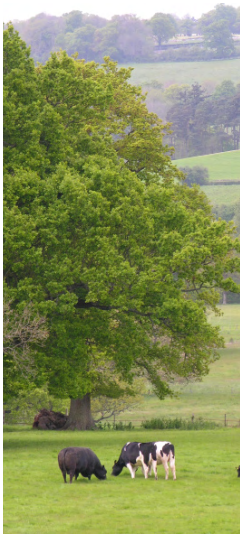
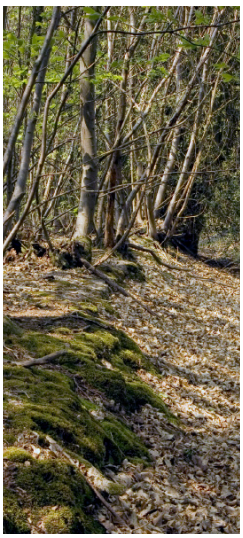
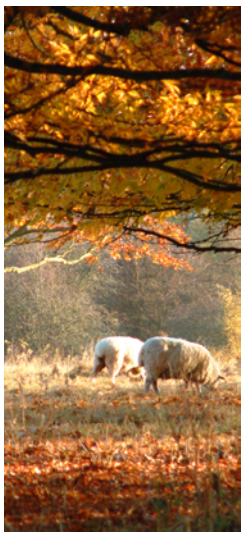
Medieval Deer Parks And Designed Landscapes In The High Weald Historic Landscape Characterisation Analysis Stages 1&2

Furthering understanding of one of England's Finest Landscapes

A report to the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee

By Dr Nicola Bannister

September 2009

The High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee provides guidance to local authorities and other bodies on implementing the statutory AONB Management Plan and on how local and government policy objectives can be accommodated without damaging the outstanding character of the nationally important landscape.

The High Weald Joint Advisory Committee's Research Programme

Furthering understanding of one of England's Finest Landscapes

The High Weald Joint Advisory Committee's management aims and priorities for the AONB are firmly based on an understanding of the fundamental and defining character of the whole area – that is, those components of natural beauty that have made the High Weald a recognizably distinct and homogenous area for at least the last 700 years and that will continue to define it in the future. It develops its understanding through undertaking work itself, through its specialist team, the AONB Unit, or by commissioning independent reports from others.

The primary purpose of its research programme is to better understand the components of natural beauty. The key components are:

- Geology, landform, water systems and climate: deeply incised, ridged and faulted landform of clays and sandstone. The ridges tend east-west and from them spring numerous gill streams that form the headwaters of rivers. Wide river valleys dominate the eastern part of the AONB. The landform and water systems are subject to and influence, a local variant f the British sub-oceanic climate.
- Settlement: dispersed historic settlements of farmsteads, hamlets and late medieval villages founded on trade and non-agricultural rural industries.
- Routeways: ancient routeways (now roads and Rights of Way) in the form of ridge-top roads and a dense system of radiating droveways. The droveways are often narrow, deeply sunken and edged with trees, hedges, wildflower-rich verges and boundary banks.
- Woodland: a great extent of ancient woods, gills and shaws in small holdings, the value of which is inextricably linked to long-term management.
- Field and heath: small, irregularly shaped and productive fields, often bounded by (and forming a mosaic with) hedgerows and small woodlands and typically used for livestock grazing. Small holdings and a non-dominant agriculture. Distinctive zones of heaths and inner river valleys.

By researching the key components – their history, development, distribution, special qualities, deterioration, damage and loss – we can develop an evidence base for the AONB Management Plan and other AONB policy and guidance.

The JAC's secondary purpose is to better understand how the High Weald landscape can contribute to society – food, energy, water provision, flood protection, recreation, biodiversity and fisheries – without damage to its natural beauty.

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Front Cover: Ashburnham Park, near Battle

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Examples of 'lost' medieval deer parks from the Sussex HLC showing present HLC sub-types

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MEDIEVAL DEER PARKS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN THE HIGH WEALD HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION ANALYSIS STAGES 1&2

1. INTRODUCTION

Historic parkland, particularly medieval parks, and 'designed landscapes' are important locally distinctive features of the High Weald AONB, but which are under-represented in our understanding of the landscape due to their 'designed' character, which is often seen as being incompatible with a 'natural' landscape. Such ancient parkland is however a vital cultural component of the landscape that needs to be recognized and understood[1]. The designed component of the landscape can be divided into several different types;

a. Medieval deer parks – which are now farmed or woodland or both;

b. Medieval deer parks – which then evolved into post-medieval designed landscapes;

c. Post-medieval designed landscapes with no evidence of an earlier parkland origin. These can range from the large parkscapes of the 18th and 19th centuries to the larger landscape gardens of the 19th and early part of the 20th centuries.

The following project was divided into two stages:

Stage 1. - to look at the Kent and Sussex HLC for the present landscape and identify deer parks and designed landscapes as a separate theme to establish the extent of survival of parkscapes in the present historic landscape.

Stage 2. - to carry out analysis of past historic landuse to establish where deer parks and parkscapes used to exist and have now become 'lost' to subsequent landuse, for example where they have become converted to woodland or enclosed to farmland. If so are they easily identifiable in the present historic landscape ?

1.1. Objectives of the Analysis

- To extract from the HLC those areas of existing medieval parks and designed landscapes.

- To carry out more detailed analysis of the HLC data to identify the historic existence, change to and loss of, medieval parks and later designed landscapes.

- To provide an ArcView compatible GIS layer/s of site locations (preferably in polygon form) with an attribute table to include site description and information used to identify site.

- To provide a written report accompanying the GIS layers explaining the method and an interpretation of the results.

[1] High Weald AONB Medieval Parkland Brief March 2009

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1.2. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

The High Weald AONB lies within four counties, East and West Sussex, Kent and a small portion of Surrey. Each of these counties now has a Historic Landscape Characterisation in place. However each HLC was completed at different times, Kent being the first, followed by Surrey and Sussex six years later. Although the overall approach to the methodology was the same for each HLC following key principles, there are significant variations between each of them; the main one being the depth and scale of data capture. The background to each county HLC is summarised in Table 1.

Knowing how each HLC was created, the method and resulting form of the data 'captured' is important in understanding what each can say about the historic landscape character of that county and the amount of detail which can be obtained from them.

For Kent, each HLC polygon exists with two layers of description. Broad Types and HLC types. So for example *"10. Designed Landscapes – 10.1. Pre-1801 Parkland"*.
There is no layer for past landuse in the Kent HLC so where farmland might now occupy the site of a former deer park such as at Scotney Castle, this will not be captured in the present Kent HLC.

Table 1.

COUNTY	Date Completed	Attributes	Previous HLC layers
Kent	2000	Integral with type descriptions	None
Surrey	2001	Integral with type descriptions	One previous layer for past 250 years
East Sussex	2008	Attributes separate from descriptions	Any number from 1-7
West Sussex	2008	Attributes separate from descriptions	Any number from 1-7

In Surrey, a similar characterisation has been undertaken but a third layer has been added of 'previous landuse' in the past 250 years (the period covered by the key sources). For example *"902 - 19th century and later parkland"* with a previous layer of *"901 – Pre-1811 Parkland"*. For example this characterisation would be for a site which has undergone significant re-landscaping in the 19th century. Or another situation could *be "405 19th century plantations"* for the present HLC with *"901 – Pre-1811 Parkland"* for the previous historic landscape. The characterisation typology 'Deer parks' was not used in the Surrey HLC.

In Sussex, the situation is rather different. Here the HLC is derived from attributes recorded independently from the description of the HLC Types and Sub-types. These are recorded in an Access database. In addition there are up to seven potential layers of previous landuse based on key periods and the sources used in the characterisation process. This enables the data to be queried in more sophisticated way either with ArcView or through Access.

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2. SUSSEX HISTORIC LANDCAPE CHARACTERISATION

2.1. The Analysis

The objective was to undertake an analysis of the Historic Landscape Characterisation project for the whole of East and West Sussex component of the High Weald AONB, of the parkland and designed landscapes sites both potential and known. This was then combined with a similar analysis of the Kent HLC to produce a themed map for the whole of the AONB. This has been achieved by looking at a number of the components or themes of the Sussex HLC, and by undertaking queries of the HLC data which 'sits' behind the themes. Specific 'queries' were 'asked' of the HLC data, from which a number of themed maps were produced. The analysis has been divided into two component parts; the analysis of the present historic landscape character and the analysis of past landscape character (where it is known from the sources).

2.2. Principles of HLC

The method of historic landscape characterisation has been evolving since the early part of the 1990s and there are various publications, which chart the method's history and the development of HLC across the country[2]. A brief summary of the background and method of the Sussex map is given in this section. For more background information see the references in the footnote[3].

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a way of mapping the landscape based on historic and cultural attributes, which reflect and are the result of, human interaction with the environment. Historic Landscape Characterisation is defined as "*the ways in which, in the present landscape, we can see and interpret physical remains as indicators of how the landscape's character has been created over thousands of years by the interaction of people and their environment*"[4].

The meaning of landscape is now enshrined in the European Landscape Convention (2000) to which the UK signed up to in March 2007.

> *"Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors"*[5].

HLC is a broad-brush approach to analysing the physical remains of past human activities as they survive in the present landscape. It aims to show how different parts of landscape have been utilised and altered over the centuries, by looking at physical remains in the modern landscape. It identifies what and how historical forces have worked across the two counties to shape the present landscape of Sussex and the level to which landscapes of differing character have changed through time.

HLC works on the premise that the landscape is dynamic and ever changing; with long periods of stability and gradual change interspersed with periods of upheaval and rapid change. It has been so in the past and will do so in the future. However

[2] Fairclough, G., Lambrick, G. & McNab, A. (1999) Yesterday's World Tomorrow's Landscape The English Heritage Historic Landscape Project 1992-1994. English Heritage; English Heritage Conservation Bulletin Winter 2004-5 Issue 47 Characterisation; Clark, J. Darlington, J, & Fairclough, G. (2004) Using Historic Landscape Characterisation. English Heritage

[3] Bannister & Wills 2001 ; Bannister, N.R. (2003) Sussex HLC Draft Methodology. Typescript for Stakeholder's Seminar held in January 2004.

