

# Commons, Greens and Settlement In the High Weald AONB



*Scoping assesment from Kent and Sussex Historic Landscape  
Characterisations*



**A report for the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee**

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**Landscape History & Conservation**

**July 2011**

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 this 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 of 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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# Commons, Greens & Settlement

In the High Weald AONB  
Kent and Sussex

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Thank you

JULY 2011

**SCOPING ASSESSMENT**  
**FROM**  
**KENT & SUSSEX HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**  
**CHARACTERISATIONS**

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## GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

Frith Scrubby or poorly stocked woodland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Key events affecting manorial common land in South East**

- 1348            The Black Death which devastated the medieval population leaving large areas of farm land to revert to 'waste'.
- 1530s            Dissolution of the Monasteries with large areas manorial common land coming into secular ownership and the landowners subsequent endeavours to enclose.
- C16 &C17        Expansion of iron working in the Weald and the devastation of commons trees by landlords who owned iron works including the Crown and the subsequent enclosure of commons and forests
- 1585            Statute of 13 Elizabeth I - An Act for the preservation of timber in the wilds of the counties of Sussex Surrey and Kent, which also had the effect of enclosing wooded commons for allowing trees to grow.
- 1899            The Commons Act authorised the care of commons by district councils if the lord of the manor, or tenants representing one third in value of the common rights, agreed.
- 1880-82        Great Ashdown Forest case where the commoners took on the landowners to preserve their rights of common which led to.....
- 1886            ....the Creation of the Ashdown Forest Board of Conservators
- 1865            Creation of the Commons Preservation Society.
- 1965            Commons Registration Act required the registration of all common lands and village greens in England and Wales before January 2nd 1970.

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The views expressed in this report are entirely the author's own and do not reflect the policies of either the High Weald AONB nor of East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council or Kent County Council.

## PERIOD TABLE

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

### *The Archaeological and Historical Periods used in the Sussex HLC*

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Village greens, commons and areas of unenclosed spaces – historically part of manorial 'waste', are a characteristic feature of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Village greens are quintessentially 'English' and conjure up a vision of the bucolic countryside, with Morris Dancers. However, historically greens and commons were important elements of the rural landscape and served a vital role for village and rural communities. Commons were areas which were exploited for their resources, grazing, fuel and minerals. Despite their name, commons were in fact not 'common' to all but had attached to them specific 'rights' held by 'custom of the manor', which were allocated to properties and to the lord of the manor.

Today, commons and greens are enjoyed by many as places to walk and take part in quiet recreation, and as such are important to the well-being of the local community and as places to visit by those who live further afield. Many greens in villages are still used by visiting fairs, or by the local parish to hold events. Other open spaces such as sports grounds may also be used in this way such as the recreation ground at Tenterden.

With the demand for more housing and the political will to provide opportunities for development especially in the South East, these and other open areas are coming under scrutiny as potential sites for development.

An additional process which has implications on the pattern and distribution of greens is the power to designate any area as a green by individuals or the local community, especially where it might be under threat from development. If such areas are being sought as local greens then the re-establishing of 'lost' areas of greens and commons is a positive way forward of retaining the local character of a village or hamlet.

In order to address some of the issues raised and to provide an evidence base for arguments for the case for the preservation of greens and commons, the High Weald AONB Unit commissioned a scoping assessment using the Sussex and Kent Historic Landscape Characterisations as a starting point. The aim being to identify themes and trends in the historical character of commons, greens and other open spaces and to examine the development of these elements of the historic landscape of the High Weald.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- \* To undertake a series of themed analyses of the Sussex (and where feasible the Kent) Historic Landscape Characterisations [HLC] to identify the historic character of commons and greens in the High Weald and their relationship with settlement patterns.
- \* From the analysis to prepare a statement on the history, pattern and distribution and preservation of commons and greens together with other areas of open ground which were not enclosed woods, fields etc.
- \* From the analysis draw out key trends and patterns (if any) in the relationship between commons and greens and settlement.

- \* To prepare a statement of the importance of these areas as a cultural resource and their contribution to local historic character and historic distinctiveness of the High Weald.
- \* To prepare a statement of the importance of these areas to the local character of settlement and settlement patterns.
- \* To undertake brief research into the historic origins and use of greens and commons in the High Weald, and where feasible their use today.
- \* To identify areas for future research of the cultural resource.

### **3. METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

The High Weald AONB lies predominantly in Sussex but with its northern side in Kent and a small area in the extreme south-east corner of Surrey. Each of the respective county HLCs was examined for the historic character types which captured commons and greens together with related settlement such as 'historic core' and 'common-edge'. Sussex being the most fine-grained of the three HLCs had the most detail relating to these character types. Kent had only a few areas of 'wooded over commons'. The broad-brush approach to Kent actually masks the extent of commons and greens that still do exist in the Kent landscape. Surrey did not have any character types relating to the common broad HLC type. Again this HLC was broad-brushed in its approach. For the area of Surrey within the High Weald there was no evidence of greens or commons.

Table 2. in Appendix I gives the list of historic character types and their brief descriptions of attributes taken from the respective HLC typology descriptions.

The key themes of HLC historic character types were extracted from the main body of data and are shown on Maps 1-15. On a practical note the size of the polygons of these character types are often very small less than 2 ha and at the scale of the whole High Weald area they become 'lost' even when shown as black images. Thus it is recommended that the maps are viewed as .shp files in GIS.

In addition to a themed analysis from the HLCs an initial scoping was undertaken of secondary or published material to provide background information on the historic context of greens and commons, for example, a list of all settlements which historically were granted a charter for a fair and / or market.

## **4. RESULTS**

### **4.1. Introduction to Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The Kent, Surrey and Sussex HLCs are part of an on-going English Heritage programme of historic landscape characterisation that aims to achieve a national coverage. So far over 85% of England has been covered with only a few parts of England's land area left to be completed. Wales and Scotland have their own programmes of characterisation in progress. Historic Landscape Characterisation is based on an observational and interpretational approach to characterising the predominant historic character within the present landscape.

The method is descriptive, analytical and transparent, based on informed interpretations by the HLC Project Officer, using selected information from key data sets and historic maps.

The technique of HLC is to identify areas or units of land (which become the HLC polygons) based on the relative uniformity of their key historic landscape attributes. These units are assigned Character Types together with their key identifying attributes selected from a linked database and the information is stored and displayed in a GIS system. HLC types are generic and can recur anywhere within the county; however it is patterns of the combinations of Types (frequency, form and association with each other) that identifies the general historic character of any given area and enables, if required, the development of Historic Landscape Character Areas.

The Kent HLC was one of the first to be undertaken using GIS and was completed in 2000 (Crofts, Munby & Ridley 2001). It only has one layer of interpretation of the present day landscape, with aspects of time-depth inherent in the attribute character descriptions. The Sussex HLC was completed in 2010 and makes full use of the greater degree of sophistication in GIS development (Bannister 2010). Hence it is much more detailed in its mapping (using OS Mastermap as its base). Sussex has many layers of interpretation as the historic attributes are held in individual fields in a stand-alone database. These include interpretations of past land use and character for those polygons which have under-gone change. However the principles and approach in the two HLC methodologies are the same and thus broad interpretations between the two can be made.

The themed interpretations from the HLCs were divided between the two counties of Kent and Sussex and each are described separately below.

#### **4.1.1. The Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The only unenclosed character type identified for the Kent High Weald area were 'commons'. There is no interpretation of past land use changes thus former commons and heaths are not identified such as at Kilndown and Priors Heath in Goudhurst, or the extensive forests of Waterdown and Frith around Tunbridge Wells.

##### **a. Wooded over commons**

Of all the common character types in the Kent HLC only three areas of "wooded over commons were identified". These lie on the edge of Tunbridge Wells and comprise Southborough Common, Rusthall Common and Tunbridge Wells Common [Map 1 & 2]. They are remnants of the medieval forest of South Frith which lay within the Lowy of Tonbridge and of Waterdown Forest (which although it lay outside of the Lowy was held by the De Clares of Tonbridge and thus probably managed with South Frith and North Firth which lay to the north of Tonbridge and the River Medway). See Appendix II for a more detailed account of the Lowy (Bannister 2008).

##### **b. Village / hamlet 1810 extent (32 polygons)**

These areas are comparable to the historic core settlements of the Sussex HLC. This group encompasses the full range of historic settlement from Tenterden and Cranbrook (historic market towns) to Speldhurst and Goudhurst (Wealden villages) to individual manorial farmsteads such as Lossenham Manor in Newenden [Map 3]. A number of these

settlements have village greens associated with them, for example Benenden, Lamberhurst and Hawkhurst Moor.

**c. Common-edge settlement**

None were recorded in this part of Kent in the HLC. However such settlements do exist, for example Kilndown is a hamlet or small village which has developed on a former down or heath. The Kent HLC identifies this settlement as 'post-1810 general settlement', however a re-interpretation of this along the lines of the Sussex HLC would be 'historic core common-edge' together with 'Expansion other – infill' and 'planned estate'.

**4.1.2. The Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The Sussex HLC recorded commons and greens in several ways based on their origin and historic character. The Broad type 'Unimproved/unenclosed' comprised heaths, commons and downs together with those that have become wooded over. Smaller areas of heath, green and down which have become 'enclosed by default' i.e. left after all around has been enclosed, are described in the 'Fieldsapes' broad-type.

**4.1.2.1. Unimproved/Unenclosed**

The Sussex HLC shows the greatest concentration of the 'Unimproved/unenclosed' broad type in the area of Ashdown Forest, with fragments extending along the east-west ridge of former medieval forests [Weald Forest Ridge] towards the county boundary with Kent. Pockets of isolated wastes occur along the southern boundary of the High Weald along the ridges of high ground towards Hadlow Down and Heathfield. [See Maps 1 & 2]. Towards the eastern end of the AONB towards the coast are small remnants of greens and enclosed 'manorial wastes'.

**a. Wastes-commons-greens**

These are small areas of former commons or greens which remain after enclosure, settlement development and other change in landuse [Map 1]. The Sussex HLC identifies 49 of these wastes sites across the High Weald AONB. Most are frequent in the central and eastern High Weald, for example at Hadlow Down. Some are former roadside waste for example at Turks and Great Broadhurst Farms in Burwash or Allens Farm near Five Ashes. Others are the remains of former greens such as at Whitemans Green near Cuckfield, or Salter's Green north west of Mayfield.

In the area of the 'Weald Forest Ridge' are small enclosures which are the remains of former open wood pastures and heaths, remnants of the royal hunting forests which characterised this part of the High Weald, for example at Court Lodge Down alias Moon Down and Baker's Down north of Bells Yew Green.

**b. Greens**

These are areas of historic or modern greens and are often shown with open boundaries along roadsides and may also have a 'green' place name associated with them, for example Bells Yew Green, Rushlake Green and Turners Green or are open spaces within a historic settlement such as at Frant or Sedlescombe [see Appendix III for full list of green settlements]. (19 individual greens were identified in the HLC). Greens tend to be found in the central part of the High Weald, around Ashdown Forest or towards Hadlow Down. Modern greens are open spaces close to settlement, for example at High Park,

Northiam. A possible green or meeting space in Northiam may have been further to the south by the church which sits on a knoll overlooking the main through route.

**c. Commons**

Commons are divided into two groups, those which are still open and unenclosed with little tree cover [Map 2]. Only at Stumblewood Common on the edge of Ashdown Forest and the northern edge of the Forest by Forest Row are there areas of open (i.e. little tree canopy) common remaining. This small number (3) hides the fact that there are many more commons in the High Weald but which have now become covered in secondary woodland due to cessation in traditional grazing and commoner's rights. Some commons were historically wooded, particularly around the edge of Ashdown Forest. These were where commoners had rights to cut fuel and wood as well as other activities including grazing. The central part of the Forest was set aside for the management of deer ("vert and venison"). These commons were probably an intimate mixture of woodland, wood pasture, heath and rough pasture, with large areas kept open by stock grazing on the young trees.

**d. Wooded over commons**

Commons which have become covered with secondary woodland are centred on Ashdown Forest and form a ring around its edge, for example at Chelwood Common and parts of Stumblewood Common [Map 2 & 4]. Away from Ashdown Forest, commons are associated with common names, such as Selsfield Common near Turners Hill, Slaugham Common, at Slaugham and Lyewood Common, at Lye Green. Smaller unnamed commons were identified from the Ordnance Surveyors Draft Drawings c. 1800 for example at Stocks Farm at Guestling. However this site is more likely to be the remains of a wooded over green or forstal located on the entrance drive to the farm. This is a typical place to gather stock perhaps on an old driftway (two public footpaths traverse the site). At Woods Green near Cousley Wood the green is now covered with woodland. In fact Wadhurst had several greens, Pell, Turner's, Primmers, Sparrow's, Wood's and Vicarage, most of which were built over in the 20th century. The Sussex HLC identifies 81 wooded over commons (and greens).

