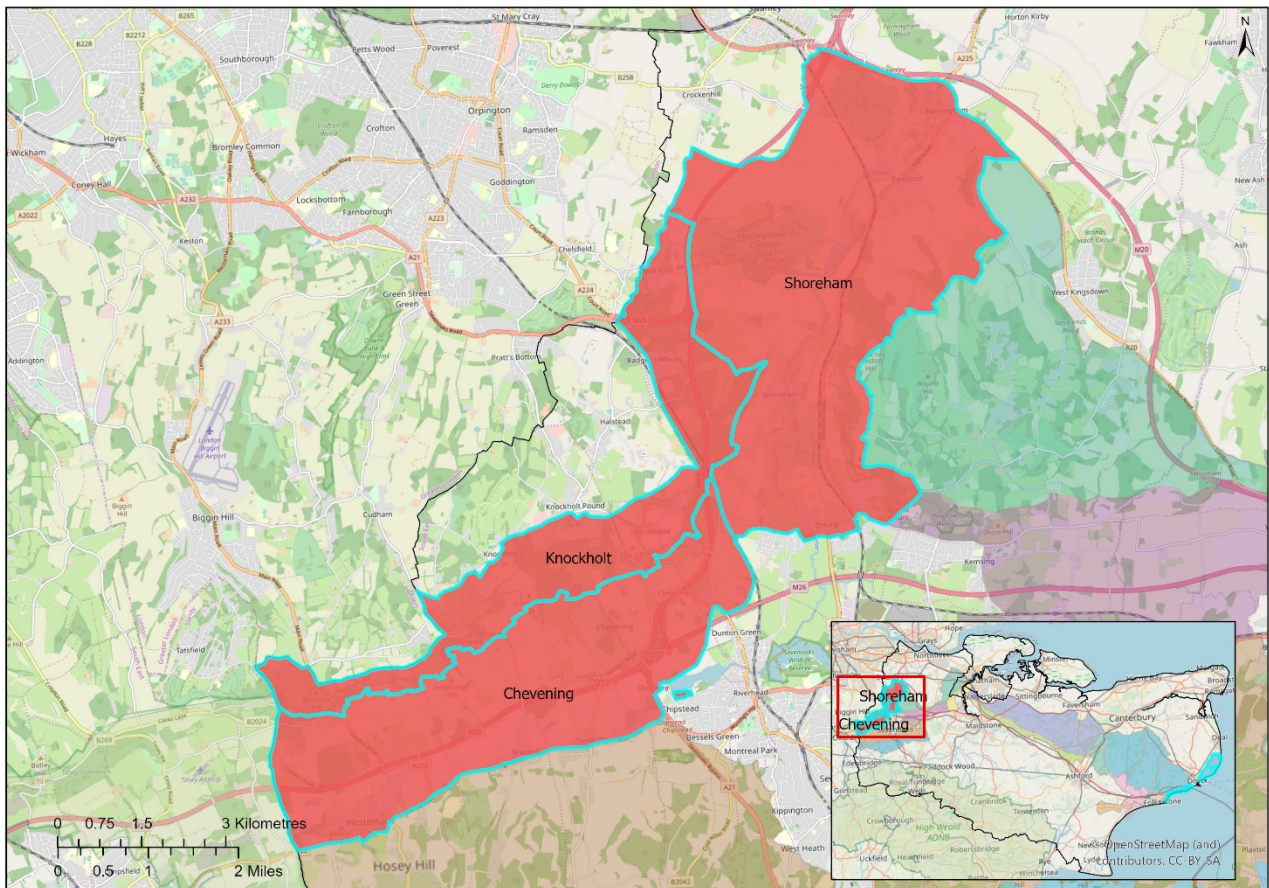


## 9.0 Darent Valley

**Landscape Character Type:** River Valley

**Landscape/Countryside Partnerships:** Darent Valley Landscape Partnership; North West Kent Countryside Partnership



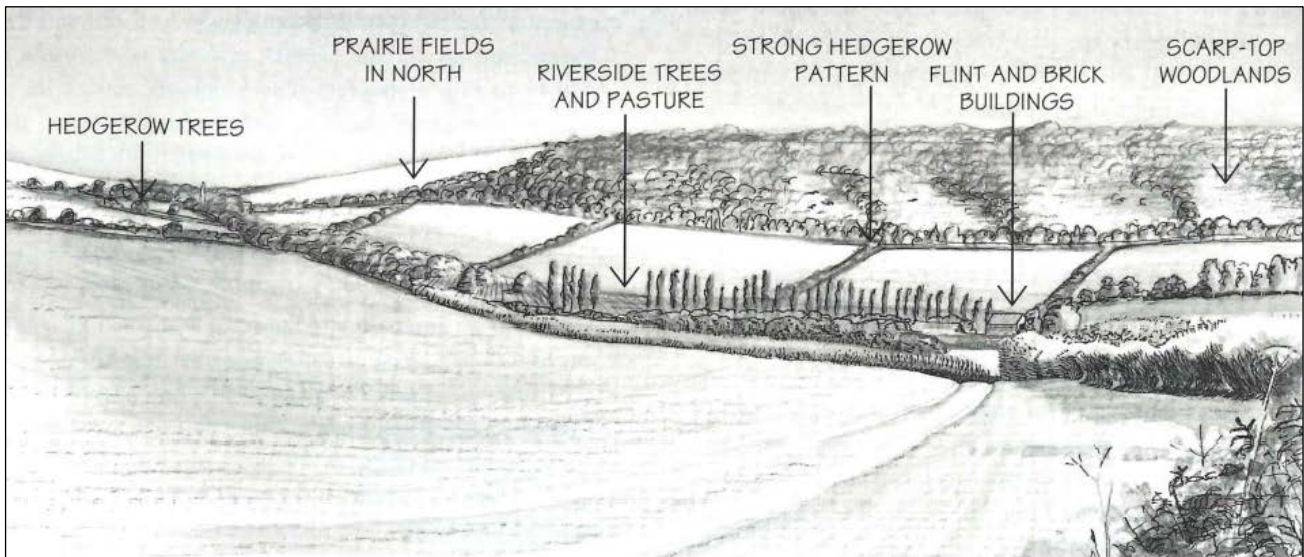


*Darent Valley scene at Castle Farm near Eynsford, with lavender fields in the foreground. A line of poplars marks the River Darent. The Knockholt wooded ridge can be seen on the left of the picture.*

## Summary Characteristics

- Underlying cretaceous chalk geology, with Greensand in the river valley in the south of the LCA.
- Overlying clay-with-flints from weathered chalk, and some alluvial deposits of sand, gravel and clay alongside river.
- Spring-fed River Darent starts flowing east through LCA then turns north. Valley floor generally wide and flat, with convex valley sides getting steeper towards the top. Dramatic chalk scarps above Westerham and Chevening, and east of Otford.
- Blocks of woodland on valley sides, and parkland, riverside and hedgerow trees, create a well-treed landscape.
- Mosaic of land uses, including arable farmland, pasture, woodland and parkland.
- Field patterns variable, but generally largest and most regular in shape at base of valley sides. Most fields divided by low hedgerows.
- Semi-natural habitats include woodland (yew/ whitebeam/ oak/ ash/ beech and oak/ beech/ chestnut coppice), chalk grassland, parkland, wood pasture, veteran trees and riparian habitats.
- Long history of settlement going back to Roman times. Rich archaeology including Roman villa, medieval castle and Bishop's Palace and several country estates.
- A series of nucleated riverside villages with concentrations of attractive historic buildings including houses, churches, bridges and fords. Materials include brick, flint, ragstone and weatherboarding.
- Network of older roads and lanes along valley floors and up valley sides. M25 follows valley side in north of LCA, and valley floor in south.
- Historic villages, parklands, bridges and archaeological sites give the landscape a strong sense of time-depth.
- Strong cultural associations with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century painter Samuel Palmer.
- Woodland, grassland, arable crops, trees and distinctive lavender fields create a diverse and colourful landscape mosaic.
- Spectacular views across the valley from valley sides, with the Greensand Ridge forming the backdrop to the south. Sweeping chalk scarps frame views from within the valley.