[4] Fairclough, G. (1999) Yesterday's World, Tomorrow's Landscape. English Heritage

[5] European Landscape Convention Florence 20th October 2000 page 5 - Definitions

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the rate and intensity of land use change is now at its greatest than ever before in history. The impacts today are as dramatic though over a shorter time-scale as probably when prehistoric communities introduced farming and domesticated herbivorous livestock.

The HLC methodology originated as a mapping tool identifying discrete areas by pre-defined historic landscape types, where the attributes, which contribute to the type are inherent in the description. This was used in the first two 'tranches' of county HLCs, which included Hampshire and Kent. The method for Surrey, whilst drawing on previous methods, also developed another layer within the data, that of old landscape type i.e. where for example, an area had changed say from fields to development or from woods to factories within the period of the archive sources (approximately 250 years).

With the advances in the sophistication of GIS, the HLC method changed from being one led by pre-defined types to one led by identification of key attributes which characterised HLC types, recorded separately from the HLC types and sub-types. In the latter case, each polygon is defined by a number attributes listed in the attached database. The method for Sussex falls into the latter category. The defining of historic character types can be undertaken by querying the attribute data in systematic ways to then produce an indefinite number of themed maps. The HLC data can also be interrogated by using pre-defined character types, i.e. 'HLC type', 'sub type' and 'interpretation of character' to produce themed maps as well.

2.3. The Sussex HLC

The Access database (custom made for the Sussex HLC project) which sits behind the Sussex HLC enables attributes to be recorded in detail and thus used in queries. The Sussex HLC has this attribute data divided into three layers. Firstly, the polygon identification, secondly the HLC of the present landscape and thirdly the HLC of the previous historic landscapes [hlc_prev], where known from the key sources used in the characterisation process. For any particular polygon there can be any number of different changes depending on the land use history identified from the archive sources from 0 to up to 5 or 6 changes. To analyse these requires specific queries to be undertaken in Access and linked to ArcView, the method of which is still being refined. Thus 'time-depth' of the historic landscape character can be given in two ways, that for the present landscape only through ArcView and that for the past landscapes using Access.

2.3.1. Method of data capture for the HLC

The Sussex HLC used the OS MasterMap [frozen at November 2001] as its base and 'captures' individual map polygons within an identified historic landscape character type. These were 'unionised' to form one HLC hyper-polygon and to which the HLC database is attached. Each polygon has a unique identifying number [HlcId]. This is the only means of identifying individual polygons. Thus the HLC layer should be viewed with OS base maps and ideally with the historic mapping as well, in order to achieve a full picture of the historic landscape. Essentially, Arcview freezes a layer of the OS Mastermap for the HLC. The GIS programme used was ArcView 3.2A.

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The information on the attributes for each hyper-polygon 'captured' from OS Mastermap was systematically entered into input forms in a specifically designed Access Database. The Access database is linked to the ArcView database which sits behind each hyper-polygon in ArcView, by the unique identifier.

The Access database enables detailed descriptions of attributes to be undertaken and thus used in queries. This data base was custom built for the HLC project. There are three layers to database. Firstly the introductory historic landscape types [e.g. Fieldscapes] and sub-types [e.g. assarts, formal and informal enclosure], with the unique identifier. The second layer is the main database of attributes. Both this and the first layer can be interrogated in ArcView. The third layer records the previous historic landscape character type of each of the HLC polygons where that information is known. An HLC polygon can have any number of previous HLC types based on the archive sources used. This third layer can only be queried in Access and requires specific queries to be written in Access. The method is still being refined. Thus in theory the 'time-depth' of the historic landscape character for Sussex is given for the present landscape and also for the past landscape (where known from the sources).

2.3.2. Key Sources

The Sussex HLC was a desk-based project with no ground-truthing in the field. It relies on county-wide key historic sources in the form of maps, aerial photographs and other related data sets, together with any other relevant data and maps such as Yeakell and Gardner's county map of Sussex.

OS master map forms the basis of the Sussex HLC map, together with the four Ordnance Survey 25" Epoch maps, vertical aerial photographs from 2001, the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings for the 1" 1st Edition, Ancient Woodland Inventory, Forestry Commission's National Forest and Woodland Inventory and the counties' Historic Environment Record [HER]. It is strongly advised that when referring to the Sussex HLC in GIS, the OS Epoch Maps are also viewed as layers to aid identification and interpretation of specific areas and locations.

A full report on the HLC, its method etc. will be available on the completion of the HLC Project later in 2009/10.

2.4. The Kent HLC

The mapping for the Kent HLC combined the use of digital raster map at 1:10,000 together with the 1997 OS Explorer Maps and which gives a baseline date for the HLC of 1997. A total of 87 Historic Landscape Types were defined and grouped into fourteen broad categories. Polygons were drawn through an analysis of the 1:10,000 and 1:25,000 maps, and supplemented with other digital data such as the Ancient woodland inventory, parkland boundaries from the Kent Register of Parks and Gardens and other data sets from Kent County Council. The data was captured direct onto GIS with no intermediate paper map stage[6].

[6] For full details on the methodology see Croft, Munby and Ridley 2001 Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation Final Report Vol. 1. Main Report. Kent County Council and English Heritage.

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2.4.1. Key Sources

Fewer sources were used in the Kent HLC compared with that for Sussex. The main ones apart from the maps described above were the Ordnance Survey Historic Epoch Maps for the 25" together with the 1997 county aerial photographs. As with the Sussex HLC, no ground-truthing in the field was undertaken.

3. THE METHOD OF ANALYSIS FOR HIGH WEALD DESIGNED LANDSCAPES ANALYSIS

This analysis has been divided into two parts. Firstly, the querying of the Sussex HLC for the present landscape. This is undertaken through ArcView. All the polygons within the High Weald AONB which are characterized by 'Designed Landscape' have been identified. In addition, the data was also queried for ancient wood pasture sites. A draft of the first stage has already been submitted to the High Weald AONB Unit. However the results from the first stage have been also included in this version of the report together with the results from the second stage and thus this document supersedes the preceding one.

For the second stage, the Kent HLC has been included together with an analysis of the previous Historic Landscape Character of the Sussex HLC, with outline interpretations of the resulting themed maps. Recommendations for further study and analysis have been put forward.

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4. THE RESULTS

As described above the analysis is divided into two sections, that for the present historic landscape and that for past historic landscapes (where known).

The Surrey HLC only had one parkland identified within the area of the High Weald AONB; that of Lingfield Park. Thus for simplicity in generating the maps it has been omitted and the analysis has concentrated on Kent and Sussex.

4.1. Parkland in the present historic landscape

The following table gives the query route for each of the .shp files in Kent and Sussex, which show potential and existing wood pasture and designed landscape habitats. For Kent there was no pre-1801 wood pasture category and the other pre-1801 woodland categories were too broad-brush for the identification of early wood pasture. Where it exists it has probably been captured as part of 'parkland'.

Table 1. Summary of the .shp files for the present landscape

HLC Type	HLC sub-type	HLC Interpretation of character	.shp file
Designed (all periods)	Formal Informal Medieval deer park	Post-med designed Post-med gentrified Landscape Gardens	Cemeteries Sx-hwaonb-designed landscapes.shp
	Pre-1801 Parkland Post-1801 Parkland	N/A	Kt-hwaonb-designed.shp
Designed (by period) pre-C19	Formal Informal Medieval deer park	Post-med designed Post-med gentrified	Sx-hwaonb-designed landscapes.shp + sx-hwaonb-designed period.avl
	Pre-1801 Parkland Post-1801 Parkland	N/A	Kt-hwaonb-designed.shp + kt-hwaonb-designed-period.avl
Woodlands	Ancient semi-natural Replanted ASN	Wood pasture	Sx-hwaonb-asn wood pasture .shp

4.2. Description of each of the .shp files

The maps illustrating the following text are given at the end of this report.

Map 1 shows the distribution of Designed Landscape Types for Kent and Sussex in the High Weald AONB. The main difference between the two counties is that in Sussex both large and small parks have been recorded as well as larger landscaped gardens, whereas in Kent only the main parkscapes were identified and recorded.

a. Sussex Designed Landscapes in the present landscape

The map [Map 1] shows all the areas characterised as 'Designed Landscapes' by broad character type. The largest parklands appear in the middle of the AONB with a significant concentration of larger and medium sized parks

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towards the west. To create a parkland whether in the medieval or post-medieval period was a statement of wealth; it meant that as a landowner you could afford to take land out of arable production and enclose it for the production of venison (a highly prized meat) and for formal and informal recreation. Often parks were laid out on lands which were not highly profitable from a farming point of view and thus the concentration of parks in the western AONB may reflect two factors. Firstly the soils here are sandy and relatively poor where extensive medieval forests were sited and secondly, with the post-medieval enclosure of the forests there was land available not already in arable production which could be laid out to parkland.

Scattered across the AONB are the larger designed gardens of the 19th and 20th centuries. These rend to be more frequent in the central and western parts of the AONB.

These parkscapes can be divided into sub-types of 'formal' and 'informal'. Formal is identified by landscapes which have a strong planned character and layout [post-medieval designed landscape], often the result of one or more landscape designers. Whilst informal designed landscapes are those which appear to have evolved through a process of gentrification of a previous landuse such as farmland or woodland [post-medieval gentrification]. See Map 2.

The 'interpretation of character' for these sub-types is as follows:-

Cemeteries - Self-explanatory. Formal burial sites not necessarily associated with the parish church. They were identified from the OS Historic mapping layers and are mainly concentrated in or near built-up areas.

Large landscaped gardens – These are larger than average gardens and smaller than parklands often associated with small country houses. By period many are 19th century or later in origin. They were identified from the OS Historic mapping layers. Although designed gardens do occur across the High Weald, they seem to form a loose concentration along the ridges of high ground especially in East Sussex. There are fewer in the western end of the High Weald.