**e. Heaths**

The heathland is mostly confined to the core area of Ashdown Forest. However two smaller areas are found in Hoad Wood in Warbleton and at Hastings by Covehurst Bay [Map 2 & 4]. The areas of heathland are likely to increase with changes in the management of some areas of woodland which were known to historically to have had areas of open heath, but have since become covered with plantation and secondary woodland, for example at Broadwater Warren near Tunbridge Wells or Brede High Woods near Battle.

**4.1.2.2. Previous land use in the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation**

With the Sussex HLC it is possible to examine for those polygons where previous land use change was recorded from the selected archive sources, the change in historic landscape character. For Ashdown Forest it is possible to see the extent of former open heathland and commons. The greatest change has been the spread of woodland across many commons [Maps 5, 6, 14a & b]. In the area of Heathfield, Dallington and Burwash, the 'downs' which followed the ridge tops can be identified [Map 6]. At High Hurstwood in Buxted former heath and greens have become enclosed to small fields and detached

houses from the early post-medieval to the present day. By querying the previous character type fields for each period time-slice it is possible to see what the historic unenclosed areas have since changed to in the present day landscape. An example is at Wadhurst where the medieval greens have now been built over [Map 7a & 7b].

Table 1. *The Archaeological and Historical Periods used in the Sussex HLC*

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

#### 4.1.2.3. Historic settlements

The Sussex HLC recorded settlement character in more detail than the Kent HLC; in particular the interpretation of the dispersed settlement. Hamlets, villages, farms as well as common-edge and ribbon settlement were identified. The interpretation of all settlement types is seen on Map 8. The attributes for differentiating towns, villages and hamlets are generally based on size of settlement and whether it is the main settlement in the village (which is the same name as the parish) or a secondary settlement.

##### a. Historic market towns

Rotherfield, Mayfield, (New) Winchelsea, Battle and Hastings Old Town are interpreted in this type and all historically had markets, [See Table 4]. The medieval town of New Winchelsea and Hastings Old Town are coastal settlements. Rotherfield is located on the river Rother while Battle and Mayfield are ridge top settlements. Battle developed around the Abbey founded by William I close to the site of the Battle of Hastings. Mayfield developed as a market village but expanded in part due to the church holdings here. For more detail about these see the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Harris 2010).

##### b. Historic market villages

These are centralised settlements which are smaller than towns but larger than hamlets and are usually the main settlement in the parish. They were generally the places where markets and fairs were held. Of the twenty-one villages identified eight were found to have markets [See Table 4]. Of those that had markets, Frant, and possibly Wadhurst still retain their village greens. In the other villages, it is possible that the sites of the greens, if there were any, have now become enclosed or built over.

##### c. Historic hamlets

The greater part of historic core settlement in the High Weald comprises hamlets which are smaller than villages. The Sussex HLC identifies 134 such settlements [See Table 5 & Map 9]. Hamlets have been grouped in the table according to their place-name; i.e. whether they have the suffix of prefix of green, cross, gate, street, down etc. which provides a clue to their origin and or location. Hamlets are more frequent in the

eastern part of the Sussex High Weald than the western. This might be a reflection of the presence of the medieval forests in the western and northern part preventing settlement expansion in the medieval period. This area also has a greater proportion of historic common edge settlements.

Those with the suffix 'green' are also more frequent in the east compared with the west, for example in the area of Warbleton and Brede. Roberts and Wrathmell in their study of English rural settlement discuss the origin of 'green' names.

*Phase 1 Element 1 settlements where green added to an older name perhaps because the original focus lost status relative to other places*

*Phase 1 Element 2 settlements subsidiary to more important places, where name 'green' added to an older settlement name to identify subsidiary focus.*

*Phase 2 Element 1 settlements with ancient family name together with 'green'*

*Phase 2 Element 2 Settlements with a craft or activity name together with 'green'*

*Phase 3 when settlement naming established the term 'green' would be attached to any group of houses along wide roadsides or edges of commons.* (Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, 56). They also go on to state that 'street' and 'end' (not found in the Weald) are also associated with these types of settlements. Most of the Sussex green place-names are names of manorial people (or possibly people who took their name from the 'green').

In Sussex, those hamlets with the place-name suffix 'cross', tend to occur on the ridge way tops on routeway junctions. There are only three with the suffix 'gate' and two lie within the parishes of Wadhurst and Ticehurst, where historically the main centralised village settlement developed on former commons.

#### **d. Historic common-edge settlement**

As to be expected this character type is concentrated around Ashdown Forest, where such settlement lies adjacent to the edge of the forest commons, [Map 11]. Common edge settlement is also found along the ridge tops where there were remnants of the heaths and 'downs' for example at Heathfield and Hadlow Down. Some such settlement is also found at the eastern end of the area of the 'Weald Forest Ridge' towards Tunbridge Wells. Here are remnants of the former unenclosed Forests of Waterdown and Broadwater Down.

The relationship of historic common edge settlement and present day unenclosed character types is seen in Map 11. The group of common edge settlements in the area of Hadlow Down and Heathfield do not have unenclosed character types in the present landscape but when the previous hlc layers are viewed the extent of the heaths is revealed and the relationship with these historic common edge settlements can be seen [Map 11].

#### **4.1.3. Other open spaces**

Other open spaces associated with settlements are recreation grounds, sports fields and cricket pitches. The Sussex HLC records these as either sports fields or cricket pitches. Map 12 shows the distribution of these across the Sussex High Weald AONB. The majority are associated with settlement and in particular schools [Map 13]. No such character type was identified in the Kent HLC.

#### **4.2. Key historic processes which have shaped commons and greens**

The most important factor influencing the distribution of commons and greens is the nature of the soils in the High Weald. The underlying geology predominately comprises silts sands and clays of the Hastings Beds. These give rise to poor soils, which are for the most part unsuitable for arable and some are even too poor for pasture, giving rise to woodland, and where the woodland cover has been removed, to heaths and rough pasture. Thus there is a strong correlation between the survival of commons and the poorest soils.

Another key factor is the routeway network, both on land and by water, linking areas and at whose nodal points greens and thence settlements have developed.

The survival of village greens may have a direct link with the presence of active fairs and markets. These were the means by which people could trade goods and livestock. Many had ancient pre-domesday origins but most were formalised in the medieval period by the granting of charters by the Crown to the lords of the manors for fairs and markets; 3300 in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and 1560 in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The continuation of active fairs and markets into the modern period probably preserved many village greens. The church held control over many such fairs and markets. The granting of a charter was in essence the granting of revenue in the form of tolls and fines. The market was administered by a market court, which took precedence during the period of the market or fair over local manorial courts. In 1889 the Government published a list of market and fair charters as part of an investigation into the state of market tolls and rights to hold markets. The list was prepared from a manuscript in the Public Record Office [PRO, now The National Archives TNA] which was thought to contain all the Letters Patent in the PRO which related to fairs and markets in England from King John to 22 Ed IV. This list is styled "Palmer's Index No. 93". Also in 1889 the Government published a further two volumes called "Market Rights and Tolls" which looked at the history and the then current situation of fairs and markets. The reports looked at those fairs and markets recorded in 1792 in Owen's "New Book of Fairs" (Richardson, 1974, 233-269).

Generally, the sites of fairs and markets were near good trading routes linking other centres where trading took place, and not necessarily always on greens, for example the Prior at Combewell Priory at Goudhurst was granted the charter to hold a fair in its demesne land, not adjacent to the priory buildings but in a field at a place called 'Lady Oke' adjacent to what is now the A21 close to the cross roads with an east-west ridgeway route through Kent and Sussex. The fair was held on the day of the feast of St Mary Magdalen, hence possible the name 'lady'. Markets were also granted to settlements close to navigable water, such as at Newenden on the River Rother or Ashurst on the River Medway. These settlements today are small villages or hamlets and have not developed into large settlements, a possible consequence of the silting up of the rivers and preventing navigation and a cessation in trade.

##### **4.2.1. Green-villages versus villages with greens**

Green-villages were formally laid out around a green or area of common pasture. Such formal greens with rights of common pasturage were often areas where the villager's stock were brought and corralled during times of unrest. Green-villages are frequently found in Central and Northern England where classic medieval open field system of land use was

common. They were identified by Hoskins in 'The Making of the English Landscape' and are discussed by Roberts and Wrathmell (2002, 54).

Such planned green-villages are not a feature of the Weald. However there are in the High Weald several villages with large greens, for example Hawkhurst and Benenden in Kent and Frant in Sussex. These parish centres probably grew up around an area of open common waste, where trading was taking place, described as 'permissive settlements' by Dr Gardiner (1997, 65). He does differentiate between these and planned Wealden settlements, such as Burwash which is laid out along a ridge way route or Robertsbridge built by the Abbey of Robertsbridge close to the River Rother.

Hawkhurst Moor is another village with a large green. Hawkhurst lies within an area of the dens or swine pastures which belonged to the Anglo-Saxon royal manor of Wye. This manor with its extensive territories was granted to the Abbot and Priory of Battle by William I. The Abbot was granted two fairs and a market in 1311-12 to be held on the feast of St Laurence. These were held on the moor or green. This area is probably a remnant of one the dens located on a ridgeway route through the area. It was where people from the dispersed farms could come to sell wares and cattle in a centralised place. The church was founded between 1327 and 1377 in reign of Edward III and dedicated to St Laurence. It was probably built near to the site of the fair and market so that it was easier for the church and hence the abbey to collect dues and rents from the fair and market. Thus the fairs and market together with the moor or green as a meeting place are older than the church. Given its position on a ridgeway route from Kent to Sussex this may have been a meeting place which was used in pre-domesday times.

Benenden is another village with a green, with its church at one end and the main through fare through the village at the other. This green is one of the largest in Kent and Hasted calls it a 'playstool' used by the local landowners for playing bowls and it was maintained by them for this purpose (Hasted 1797, 7 173-183). This is an example of an early 'recreation-ground'. It is not clear from Hasted whether the fair was held here.

At Sedlescombe the church is located about half a mile from the village green around which the village developed, sometimes called 'Sedlescombe Street' (Victoria County History 9, 276). The village lies on a main north-south route (A21) through Sussex from the coast at Hastings in land to Kent. The regularity of the settlement along the green and the fact that as a village it is not mentioned before 1240 suggests it was a planned settlement permitted by the Abbot of Battle in whose land it lay, (Gardiner 1997, 68).

Gelling and Cole (2000) suggest that the term 'feld' may mean 'heathy common pasture' and Brandon interprets that the settlements of Cuckfield, Heathfield and Mayfield, all later in origin than the surrounding farms, developed on areas used by the farms for intercommoning of stock and possible where the fairs and markets were held (Brandon 2003, 50). These are examples of permissive villages which developed as stall and shop keepers created permanent dwellings around and close to the market place.

#### 4.2.2. Greens from forstals

Not all village greens were the sites of fairs and markets. Some greens have developed as remnant enclosures from the practise of corralling stock as possibly for example at Stocks Farm near Guestling.

According to Alan Everitt a forstal was an enclosure or stall at the front of a farmstead where livestock were held or where cattle were brought to be milked. In Kent as a place-name it is virtually confined to the pastoral areas of the Weald and North Downs. However by the time of Edward Hasted in 1797 a 'forstal' was synonymous with a 'green' and Hasted refers to "houses and cottages built around little greens and forstals" for example at Brenchley (Hasted 1797, 5 280-294). Everitt suggests that "*many of these green-hamlets or forstals had originally developed from the sub-division of a farm holding through particable inheritance and the consequent building of additional farmhouses or cottages round the original fore steal or farm-green*" (Everitt 1987, 168-9).

#### 4.2.3. Greens remnants of larger commons

Some greens maybe the smaller enclosed remnants of much larger commons, which have become enclosed through division into fields or built upon. The areas of the commons remaining may occur where three or more routeways meet, for example at Rushlake Green in Warbleton. Rushlake with Turner's Green to the north are possibly remnants of open 'down' on a small ridge between two Wealden streams, the enclosure of which took place in the medieval or early post-medieval. Ticehurst village centre was created by the granting of the large green by the Manor of Hammerden to local cottagers (Gardiner 1997, 666-67; Brandon 2003, 125). Craftsmen and subsistence farmers settled around the edges of these small greens and commons, which led to the development of the small scattered hamlets (Everitt 2000, 214-219).