*Sketch of Darent Valley from 'The Kent Downs Landscape' (1995)*

## 9.1 Description

- 9.1.1 This Landscape Character Area comprises the valley of the River Darent, and the chalk scarp slopes to the north, west and east of the river. It includes several riverside settlements, including Westerham, parts of Brasted, Chevening, Shoreham and Eynsford. The chalk stream of the Darent is the most westerly of the three rivers cutting through the Kent Downs and is strongly contained throughout its extent in the AONB by steep and often wood-topped scarps, and by the greensand ridge to the south. From Westerham, the Darent flows east through the wide, clay vale between the chalk and the greensand, before swinging north at Sevenoaks to cut through the Downs. North of Shoreham the chalk scarps widen out, supporting large, undivided arable fields which reveal the open, curving back of the chalk downs.
- 9.1.2 There is a considerable variation in soils within the Landscape Character Area, which in turn has affected land use and landscape patterns. The highest areas, on the tops of the valley sides, comprise heavy clay with flints soils, which are difficult to work and therefore were historically often left as woodland. The scarp slopes on the valley sides contain thin chalk soils which support chalk grassland. The gault clay found in the valley floor is sticky but fertile, and improved by alluvial deposits from the river. The valley floor and lower sides have therefore been used primarily for arable agriculture, with floodplain pastures alongside the river. Some valley-floor fields are still demarcated by ditches, known as 'wet fencing', but there is a strong pattern of hedged fields on the lower valley sides. The name 'Darent' comes from the Celtic for 'oak river' and the river still meanders for much of its length through a narrow, tree-lined corridor. However, the river itself is not a prominent feature in the landscape.
- 9.1.3 The Darent valley has been called "one of the earliest cradles of English settlement in Kent" and its long history of habitation and passage has clearly shaped its present character. There is a rich legacy of Roman remains, including Lullingstone Roman Villa, and several significant medieval buildings, including the Bishop's Palace at Otford and castles at Lullingstone and Eynsford. The peaceful, rural character of the river valley today belies a busier and more industrial past. By the time of the Norman Conquest, the natural course of the river had already been diverted to power

watermills, a tradition which continued until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and manufactured a range of goods including paper. Today only converted mill-houses and occasional ditches remain to indicate the former industrial nature of the valley.

- 9.1.4 The Darent Valley has been used as a transport route for millennia. River transport aside, the oldest routes are likely to be the tracks along the ridge and base of the scarp now followed by the North Downs Way and the Pilgrims' Way. Historic droveways with names such as 'Hogtrough Hill' link the valley floor with the higher pastures. Many of these lanes are sunken, and lined with trees and hedgerows. The A25, which runs east-west through Sevenoaks was originally a turnpike, and a tollhouse can still be seen in Brasted village. The valley floor contains various railway lines, and most recently the valley has been used as a road and motorway route. There are viewpoints on A roads (such as south of Eynsford) where the valley can be appreciated.
- 9.1.5 Long views can be experienced within the valley, and there are also panoramic views across the valleys from the adjacent scarps. Despite its proximity to London, it is possible to experience a sense of tranquillity and isolation away from major roads. One of its most valued features is the sense of changelessness which can be experienced in parts of the area, particularly close to the River Darent. The unusual colours and textures in this landscape (such as the purple lavender fields and bright green hop gardens) contribute to its distinctive character. Large trees are also a distinctive feature, in parks, fields and hedgerows, and alongside watercourses. There is a cultural association with early- 19<sup>th</sup> Century artist Samuel Palmer, who lived and worked around Shoreham. His paintings evoke the ethereal qualities of the landscape (which he described as an 'earthly paradise'), and some of their locations remain identifiable today.
- 9.1.6 The Darent Valley is popular for recreation, and contains several visitor attractions including Lullingstone Roman Villa, Lullingstone Country Park, Lullingstone Castle and Gardens, Eynsford Castle, and attractive villages such as Westerham and Eynsford. It is one of the closest and most accessible rural areas to London, being only 17 miles from Westminster Bridge. It is easily accessible by road and rail, and also on foot via the Darent Valley Path, North Downs Way and Pilgrims' Way. These paths enable the views to be appreciated both from the valley floor, and from the valley sides.