Post-medieval designed park – These are the larger formally laid out parklands often associated with a landscape designer. Water features, formal tree planting, avenues etc. are characteristic features of these parkscapes, often on a large scale. They are all recorded in the English Heritage 'Register of Parks and Gardens'. As historic landscape character types, they were identified from the Register, the HER, OS Historic Mapping, OSDs and Yeakell and Gardener. These formally laid out parkscapes occur across the High Weald, but with the largest such as Ashburnham in the central part of the AONB.

Post-medieval 'gentrification' – These are smaller parklands created by boundary removal, leaving specimen trees and selective tree planting to create vistas. The former field boundaries can sometimes be traced in the

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pattern of the remaining trees. As with larger landscape gardens these parkscapes are often 19th or early 20th in origin. They were identified from the English Heritage Register, the HER, OS Historic Mapping, OSDs and Yeakell and Gardener. These 'gentrified' parklands are more frequent in the west of the High Weald, reflecting the availability of land with the enclosure of the Forests of Worth, St Leonard's etc. Fewer smaller informal parkscapes ones in the east towards Hastings.

b. Kent Designed Landscapes in the present landscape

The Kent HLC identifies three types of parkland based on their time-depth;

Pre-1801 Parkland [10-1];
Post-1801 Parkland [10.2]
Deer Parks [10.3].

No deer parks were characterised within the Kent part of the High Weald. The date of 1801 was identified as the cut-off period between historic landscapes and modern landscapes, and is based on the OS 1" 1st Edition.

The greatest concentration of Pre-1801 parkland occurs to the north and west of Tunbridge Wells, and includes Penshurst Park and Somerhill. It may be a coincidence that this area formed part of the medieval Lowy of Tonbridge (a territory which belonged to the Clares of Tonbridge Castle). [See below].

Parkland post-dating 1801 lies in a line from Tunbridge Wells to Tenterden and includes sites such as Bayham Abbey, Bedgebury Park and Beneden Park. However a number of these parks have earlier origins, some such as Penshurst and Benenden may have been medieval deer parks.

c. D**esigned Landscapes in the present landscape by period**

As already described above, the Kent HLC identifies parkland by two periods using the date of 1801 as the cut-off. For Sussex there are seven periods of which five cover the designed landscapes in the Sussex High Weald from Late 20th century [AD 1945-present] to the Early post-medieval [AD 1500-1599]. No medieval parkland sites have been identified in the present High Weald Landscape [See Maps 2 & 3].

By far the most frequent parkscapes are dated to the 19th century, with the larger of the formal designed parklands being of 18th century origin. Nineteenth century parklands are most frequent in the west of the AONB and correspond to the area of former medieval forests. The larger landscaped gardens as already mentioned are a common feature of the 20th century.

By merging the five period types to the two periods identified used in the Kent HLC, the map provides a more cohesive picture of the time depth across the High Weald [See Map 4]. The scatter of post-1801 parkscapes in Sussex is likely to be mirrored in Kent by the distribution of smaller parks and larger landscape gardens which were not captured as part of the Kent HLC. However there appears to be a concentration around Tunbridge Wells of pre-1801 parklands which may reflect the former heath and forested nature of this part of the High Weald in what was historically the Lowy of Tonbridge – the territory attached to Tonbridge Castle and where the Clare family tenants-in-chief held Tonbridge from the King and where they had two large hunting

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Forests; The North and South Friths. Somerhill Park lies in what was South Frith.

d. Ancient woodpasture in the present Sussex landscape

In addition to the Designed Landscape theme, an addition layer of polygons was produced which recorded ancient wood pasture sites. Three small pockets were identified within the Sussex part of the AONB – See Map 1.

An area called 'Deer Park' adjacent to Leonardslee Park, a formally designed parkland. Stonelodge Hanger and Plain near Colegate and on the edge of Ashdown Forest near Fishergate. The latter two appear to be partially cleared ancient woodland, whereas the one at Leonardslee may have an origin as a deer park.

As already mentioned pre-1801 wood pasture was not characterised in Kent, but probably included as an attribute inherent in the sub-type of "10.3. Deer Parks".

4.3. Time-depth of past HLC

The following analysis identifies areas of former designed landscapes and deer parks which have changed to another historic land use; for example from parkland to woodland, or from parkland to farmland. This exercise can only be undertaken for the Sussex HLC where past HLC has been 'captured' from the map and other historic sources.

By selecting the Broad Type "Designed Landscape" for the previous HLC layers, an analysis was undertaken for each of the previous periods as identified in the following Table 2.

Table 2 The Periods in the Sussex HLC

Period	Name	Date Range	.shp files
P1	Late 20th century	1946 to present	n/a
P2	Early 20th Century	1914 to 1945	Hw-hlc-prev-designd p2
P3	Early Modern	1800 to 1913	Hw-hlc-prev-designd p3
P4	Late post-medieval	1600 to 1799	Hw-hlc-prev-designd p4
P5	Early post-medieval	1500 to 1599	Hw-hlc-prev-designd p5
P6	Medieval	1066 to 1499	Hw-hlc-prev-designd p6
P7	Early-Medieval	AD 410 to 1065	n/a

For each of the previous hlc periods identified P2 to P6 there is evidence of former designed parkscapes [Map 5a-f.]. By taking each period in turn it is possible to identify where designed landscapes occurred in the landscape [Map 5a-5e]. Where a change has occurred within the Designed Landscape Broad type say from deer park to post-medieval designed, then polygons will lay over one another. Former designed landscapes are scattered across the High Weald and comprise a mixture of both formal and informal parklands [Map 5f]. There are significant concentrations of designed landscapes originating in the early 20th century which have been 'lost', in particular around Hastings.

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The main periods of change for medieval deer parks appears to occur in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. By looking at just these two periods [P5 & P6] it is possible to identify a number of sites where there were former deer parks which existed in the medieval period [Map 6]. Formal parks tend to be those with a fairly clear outer boundary whilst informal ones are not so clear. Table 3. lists those sites together with the degree of confidence in interpretation.

These sites are identified as being 'lost' in that their present HLC type is dominated by woodland and enclosed fields, and more rarely some other land use [See Map 7].

Map 8 shows their present historic character in more detail and what is apparent is how fragmented this character can be, with the only evidence being the curving outer boundary of the former park pale surviving as a 'ghost' in the landscape.

Table 3. 'Lost' Deer Parks identified through the HLC process [in no particular order]

NAME	LOCATION	GRID REFERENCE	CONFIDENCE
Hawksden Park	Mayfield	TQ 5744134303	Certain
Park Wood (Rotherfield)	Crowborough	TQ 5424331104	Possible
Park Wood	Robertsbridge	TQ 7478223107	Probable
Great Park Wood (Udimore)	Udimore	TQ 8581018477	Speculative
Battle Park	Battle	TQ 7402514942	Probable
Little Park	Battle	TQ 7579216289	Possible
Barretts Park Wood	Heathfield	TQ 5364321754	Speculative
Bentley Park	Framfield	TQ 3117827653	Speculative
Bolney Park	Ringmer	2646424454	Speculative
Slaugham Old Park	Handcross	TQ 2579027569	Possible
Wakehurst Park & Warren	Wakehurst	TQ 3252433545	Probable
Eridge Old Park	Eridge	TQ 5786234219	Certain

This is not a definitive list. It has been drawn up based on the HLC which used key selected sources and did not refer to primary archives, or current research. It is probable that with further research [see below] additional sites may be identified.

There are additional sites, identified by place-name in particular sites which retain woodland called 'Park' as for example at Brede and Udimore. These sites have been recorded in the HLC under the place-names attributes. However more time would be needed to prepare and write the query to identify these sites.

A similar type of analysis could also be undertaken for Kent. It would mean creating another GIS data layer based on more detailed research of 'lost' medieval deer parks, hunting forests and early parkscapes. A suggested approach to refining the Kent HLC would be to create another layer but with links to the original HLC. The revised layer could take the existing polygons and redefine them using the Sussex method of attributes; this would include subdivision and amalgamation of the original polygons. Or using the format

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of Sussex, capturing OS Mastermap polygons and creating a new HLC layer, but still with a link back to the original Kent HLC.

Within the High Weald of Kent the author is aware of several such lost sites of deer parks, such as Scotney Castle in Lamberhurst, and Hempsted in Benenden. Just outside of the High Weald on the north east at Sissinghurst there was a Tudor deer park belonging to the Baker Family and near Glassenbury, Goudhurst the deer park, of the Roberts Family. See Future Research below.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This initial analysis shows that the majority of designed landscapes in the High Weald were created and laid out in the post-medieval period. No medieval deer parks surviving into the present day were identified in the present layer of the HLC. This is because they have either become incorporated into later designed parkscapes or survive as 'ghosts' in the historic landscape, traceable by the pale boundary, veteran trees and place-names and characterised by different HLC types as shown in Maps 7 and 8.

The degree to which elements of the deer park survive for each site depends on subsequent land use, for example Eridge Park does still retain some of its deer park characteristics, where as Little Park at Battle and Hawksden Park at Mayfield have few if any features other than lengths of their park pale surviving in the hedged fields. The final set of plans at the end of the report show examples of four 'lost' medieval deer parks and the present sub-type HLC. The park can be traced by the outline of its pale in the field pattern.

6. FUTURE RESEARCH

This falls into two main themes;

i. more detailed archive research to provide a more detailed GIS layer using primary archives, access to current research and estate maps. In addition a further query of the Sussex HLC to identify sites using place-name evidence should be undertaken. This research should be extended across the whole of the High Weald with a significant re-analysis of the Kent HLC to provide a full HLC layer comparable with that for Sussex. A person to contact for further advice on the historic extent of deer parks is Susan Pittman, who is currently completing a Ph.D thesis on 'Tudor Deer Parks in Kent'.

ii. Ground truthing of those sites identified in Table 3 and any additional sites identified through further research in i. above. This will look for evidence of park pale boundaries, veteran trees especially pollards, further place-names and other features. A check with the revised Ancient Woodland Inventory, in the field notes for archaeological features is also recommended.