#### 4.2.4. Larger manorial commons

Commons are the areas of land remaining after all the private land has been enclosed and hedged (Rackham 1986, 343). They are usually concave in outline with funnel entrances along the drove-ways, with gates or hatches at the mouth of the funnel. These gates were originally where stock could be controlled going in and out of the common but gradually settlement grew up around them. Generally properties front on to the common with a back way along their rears. Ashdown Forest is a good example of this with the manorial commons ringing the edge of the Forest [Map 14a and Map 14b, Map 15a and 15b]. Manorial tenants exercised rights over commons, for fuel (the lord of the manor retaining the right to timber) and to grazing (though not necessarily the same people having both grazing, cutting litter & 'brake' - bracken and fuel rights). The rights were attached to property not people and held by the custom of the manor hence customary rights or 'botes'. Pannage rights were for the grazing of pigs on beech and acorn mast.

#### 4.2.5. Remnant wastes/greens from larger commons on ridgeway routes

Along the ridge top routes were large areas of 'down' or heath for example at Burwash Down, Brightling Down, Hadlow Down and Heathfield [Map 15a and 15b]. An example of a settlement developing around former open land in ridge way routes is Sandhurst. *According to Hasted the great high road from the western parts of this county, through Newenden, to Hastings and the county of Suffex, leads through this parish south-eastward, on it are situated three greens, Field green, Cowbeach-green, and Ringlecrouch-*

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*green*. The latter at the time of Hasted still had common grazing rights but was leased out the rent from which was used to buy garments for poor women of the parish.

#### **4.2.6. Drift or drove-way roadsides wastes**

Historically the roadside boundaries and margins were part of the manorial 'waste' under control of the lord of the manor. Where such routeways entered areas of common or heath the roadside margins were often very wide and funnel shaped. With subsequent ad hoc enclosure or purpresture small areas of waste became isolated and enclosed; remaining as 'greens' or small pockets of 'waste' bounded by several routeways. These areas of enclosed waste are frequent in the vicinity of Ashdown Forest. Another example is possibly Turner's Green in Warbleton, where the 'green' was actually the roadside waste or possible remains of a 'trenche' cut through woodland as indicated on the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings.

#### **4.2.7. Royal hunting forests**

Stretching across the northern and western parts of the High Weald were the royal hunting forests – huge tracts of land set aside for the preservation and hunting of beasts of the chase by the crown. These areas were probably established here due to the availability of unenclosed and unsettled land a consequence of the poor sand soils. The central parts of the Forests were the preserve of the deer with some rights for stock grazing which did not damage the vegetation or cover for the deer. Around the edges were forest commons, where manorial tenants could exercise customary rights. Ashdown Forest is the only remaining example of a medieval hunting forest in the High Weald.

Processes which eroded rights and also led to enclosure of the other Forests, commenced with the transfer of Forests to local (and not so local) gentry and landowners. Large areas of the timber were 'laid waste' by both the Crown and the gentry who owned ironworks. Subsequent grazing prevented re-growth and the loss of mature trees devastated the pannage system. The argument then prevailed that the commons and forests had to be enclosed to encourage tree re-growth and tree plantings. Areas were planted to trees as in the western areas around St Leonard's and Worth, others were enclosed to farmland and also rabbit warrens were established on some of the forest lands.

#### **4.3. Other areas of open non-farmed spaces**

The Sussex HLC also recorded other forms of open spaces used for recreation. Maps 12 & 13 show the distribution of sports grounds and cricket pitches across the Sussex High Weald. Map 13 shows the relationship of sports grounds with historic settlement. Recreational facilities are strongly associated with built-up areas and in particular with schools. Most of these sites are modern, dating from the early to late 20th century, however a number of the cricket pitches date from the 19th century, for example in Mayfield, another on the edge of Ashdown Forest at Forest Row and at Coleman's Hatch.

#### **4.4. Statements of importance/significance**

The following statements have been drafted by the author based on the findings of this scoping exercise. Overall the main point arising is the historic time-depth and antiquity of commons and greens and like ancient woodland their origins are possibly prehistoric.

#### **4.4.1. Historic landscape character and local distinctiveness.**

Commons and greens in all their forms were much more frequent in the landscape than today and were a characteristic feature of the High Weald. Peter Brandon has observed that the *Weald is characteristically English because of its antiquity dating back to the medieval period, with apparently little change, though most of the commons and greens have disappeared* (Brandon 2003, 5). Those that remain contribute significantly to local distinctiveness of that particular area. Greens are quintessentially seen as part of the English rural countryside, especially when surrounded by medieval buildings and overlooked by the village church. They are a finite resource and when built-over are lost forever. Greens together with the historic buildings that are built around them, together with features associated with them make a huge contribution to local character.

#### **4.4.2. Cultural heritage**

As this scoping assessment has shown many greens are of considerable antiquity and some date from before the founding of adjacent parish churches i.e. over 1000 years old. Places to meet and trade goods were an important part of rural society from pre-domesday to the early part of the 19th century, especially in a landscape where the historic settlement pattern is dominated by dispersed historic farmsteads and hamlets. Active markets and fairs preserved commons and greens, in particular for the buying and selling of livestock especially cattle. The network of commons with drove routes and settlements is a legacy of an early medieval system of managing the land on a large scale. Even in the 19th century droving and movement of stock was still practised between the Weald and lands beyond its boundaries. The remaining greens, commons and heaths are a direct link to the medieval system of managing the common grazing land and are a highly significant part of the history of the High Weald landscape. Some of these commons and greens preserve rights and byelaws which originated in medieval period and probably earlier.

#### **4.4.3. Ecological and biodiversity**

Although this scoping exercise has concentrated on the historic and landscape value of open spaces, they also have an important function in preserving and maintaining local biodiversity. Many of the larger commons are covered by ecological designations such as SSSI status or local nature reserves. Where commons and greens have not been disturbed for example ad hoc ploughing or converting to allotments during the Second World War, they preserve undisturbed ground and soil structure. Some are likely to have veteran trees either on their boundaries or in the open spaces. These trees may show signs of pollarding and be the last vestiges of a wood pasture management system. Commons in particular may be ecological refuges for some heathland species, especially those commons that ring the edge of Ashdown Forest.

#### **4.4.4. Social and community**

Historically these areas were used for meeting, exchanging goods and recreational activities. Although the aspects of regular markets and trade for agricultural produce have declined, many greens are still used today for fun-fairs and local parish fairs. Greens important areas today for providing places to explore, play on, walk the dog and especially for children to experience open space. As the recent public protest at the Government's proposed forestry sell-off, people value open spaces very highly. Open spaces within the heart of communities will be valued very highly.

#### **4.5. Areas of future research**

This scoping exercise has shown that the origins of greens, commons and open spaces are varied and are dependent on a number of historic processes. In order to understand these processes more fully, information can be obtained by researching the history of each settlement or each group of settlements associated with greens and commons in more detail. The following list has been drawn up in the light of this piece of research.

##### **a. Extensive Village Surveys**

Undertake selected "Extensive Village Surveys" following the format of the Extensive Urban Surveys (Harris 2010). These should include field work together with a systematic archive search, including cross reference with the Extensive Urban Survey for Sussex. The aim would be to establish in detail the extent, origin and use of each historic green and common. It would also look at how the settlement has evolved around the open space, in particular with the survival of medieval buildings.

##### **b. Parish councils and local community engagement**

Engage with parish councils and the local community to research the history of their open spaces, and to record the character "on-the-ground". This would include historic features such as wells, sites of village stocks, veteran trees, ponds, market crosses, wide road-side verges and manorial pounds. The research could also include current usage and recreational features. By looking at to the history of the extent of the green and common, the communities could be identify further open areas which could be designated as modern greens ( a continuation of the millennium green project).

##### **c. Re-assessment of HLCs in particular Kent**

A re-interpretation of the Settlement HLC attributes and characterisation based on more in-depth archive research, ideally taking the information gathered in a. above. Everitt has stated that more research is needed on the history of commons and greens in the Lowland Old Woodland landscapes (ibid 2002, 224-227). Many greens and small commons have become 'lost' and may only be identified through archive research for example Brede High Green which was located on the north east side of Brede High Woods (Bannister 2009).

##### **d. Greens, commons and historic routeways**

Examine the relationship of different types of green and common settlements with routeways, for example the frequency of places called 'cross' and 'corner', and their relationship with historic drove routes, Roman roads, prehistoric iron-way routes etc.

##### **e. Assessment of greens with ecological & veteran tree data**

Examine the distribution of commons and greens against ecological data held at the Biological Records Centres and in particular the veteran tree data held by them and by the Woodland Trust.

##### **f. Research of national and local archives**

Fairs and markets were granted by royal charter and these are recorded in state papers such as the Calendar of Patent Rolls, together with information about management etc. A more detailed search of these calendars and archives together with

more local material such as the Quarter Sessions will provide further back-ground information on how they were organised and events which took place.

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APPENDIX I

Extracts from the HLC Typology Descriptions for the themes included in this analysis.

TABLE 2 SUSSEX HLC (Bannister 2010)	
CHARACTER BROAD / SUB-TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Unenclosed/ Commons	Commons are irregular areas of unenclosed semi-natural habitats, usually rough pasture and furze with some trees and scrub. Commons are usually so called and may be registered as such. Historically they were used for grazing livestock, and exploiting of resources, such as fuel and minerals. Commons with heaths and downs, formed an important element of the medieval rural economy. Some commons such as Ebernoe in West Sussex still retain their medieval character with numerous pollarded trees and the funnel shaped droveways leading into them. Today many are used for recreation and open access with a few being converted to gold courses and cricket pitches. The common sub-type is often associated with <b>historic</b> and <b>expansion common-edge settlement</b> .
Unenclosed/ Greens	<b>Greens</b> are small areas of unenclosed pasture located within areas of <b>historic settlement</b> , usually villages and hamlets. They are irregular in shape and often have funnel-shaped routeways leading in to them. Many are so called and often give the name to the settlement. As with <b>commons</b> , greens were an important part of the medieval and early post-medieval economy. There are also examples of modern 'greens' - open spaces for informal recreation within suburban development.
Unenclosed / Heaths	<b>Heaths</b> are areas of heather, furze, bracken and rough grass and scrub, usually occurring on sandy soils developed from the Greensand and Hastings Beds. They are variable in size and irregular in shape but some do have funnel-shaped routeways entering them. Heathlands are important semi-natural habitats with many designated as either Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. Many heaths are so called and give their name to adjacent settlements such as Heathfield. Heaths formed an important part of the medieval and early post-medieval rural economy providing valuable grazing as well as rouses in the form of fuel, wood products and minerals. <b>Common-edge settlement</b> is closely associated with this sub-type. An extensive heath survives at Ashdown Forest which was also used as a royal hunting forest. <b>Golf courses, recreation grounds and conifer plantations</b> are all modern land use changes which have taken place on heathland.
Unenclosed / Wooded over commons	With the decline in the traditional grazing management of commons, heaths and greens, scrub encroachment has increased leading to the development of a mature woodland canopy. Some commons survive in name only attached to mature secondary woodland. However the irregular shape of the wood together with the funnel-shaped routeways are clues to its origin. Such areas are also closely associated with <b>common-edge settlement</b> , and may still have areas not wooded over.
Fieldsapes / Wastes-commons-greens	Remnants of former unenclosed and open areas left after the surrounding land has become sub-divided into fields or developed. Small road side wastes, greens and commons are a characteristic feature of parts of Sussex. This type also includes remnants of the drove way funnels which led on to commons and heaths. Sometimes they still retain the name of the common such as the example of Court Lodge Down These enclosures are irregular in shape with sinuous or curved external boundaries and straight internal boundaries of either hedges or fences. Wastes, commons and greens occur close to roads and settlement, and are often associated with larger areas of commons, which may still be unenclosed.
Recreation / cricket pitches	Cricket Grounds are rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures often close to settlement, in particular villages and hamlets. They may also be associated with <b>heaths, commons and greens</b> . Cricket grounds within <b>sports grounds</b> are characterised as the latter. This interpretation of character type was identified from the later editions of the Ordnance Survey 25" maps and from aerial photographs where the distinctive 'crease' was present.
Recreation / sports fields	Sports fields are areas for formal recreation are variable in size, and include football and cricket pitches, running tracks and tennis courts. They were identified from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer Map and aerial photographs. Sports fields are closely associated with <b>expansion settlement</b> and <b>schools</b> . Some fields still retain the patterns of the fields from which they were enclosed.