## **9.2 Local Character Areas**

- 9.2.1 There are three Local Character Areas: *Knockholt* comprises the wooded scarp on the western side of the valley; *Shoreham* comprises the northern valley floor and eastern scarp, and *Chevening* comprises the western valley floor between the chalk scarp to the north and the Greensand Ridge to the south.

### **Chevening (formerly West Darent)**

- 9.2.2 The Chevening Local Character Area conforms to the typical scarp-dominated landscape pattern which characterises the Kent Downs. The woodlands of the upper scarp (within the Knockholt Local Character Area) are bordered by pastures on the slopes below them. These are contained by a band of intensively-cultivated arable fields on the fertile strip of soil along the scarp foot. Below this strip the heavy gault clay of the valley bottom supports a more mixed agricultural landscape. A series of springs rise where the chalk meets the impervious clay, and feed small streams and pools. The intensive arable cultivation on the scarp foot has resulted in a sparse network of narrow hedges, which contrasts with the smaller, more irregular pastures, surrounded by thick hedges and hedgerow trees, which characterise the clay valley. The river itself is not a dominant feature in the landscape.
- 9.2.3 The village cores retain a distinctive character in which vernacular building styles and materials are very evident. Set along the route of what is now the A25, they would historically have functioned as coaching stops, and several coaching inns still survive. There are a series of country houses surrounded by parkland, reflecting its attractive countryside, and its location a comfortable carriage-ride from London. Parkland and estate architecture is a local characteristic, and is particularly noticeable around the Chevening Estate - official home of the British Foreign Secretary. Combe Bank (now a school) was designed by Robert Adam and is also set within ornamental grounds. The ancient trackway now known as the Pilgrims' Way enters Kent along the scarp foot above Westerham, and follows lanes and tracks along the valley side. It is a strong visual and cultural feature in the landscape.
- 9.2.4 In recent years, the building of the M25 and M26 motorways through the middle of this vale, while continuing the tradition of this area as a transport corridor, has damaged the visual integrity and tranquillity of the landscape, and altered the focus of the valley away from the river and its historic villages.



*View south-west across the Darent Valley with Chevening Estate parkland in the foreground*



## **Shoreham (formerly North Darent)**

- 9.2.5 At Sevenoaks, as the River Darent turns north, it passes from a flat arable flood plain, where a string of new lakes indicates the presence of former gravel quarries, into the seclusion of the rural, northern valley. Here the character derives from the cohesion between the steep wood-topped scarps, the lower, intensively farmed scarp foot with its strong pattern of hedges and shaws (thick strips of mature broadleaf trees and small blocks of once-coppiced woodland), and the thick belts of trees along the river, road and railway in the valley bottom. The wide curve of the valley is a dominant element and features in the long views. Although the river is largely hidden from view, thin Lombardy poplars along the banks indicate its line, and create a focal point. In the north, the ordered pattern of hedgerows gives way to the ancient, unenclosed wood-pastures of Lullingstone Park, one of the best surviving examples of wood pasture with veteran trees in Kent, and a Registered Historic Park. The vast chalky expanses of the open arable fields above Eynsford are broken by occasional thick, overgrown hedges or small shaws, which cast striking lines across the landscape. Avenues of beech trees line some roads up the valley sides. The southern part of the eastern valley side supports a band of ancient woodland on the steeper slopes, and an important area of chalk grassland survives below the woodland at Fackenden Down Nature Reserve.
- 9.2.6 The rural landscape has many historic elements, including a prominently-sited prehistoric barrow at Otford Mount from where there are panoramic views. Exceptionally attractive and distinctive mill villages such as Eynsford and Shoreham are clustered around bridges or fords on the river. Farms scattered throughout the valley frequently display vernacular building styles and materials, including timber framing, weatherboarding, flint and brick, and there are some surviving oast houses. Other structures such as Eynsford railway viaduct add to the character of the area, and the purple lavender fields around Castle Farm catch the eye. Fort Farningham was constructed in the 1890s as part of the defence of London, and was used in WW2 as a decoy to divert enemy bombers away from nearby Biggin Hill airfield.
- 9.2.7 The appeal of the built form and settlements in this area tends to mask the loss of some historical landscape features such as water meadows and field boundaries. Buildings in village extensions are not always sympathetically designed and are often far more prominent in the landscape.