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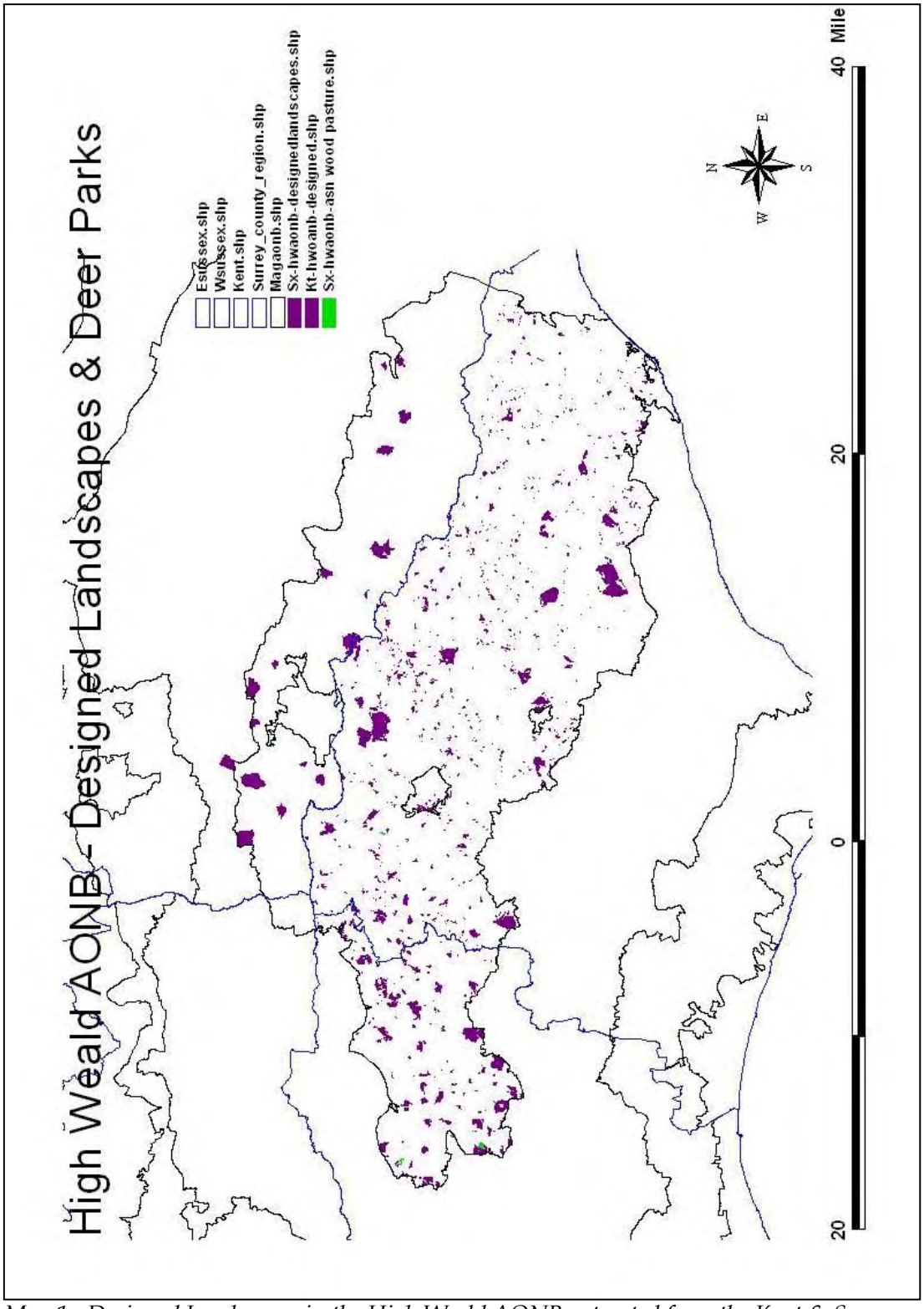

Map 1: Designed Landscapes in the High Weald AONB extracted from the Kent & Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisations

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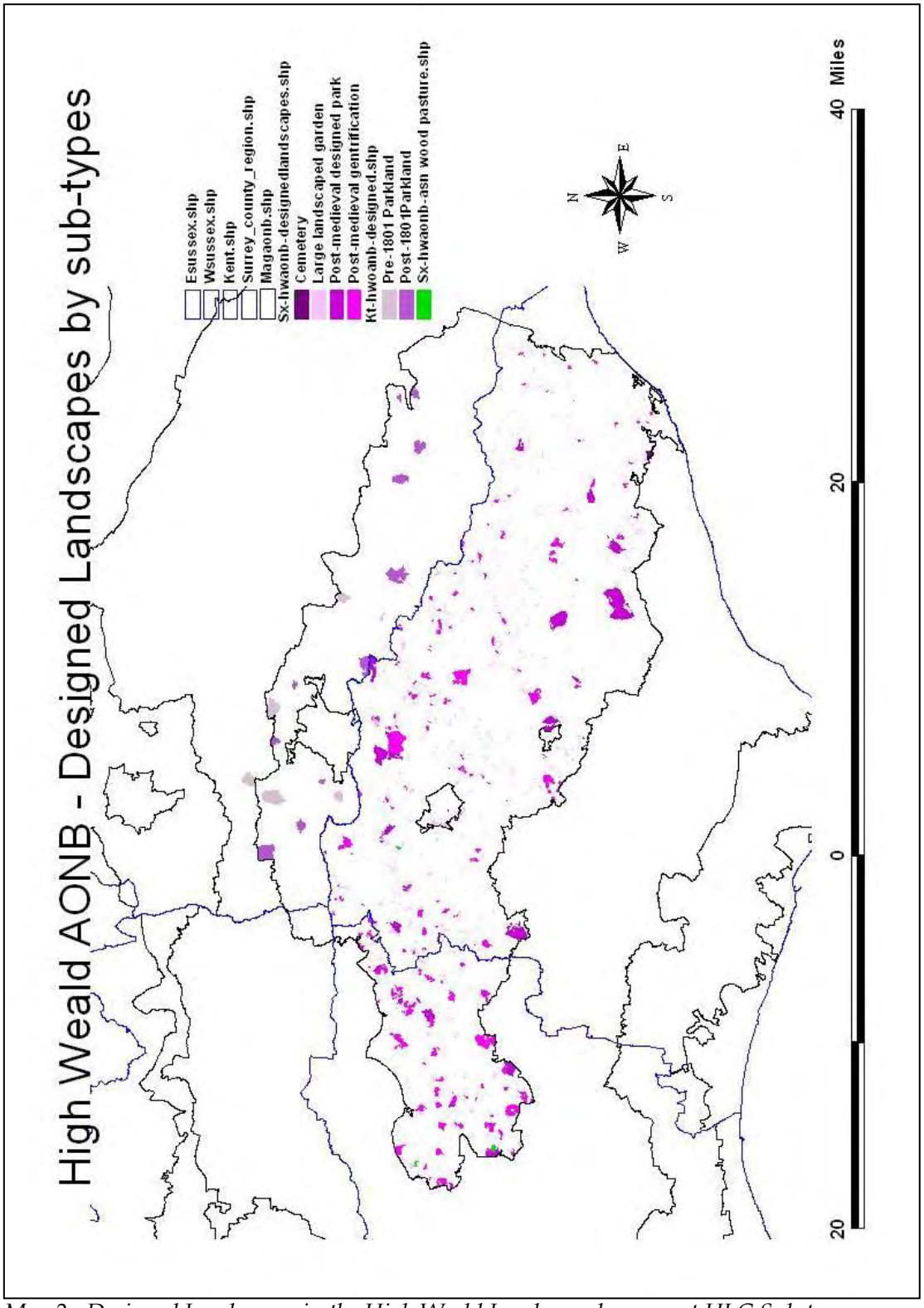

Map 2: Designed Landscapes in the High Weald Landscape by present HLC Sub-types

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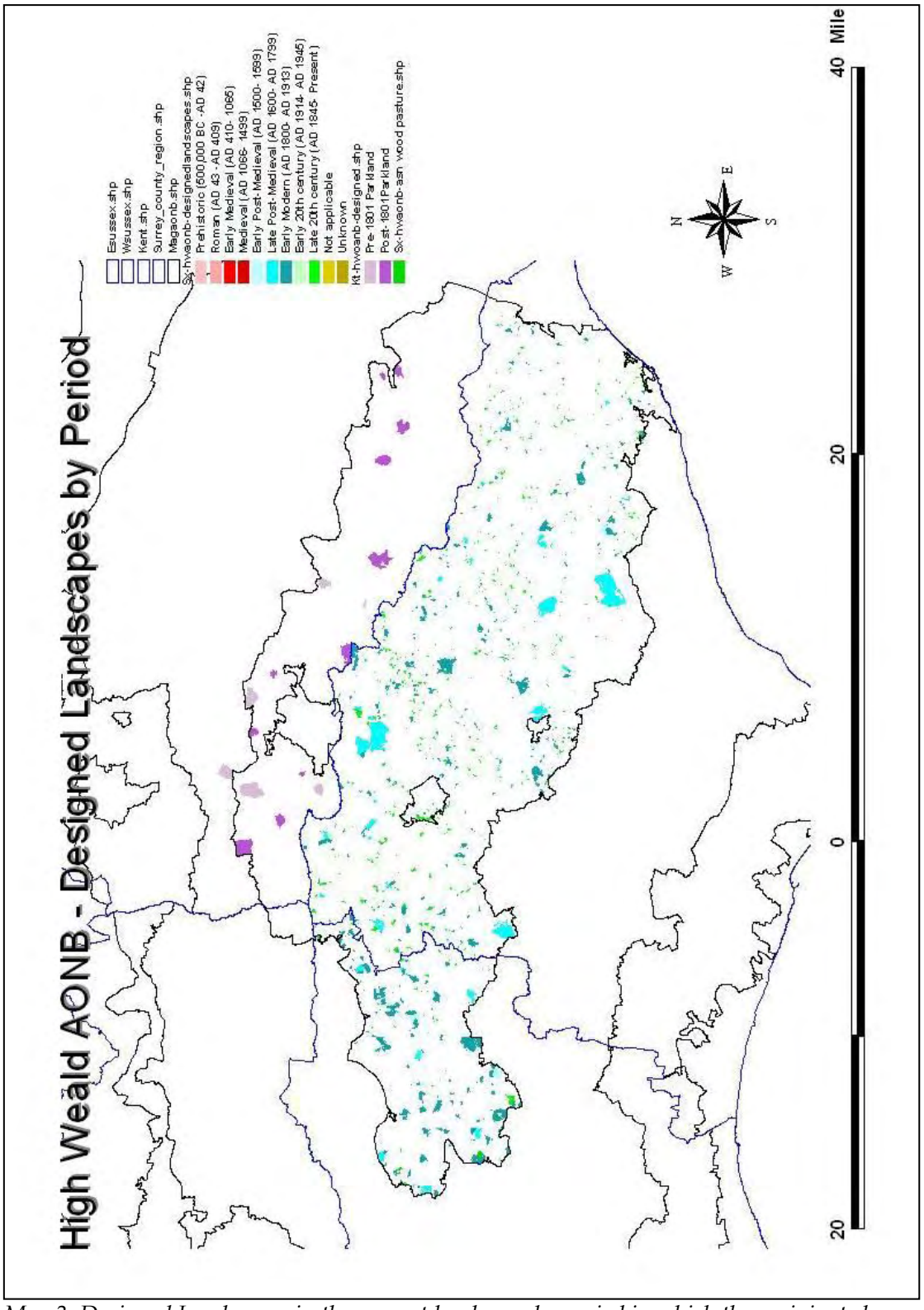