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Settlement / Historic Core/Market Towns	<p>Market Towns are identified by their presence on the 18<sup>th</sup> century maps, their charter status and as listed in the Aldsworth and Freke (1976). The extent of the character is identified from the historic maps, and covers the main core area of each town. A more detailed account of the development of market towns can be found in the relevant volumes of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Harris 2010).</p> <p>Generally, the towns have a medieval centre and evidence of the early historical development can still be seen in the town plans, and some of the surviving historic buildings, for example Rye and Chichester. Winchelsea in East Sussex is a medieval planned new town, replacing the early town and port of Old Winchelsea which was swept away by floods and inundation by the sea.</p>
Settlement / Historic Core / Villages	<p>These are centralised medieval settlements, not listed in Aldsworth and Freke (1976), identified from the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings and other 18th century county maps. Centralised villages were a relatively late medieval development in the Low and High Weald, when the dispersed farms needed centres from which to market produce. Villages in the southern fringes of the Low Weald, Greensand and in the chalk lands and coastal plain often had an origin the early medieval period.</p> <p>As with market towns the historic area is defined as that shown on the OSDs, either forming a central group or spread along a routeway.</p>
Settlement / Historic Core / Hamlet	<p>Historic hamlets are small groups of dwellings often with a public house centred around a routeway junction. They are identified by their presence on the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings and other 18th century county maps, and comprise several dwellings and small farms clustered together, which may or may not be named such as Cripps Cross in Ewhurst, Rother, East Sussex. Historic hamlets comprising of smaller cottages which have also developed around a larger historic farmstead are a feature of the Weald.</p>
Settlement / Historic Core / Common-edge settlement	<p>The key identifying feature of <b>Common edge settlement</b> is its proximity to commons, greens and heaths. Often sites are similar to either <b>historic ribbon development</b> or to <b>historic hamlets</b>. The common may have long since been enclosed, or developed but its shape together with the 'funnel entrances' along routeways may still be seen in the plan forms. Such settlements are identified by their presence on the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings and other 18th century county maps. Small artisan cottages and small holdings characterise these types of settlements</p>
Settlement / Historic dispersed / Hamlet	<p>A few <b>historic dispersed hamlets</b> have been identified. These are where historic settlements are loosely grouped around a road junction. They differ from Historic Core Hamlets by this loose character in layout and comprise small holdings and cottages divided by small paddocks, which in a number of cases have been infilled with later development.</p> <p>Similar to groups of <b>smaller farmsteads and cottages</b>, but often dispersed hamlets have a specific place name. Identified by their presence on the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings and form other 18th century county maps.</p>
Settlement / Historic dispersed / Common-edge settlement	<p><b>Historic dispersed common edge settlement</b> is characterised by its location on the edge of <b>commons, heaths and greens</b>, but differs from <b>historic core common edge settlement</b> by its fragmented and dispersed character. In many instances, the common has been enclosed and or developed, but its shape together with the funnel entrances along routeways can still be traced in the field and settlement pattern. It may also still survive in the place name. Other sites may still have fragments of the common surviving as small open spaces between roads and settlements. Historic dispersed common edge settlement is identified by its presence on the Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Drawings and other 18th century county maps.</p>
Settlement / Expansion – other / Market Towns	<p>Areas around historic cores of market towns which have undergone development post-1800, and which do not come into the <b>planned estate, infill, and ribbon</b> interpretation of character types, nor the <b>Industry character type</b>.</p> <p>Such areas are identified by their presence on the Ordnance Survey Epoch Editions of the 25" maps. A key attribute is the date at which the expansion took place.</p> <p>The period in which the expansion development took place is also given in the attribute table, so that the successive periods of development in the Modern period can be identified and mapped. For more detail see the relevant volumes of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Harris 2010).</p>
Settlement / Expansion – other / Hamlets	<p>Other expansion development in hamlets is identified in this interpretation of character type. It comprises small individual dwellings or groups of dwellings within or attached to <b>historic hamlets</b>, or are hamlets which have come about in the Modern period, perhaps associated with a <b>dispersed historic large</b></p>

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	<b>famstead.</b> Such areas are identified by their presence on the Ordnance Survey Epoch Editions of the 25" maps. A key attribute is the date at which the expansion took place.
<b>Settlement / Expansion – other / Common-edge settlement</b>	As with <b>historic common edge settlement</b> other <b>expansion common edge</b> is closely associated with existing or former <b>commons and heaths</b> . It often has little or no pattern to it, comprising scattered dwellings around the edge of open ground or former open ground. The settlement may also follow the edges of the 'funnel routes' into the commons and may or may not be associated with <b>historic common edge settlement or hamlets</b> . Such areas are identified by their presence on the Ordnance Survey Epoch Editions of the 25" maps and the Ordnance Explorer Maps 1:25,000. A key attribute is the date at which the expansion took place.

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Bannister, N.R. (2010) *Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation. Volume IV – Gazetteer of Sussex Typology*. East and West Sussex County Councils and English Heritage.

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### Extracts from the the Kent HLC Typology

<b>TABLE 3 Kent HLC (Croft, Munby &amp; Ridley 2001)</b>	
<b>Broad and sub-types</b>	<b>Descriptions</b>
<b>Commons / Wooded over commons</b>	Common land which, in a few cases was always wooded, or more usually has become wooded over in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Commons which are denoted as woodland and scrub on OS maps. Distinguished from other woodland types by their names and comparison with earlier maps.
<b>Settlement / Pre-1810 Common edge settlement</b>	Settlement which has arisen around the perimeter of common land and which has been in existence since before 1801. Probably medieval or post-medieval in origin. Proximity and formed in relation to common or green. Often characterised by narrow bands of settlement enveloping part of the edge of the common. Distinguished by origin date from first edition 1" OS.
<b>Settlement / Post-1801 Common-edge settlement</b>	Settlement which has arisen around the perimeter of common land after 1801. Proximity and form in relation to commons and greens. Distinguished from Pre-1801 common edge settlement by not being on the OS 1" first edition.
<b>Settlement / Hamlet or village 1801 extent</b>	Small to medium settlement, often medieval in origin. Larger settlements usually have a church and the settlement name is the parish name. Small settlements are often subsidiary hamlets or may be part of a very dispersed settlement pattern. Identified from OS 1" First Edition
<b>Settlement / Town and city 1801 extent</b>	The 1801 extent of settlement in towns and cities. Generally medieval or past medieval in origin. Identified from OS 1" First Edition

Croft, A. Munby, J. & Ridley, M. 2001. *Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation. Final Report Volume 2 Historic Landscape Type Descriptions*. Oxford Archaeology Unit.

## APPENDIX II

### Extract from the Historic Landscape Assessment of Hilberts Wood LNR (Bannister 2008)

#### 4.3. The Conquest and Domesday [AD 1066-1086]

After the Conquest, the road from Hastings to London became a vital link for the Normans in their settlement and control of the country. The river crossing of the Medway at Tonbridge became an important strategic link along this route. In order to control the crossing, William I established a trusted chief follower, Gilbert Clare and subsequently his son Richard at Tonbridge. Richard was known “of Tonbridge” firmly establishing him within Kent. William granted the Clares jurisdiction over a large portion of the surrounding country, which at the time was sparsely settled, and probably well wooded<sup>1</sup>. It is likely that Richard took over numerous dens belonging to a number of Kentish upland manors and which were held of the Archbishop of Canterbury (whilst the Honour of Clare i.e. lands in Surrey, Essex etc. were held directly from the king in chief by military service)<sup>2</sup>. A fortified settlement was established at the crossing which was to develop into Tonbridge Castle.

A custom brought with the Normans from France was the establishment of territory around an abbey, castle or chief mansion as known as a *leuca* or *leucata* which translates into ‘lowy’ in English. The possessor of such a settlement together with its ‘lowy’ held a number of special liberties, privileges and exemptions<sup>3</sup>. Gilbert Clare and his son Richard established a ‘Lowy’ around Tonbridge Castle and the name has remained down to the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a territorial and administrative district. The Lowy covered an area around Tonbridge; it was not a compact block but intermixed with the holdings of others and had no clear defined boundary. Dumbreck (1958) identifies the Lowy as lands held by the de Clares of the Archbishop of Canterbury and other tenants in chief together with other dens of upland manors<sup>4</sup>.

Tonbridge, as a manor in its own right, is not recorded in the Domesday Survey showing that it still was under the jurisdiction of the parent or upland manors of Wrotham and Otford belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Much of the land in Tonbridge Manor within the Lowy came from the manorial dens of Wrotham<sup>5</sup> and included the North Frith Woods north of the River Medway, the South Frith Woods extending as far south as what is now Tunbridge Wells. This was the former sub-common with over 500 pannage dues serving Wrotham that lay within the old Wealden common of Aylesford<sup>6</sup>. Most of this area within the Lowy of Tonbridge

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<sup>1</sup> Witney 1976 p102

<sup>2</sup> Ward, J.C. 1980 The Lowy of Tonbridge. Arch Cant 96 p119-131

<sup>3</sup> Hasted, 1979 vol. V p174

<sup>4</sup> Dumbreck, W.V. 1958 The Lowy of Tonbridge Arch Cant. LXXII p 138-147

<sup>5</sup> Witney 1976 p122

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

Manor comprised chase, park and unenclosed wood pasture with the enclosed cultivated land confined to Tonbridge itself and Southborough<sup>7</sup>.

Thus the area of Hilbert Woods was probably to all intents and purposes a mosaic of woodland or wood pasture with grassy glades through which flowed the streams in their gills fed by iron-rich springs. There may even have been one or two tracks traversing the area linking the entrances or 'gates' into the Lowy with Tonbridge to the north, for example at Woodgate and Robbinsgate.

#### 4.4. Medieval [AD 1086-1540]

Probably early in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Clares established a great tract of forest or chase in Tonbridge, by throwing together numerous dens of the manor of Wrotham. The forest comprised two large tracts of woodland or wood pasture - the North and South Friths, divided by the river Medway and served by two enclosed deer parks at Cage and Postern. The whole enclosed 40 square miles and stretched from the foot of the Chart hills at Shipbourne to the Sussex boundary near Tunbridge Wells<sup>8</sup>. It is probable that the presence of these chases actually preserved the pannage system in an area where the soils were very poor, either heavy intractable clay or porous, infertile sands. Evidently, according to Brandon, the Crown regarded Ashdown Forest to the west and South Frith at Tonbridge as a great storehouse of pig-meat for the king's military campaigns, when animals were driven along droveways to the port of New Shoreham, a provisioning centre for archers<sup>9</sup>.



Figure 1. South Frith Wood in 1575 from Christopher Saxton's Map of Kent  
[Source: Margery & Phillimore 1997]

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> Witney 1976 p166-167

<sup>9</sup> Brandon, P. 2003 .The Kent and Sussex Weald. Phillimore p 75

The establishment of such a powerful magnate family over such a large part of the western Weald had the special licence of the King and approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The latter could divest some of the heavy feudal burden of provision of 60 knights for royal service on to the Clares in the form of knight's fees. The Clares held the land from the Archbishop (or See of Canterbury) in the Lowy for four knights fees, which they in turn devolved or sub-ensefeudated to sub-tenants<sup>10</sup>. In the reign of Henry II the Clares held Tonbridge as tenants-in-chief direct from the king. Archbishop Thomas á Becket did attempt to wrest it back from the crown, but Roger de Clare supported the King against Becket's claim.

There were two perambulations of the Lowy in the 13<sup>th</sup> century arising from disputes as to the land and the jurisdiction of its 'rights'. One perambulation was undertaken in the reign of Henry III and the other in the reign of Edward I, each of which describes in detail the boundary and extent of the Lowy. The perambulations were describing the outer limits of the Lowy and generally followed parish boundaries. The primary purpose of the Lowy was for the maintenance and defence of the castle and the sub-manors into which it was divided were held by castle-guard and rents in kind<sup>11</sup>.

Evidence suggests that the custom of pannage survived within the Lowy well into the medieval period, where it had ceased elsewhere in the Weald. For Roger, Earl of Clare in the reign of Henry II granted to the Canons of the Priory of Bayham the right to graze 25 hogs in the southern part of the forest of Tonbridge free of any pannage dues<sup>12</sup>.