*Darent Valley scene near Eynsford. The chalk slopes of the valley side can be seen between the arches of Eynsford Viaduct. In the foreground, the River Darent winds between water meadows*

## Knockholt

- 9.2.8 The dense woodlands along the top of the western escarpment conceal a small-scale landscape of mixed farming and deciduous coppice woodlands (including sweet chestnut coppice), which stretches north towards Bromley. Several dry valleys extending out of the AONB are the dominant landform and give the countryside a gently rolling character. There are occasional white scars of former quarry faces.
- 9.2.9 Much of the woodland is recognised as ancient woodland, and the incidence of mature standards, including those within coppice-managed woodlands, affirms the historical nature of the natural features. Woodland species include beech and yew, as well as oak and ash. Small details such as woodbanks are important. In addition the small, isolated farms indicate a strong time-depth and add to the distinctiveness of the landscape. The tree cover restricts views, creating a stronger sense of enclosure, although there are spectacular views across the Darent Valley from the scarp itself.
- 9.2.10 Behind the scarp it is an area of scattered settlement, where overgrown hedges and hedgerow trees are interspersed by ornamental conifers, along with an increasing amount of pony paddock fencing and suburbanisation. The M25 motorway, although hidden in a cutting for much of its length, exerts considerable influence on the landscape through the background roar of traffic, the urbanising characteristics of the infrastructure and the physical barrier it forms between the Knockholt area and the Darent Valley itself. The proximity of Bromley and outer London imposes an urbanising pressure on the agricultural nature of the area, and there is a major ongoing redevelopment of the MOD site at Fort Halstead for housing, although it is partly contained within woodland.



*A typical scene within the Knockholt Local Character Area, with narrow lanes, woodland and scattered farms and houses.*





*Valley side and wooded ridge as seen looking north across the Darent Valley from above Westerham (within the Greensand Ridge Landscape Character Area)*



*Valley-side chalk grassland at Fackenden Down Nature Reserve*



*Westerham Village*



*Historic bridge, ford and church at Eynsford*



*Chevening, with the chalk scarp behind*



*Open fields on fertile land at the foot of the scarp. The lane on the left is part of the Pilgrims' Way*