Map 3: Designed Landscapes in the present landscape by period in which they originated

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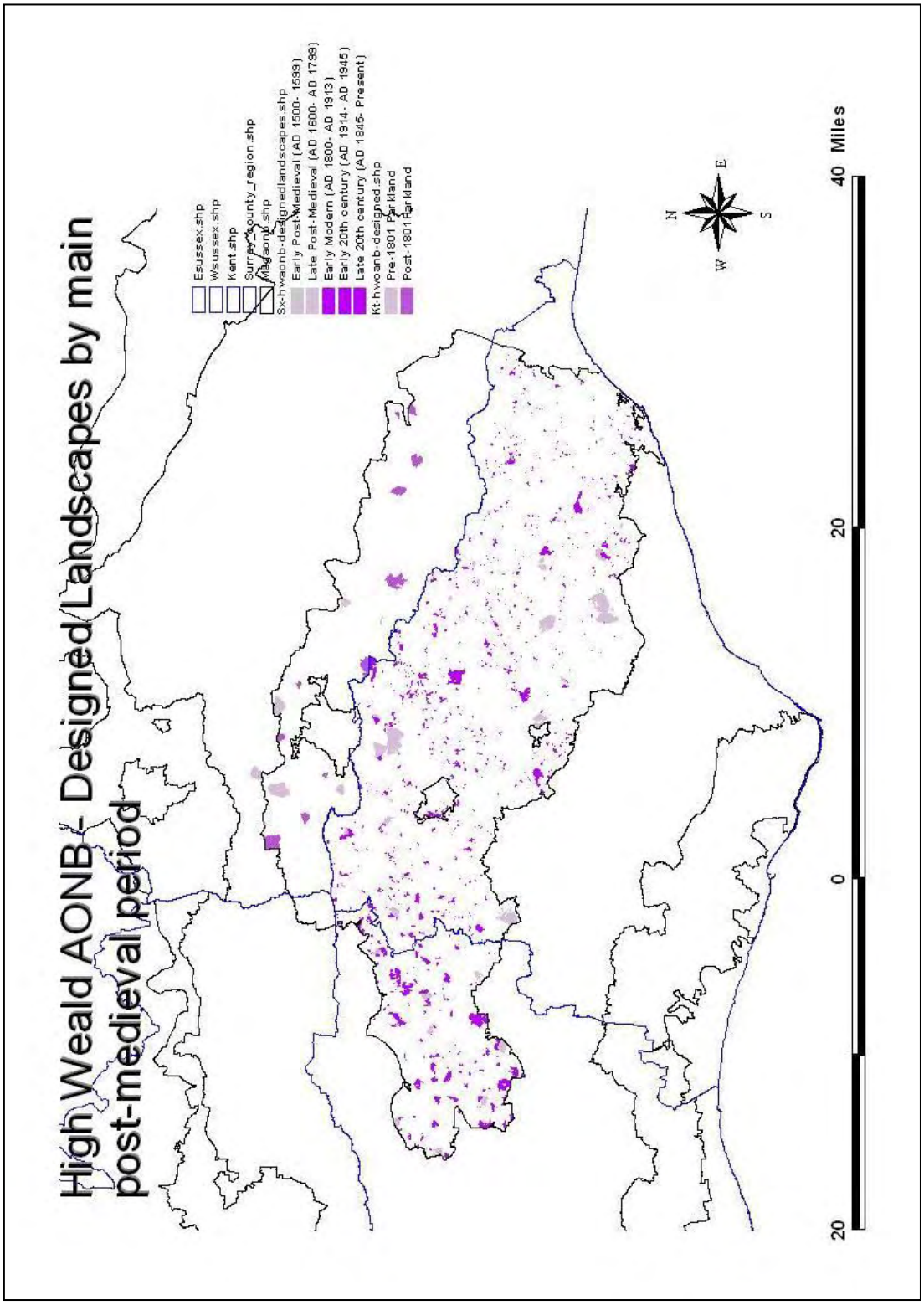

Map 4: Designed Landscapes by the main post-medieval periods

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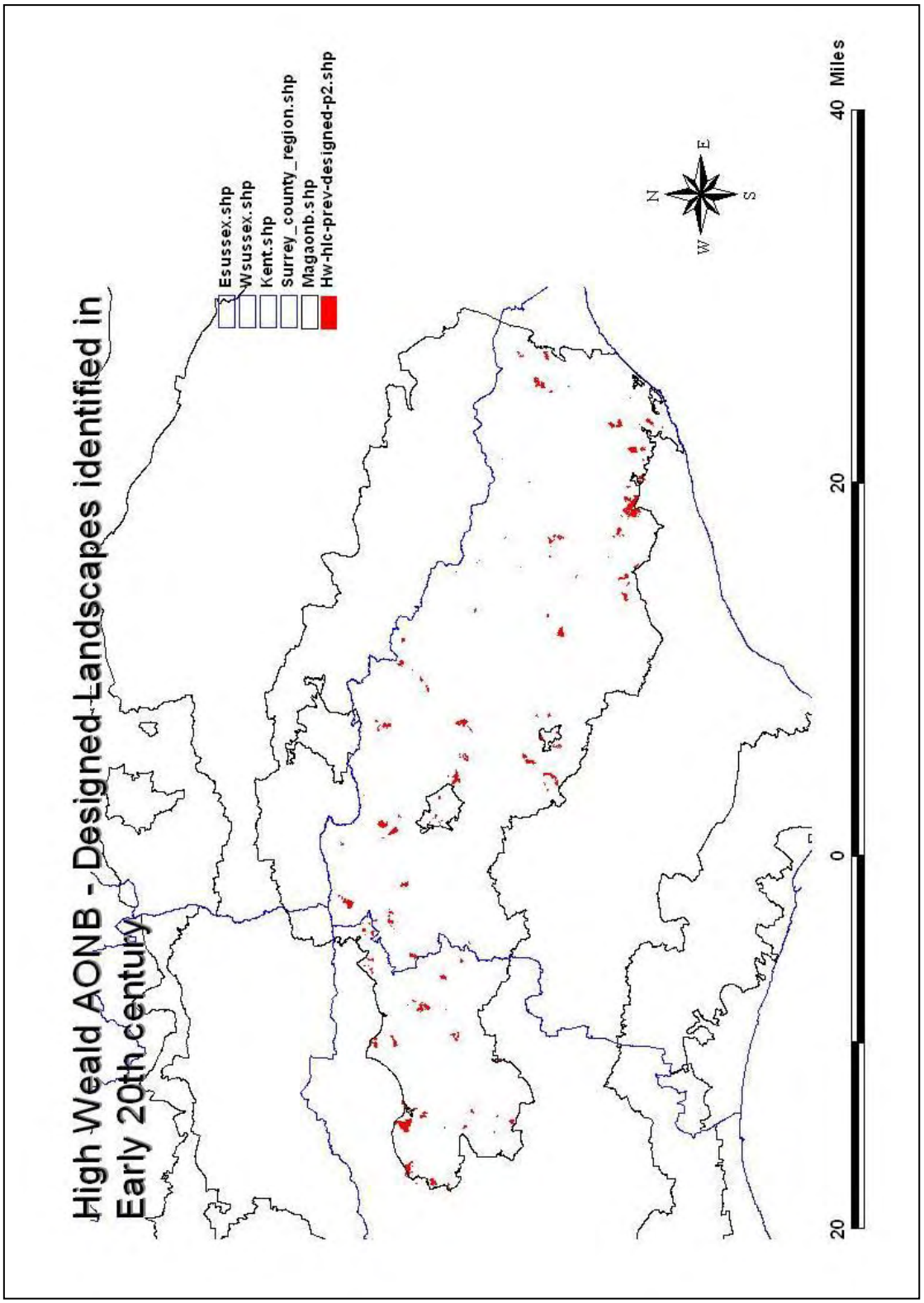

Map 5a: Former areas of Designed Landscapes present in the Early 20th century and now under a different landuse.