Hasted's Map of 1797 shows the extent of the Lowy in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It comprised lands to the north, east and west of Tonbridge together with an extension to the south to the county boundary with Sussex. The area that was to become Hilbert Woods lay in this latter part fairly close to two of the gated entrances on droveways running into the chase of South Frith, namely Robinsgate and Woodgate.

In 1317 the Lowy and Manor of Tonbridge were divided into two, with the Castle and North Frith passing to the Earls of Stafford. The manor and forest or chase of South Frith passed to Elizabeth, the youngest sister of the last Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and the wife of John de Burgh. South Frith then passed to her son William Earl of Ulster, thence to the Earls of March and from them to Richard Duke of York (father of Edward IV and the Cecilia Duchess of Burgundy). The Duchess possessed the Manor of South Frith at her death in 1495 when it reverted to the Crown.

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<sup>10</sup> Witney 1976 p168

<sup>11</sup> Dumbreck 1958 The Lowy of Tonbridge Arch. Cant. LXXII p138-147

<sup>12</sup> Furley 1874 The History of the Weald of Kent Vol. II pat 1 p6

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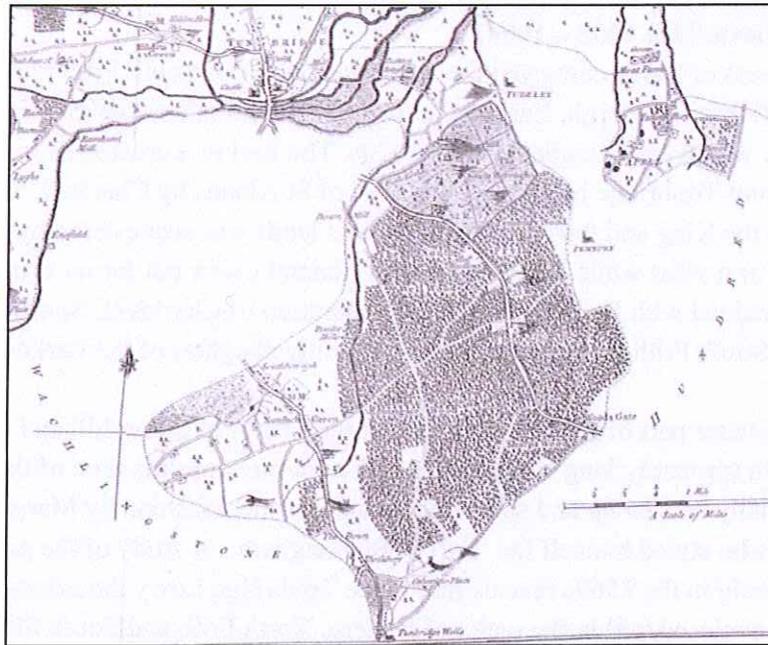


Figure 2. The Lowy of Tonbridge from Hasted 1797

A survey of the Duke of Buckingham's lands, the Honour of Gloucester in May 1521 describes the lordship of Tunbridge, including *Northfrith; then the lordship of Southborowe*<sup>13</sup>.

Henry VIII appointed Sir George Brooke, Lord Cobham as the ranger with the custody of the pannage and herbage, and an allowance of sufficient wood and fuel for the lodges in it. He was also appointed steward of the adjacent Hundreds of Wachlingstone, Littlefield and Barnfield<sup>14</sup>. In 1551 Edward VI granted Tonbridge manor and castle with both its 'friths' to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick who within the year re-conveyed them back to the Crown. Queen Mary granted them to Cardinal Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury for his life but he died the day after the Queen in 1558 and the lands were returned to the Crown. Elizabeth I then split the estate, by giving Tonbridge castle, manor and North Frith to her cousin Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon and South Frith to Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester for a term of years, after which it was granted to Frances Countess of Essex (whose husband the Earl of Essex was beheaded for treason)<sup>15</sup>.

Thus as Furley points out Tonbridge Castle with all its lands and manors was held for over five centuries by the Crown or the cream of the nobility, but often subject to claims and contests with the Archbishops of Canterbury for the homages due to the See of Canterbury<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Furley 1874 *The History of the Weald of Kent* vol. II pt 1 p108 [State Papers 13 Hen VIII]

<sup>14</sup> Furley *ibid* vol II pt 2 p431

<sup>15</sup> Furley *ibid*

<sup>16</sup> Furley *ibid*

**4.5. Post-Medieval [AD 1540 – 1900]**

The Countess of Essex conveyed the chase and manor of South Frith to her third husband Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanricarde. He built the large mansion at Somerhill, which was completed circa 1620s. The Earl was created Baron Somerhill and Viscount Tonbridge by James I and Earl of St Albans by Charles I. The family supported the King and thus Somerhill with its lands was sequestered by Parliament in 1645. For a short while it was granted to General Essex but for most of the Civil War it remained with Parliament. On the restoration of Charles II, Somerhill and manor of South Frith was handed back to the only daughter of the Earl of St Albans<sup>17</sup>.

It is in the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century that the Manor of Somerhill and the chase of South Frith (probably long since dis-emparked before or at the time of the Civil War), was gradually broken up and sold away in a piece-meal fashion by Margaret and her son John who styled himself the 'Earl of Buckingham'. A study of the parish registers for the Weald in the 1560s reveals that in the Tonbridge Lowy thousands of acres were still enclosed within the parks of Postern, North Frith and South Frith, and therefore unavailable for general settlement<sup>18</sup>. When South Frith became disemparked opportunities arose for small farms to become established – farms such as that which became known as 'Charity Farm' and 'Barnetts Farm' alias Hooks. Great Lodge Farm was formerly one of the lodges on the Chase and became what is now Home Farm [TQ60404195].

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<sup>17</sup> Furley vol. Pt 2 p520

<sup>18</sup> Zell, M 1984 Population and Family structure in the Sixteenth century. Arch. Cant. C p234

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APPENDIX III

Table 4 Kent Settlements – Markets and Fairs:

Extracts mainly Edward Hasted 1797. *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*. in 13 volumes 2<sup>nd</sup> ed

Name	Market Granted	Dates	Location	Fair Granted	Dates	Location
Hawkhurst, the other village, which is the more ancient one, most of which is a kind of heath or common, interspersed, the greatest part of it, with cottages and gardens to them, which makes a pleasing picturesque view from every part of both.	5 Ed II to Abbot and Convent of Battle	Wednesday weekly	Long since disused (1797) Formerly kept upon the green upon the moor, opposite the seat of Elford's, where a market cross once stood, and near it was a small house called St Margaret's Cross, long since demolished, in which the corn unsold was put; and this place is yet still called the market place	5 Ed II to Abbot and Convent of Battle	Yearly fair for 3 days, the vigil, the day and the day after the feast of St Laurence	Fair held yearly, near the church on the day of St Laurence August 10 and the day following for cattle and pedlary ware.
Goudhurst (town)	Ric II to Joane widow of Roger de Bedgebury held by a yearly rent to manor of Marden	Wednesday weekly, for cattle provisions etc. until recently within memory now disused 1797	Market place was near the church on the hill, pulled down in year 1650 and present one built lower down at the broad place in the town near the pond	Ric II to Joane widow of Roger de Bedgebury held by a yearly rent to manor of Marden	Yearly on the assumption of our Lade August 26 <sup>th</sup> for cattle hard ware, toys etc.	In the field at the next gate beyond moor-house, at a place where once stood a pound, but it has a long while been discontinued (1797) Fair (by the pond ?)
Combewell	11 Hen III to Priory of St Augustines at Combewell				Feast and morrow of St Mary Magdelen	Also Lady Oke Farm in Goudhurst which lies south east of Combewell Farm (where the B2079 joins the A21) including the land where the fair is usually kept. <sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> ESRO DAN/1663 20 Sept. 1650

**Table 4 continued Kent Settlements – Markets and Fairs:**  
Extracts mainly Edward Hasted 1797. *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent in 13 volumes 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*

Name	Market		Fair	
	Granted	Dates	Location	Granted
Cranbrook town	18 Ed I to Archbishop Peckham	Saturday, corn, hops, meat and other provisions (in use 1797)	Market place by the church (at the bottom of the wide High Street)	May 30 for horned cattle, horses, linen, drapery toys etc.
Cowden				Sept 29 the larger for horned cattle, horses, linen, drapery toys etc and also the main one for hops. A fair is held here on the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, now on the August 2nd, for cattle and pedlary ware. A fair is held here on July 1, for pedlary, &c.
Penshurst				A fair is held here on July 25, for pedlary ware, &c.
Leigh				A fair is held here on July 25, for pedlary ware, &c.
Groombridge in Speldhurst	14 Ed I To Henry de Cobham of Randals in Shorne	Thursday	At Groombridge	14 Ed I To Henry de Cobham of Randals in Shorne Eve, day and morrow after the feast of St. John Port Latine, which was on May 6. (Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 33. Levinz, in his Reports, part iii. p. 224, says, a fair had been usually held here on Sept. 14). Hasted records that a fair is held here on May 17, and Sept. 25, for cattle, pedlary, &c.
Edenbridge				A fair is held annually on St. Mark's day, April 25, for cattle, toys, &c.
Pembury				A fair is held in this parish on Whit-Tuesday yearly for cattle, toys, and pedlary.

**Table 4 continued Kent Settlements – Markets and Fairs:**  
Extracts mainly Edward Hasted 1797. *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*. in 13 volumes 2<sup>nd</sup> ed

Name	Market		Dates	Location	Fair		Location
	Granted	Granted			Dates	Dates	
Lamberhurst	8 Ed II to Archbishop	8th year of king Edward II. the archbishop - fair	Market ?		A fair is held in this parish on Old Lady-day yearly, for cattle, &c. the profits of which belong to the owners of the parsonage, and there is another fair held in the village yearly on the 21st of May.		
Bayham – Præmonstratensian Abbey	15th year of king Edward I. the temporalities of the abbot in Canterbury	Claimed a market, fair,			A fair is annually held here on May 25, for cattle and pedlary wares. It was till within these few years held on Dec. 6, St. Nicholas's day, the patron saint of the church.	Between the parsonage and the church is a large forstal, containing the principal part of the estate mentioned below, called T wisden borough. It was formerly a playstool, or common play-ground for the parishioners, and a fair was kept on it; but the Turners, lords of the manor, laid claim to it, and it has been for some time accounted their property, and now accordingly belongs to Mr. Blackburn.	
Sandhurst							
Benenden					A fair is held here on May 15, for horses and cattle.	At a small distance southward from it is the church and the vicarage; adjoining to the latter is a large green, called the Playstool, formerly used as a bowling green by the neighbouring gentry, who within memory used frequently to resort to it, and at whose expense it was kept in order. <i>[Not clear if the fair was held here or elsewhere]</i>	
Tenterden (town)					There is a large fair held in this town on the first Monday in May yearly, for cattle, wool, merchandize, and shop goods of all sorts, to which there is a great resort from all the neighbouring country.	A small part of it is paved, where there is a small ancient market-place, built of timber; but the market, which is still held on a Friday, is but little frequented, only two millers, and seldom any butchers attending it.	