## **9.3 Landscape Condition, Sensitivities and Forces for Change**

- 9.3.1 The 1995 Assessment raised a number of concerns about forces for change affecting the Darent Valley landscape, including the negative impacts of motorways (visual - including insensitive woodland infill / screen planting; audible, and physical - the isolation of small sections of AONB). It also highlighted fragmentation of farm holdings; the gradual introduction of urban-edge land uses such as horse pasture and golf courses into the rural landscape; loss of open sweeping horizons at the northern end of the valley due to development and infrastructure; fragmentation of historic land use patterns around villages; loss of watermeadows, and over-abstraction water resulting in reduced river flows.
- 9.3.2 The 2004 Assessment also noted the presence of the motorway, road and rail corridors; the localised fragmentation of the landscape pattern through hedgerow loss; increase in amenity land uses, and residential development of poor or indistinct design. However, these were considered to be intrusions within a landscape which still retained a coherent landscape pattern, flowing from the wooded ridge to the valley bottom. In 2004, the majority of the area was considered to be in moderate condition, with the Knockholt Local Character Area in very good condition.
- 9.3.3 More recent Assessments by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership and Local Authorities have identified a number of areas of concern which are still ongoing and are described in the following table. As in 2004, these issues are set within a wider landscape which manages to retain its integrity despite the significant pressures and which is an attractive and popular place for visitors and for local people. It is also important to note that this LCA has supported (and continues to support) some of the longest running and comprehensive networks of Stewardship schemes since 1994 covering contiguous farms. This has included 17km of new hedgerows, pollarding 140 riverside trees and over 200ha of arable reversion to grassland. There have also been a number of enhancements regarding improvements to water flow in the River Darent itself. Further landscape enhancements and projects have been achieved through the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership, such as securing a coherent approach to habitat management (including chalk grasslands and woodlands), with further plans to increase accessibility by extending the Darent Valley Path.
- 9.3.4 Despite the forces for change acting on the Darent Valley over many years, the appearance of the landscape remains remarkably consistent, as shown in the photographs below. Field patterns and tree lines remain almost identical, although there does appear to be an increase in woodland/scrub at the base of the scarp.



*Looking west across the Darent Valley from Fackenden Lane in 1995 (above) and 2017 (below)*

<b>Issue</b>	<b><i>Landscape sensitivities and potential landscape impacts</i></b>
The River Darent	<p>Water flow within the River Darent is gradually improving following reductions in abstraction rates, but there are still opportunities to improve its ecological value. However the river remains heavily modified for much of its length, limiting its ecology. Non-native species occur in the river, including Himalayan Balsam, and exotic fish. Japanese Knotweed is also a problem within the LCA.</p> <p>Many of the riparian alder trees are reaching maturity and may soon be lost from the landscape.</p> <p>Past changes to the floodplain, including loss of water-meadows, have impacted on the character of the valley floor and made it feel more open. They have also impacted on the extent and range of riverside and valley floor habitats.</p> <p>Access to the upper parts of the Darent Valley is currently limited, but there are plans to extend the Darent Valley Path which would enhance the potential for sustainable access and recreation close to the river.</p>



<b>Issue</b>	<b><i>Landscape sensitivities and potential landscape impacts</i></b>
Transport and infrastructure	<p>The M25 follows the Darent Valley for the length of this Landscape Character Area, and the M20 forms its northern boundary. In the Chevening Local Character Area the M25 follows the valley floor, but in the Shoreham Local Character Area it runs through woodlands on the valley side, and is in a cutting for much of its length. Highway infrastructure and depots are detractors from the character and qualities of the landscape. The motorways act as physical barriers to access across and within the valley, and isolate small fragments of the AONB. The road and its associated linear planting forms a clear line in the landscape, and is particularly noticeable in elevated sections and where there are bridges. The sound of traffic is often noticeable, and can resound off the valley sides in certain conditions. Air pollution is also a concern. The older roads and the railway line are also visible, but as they generally follow the contours they are less visually intrusive. Smaller lanes are vulnerable to heavy traffic and highway engineering, especially in proximity to main roads. Insensitive traffic calming and other highway schemes can also be detrimental to traditional village character. Traffic is an issue throughout the Landscape Character Area, with problems exacerbated by vehicles using rural lanes to avoid busy main roads. There is concern that future expansion/ upgrading of the motorway and road network along with increasing traffic numbers will have further impacts on the valley. A line of pylons crosses the valley between Shoreham and Eynsford which are particularly noticeable on horizons.</p>
Development	<p>Creeping, cumulative suburbanisation of rural areas (for example through brick property boundary walls and elaborate gates) is an ongoing issue within this Landscape Character Area, as is linear development between villages. The area is also under pressure to provide additional housing, particularly around Sevenoaks. Large-scale development would be out of keeping with the rural character of the Landscape Character Area, and is likely to contribute to other issues such as light pollution, increased traffic and recreational pressure.</p>
Recreation pressures	<p>The Darent Valley contains 'honeypot' sites where visitors are concentrated, leading to issues including litter, traffic, parking, and path erosion if sites are not properly managed and/ or there is insufficient infrastructure to cope with visitor numbers. In addition to amenity uses such as country parks and golf clubs, there are also new forms of recreation in the area (such as paintballing) which can impact on the landscape and habitats (particularly woodland). The Darent Valley is popular with cyclists and there are occasional conflicts between cycling clubs and other road users.</p>