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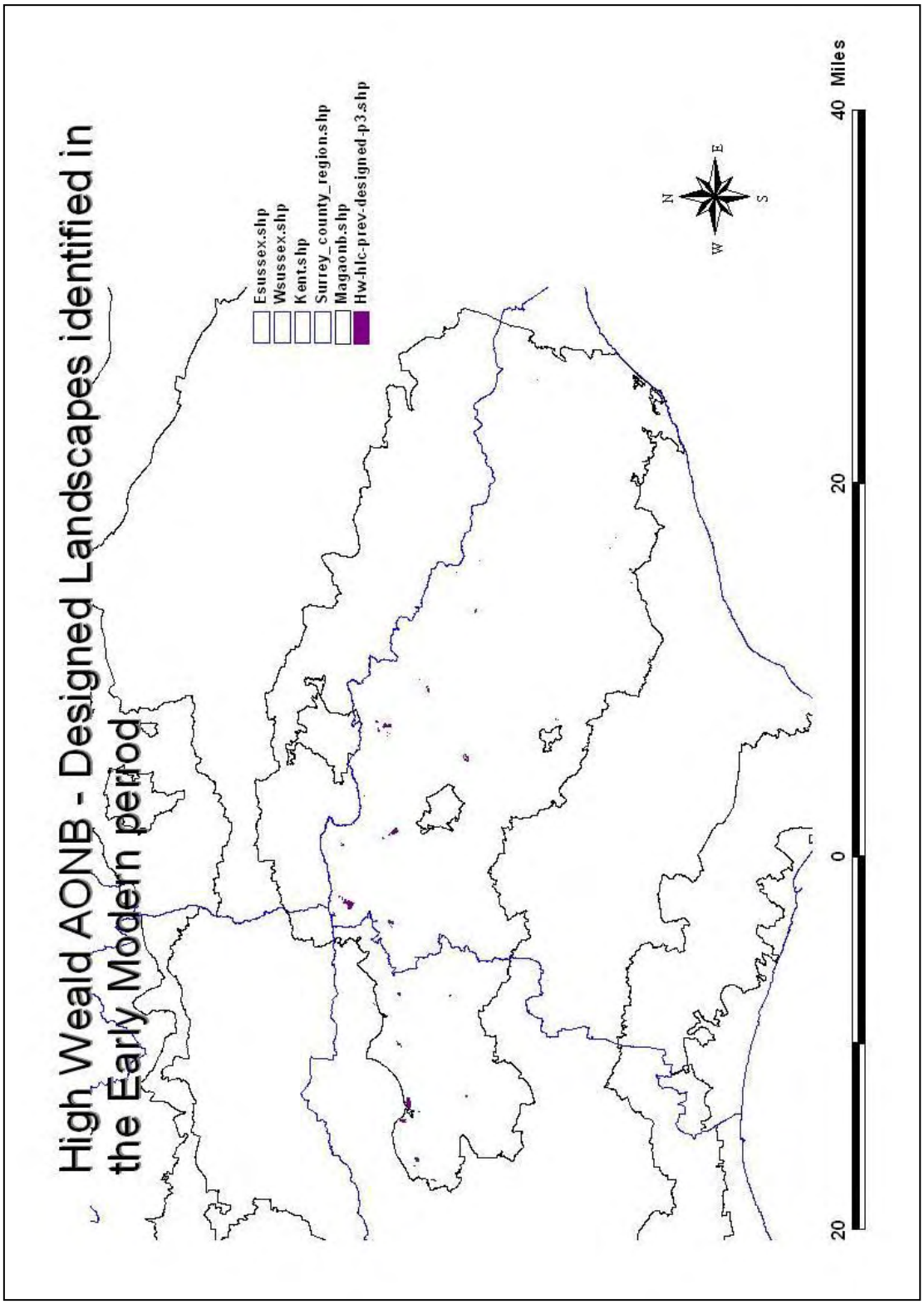

Map 5b: Former areas of Designed Landscapes present in the Early Modern period and now under a different landuse.

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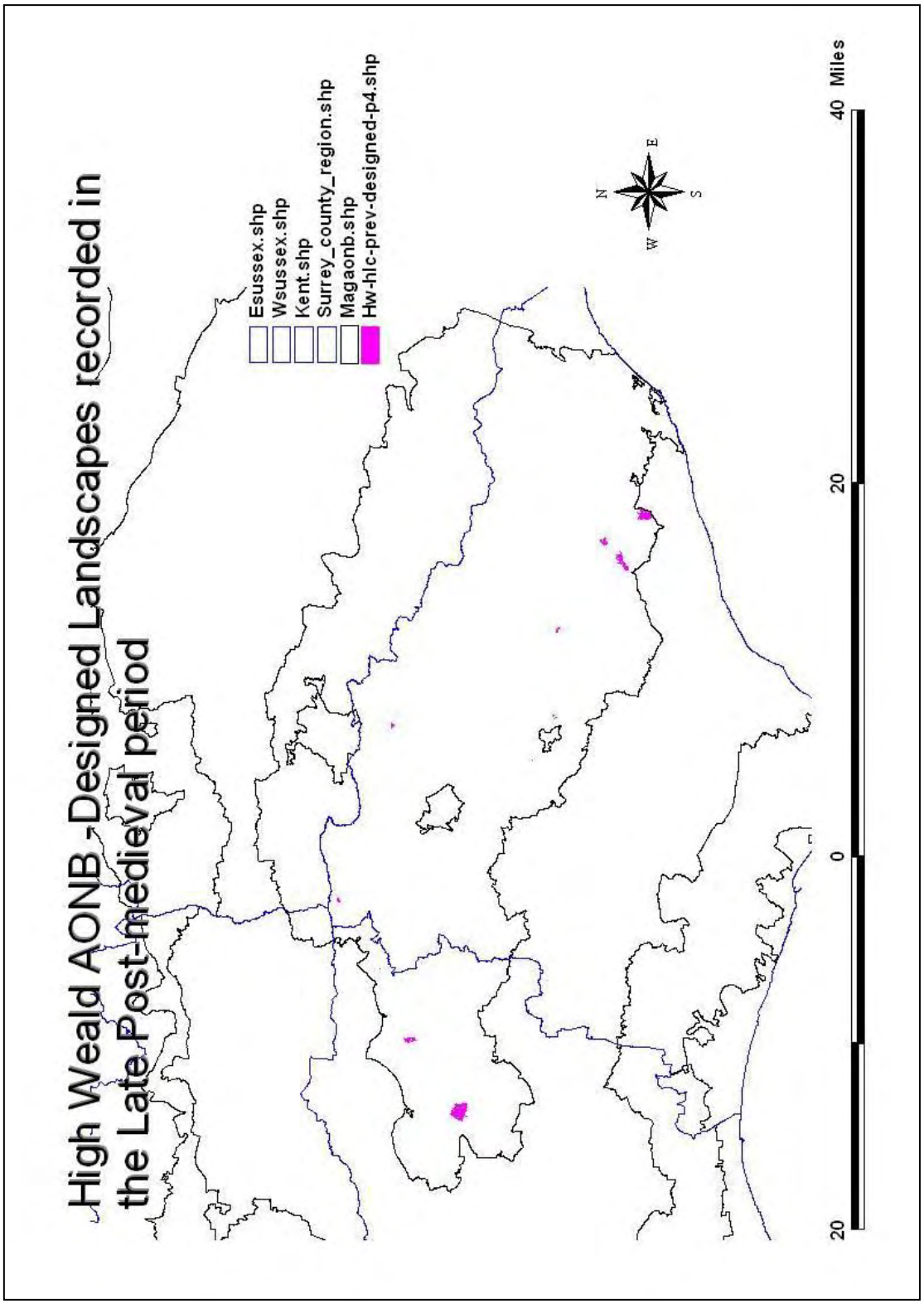

Map 5c: Former areas of Designed Landscapes present in the Late Post-medieval period and now under a different landuse

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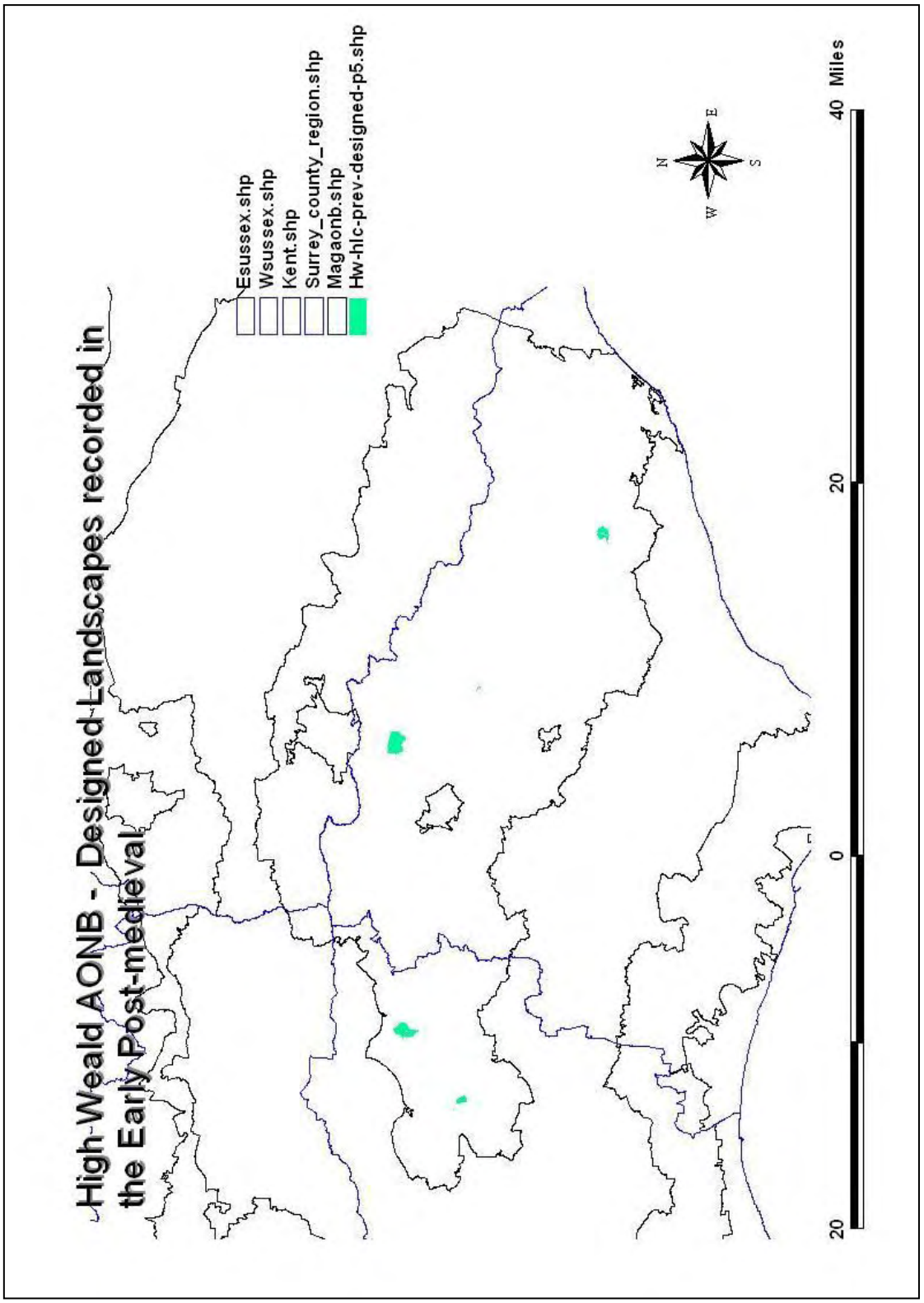

Map 5d: Former areas of Designed Landscapes present in the Early Post-medieval period and now under a different landuse.