**Table 4 continued**     **Kent Settlements – Markets and Fairs:**  
Extracts mainly Edward Hasted 1797. *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent in 13 volumes 2<sup>nd</sup> ed*

Name	Market		Fair	
	Granted	Dates	Location	Granted
Stone				
Wittersham				
Newenden	1086	Market		



**Table 6** List of Historic hamlets (pre-1800) from Sussex HLC and placed in groups based in name.  
[Dates of markets from Bleach, J. & Gardiner, M. 2000]

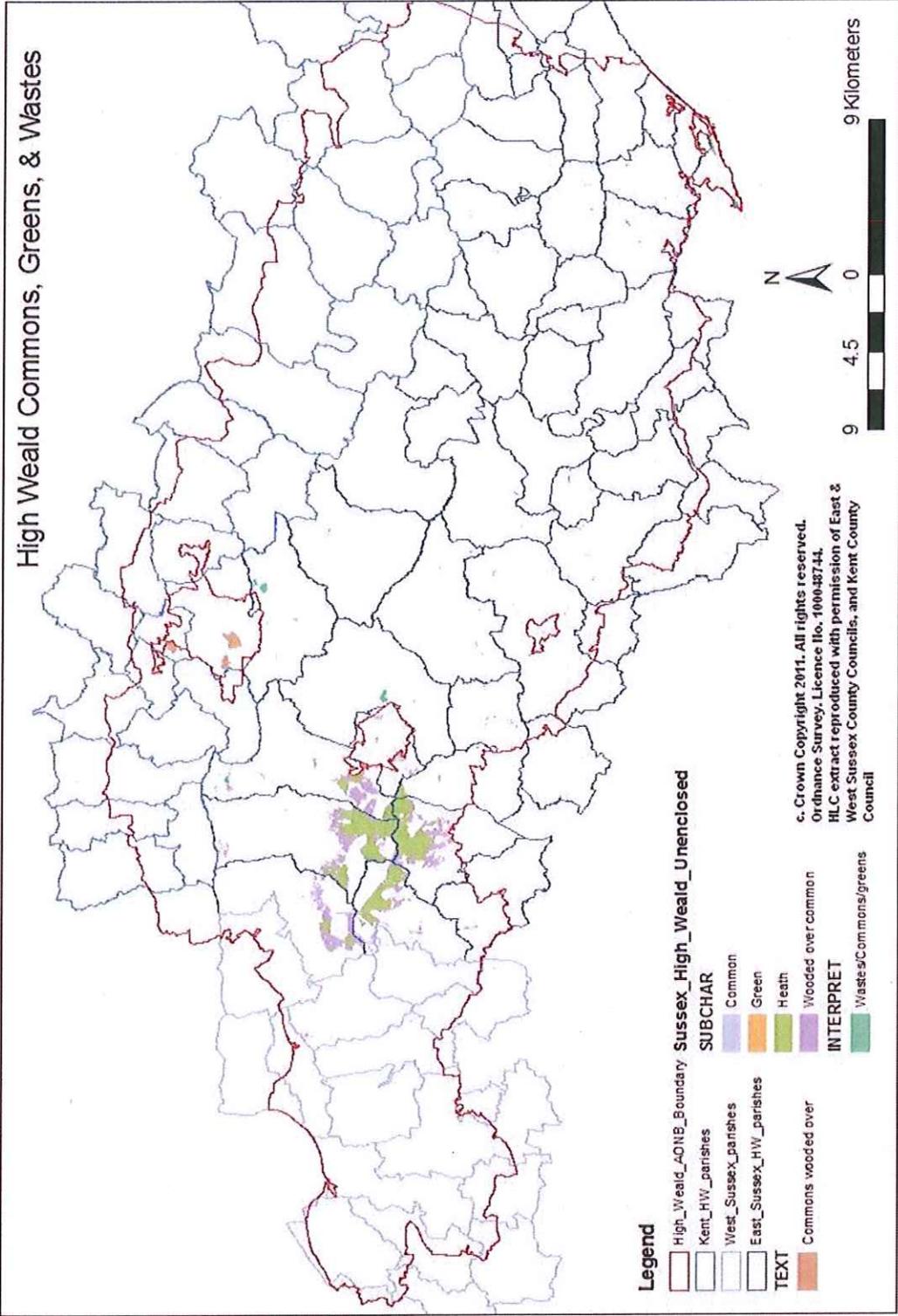
NAME	GRANTED	DATE	NAME	GRANTED	DATE
<b>HAMLETS - GREEN</b>			<b>HAMLETS - CROSS</b>		
Hapstead Green			Three Leg Cross		
Balls Green			Hand Cross		
Stunts Green			Tyes Cross		
Bodle Street Green			Cross-in-Hand		
Turner's Green			Sandy Cross		
Rushlake Green			Mark Cross		
Pound Green			Butchers Cross		
Ford's Green			Vines Cross		
Bells Yew Green			Hornscross		
Shellies Green			Staple Cross		
Goatham Green			St Johns Cross		
Collier's Green			Cripps Corner		
Peter's Green			Woods Corner		
Hurst Green			Stone Cross		
Ponts Green					
Woodman's Green			<b>HAMLETS - GATE</b>		
Swalle's Green			Stonegate Pike		
Starr's Green			Peppersgate		
Green street			Maynard's Gate Farm		
Sparrow's Green			Durgates		
Pell Green					
Turners Green			<b>HAMLET - STREET</b>		
			Gulypot-Street		
<b>HAMLETS COMMON/DOWN</b>			Boreham Street		
Bardown			Gardiner Street		
Cottenden			Cade Street		
Hadlow Down			Cogginsmill Street		
Horeappletree Common			Broad Street		
Heathfield	1316	Thursday	Kent Street		
Westfield Moor			Cackle Street		
Witherden			North Bridge Street		
Henleys Down			Brown Bread Street		
			Green Street		
<b>OTHERS</b>					
Slaugham			<b>HISTORIC CORE - COMMON EDGE</b>		
			<b>SETTLEMENT</b>		
Warminglid			<b>GREEN</b>		
Balcombe			Eridge Green		
Birchgrove			Houghton Green		
Turner's Hill			Guestling Green		

**Table 6 continued** List of Historic hamlets (pre-1800) from Sussex HLC and placed in groups based in name  
[Dates of markets from Bleach, J. & Gardiner, M. 2000]

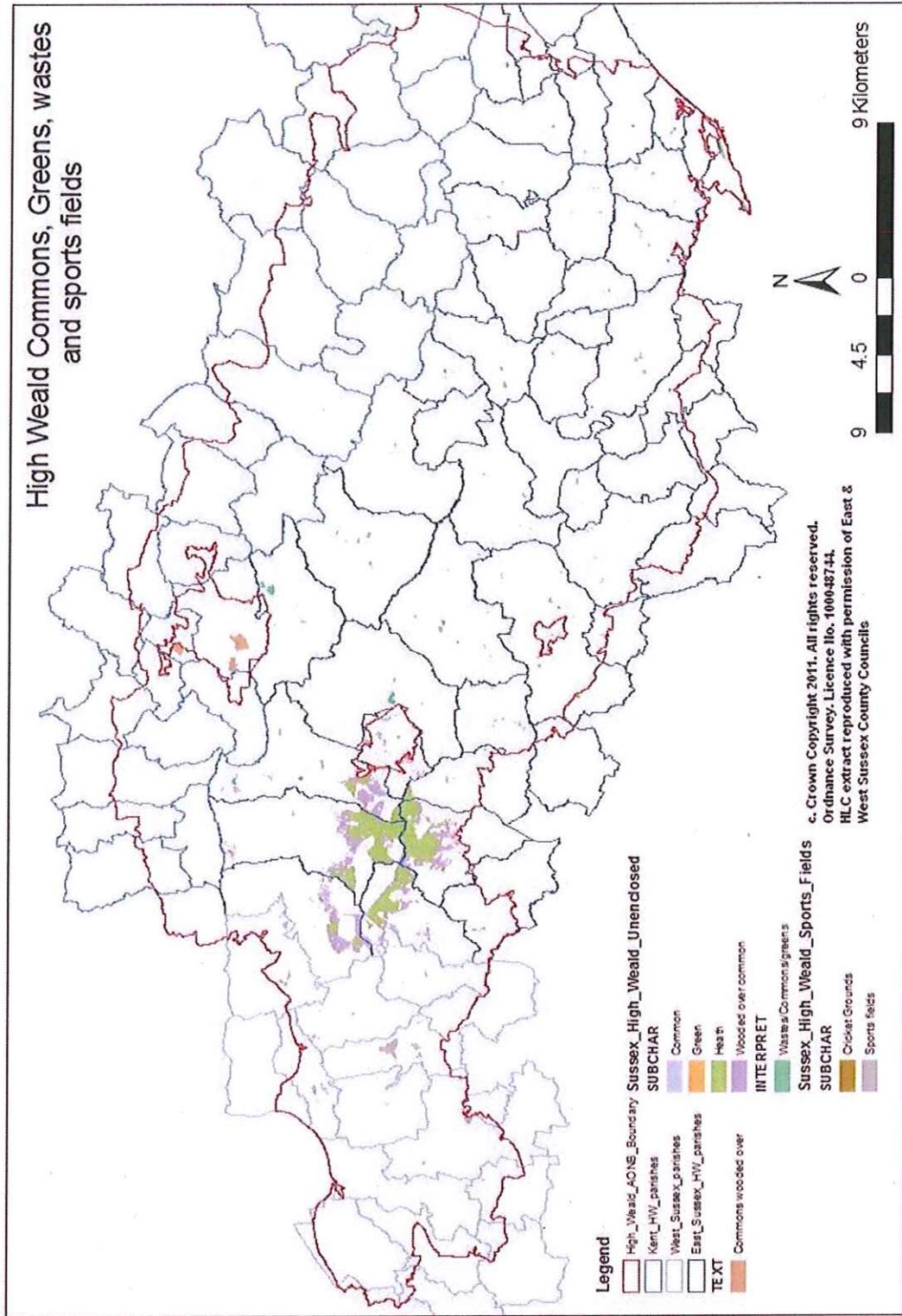
NAME	GRANTED	DATE	NAME	GRANTED	DATE
OTHER			HISTORIC CORE - COMMON EDGE SETTLEMENT		
Ashurst Wood			DOWN		
Danehill			Waldron Down		
Groombridge			Beacon Down		
Withyham			Westfield Down		
Jarvis Brook			Watkin's Down		
Towners Hill			COMMON		
Windmill Hill			Waldron Common		
Cowbeech			CROSS		
Warbleton			Cross-in Hand		
Punnetts Town			OTHER		
Little London			Broadoak		
Nutley					
Boarshead					
Five Ashes					
Peasmarsh					
Clayhill					
Four Oaks					
Udimore					
Rye Foreign					
Gardeners Hill					
Pett					
Guestling Thom					
Three Oaks					
Friars Hill					
Broad Oak					
High Park					
Ewhurst					
Bodiam	1383				Saturday
Silver Hill					
Etchingham					
Burwash Weald					
Hollingrove					
Sedlescombe					
Carricks Hill					
Penhurst					

**Table 6 continued** List of Historic hamlets (pre-1800) from Sussex HLC and placed in groups based in name  
[Dates of markets from Bleach, J. & Gardiner, M. 2000]

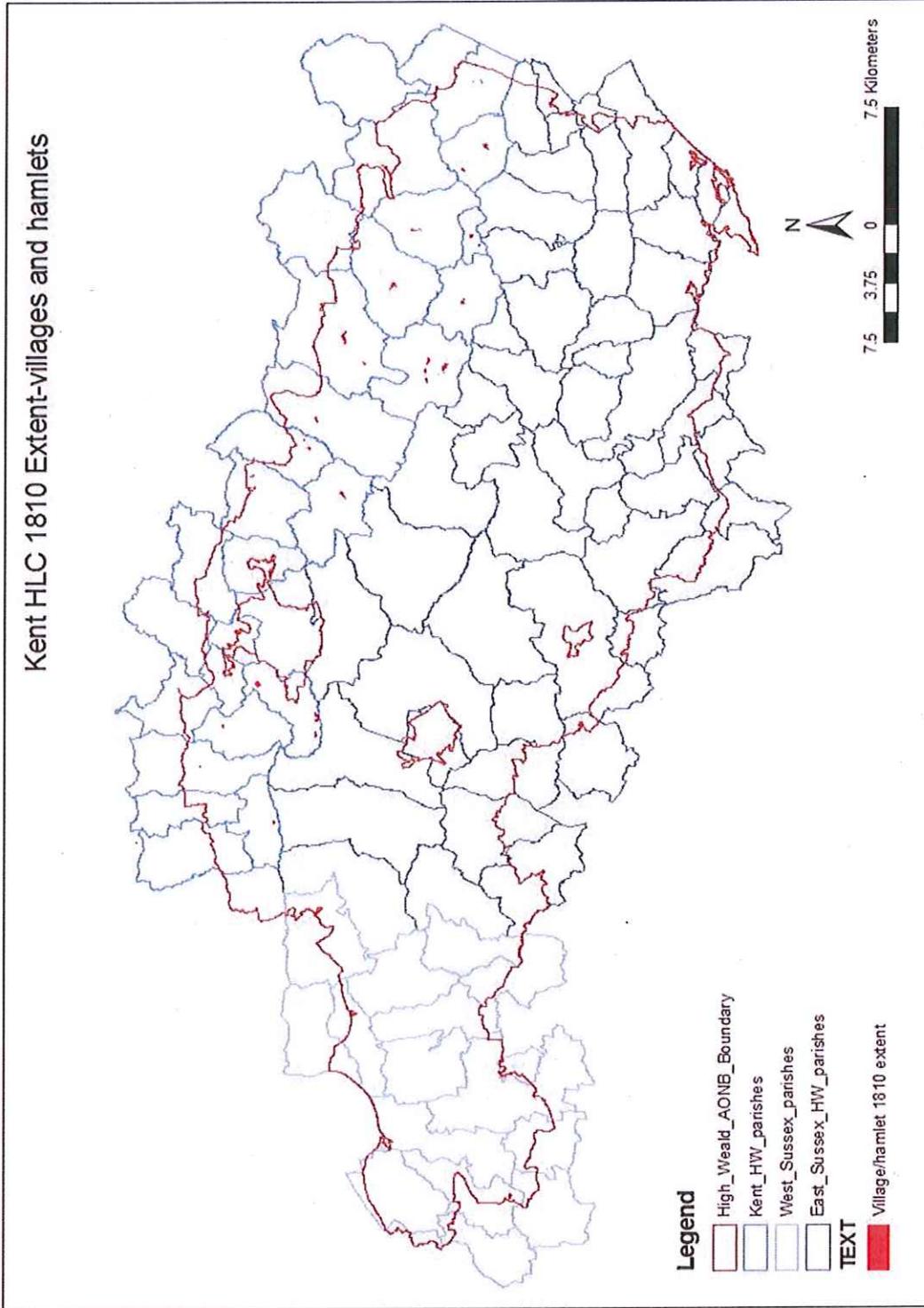
NAME	GRANTED	DATE	NAME	GRANTED	DATE
OTHER					
Catsfield					
Vinehall					
Mountfield					
Whatlington					
Netherfield					
Kingshead					
Crowhurst					
Fairlight					
Baldslow					
Cousley Wood					
Best Beech Hill					
Rockrobin					