<b>Issue</b>	<b><i>Landscape sensitivities and potential landscape impacts</i></b>
Land management	<p>In parts of the LCA there is a lack of co-ordinated management of habitats within the Darent Valley (grassland, wetlands, woodlands etc.) which will hopefully be addressed through the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership. Elsewhere, Stewardship schemes to enhance the ecological value of contiguous farm holdings have been highly co-ordinated. They have included reversion of riverside arable land, and restoration of chalk grassland and parkland formerly used for arable. They have also enhanced the management of archaeological features, and helped to address the past loss of field boundaries. This loss, particularly in the valley floor and on lower valley sides, created a more open feel to the landscape. In some parts of the LCA, where arable land use has replaced pasture, hedgerows are no longer required to be stockproof and are therefore poorly managed or patched with other materials. Dairy farming has largely ceased in this area in recent years, but there are some non-dairy livestock. The new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) offers opportunities to restore and reinforce valued characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p>Management of trees and woodlands is a concern in the Darent Valley. There are a number of parkland trees which are unmanaged, and the grounds of Combe Bank are considered to be 'at risk'. Management of veteran trees at Lullingstone Country Park is minimal, and much of the woodland appears to be unmanaged. However, there are exceptions such as Chevening Park, which has seen an extensive restoration and tree planting programme (completed by 2013). Hedgerow and infield trees as well as the treed component of the villages are important features of the landscape and at risk from neglect, inappropriate management, lack of replacement planting and tree disease.</p>
Anti-social behaviour	<p>Flytipping (of both trade and domestic waste) is an issue within this Landscape Character Area, particularly in secluded wooded areas. Vandalism is also a problem. There is also some illegal use of 4x4 vehicles on tracks and public rights of way.</p>
Climate change and natural factors	<p>Climate change is likely to have an impact on the River Darent by raising water temperatures, thereby affecting the composition of fish and plant species. The chalk stretch of the River Darent is dependent on winter rainfall for recharge, so changes in weather patterns will affect water flows. Climate change is also likely to affect trees and woodlands (for example beech can be badly affected by drought) and to impact on crop/ land use choices. It is likely that vines will become a more dominant land use in coming years. Trees and woodlands are also vulnerable to a range of pests and diseases, with Ash Dieback currently a major cause for concern.</p>





*M25 running through the Darent Valley LCA near Westerham*



*Anti fly-tipping notice, Chelsfield Lane*



*Over-mature parkland trees*



*Positive management of woodland- coppice with public access*



*Hedgerow loss in the Darent Valley near Shoreham*

## 9.4 Landscape Management Recommendations

### Aspirational Landscape Strategy

The River Darent is a thriving, healthy watercourse which is accessible in sustainable ways and appreciated. Local people and visitors are welcomed to nationally-significant archaeological sites and attractive villages within an intact historic landscape setting. Historic villages retain their special character and the impacts of traffic are reduced.

Habitats such as chalk grassland, woodland, rivers, streams and wetlands benefit from active and co-ordinated management at the landscape scale, and support a variety of species as well as sustainable recreation. Historic parkland and woodpasture is managed and enhanced for future generations to enjoy. Landscape patterns are strengthened, with a distinction between valley-floor pastures, regular-shaped larger fields on the lower valley sides, and chalk grassland and woodland on the scarp itself. Motorways and other infrastructure are integrated into the landscape and their impact is reduced through careful management and the application of technology. The suburbanising effects of development on the landscape are reduced.

