p>C2: Chestfield Farmland (100%) C3: Court Lees and Millstrood Farmland (49%) C4: Ford and Maypole Farmland (28%) D1: Harbledown (100%) D2: Thomden (100%) D3: Ellenden and Victory (100%) D4: East Blean (100%) D5: Bigbury Hill (99% Canterbury AHLV) D6: Denstead (97%) E2: Sarre Pennn Valley (56%) E3: Amery Court (40%) H1: Harbledown Fruit Belt (8% Blean, 24% Canterbury)</p>																																		
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Full Evaluation	See overleaf																																		

Boundary commentary	<p>See Figure 7</p> <p>The woodland is a main feature within this area which should be retained as the Blean Woods LLD.</p> <p>Having assessed the Blean Woods landscape boundary it is concluded that potential amendments to the Blean Woods boundary could be justified to further strengthen the woodland as the main feature of this LLD. The existing boundaries encompass the entirety of the woodland blocks and include areas important to the setting of the woodland. Areas of major development have been excluded.</p> <p>The western boundary is the district boundary and the Blean Woods is a contiguous LLD within Swale Borough.</p> <p>To the north the boundary includes parts of character area C2 which forms the farmland setting to the woods excluding the development around Clapham Hill and Pean Hill. The existing boundary is considered to be appropriate as it follows Fox Cross Road and rights of way. It is proposed that the current boundary is retained, with the following amendments to the boundary to the north:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The boundary is recommended to be drawn southwards along the New Thanet Way (A299) which essentially marks the valley floor with slopes ascending to the south and the woodland edge. The area north of the New Thanet Way is of value as the rural setting to Whitstable but is open arable farmland and does not have the same qualities as setting to the Blean Woods.2. The boundary has been drawn to the south of the Thanet Way to exclude the large area of solar farm. <p>To the east the existing boundaries which follow Bullockstone Road and exclude the settlement of Herne Common and continuing to include the farmland south of Herne and along Maypole Road are appropriate, with a minor extension:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. To incorporate Buckwell Wood.4. The southern boundary is more difficult and has been extended to incorporate Kemberland Wood, and Little Hall Wood on the Sarre Penn valley slopes. <p>Recommendation 5 is put forward as an option for discussion and consideration through the development of the Local Plan and could represent a significant change in the boundary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Three potential options have been put forward for more significant extensions to the existing boundary, with a fourth option to apply an alternative policy approach. The three extension options would be a departure from the existing purpose for designation of the Blean Woods AHLV, which is to recognise the high landscape value of the woodland, which is also designated a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest.<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Extending the LLD to include the predominantly farmland currently excluded between the University and Clowes Wood, to incorporate the Sarre Penn Valley, the Crab and Winkle Way and the distinctive church of St Cosmos and Damian in the Blean on the ancient salt road to the coast. This area includes some more intensive horticultural/orchard land uses and excludes the main settlement of Blean. The area, although not wooded, is strongly associated with 'The Blean' landscape.ii. A southern boundary along the Sarre Penn Valley (footpath): This would also extend the designation significantly south across areas of farmland, terminating along the valley that marks the rise to the Stour Valley slopes and University. It includes medieval field patterns, remains of medieval settlement, Church of St. Cosmos and Damian, and recreational routes (Crab and Winkle). It is a clear line on the ground although would divide the valley which forms a distinctive landscape unit.iii. Drawing the boundary further back along Tyler Hill Road. This would also include a wider area of the distinctive farmland extent of The Blean, with the road forming an identifiable boundary on the ground. It captures a significant area of farmland that is characteristic between the large woodland blocks at Thornden Woods, Clowes Wood and Church Wood. It would exclude features such as the church of St. Cosmos and Damien and medieval earthworks.iv. Instead of extending the LLD, this recommendation could instead be addressed by a relevant Site or Development Management policy to ensure that any development proposals in this area have regard for the special characteristics and sensitivities of the area.
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Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The woodland is the main feature within the area. Retain the existing AHLV as an LLD, with boundary modifications as noted above (1-4).■ The approach to the area of land to the south of the Blean Woods LLD should be considered through the development of the Local Plan (note 5 above). It is recognised that any extension would be a departure from the previous designation, and although there is potential
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to extend the LLD into this area, the landscape qualities of the area could alternatively be addressed through Local Plan policies that require the design and form of any new development to recognise the special characteristics and sensitivities of the Blean Woods LLD.

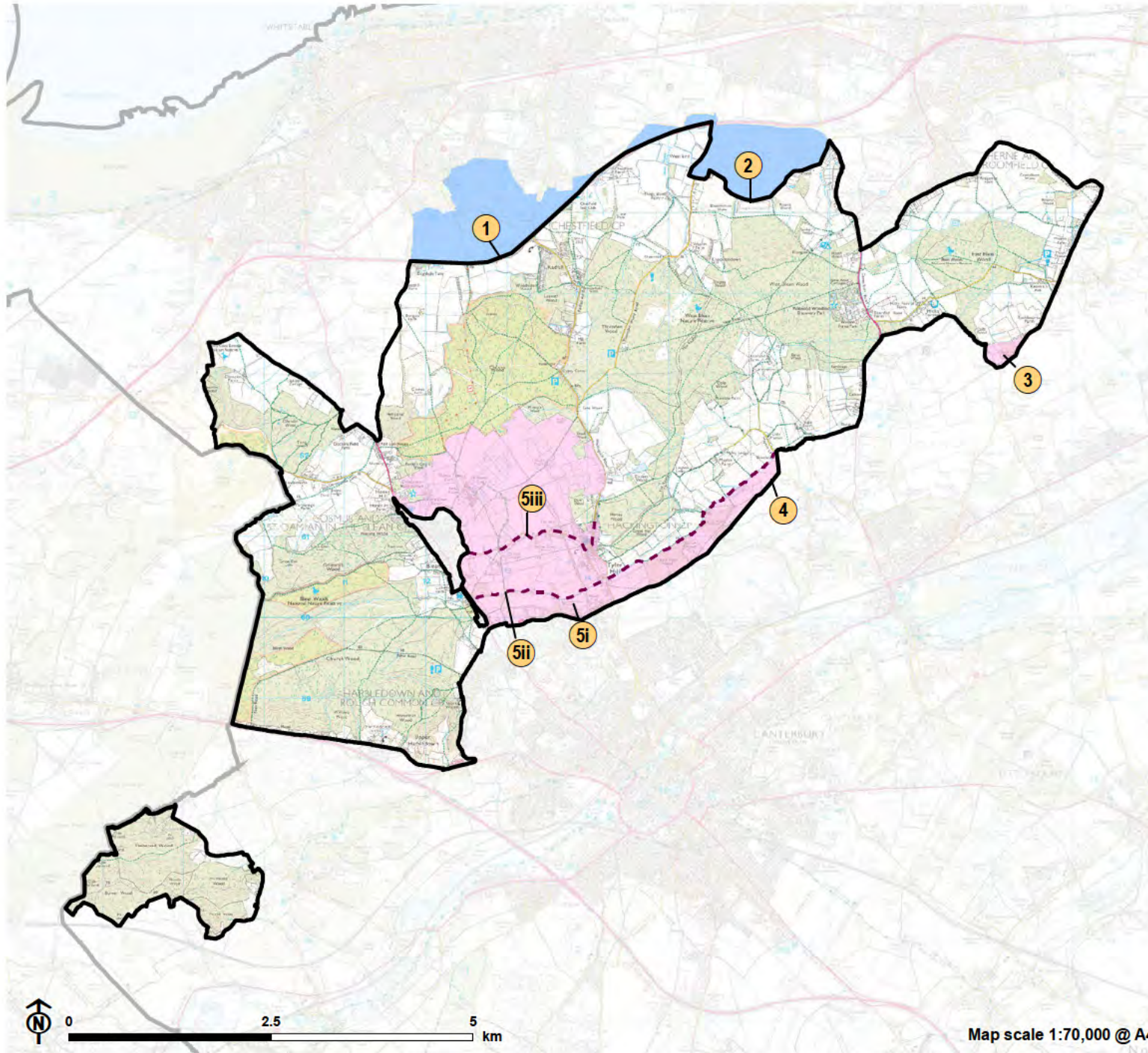
- A similar policy approach could be followed for the areas abutting the coastal settlements to the north which are part of the visual/agricultural setting of The Blean, although now not within the LLD boundary.
- The LLD recognises the special and outstanding natural, historic and cultural landscape and strong sense of place of this unique area. Continuing integrated management by the various landowners as promoted through The Blean Initiative is required.