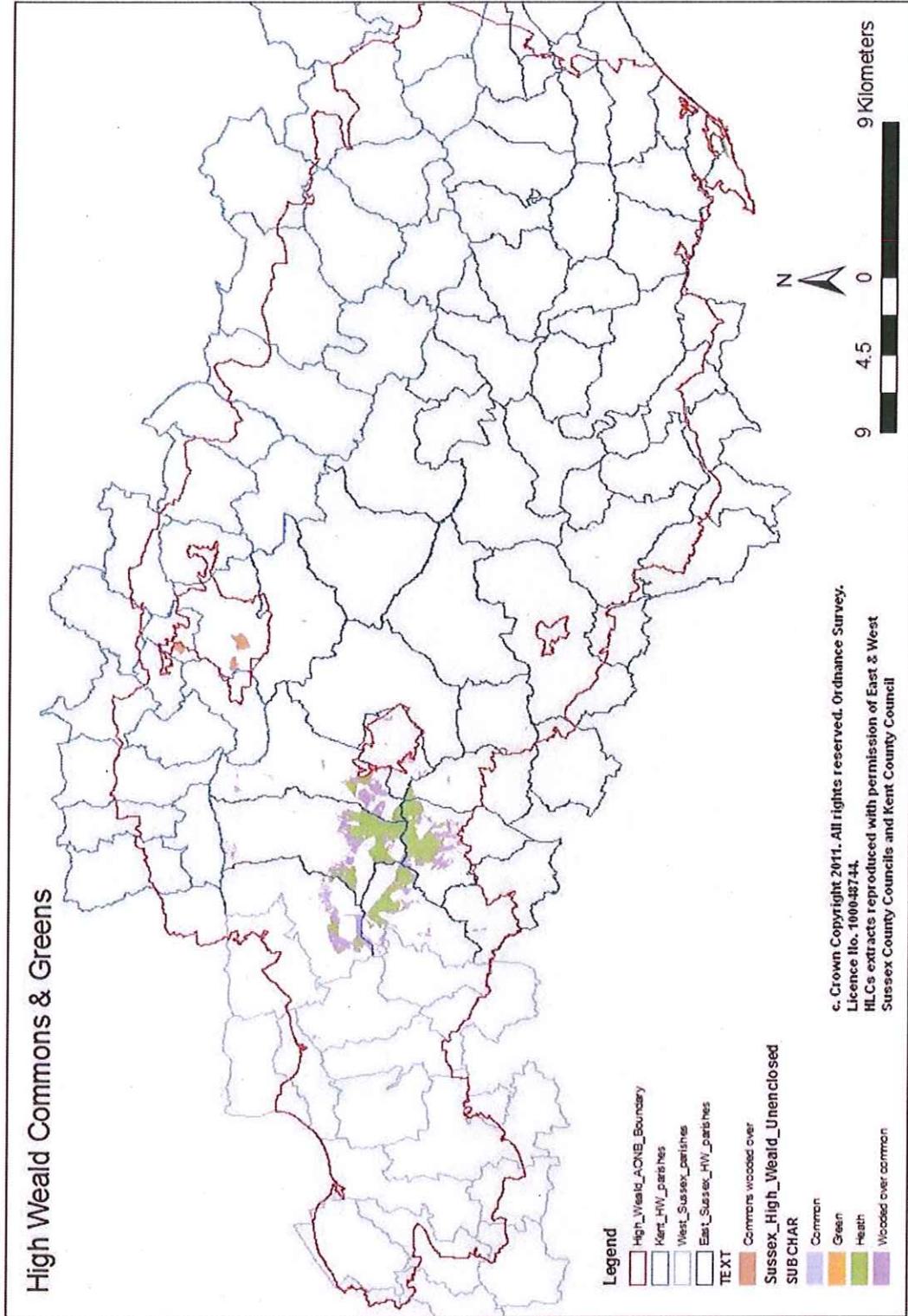
MAP 1. Commons, greens and 'wastes' in the High Weald AONB



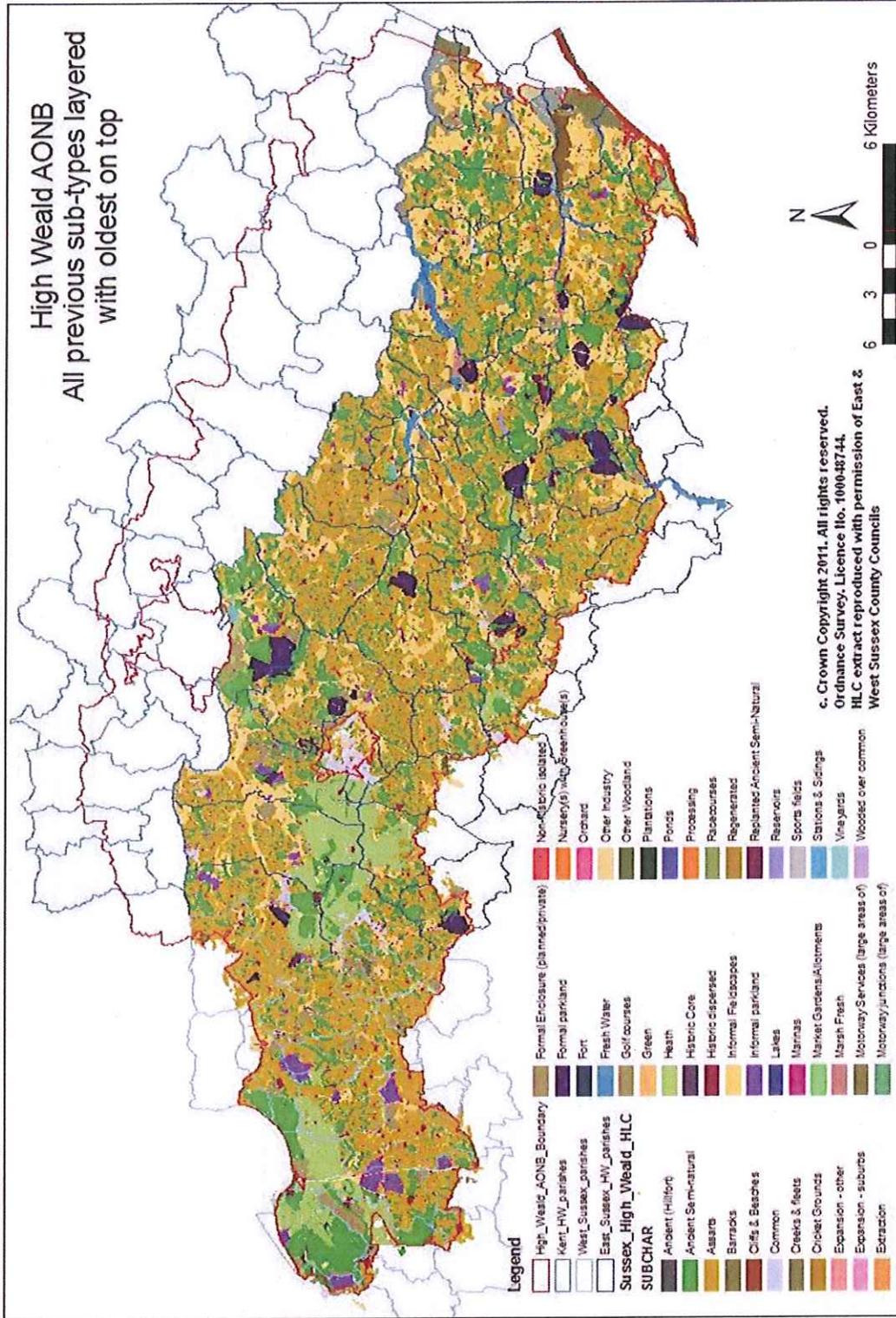
MAP 2. Commons, greens and 'wastes', and sports fields in the High Weald AONB