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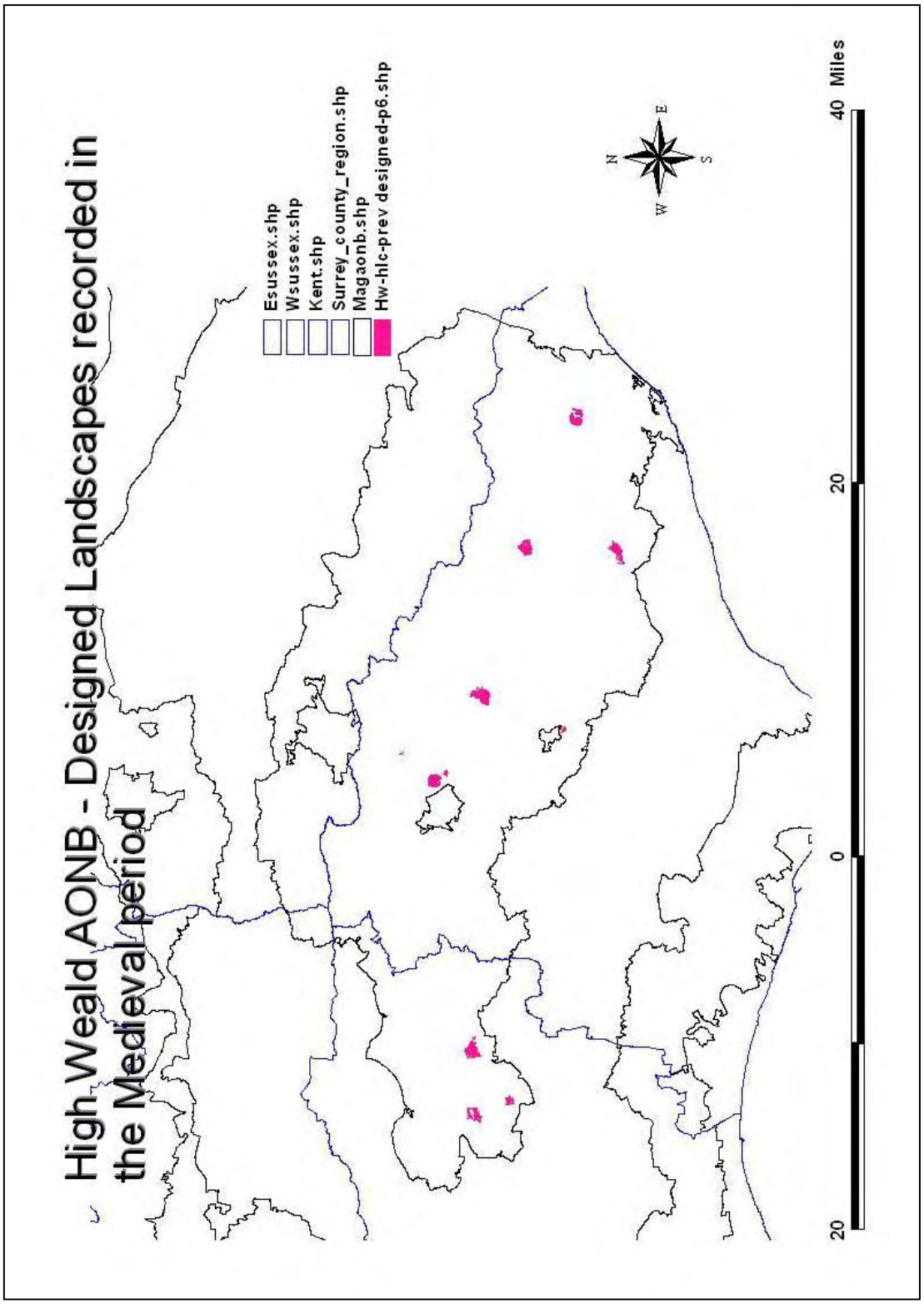

Map 5e: Former areas of Designed Landscapes present in the Medieval period and now under a different landuse

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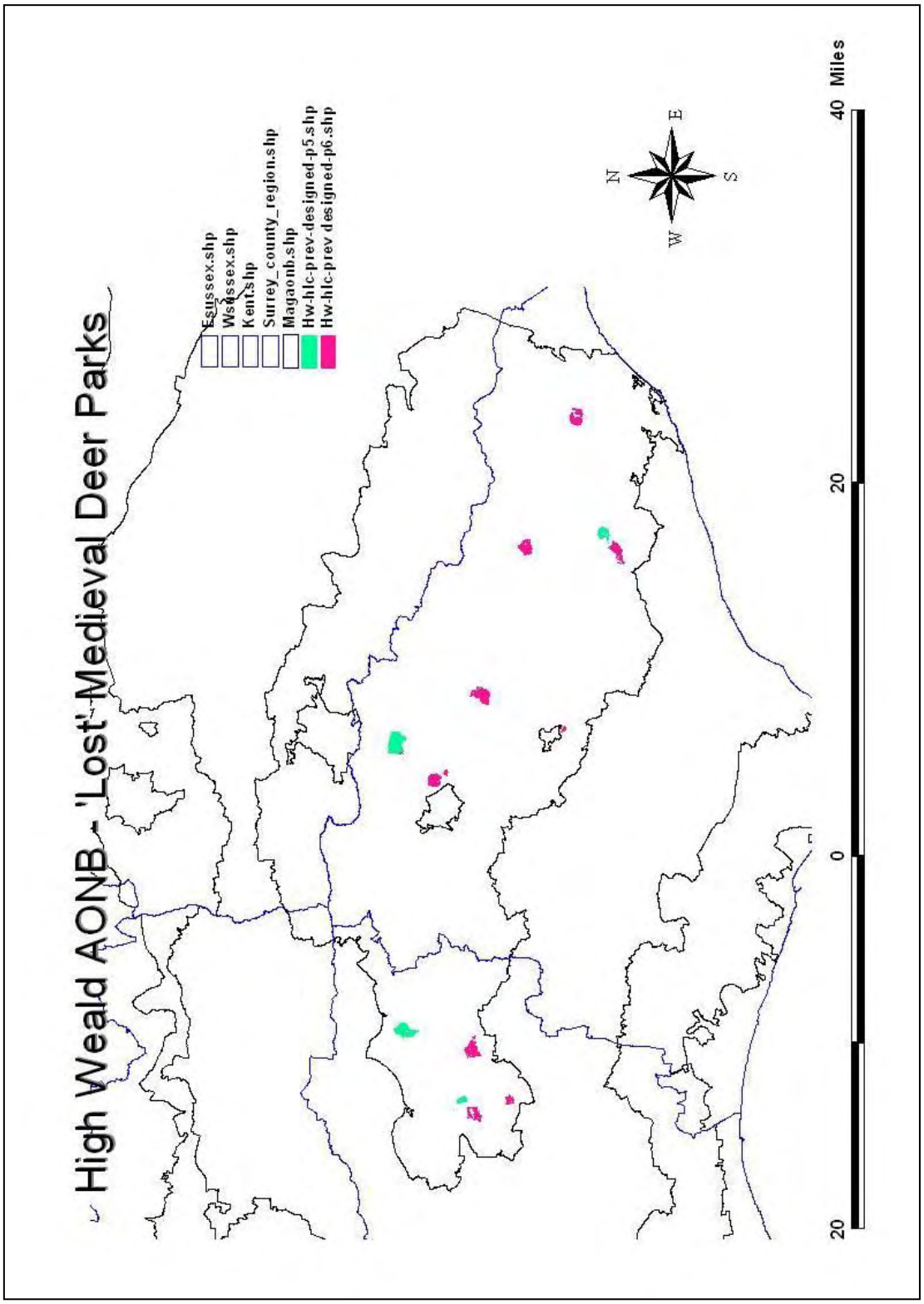

Map 6: Sites of probably Medieval Deer Parks in Sussex which have now been 'lost' to other land uses. Displayed by period.