Full Evaluation – The Blean Woods

Local distinctiveness and sense of place	<p>A strong sense of place created by large and continuous belts of deciduous woodland on elevated ground. The Blean forms a prominent wooded ridge between Canterbury and the coast. It is a highly distinctive and unique landscape within the district forming a discrete recognisable area, with its pattern of woodland blocks, areas of heathland and acid grassland. North-south former drove routes cross the ridge between Canterbury City and coast, and evidence of history linked to the medieval period reflecting past ownership and management by Canterbury Cathedral.</p> <p>The Blean sense of place extends across the ridge including adjacent and intervening agricultural land and is not limited to the areas within woodland. It also includes areas of agricultural land, such as around Amery Court which were opened up as clearings in the forest in the medieval period. This central agricultural area is recommended for consideration for inclusion within the LLD, despite intensive agricultural/horticultural land use in parts. It includes medieval field patterns, remains of medieval settlement, Church of St. Cosmus and Damian, and recreational routes (Crab and Winkle Way). The valley of the Sarre Penn and including the adjacent small woodland blocks on the valley slopes are a logical extension to the LLD.</p>
Landscape quality	<p>Strong ecological integrity represented by the continuous and intact blocks of ancient woodland and extensive designation at local, national and European level. The majority of The Blean is being actively managed by Conservation organisations including The Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust and RSPB as well as active productive management for timber by Forestry England.</p> <p>Much of the woodland is within traditional coppice with standards, with areas of commercial forestry at Clowes Wood and Thomden Wood. The entire area is considered to have a high landscape quality.</p> <p>The intervening agricultural areas on the edges of woodland include a mix of modern arable fields and areas of fruit production and are characterised by their strong wooded backdrop and retain a Blean character and sense of place.</p> <p>There is an absence of detracting elements throughout, although a number of solar farms have been developed adjacent to the woodlands and a pylon line is prominent ascending the slopes at Clowes Wood. Wealdon Forest Park is a small commercial area cut into the woodland at Canterbury Road.</p> <p>The extended modern linear settlements at Blean and Tyler Hill are excluded from the designation, while to the north the A299, in a minor valley, generally marks clear boundary with the agricultural land beyond extending to the edge of the coastal settlements.</p>
Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects	<p>A strong sense of tranquillity and relative insularity created by the continuous expanses of woodland as part of one of the most extensive semi-natural woodland complexes in south east England. The pattern of woodland and open farmland, contained by a wooded backdrop, creates a strong visual character.</p> <p>The majority of The Blean is entirely undeveloped forming extensive tracts of land only accessible on foot offering a rare experience of remoteness and isolation and experience of dark skies at night. There is a general absence of incongruous/detracting features.</p> <p>Bigbury is included as part of The Blean landscape type but by virtue of its views out over Canterbury and the Cathedral is recommended for inclusion within the Canterbury City LLD.</p>
Natural and cultural qualities	<p>The continuity in woodland cover has resulted in a rich habitat. Almost all of the woodland is classified as ancient origin, with clearings and rides containing heathland and acid grassland habitats. Value for wildlife is recognised at a national level and European level with over half of The Blean being designated a SSSI and approximately one third as a SAC (East Blean Wood, Ellenden Wood and Blean woods NNR).</p> <p>The matrix of woodland grassland and heathland habitat supports the rare heath fritillary butterfly and diverse and rare woodland birds including nightingales and nightjar.</p> <p>The landscape provides a living record of past woodland management practices. Much of the land was endowed to the Abbey of St Augustine and the Cathedral, with rights of pannage for pigs and herbage for cattle. Archaeological features present within the ancient woodland include bronze age barrows, sites of tile kilns and claypits. Medieval woodbanks mark boundaries of woods belonging to different religious houses in Canterbury, with associated areas of coppice and pollards. The Radfall is a distinctive example of a linear earthbank marking a former droveway for herding cattle and pigs, while the entrances to the Blean marked by 'gates' as at Radfallgate.</p>

Recreation value	The Blean as a whole provides a highly valued recreational resource between the coastal towns and Canterbury, offering extensive promoted routes along connected PRow. Areas owned by the Wildlife Trust, Forestry England and RSPB provide car parking facilities and a network of linked trails for cycling, riding and walking.
Associations	A historic landscape with strong associations with the medieval period of management, which can still be read in the landscape today.

Figure 7: The Blean Woods Local Landscape Designation



-  Canterbury City Council boundary
- Local Landscape Designation**
-  The Blean Woods
- Proposed Changes**
-  Addition
-  Removal

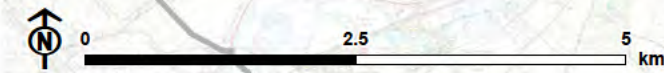
Proposed Boundary Changes

- 1** Boundary drawn southwards along New Thanet Way (A299) which essentially marks the valley floor.
- 2** Excludes the large area of solar farm.
- 3** Incorporates Buckwell Wood.
- 4** Extend to encompass Kemberland Wood, and Little Hall Wood on the Sarre Penn valley slopes.
- 5** 5i) Extend the LLD to include land between the University and Clowes Wood, incorporating the Sarre Penn Valley, the Crab and Winkle Way and the distinctive church of St Cosmos and St Damian in the Blean, on the ancient salt road to the coast.