#### Protect

- Keep scarp slopes and ridgelines free of development. This is particularly important where horizons are open.
- Protect the distinctive character of villages through use of locally-distinctive materials (e.g. brick, tile, ragstone, flint and weatherboarding) and careful designs. Highways and traffic calming measures should be as sympathetic as possible to the rural character and context of settlements.
- Protect surviving pockets of rural/ historic landscape such as irregular riverside pastures between villages to retain rural character and prevent merging of settlements along road corridors.
- Protect historic/ archaeological features and veteran trees – including well-known sites such as Lullingstone Roman Villa, but also less well known or designated features such as the historic lanes, the Pilgrims' Way and sites of riverside mills.
- Protect the settings of historic sites, particularly where they are potentially affected by development or infrastructure.

#### Manage

- Manage the River Darent, encouraging in-stream river enhancement and river restoration. Work with the Environment Agency to enhance water quality. Manage riparian habitats, removing invasive species and promoting planting of native species such as willow, alder, hornbeam and poplar along the course of the river. Encourage recreational access to the river banks.
- Restore farm ponds and ditches.
- Manage visitor attractions, particularly where numbers of visitors are causing detriment to the landscape. Improve sustainable access into the wider landscape through enhancements to the public rights of way network (including riverside paths) and enable visitors to spread out over a larger area without detracting from it. Work with recreation providers such as golf clubs to promote good environmental management.
- Manage woodlands, shaws and trees outside woodlands, including woodland planted as motorway screening, to achieve a diversity of age and species of trees which includes locally-characteristic species such as yew, holly, beech and oak. Continue to integrate motorways into the landscape using sensitive, non-linear tree planting. Maintain coppice management in areas where this is



already taking place, and look to extend active woodland management. Take forward careful planting schemes to retain the trees outside of woodlands component of the land and streetscapes. Be mindful of the need to retain noise masking of traffic.

- Continue/ improve the co-ordination of habitat management throughout the LCA, including the grazing/ cutting of chalk grasslands. Aim to build upon and continue the long-standing arable reversion projects throughout this area as a means of improving the connectivity of habitats and increasing resilience to climate change.
- Manage parkland, woodpasture and veteran trees, promoting Parkland Management Plans where appropriate. Encourage replanting of replacement trees which will become the parkland and veteran trees of the future.
- Manage farmland, encouraging management of hedgerows and planting of hedgerow trees, particularly on lower slopes. Promote new hedgerow and roadside trees from existing hedge stock.
- Promote grassland wildlife habitats on field margins and fallow fields, and relate land management to the underlying geology.

#### Plan

- Improve the urban edge of existing settlements along the valley, using new planting and existing hedgerows to contain built form, and to provide links between settlements and the wider countryside. These could include parkland-style planting where appropriate. Avoid suburban-style property boundary and entrance treatments, and avoid the use of non-native conifer species.
- Restore field boundaries where they have been lost in order to break up large fields, to minimise soil erosion, and to slow water runoff.
- Develop plans to restore water meadows and create additional floodplain and riparian habitats to increase the visibility of the river and restore distinctive habitats which are now largely absent.
- Develop Village Design Statements to retain and promote local distinctiveness in built form.
- Consider developing the visitor infrastructure, in order to increase the area's visitor capacity, but without detriment to the rural landscape character. Promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the area, including links to the artist Samuel Palmer.
- Extend the Darent Valley Path to Westerham (an aspiration for many communities), whilst remembering that placement of paths adjacent to rivers needs to balance the needs of all river users, land managers, wildlife and walkers.
- Work with Highways authorities to increase the biodiversity value of verges and hedgerows without compromising safety.
- Ensure that new agricultural buildings, and conversions of agricultural buildings to other uses, are of an appropriate scale and design, and do not undermine the distinctive built character.
- Within the setting of the LCA, work with Local Planning Authorities and designers to achieve the best possible landscape and ecological integration and minimal impact on views, with compensation achieved for lost qualities.
- Encourage partnership working with between different Local Authorities, agencies and community groups to enable seamless working across the AONB. Consider environmental/ landscape limits in planning and placemaking.
- Use the valued character and qualities of the LCA to frame responses to climate change including new tree establishment.