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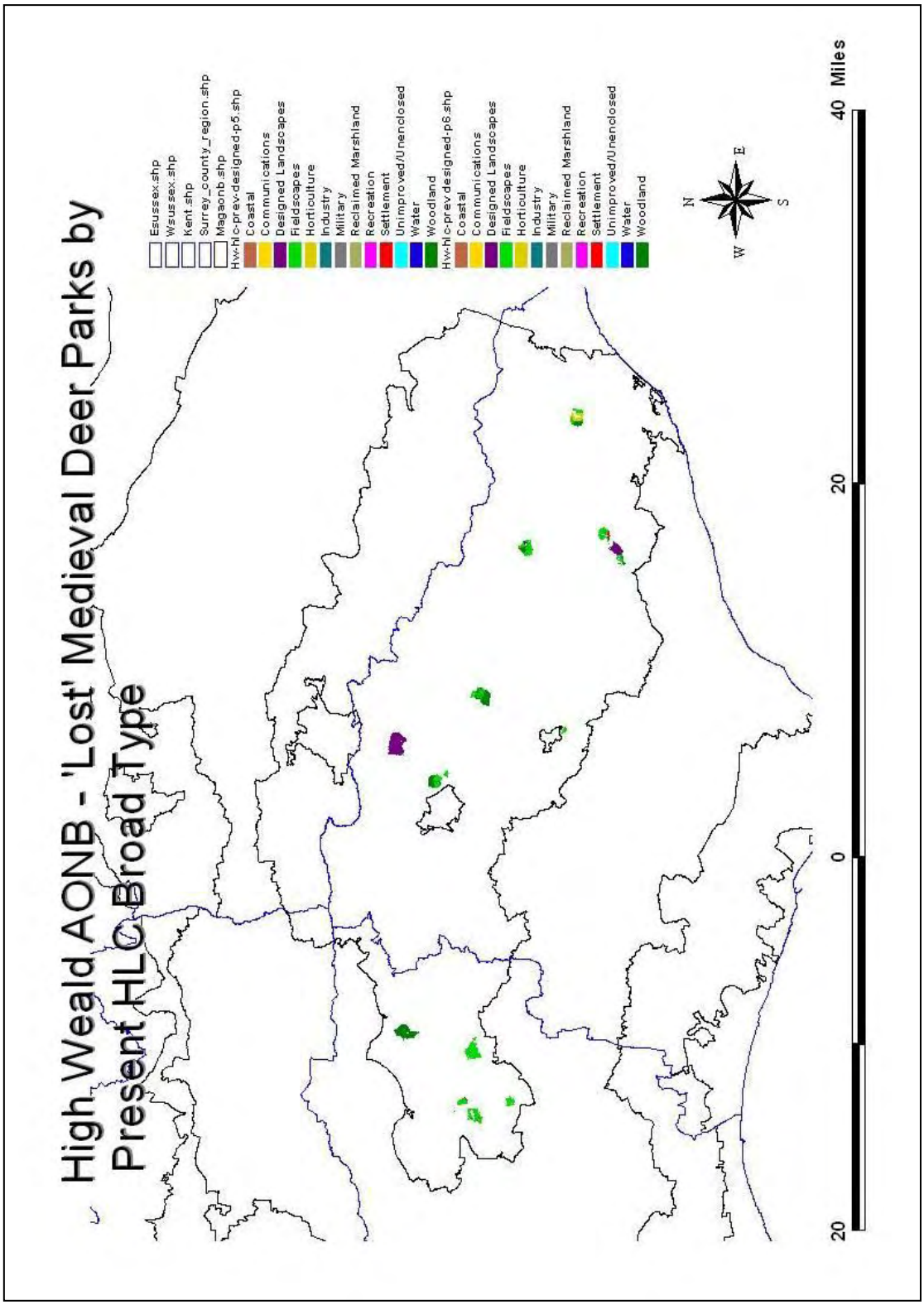

Map 7: Sites of probably Medieval Deer Parks in Sussex which have now been 'lost' to other land uses. Displayed by present HLC Broad Type.

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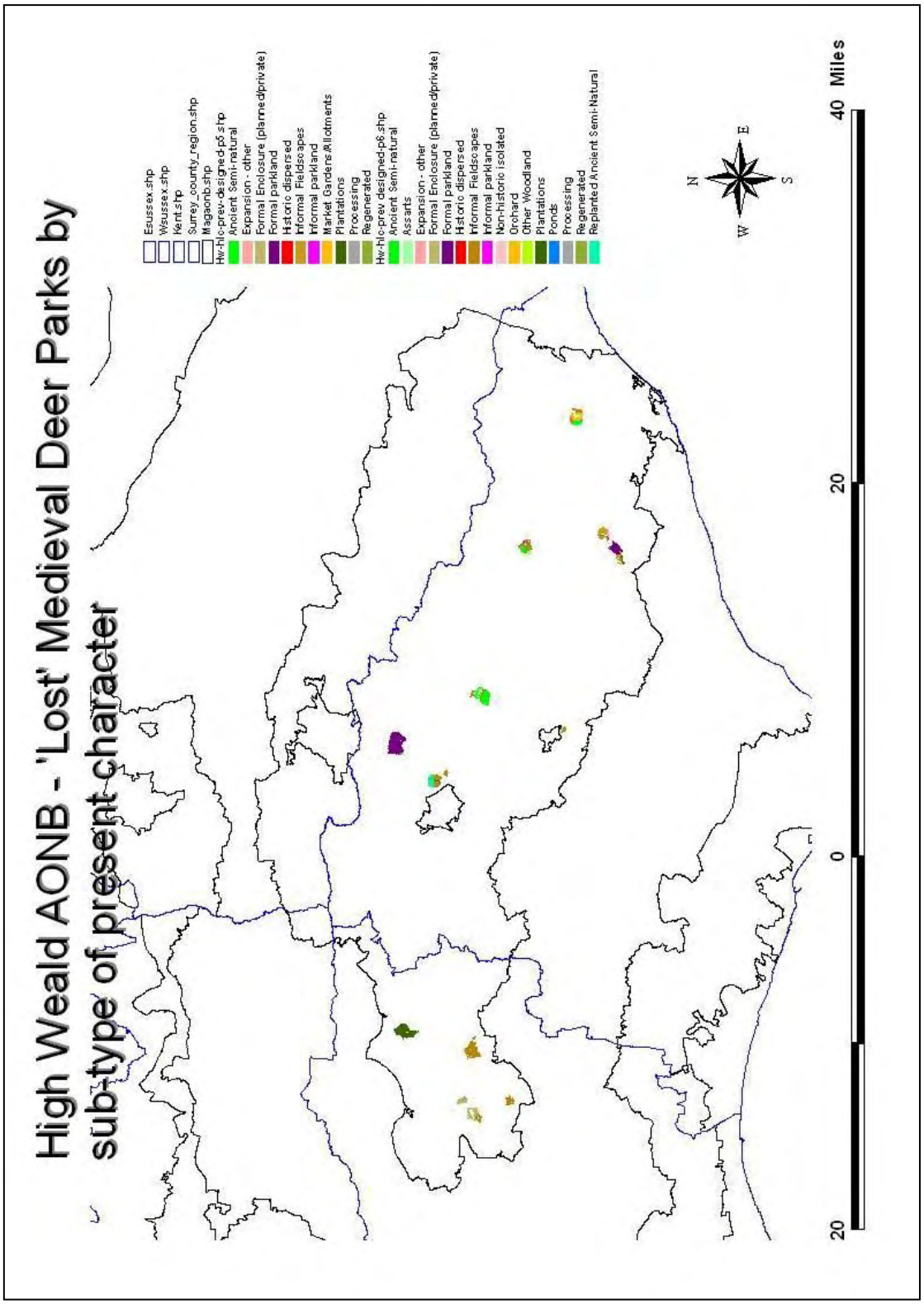

Map 8: Sites of probably Medieval Deer Parks in Sussex which have now been 'lost' to other land uses. Displayed by present HLC sub-type.

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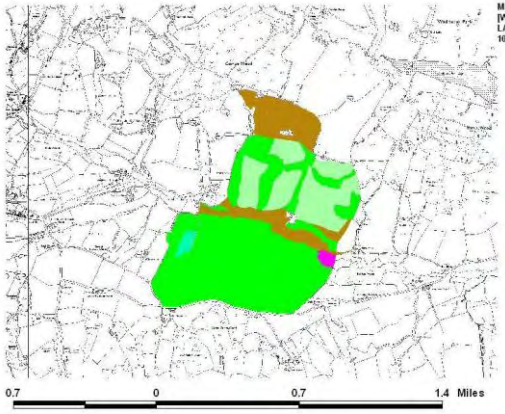
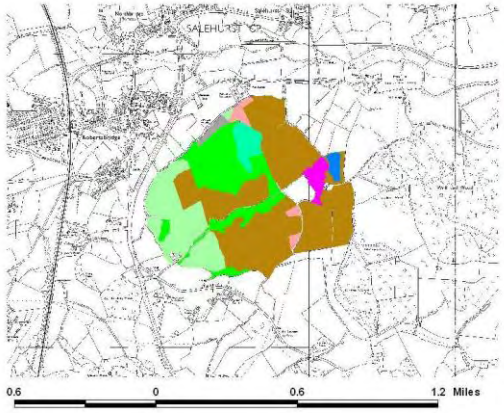
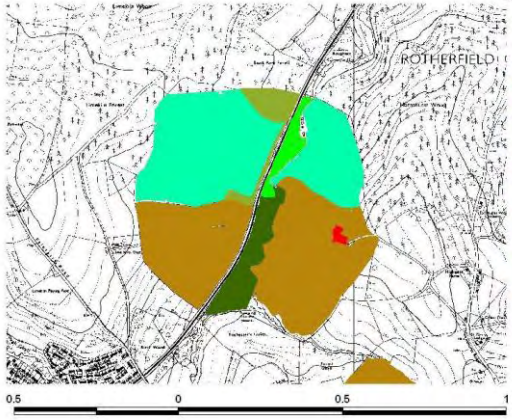
Site of Hawksden Medieval Deer Park, near Mayfield
by HLC present sub-types



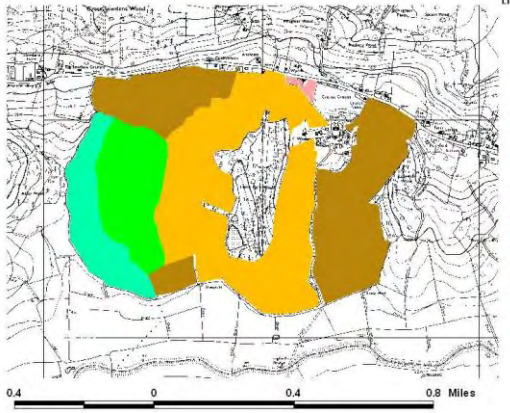
Site of Robertsbridge Medieval Deer Park
showing HLC present sub-types



Site of Rotherfield Medieval Deer Park
showing HLC present sub-types



Site of Udimore Medieval Deer Park
showing HLC present sub-types
[white areas are medieval settlement & ancient woodland]



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