5ii) A southern boundary along the Sarre Penn Valley (footpath)

5iii) Drawing the boundary further back along Tyler Hill Road

5iv) Instead of extending the LLD, this recommendation could instead be addressed by a relevant Site or Development Management policy to ensure that any development proposals in this area have regard for the special characteristics and sensitivities of the area.



Map scale 1:70,000 @ A4

North Downs



Chapter 8

North Downs

Candidate LLD name	North Downs		
Summary Information			
Relationship to existing local landscape designation	<p>The North Downs was designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA) in the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (2006).</p> <p><i>The North Downs AHLV is a landscape designation associated with the Kent Downs AONB. The designation includes land outside the AONB. These areas, associated with the AONB boundary, are deemed to have an important quality that is contiguous with the AONB designation, identified as part of detailed assessment of the existing AONB boundary... (Canterbury District Local Plan, 2017)</i></p>		
Extent of area	<p>The LLD forms a distinctive area of downland in the south of the Canterbury District, and part of the extended chalk dip slope of the Kent Downs AONB. Much of the North Downs LLD is encompassed by the AONB, leaving small detached parcels (that are not part of the AONB), which form the area of the candidate LLD for this review. The western parcel is contained by the Great Stour Valley to the north-west, the Canterbury AHLV boundary to the north-east (defined by woodland edges), and the AONB to the south. The eastern parcel is contained by the A257 to the north, the district boundary to the east, the Nailbourne and Little Stour Valley to the west and the AONB to the south.</p>		
Landscape character context (% coverage by the existing AHLV)	<p>F1: Stour Valley Sides (8%)</p> <p>F7: Stour Valley West (2%)</p> <p>H3: Ickham Farmlands (16%)</p> <p>H4: Nackington Farmlands (1%)</p> <p>H5: Nailbourne Parklands (35%)</p> <p>I1: Adisham Arable Downland (100%)</p> <p>I2: Bramling Downland (100%)</p> <p>I3: Chartham and Shalmsford Downland (98%)</p>		
Evaluation			
Desk review (see Table 3.1 and Appendix A)	LCA	Take forward	Notes
	F1	N	Locally valued features but not of high landscape value. Does not meet criteria. Consider need for defensible boundary to include part of this area along edge of Great Stour, Ashford to Fordwich LWS.
	F7	Y	Partially meets criteria. Review relationship to AONB/North Downs LLD and potential for inclusion within a new LLD associated with the Stour Valley.
	H3	N	Does not meet criteria. Defensible boundary formed by extending into this area to Bramling along A257.
	H4	Y	Does not meet criteria. Note that only a small area is within the existing North Downs AHLV, with majority in Canterbury AHLV. This small area will be reviewed in relation to the boundary.
	H5	Y	Partially meets criteria. Review relationship to AONB/North Downs LLD and potential for inclusion within a new LLD associated with the Stour Valley.

	I1	Y	Fully meets criteria.
	I2	Y	Fully meets criteria.
	I3	Y	Fully meets criteria.
Full Evaluation	See overleaf		
Boundary commentary	<p>See Figure 8</p> <p>The existing North Downs AHLV extends to the south across the whole of the Kent Downs AONB. Given that the Kent Downs AONB is designated at the national level, it is not necessary for it to be part of an LLD as well. It is therefore proposed that the southern boundary stops at the Kent Downs AONB boundary (see note 1 on map).</p> <p>The aim is for the LLD to encompass all the area with a distinct 'downland' landscape similar in character and quality to the AONB.</p> <p><u>Western Parcel</u></p> <p>The irregular shape of this parcel results in there being a number of boundaries consisting of a variety of features on the ground. Along the south-western edge, the boundary follows the Stour Valley Walk Long Distance Footpath (a path that crosses an arable field but with no discernible physical features to mark its route). It then joins Bobbin Lodge Hill following its route before diverging away, following a property boundary up to Shalmsford Street. A change in the boundary is proposed to the following areas to the south-west:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend the boundary beyond the Stour Valley Walk Long Distance Footpath up to the edge of the Great Stour, Ashford to Fordwich LWS (encompassing a small part of character area F1) which is defined by a block of wet woodland, resulting in a more discernible physical feature than the footpath and is similar to the boundary with Ashford District. 2. Follow the entirety of Bobbin Lodge Hill – omitting the small area containing properties located along the road that does not meet the criteria. <p>It follows Shalmsford Street, starting approximately halfway along the road's length, and extends up to its eastern end where the road becomes The Downs and is adjoined by Cockering Road. The boundary diverts to the north-east following Cockering Road which extends to the north-east, before encapsulating land within character areas F1 and F7, between the road and the edge of Horton and Milton (defined by a hedge lined PRow). The following changes are proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Exclude the land within the H4 character area and the land within the F7 character area to the east of Cockering Road as this is allocated for development. 4. Exclude the small parcel of land within the F7 character area to the west of Cockering Road as there is no clear physical boundary where it follows the PRow. Amend the boundary to follow a wooded belt off Milton Manor Road (contiguous with the F1 character area boundary). <p>The remainder of the boundary is appropriate as it follows the edges of Larkey Valley Wood and Iffin Wood in the east, up to Iffin Lane, before meeting the AONB boundary in the south-eastern corner of this western parcel.</p> <p><u>Eastern Parcel</u></p> <p>The eastern boundary is formed by the district boundary with the neighbouring Dover District and to the south with the Kent Downs AONB.</p> <p>The existing boundaries are considered to be appropriate in this area encompassing all the I1 and I2 downland character areas and extending partly into character area H3 to form a defensible boundary along the A257 to the north.</p> <p>The boundary within the valley of the Nailbourne (H5 character area) is more difficult to define with the exposed downland character dipping to the enclosed valley, with no discernible features on the ground. It is therefore proposed to retain this boundary as it marks the change between the enclosed valley and the open downland. The Nailbourne valley is proposed as part of the new Stour Valley East LLD.</p>		

Recommendations

- Retain the existing AHLV as an LLD, with minor boundary modifications as noted above.
- The aim should be to encourage integrated management with the contiguous downland to the south within the Kent Downs AONB and conserve and enhance visual connections with the AONB.

Full Evaluation – North Downs	
Local distinctiveness and sense of place	The strongly undulating and elevated landform of the chalk dip slope contributes towards a discrete and recognisable area, that is distinct from the surrounding low-lying valley floors of the Great Stour, Little Stour and Nai bourne, and the gentler undulations associated with the central mixed farmlands. The general pattern of an open arable landscape on chalk set within a wooded framework is largely coherent with the immediate surrounds of the Kent Downs AONB to the south. The coherency is further enhanced by the intervisibility between the area and the AONB, conferring a recognisable sense of place. Remnant areas of traditionally grazed pastures and soft fruit production linked to historic land use further reinforces the sense of place as does the distinctive buildings and settlement pattern.
Landscape quality	The area is actively farmed with arable practices dominant across the area. Much of the landscape comprises large 19 th century fields where extensive boundary loss has occurred creating a large scale, open and exposed character. Where hedgerows do occur, these are generally intact and form the boundaries to smaller scale, parliamentary and late medieval fields. There is a modest coverage of woodland throughout the landscape; most of which is designated for biodiversity interest. Woodland blocks are typically located on ridges forming distinctive wooded horizons. Telegraph poles and electricity pylons are incongruous vertical elements and in some places are exposed on ridges. Roads and the railway line at Adisham are reasonably well integrated.
Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects	<p>The elevated landform, openness and expansiveness allows for uninterrupted views in several directions including out towards the Kent Downs AONB to the south and towards the landmark of Canterbury Cathedral. Away from the small amount of development and main transport routes, the landscape is tranquil, with experience of dark skies and perceptions of remoteness.</p> <p>The area demonstrates a number of the special qualities that are outlined in the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan. These include the steep slopes of chalk, dry valleys (at Adisham), expansive open plateaux, long-distance panoramas across open countryside, rich mosaics of habitats of national and local importance (including ancient semi-natural woodland, traditional orchards and woodland pasture), mixed farming (arable, pasture, orchards), strong time depth (bronze age barrows, medieval villages focused on their churches, sunken lanes, local materials e.g. flint, timber frames, Kent pegs).</p>
Natural and cultural qualities	<p>Priority habitat deciduous woodland (some ancient) scattered through the landscape with nationally protected habitats (Ileden and Oxenden Woods SSSI and Larkey Valley Wood SSSI) and local designations (Iffin Wood and Little Iffin Wood LWS, Woods South of Snowdown and Woolwich Wood and Well Wood LWS).</p> <p>Remnants of historic soft fruit production and small pockets of pasture remain and provide time depth amongst 19th century fields with extensive boundary loss. Traditional buildings and use of locally distinct materials are a feature including Grade I listed flint church at Adisham (which forms a prominent local landmark) plus traditional farmsteads, oasthouses, timber framed barns and Kent peg tiles. The settlement of Adisham also includes Georgian housing and a Victorian School. Local features of interest include the WWII pillbox built for defensive purposes along Adisham Road and the distinctive brick viaducts associated with the railway.</p>
Recreation value	The landscape has good access by Public Rights of Way (PRoW), connecting through to the Kent Downs and the North Downs Way. Some reach elevated positions, allowing for panoramic views towards the AONB and across the Great Stour.
Associations	No specific associations noted.

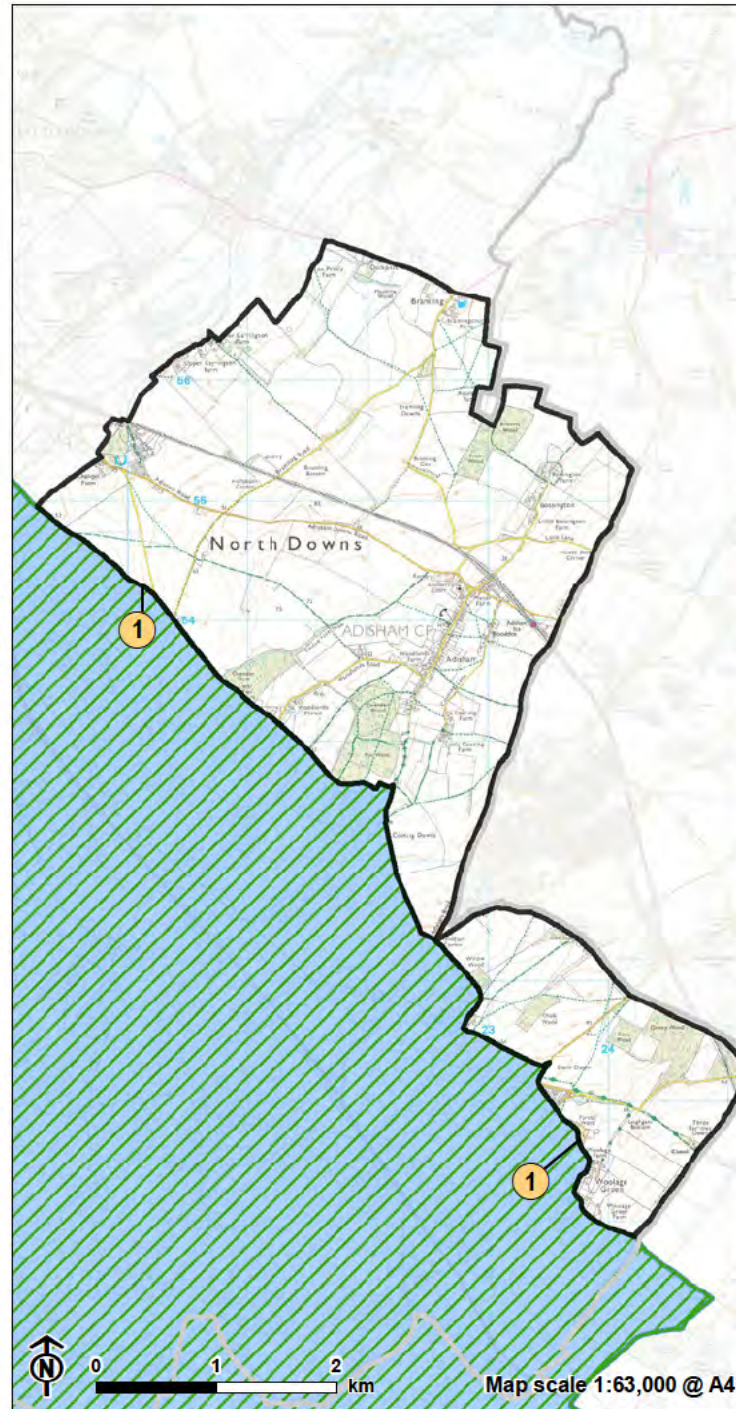
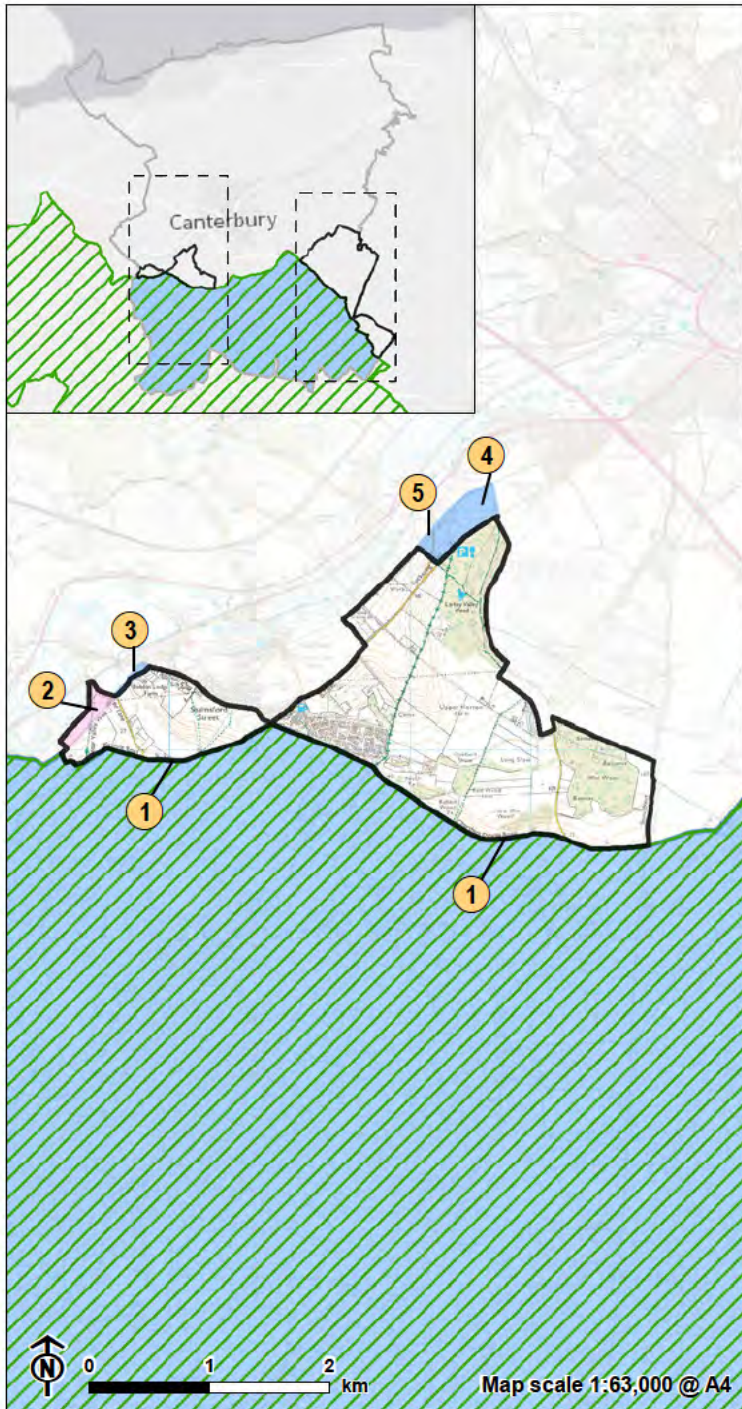


Figure 8: North Downs Local Landscape Designation

- Canterbury City Council boundary
- Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Local Landscape Designation**
- North Downs
- Proposed Changes**
- Addition
- Removal
- Proposed Boundary Changes**
- 1** Boundary drawn along the edge of the Kent Downs AONB.
- 2** Extend up to the edge of the Great Stour, Ashford to Fordwich LWS.
- 3** Excludes a small area of properties.
- 4** Excludes land allocated for development.
- 5** A robust boundary is formed by a wooded belt off Milton Manor Road.

Stour Valley Floodplain (East)



Chapter 9

Stour Valley Floodplain (East)

Candidate LLD name	Stour Valley Floodplain (East)		
Summary Information			
Relationship to existing local landscape designation	This is a new LLD being proposed. No relationship to an existing LLD.		
Extent of area	<p>This proposed LLD covers the parts of the valleys associated with the Great Stour and Little Stour rivers. This assessment has considered the full extent of the valleys both to the east and west of Canterbury. The proposed name 'Stour Valley Floodplain (East)' has been determined following the full evaluation, set out below.</p> <p>Refer to 'boundary commentary' below for description of the extents of the LLD.</p>		
Landscape character context	<p>The following landscape character areas encompass the valley floors associated with the Great Stour and Little Stour rivers, and have therefore been considered:</p> <p>F5: Little Stour Valley</p> <p>F6: Stour Valley – Sturry and Fordwich</p> <p>F7: Stour Valley West</p> <p>F8: Westbere and Stodmarsh Valley</p> <p>H5: Nailbourne Parkland</p>		
Evaluation			
Desk review (see Table 3.1 and Appendix A)	LCA	Take forward	Notes
	F5	Y	Fully meets criteria.
	F6	Y	Partially meets criteria.
	F7	Y	Partially meets criteria.
	F8	Y	Fully meets criteria.
	H5	Y	Partially meets criteria. Further survey required to assess relationship of Nailbourne with wider Little Stour valley.
Full Evaluation	See overleaf		
Boundary commentary	<p>See Figure 9</p> <p>The following extents of the Stour Valley Floodplain (East) LLD is proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encompasses all of character area F8, apart from: 		

	<p>a. where it branches off towards the village of Stodmarsh. Here it is proposed that the boundary is contiguous with that of the SSSI, therefore excluding a slither of land that contains an arable field; and</p> <p>b. along the northern edge which is already encompassed by the Wantsum Channel AHLV.</p> <p>2. Extends west up to the settlement edges of Fordwich and Sturry which provide discernible physical features.</p> <p>3. Contiguous with character area F5 apart from where the village of Wickhambreaux has been excluded. The boundary has been drawn along property boundaries defined by mature tree lines which form discernible physical features and provide containment to the valley floor of the Little Stour. Development should not further encroach onto the floodplain.</p> <p>4. Extends to the south-west to include the parkland character of the Nailbourne up to the Victorian railway embankment (associated with the Chatham Main Line).</p> <p>5. It therefore encompasses the majority of character area H5, excluding the small parcel of land to the south-west of the railway line and the area covered by the North Downs AHLV.</p> <p>6. The western boundary of character area H5 follows field boundaries and marks the transition between the pastoral valley floor of the Nailbourne and the more intensively farmed landscape of the South Canterbury & Littlebourne Fruit Belt (character area H6) and is therefore considered an appropriate boundary for the Stour Valley Floodplain (East) LLD.</p> <p>Areas that have been excluded from forming part of the Stour Valley Floodplain (East) LLD are:</p> <p>7. Majority of character area F6 given the presence of the busy A28 and associated large-scale development along its route; and</p> <p>8. All of character area F7 as although it contains areas of high quality and is valued, the major transport infrastructure and industrial character around Chartham has led to its exclusion.</p>
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Recommendations

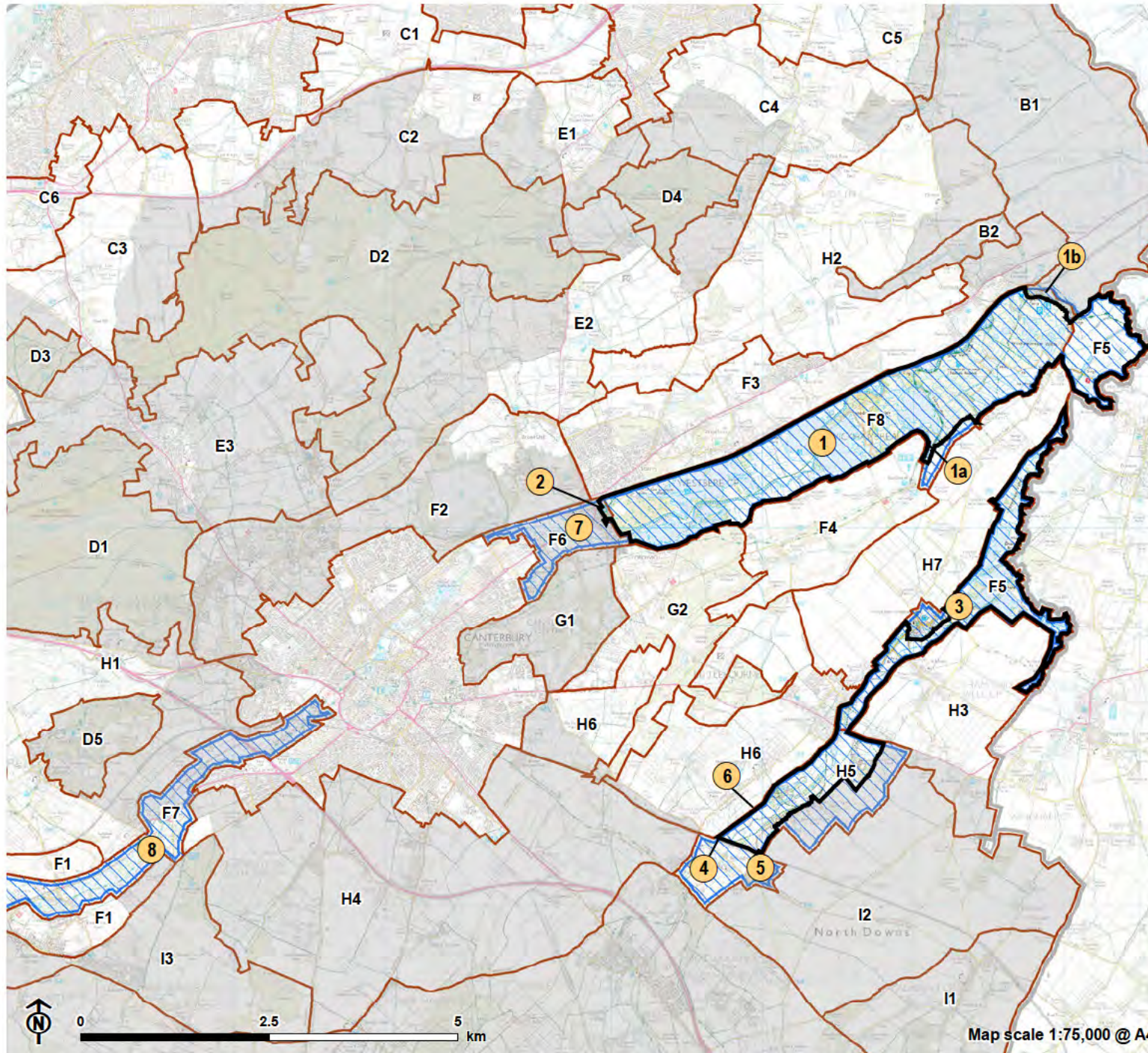
- While an LLD could potentially be justified, the area is already subject to significant protection in recognition of its ecological importance. The area includes Stodmarsh Special Protected Area, Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest and furthermore a high proportion of land is within a Flood Risk Zone which is afforded protection through national planning policy.






Full Evaluation – Stour Valley Floodplain (East)

<p>Local distinctiveness and sense of place</p>	<p>These flat alluvial floodplains have a strong and recognisable sense of place, forming an extensive area of riparian grazing marsh divided by channels and ditches, as well as the distinctive waterbodies comprising the Great Stour and Little Stour rivers and artificial lakes, and their associated habitats. It is in part an isolated, remote and largely inaccessible area (for vehicles), with little development – an overall rare and distinctive landscape within the district.</p> <p>The presence of the waterbodies strongly influences the topography; comprising flat valley floors and sloping valley sides that extend beyond the area, contributing towards its recognised sense of place. The lakes that have formed over time result in the area being representative of positive landscape change that has occurred within the district – once being used for gravel extraction and now attracting an abundance of fauna.</p> <p>The upper reaches of the Little Stour river (known as the Nai bourne) flows through a landscape that is a historically significant section of the valley having been strongly influenced by the extent of several historic parklands and still possesses many of their characteristics today.</p>
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<p>Landscape quality</p>	<p>The area has very strong ecological integrity recognised by the many statutory and non-statutory designations (including wetland corridors of international importance for biodiversity at Stodmarsh) and the presence of well managed wetland habitats. Overall, the area is visually coherent as a unique landscape.</p> <p>To the west of Canterbury, the Ashford to Ramsgate railway line, busy A2 and A28 Sturry Road (and associated large-scale development along its edge), and the industrial character at Chartham are prominent in the context of the flat landscape and provide some visual intrusions to the area.</p> <p>These are influencing factors towards the proposed extent of the LLD as set out in the boundary commentary section above.</p>
<p>Scenic qualities and perceptual aspects</p>	<p>The area has strong scenic qualities: high levels of tranquillity, remoteness and dark skies in parts away from settlements. The abundance of activity from birds and the presence of water associated with the wetlands of Stodmarsh are of particular value with a very high perception of tranquillity experienced here.</p> <p>It is a visually coherent landscape enclosed by the valley landform with views channelled along the valley floor, across marshland towards open ridges on the skyline. Dense riparian vegetation also provides a sense of enclosure in places, resulting in pockets of tranquillity.</p> <p>The Little Stour valley and the Great Stour valley to the east of Canterbury have a strong rural character with areas of grazed parkland and pasture with high scenic value, providing a rural setting to surrounding settlements. These qualities are diluted where the Great Stour valley lies to the west of Canterbury, influenced by intruding features as major transport routes cut through the middle of the valley and large-scale development / structures that exist around Chartham.</p>
<p>Natural and cultural qualities</p>	<p>Stodmarsh is an extensive area of internationally important wetland habitats with an abundance of priority habitats consisting of reedbeds, lowland fens, coastal and floodplain grazing marshland and deciduous woodland. The habitat interest is covered entirely by Stodmarsh SSSI (part of which is also the Stodmarsh NNR), SPA for birds, Ramsar (important wetland) site and a SAC, making it ideal for breeding and wintering birds, invertebrates and hosting a range of rare plants. Throughout the area there are many other habitats of high value including the Great Stour, Ashford to Fordwich LWS, the Seaton Pits and Wenderton Manor Pits LWS (within the Little Stour valley) and the Littlebourne Stream LWS (within the Little Stour valley).</p> <p>The valleys have largely retained their traditional character. The distinctive wetland vegetation of marginal and aquatic species of the river corridors, the overgrown mill ponds and mill races associated with the tall weather boarded mill houses (within the Little Stour valley), and the string of historic parklands along the Nai bourne add to the unique quality of the landscape.</p> <p>Traditional buildings and use of locally distinct materials are a feature including Grade I listed churches at Chartham, Wickhambreaux, Fordwich and Sturry, the Gothic house at Lee Priory, traditional Georgian and Victorian red brick properties, thatched cottages, farmsteads, and a scheduled monument at Horton Chapel.</p>
<p>Recreation value</p>	<p>The flat topography of the floodplains, the wildlife value, presence of rivers and the provision of public rights of way result in many opportunities to undertake recreational activities. The area provides an important landscape setting to the Stour Valley Walk Long Distance Footpath.</p>
<p>Associations</p>	<p>The Nai bourne is a winterbourne which has attracted local myth and legend with its ephemeral waterflow. Sydney Cooper (1803–1902), an English landscape painter born in Canterbury, painted classic views of cattle grazing the Stour floodplain in the cathedral setting (Hambrook marshes west of the City) – this area is recommended for inclusion in the Canterbury City LLD.</p>

Figure 9: Stour Valley Floodplain (East) Local Landscape Designation



-  Canterbury City Council boundary
-  LCA Boundary
-  Local Landscape Designation: Stour Valley Floodplain (East)
-  Other Local Landscape Designation
-  Area of Search

Proposed Boundary

-  Encompasses all of character area F8 apart from:
 - where it branches off towards the village of Stodmarsh. Here it is proposed that the boundary is contiguous with that of the SSSI, therefore excluding a slither of land that contains an arable field and
 - along the northern edge which is already encompassed by the Wantsum Channel AHLV.
-  Extends west up to the settlement edges of Fordwich and Sturry which provide discernible physical features.
-  Contiguous with character area F5 apart from where the village of Wickhambreaux has been excluded. The boundary has been drawn along property boundaries defined by mature tree lines which form discernible physical features and provide containment to the valley floor of the Little Stour. Development should not further encroach onto the floodplain
-  Includes parkland character of the Nailbourne up to the Victorian railway embankment.
-  Excludes small parcel of land to the south-west of the railway line and the area covered by the North Downs AHLV.
-  Follows the western boundary of character area H5 which marks the transition between the pastoral valley floor of the Nailbourne and the more intensively farmed landscape of the South Canterbury & Littlebourne Fruit Belt (character area H6).
-  Excludes the majority of character area F6 given the presence of the busy A28 and associated large-scale development along its route.
-  Excludes all of character area F7 given the major transport infrastructure and industrial character around Chartham.

Appendix A

Landscape Value- LCA Desk Review

Table 1.1: Rapid desk study review to identify Areas of Search for LLDs

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
A1 Beltinge Coast	Yes Wantsum Channel	12%	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yes	Distinct clifftop area along coastline, ecological and recreational interest. Important to protect as part of undeveloped coast designation. Meets criteria but very narrow/small area for LLD in own right.
A2 Swalecliffe Coast	No		Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	No	Distinctive coastline. Area important for ecological interest and recreation and undeveloped coastal gap between towns. Protect as undeveloped coast but not as LLD – due to small size of area.
B1 Chislet Marshes and Snake Drove	Yes Wantsum Channel	100%	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yes	Fully meets criteria. Highly distinctive local landscape – based on former Wantsum Channel.
B2 Nethergong Sarre Penn Inlet	Yes Wantsum Channel	100%	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yes	Fully meets criteria. Highly distinctive local landscape – based on former Wantsum Channel.
B3 Seasalter Coastal Marshes	Yes North Kent Marshes	100%	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yes	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive landscapes – part of extensive North Kent marshes to the west.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
B4 Reculver Coastal Marshes	Yes Wantsum Channel	98%							Yes	Fully meets criteria – coastal and marshland areas. Distinctive grazing marsh and coastal ecology, plus Reculver Towers – historic landmark/seamark.
C1 Chestfield Gap and Greenhill	Yes Blean Woods	6%							No	Important area of countryside (gap) between areas of development, with local value but does not meet LLD criteria. Review southern edge in relation to The Blean
C2 Chestfield Farmland	Yes Blean Woods	100%							Yes	Local landscape with areas of value, including stream network and woodland but unlikely to meet criteria in own right. Review edge in relation to The Blean.
C3 Court Lees and Milstrood Farmlands	Yes Blean Woods	49%							Yes (part)	Local landscape with areas of value, including stream network and woodland but unlikely to meet criteria in own right. Review edge in relation to The Blean.
C4 Ford and Maypole Mixed Farmlands	Yes Blean Woods Wanstum Channel	28% 8%							Yes (part)	Partially meets criteria. Distinctive landform, medieval landscape origins and connection, to marshes and The Blean.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
										Review edge in relation to The Blean and marshes.
C5 Hillborough Arable Farmlands	Yes Wantsum Channel	24%							Yes (part)	Does not meet criteria. Not a distinctive landscape. Review eastern edge in relation to the marshes and coast.
C6 Wraik Hill	No								No	Does not meet criteria. Locally valued features and potential for enhancement, including habitat extension and creation.
C7 Yorkletts Farmlands	Yes North Kent Marshes	35%							Yes (part)	Does not meet criteria. Review northern edge in relation to Seasalter marshes LLD.
D1 Harbledown	Yes Blean Woods	100%							Yes	Fully meets criteria.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
D2 Thornden	Yes Blean Woods	100%							Yes	Fully meets criteria.
D3 Ellenden and Victory	Yes Blean Woods	100%							Yes	Fully meets criteria.
D4 East Blean	Yes Blean Woods	100%							Yes	Fully meets criteria.
D5 Bigbury Hill	Yes Canterbury	99%							Yes	Fully meets criteria. Review relationship to both The Blean and Canterbury City LLDs.
D6 Denstead	Yes Blean Woods	97%							Yes	Fully meets criteria.
E1 Herne Common	Yes Blean Woods	55%							Yes (part)	Does not meet criteria in own right. Review relationship with The Blean

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
E2 Sarre Penn Valley	Yes Blean Woods	55%	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yes (part)	Distinctive relationship with The Blean, although not meet criteria in own right. Review relationship with The Blean.
E3 Amery Court Farmland	Yes Blean Woods	40%	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Purple	Yes (part)	Partially meets criteria. Review relationship with The Blean.
F1 Stour Valley Sides	Yes North Kent Downs	8%	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Purple	Yellow	Purple	No	Does not meet criteria. Locally valued features.
F2 Stour Valley Slopes	Yes Canterbury	78%	Yellow	Purple	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	No	Not a valued landscape in own right but important in context of views to and from the city. Review as part of setting to Canterbury.
F3 Hersden Ridge	Yes Wantsum Channel	14%	Purple	Purple	Purple	Yellow	Yellow	Purple	No	Does not meet criteria. Review in east for relationship with marshes.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
F4 Stodmarsh Ridge	No		Green	Green	Yellow	Purple	Yellow	Purple	No	Does not meet criteria. Locally distinctive ridge.
F5 Little Stour Valley	No		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yes	Meets criteria. Locally distinctive chalk valley landscape. Consider as part of new Stour Valley designation.
F6 Stour Valley – Sturry and Fordwich	Yes Canterbury	100%	Green	Yellow	Purple	Green	Green	Purple	Yes	Partially meets criteria. Consider as part of wider Stour Valley designation or Canterbury City LLD.
F7 Stour Valley West	Yes Canterbury	36%	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yes	Partially meets criteria. Consider eastern part, as part of wider Stour Valley designation or Canterbury City context.
F8 Westbere and Stodmarsh Valley	No		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yes	Fully meets criteria. Consider new LLD to cover this area. Review east for relationship with marshes.
G1 Old Park	Yes Canterbury	99%	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yes	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive wooded landscape.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
										May not be large enough to form LLD in its own right.
G2 Trenley Park Woodlands	Yes Canterbury	2%							Yes	Partially meets criteria. A distinctive and historic landscape. May not be large enough to form LLD in its own right.
H1 Harbledown Fruit Belt	Yes Blean Woods Canterbury	8% 24%							No	Does not meet criteria. Distinct orchard landscape with views to Canterbury Cathedral.
H2 Hoath Farmlands	Yes Wantsum Channel	14%							No	Does not meet criteria. Review in east in relationship to the marshes and in the west in relationship to The Blean.
H3 Ickham Farmlands	Yes North Kent Downs	16%							No	Does not meet criteria. Rural landscape with local values and distinct built character.
H4 Nackington Farmlands	Yes Canterbury North Kent Downs	99% 1%							Yes	Does not meet criteria. Distinctive agricultural landscape of orchards, hops and traditional buildings. Substantial allocations/committed development. Review relationship with AONB and setting of Canterbury.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
H5 Nailbourne Parklands	Yes North Kent Downs	35%							Yes	Partially meets criteria. Distinctive historic landscape on the edge of AONB. Review relationship with AONB.
H6 Littlebourne Fruit Belt	Yes Canterbury	11%							No	Does not meet criteria. Distinctive agricultural landscape of orchards, hops and traditional buildings. Review relationship with AONB.
H7 Wickhambreaux Horticultural Belt	No								No	Does not meet criteria. Locally valued features and elements.
I1 Adisham Arable Downland	Yes North Kent Downs	100%							Yes	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive chalk landscape with strong relationship with AONB.
I2 Bramling Downland	Yes North Kent Downs	100%							Yes	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive chalk landscape with strong relationship with AONB.

Criteria			Local distinctiveness and sense of place	Landscape quality	Scenic quality and perceptual aspects	Natural and cultural qualities	Recreation value	Associations	LLD Area of Search	Notes
LCA	Included within AHLV designation?	Area within AHLV (%)								
13 Chartham and Shalmsford Downland	Yes North Kent Downs	98%							Yes	Fully meets criteria. Distinctive chalk landscape with strong relationship with AONB.

Appendix B
LLD Survey Sheet

Field Survey Record: LLD.....

LCA.....

Surveyors	
Date / time	
Weather	
Photo no's:	

Boundaries

Note any changes to boundaries and reasons why, + mark on OS base

Landscape Quality (Intactness/Condition)

<p>The physical state of the landscape, intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual natural and cultural elements e.g. hedgerows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Functional aspects of the landscape e.g. ecological integrity, visually coherent ■ Presence of well managed features in good condition ■ Absence of incongruous features/detractors or not visually intrusive 	
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Scenic Quality & Perceptual Aspects

<p>A landscape that appeals to the senses – primarily visual</p> <p>Perceptual and aesthetic qualities such as sense of tranquility, remoteness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strong visual character e.g. patterns/composition of vegetation/ landform ■ Memorable, important or distinctive views ■ Qualities of expansiveness, openness, enclosure, seclusion ■ Tranquility or perceptions of tranquility – peace, quietness, birdsong, dark skies, presence of water – streams, sea ■ Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features ■ Relative lack of human influence/absence of incongruous features ■ Special qualities or elements of landscape value relating to Kent Downs AONB demonstrating special qualities as outlined in the management plan. Note: that this factor is relevant to those landscapes in proximity to the AONB 	
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Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

<p>A landscape which is rare/unique or special in the local Canterbury/Kent context</p> <p>A landscape with a strong sense of place derived from its combinations of elements</p> <p>A landscape which contains character/features or elements which are considered to be important typical or rare examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A coherent landscape character conferring a recognisable sense of place ■ A distinct landform or topography forming a discrete or recognisable area ■ A distinctive rare or representative land cover ■ An area representative of a particular phase in landscape history/development 	
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Cultural and Natural Qualities

<p>Presence of natural and cultural attributes or particular associations that contribute to the value of the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Visible expression of geology creating distinctive sense of place■ Presence of wildlife and/or habitats/species that make a particular contribution to sense of place or scenic quality■ Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to sense of place or scenic quality■ Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape	
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Recreation Value

<p>Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where the experience of the landscape is important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Evidence of recreational activity based on experience of the landscape (e.g. walking routes, access opportunities, activities such as birdwatching)■ Note: needs to be more than just 'popularity'	
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Associations

<p>Landscapes associated with particular people such as artists or writers or events in history that contribute to their character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events	
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Evaluation

<p>NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Qualify as LLD</i>■ <i>Areas for further desk research</i>■ <i>Boundaries</i>
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