MAP 3. Kent HLC Historic villages and hamlets 1810 extent

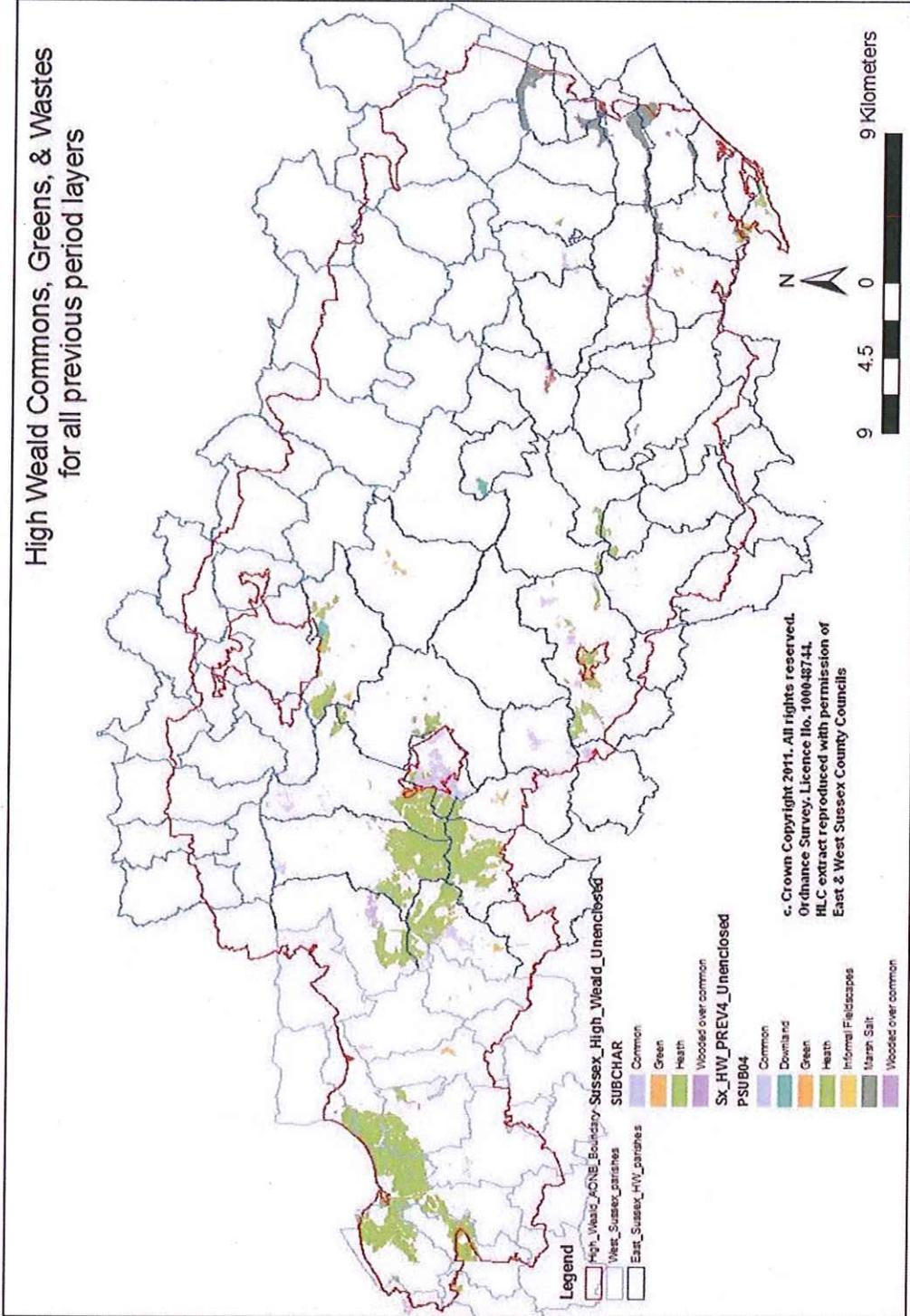


MAP 4. Commons and Greens in the High Weald AONB

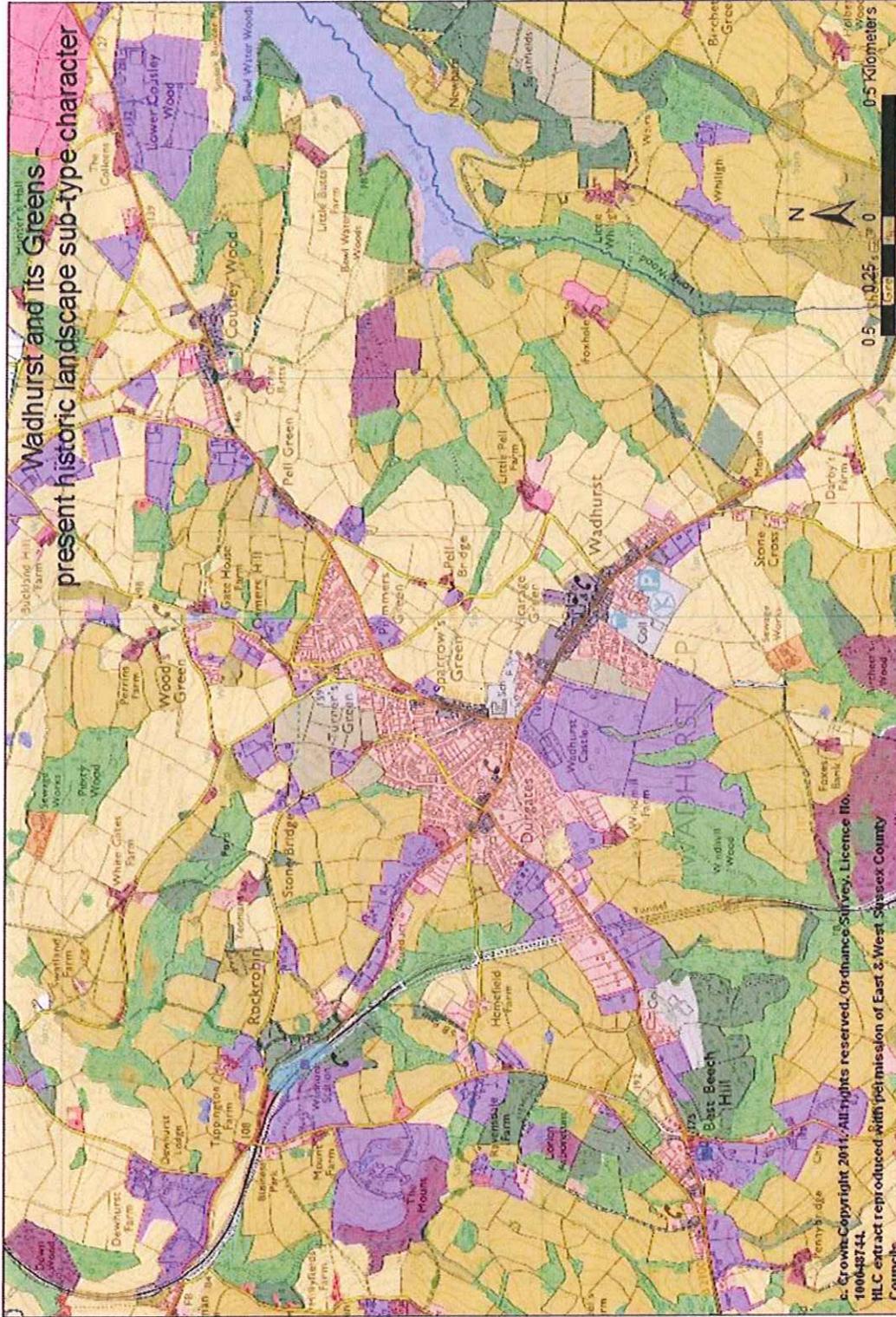


MAP 5. Sussex HLC previous period time slices layered with the oldest as the top layer and most recent as the lowest layer

High Weald Commons, Greens, & Wastes  
for all previous period layers

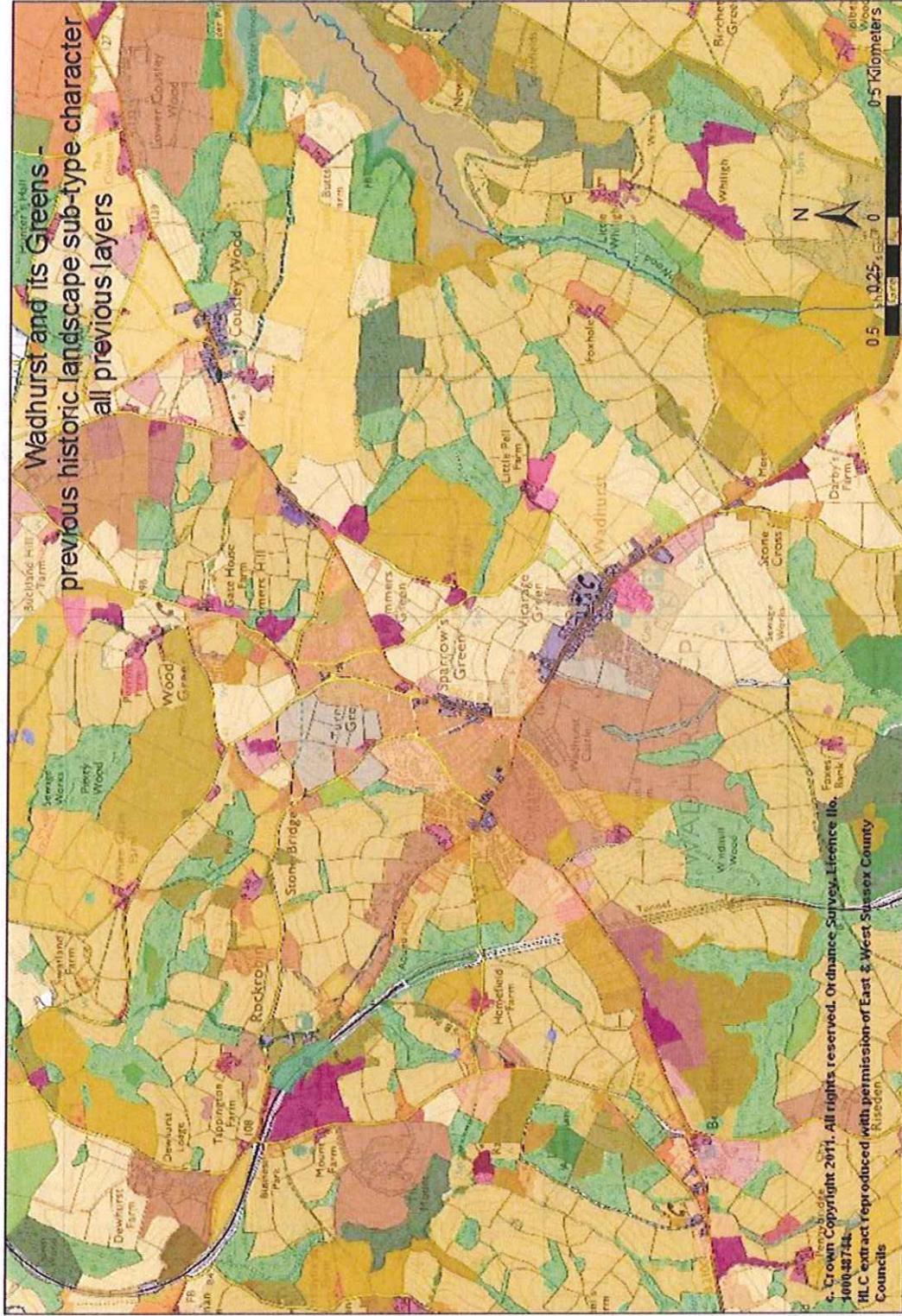


MAP 6 Sussex HLC previous period time slices for unenclosed layered with the oldest as the top layer and most recent as the lowest layer



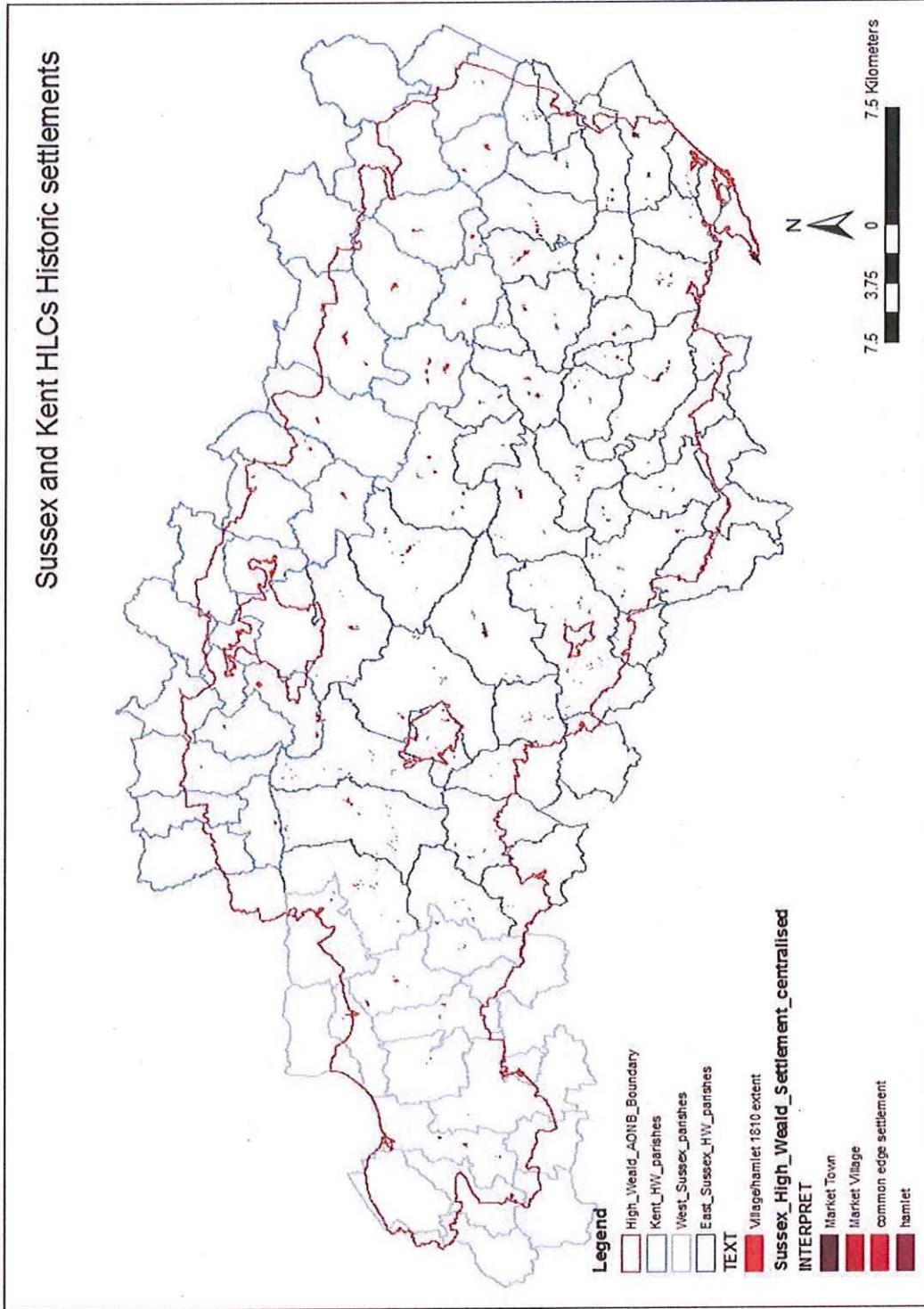
Map 7a Wadhurst sub-type character of present landscape

HIGH WEALD AONB  
COMMONS, GREENS & SETTLEMENT

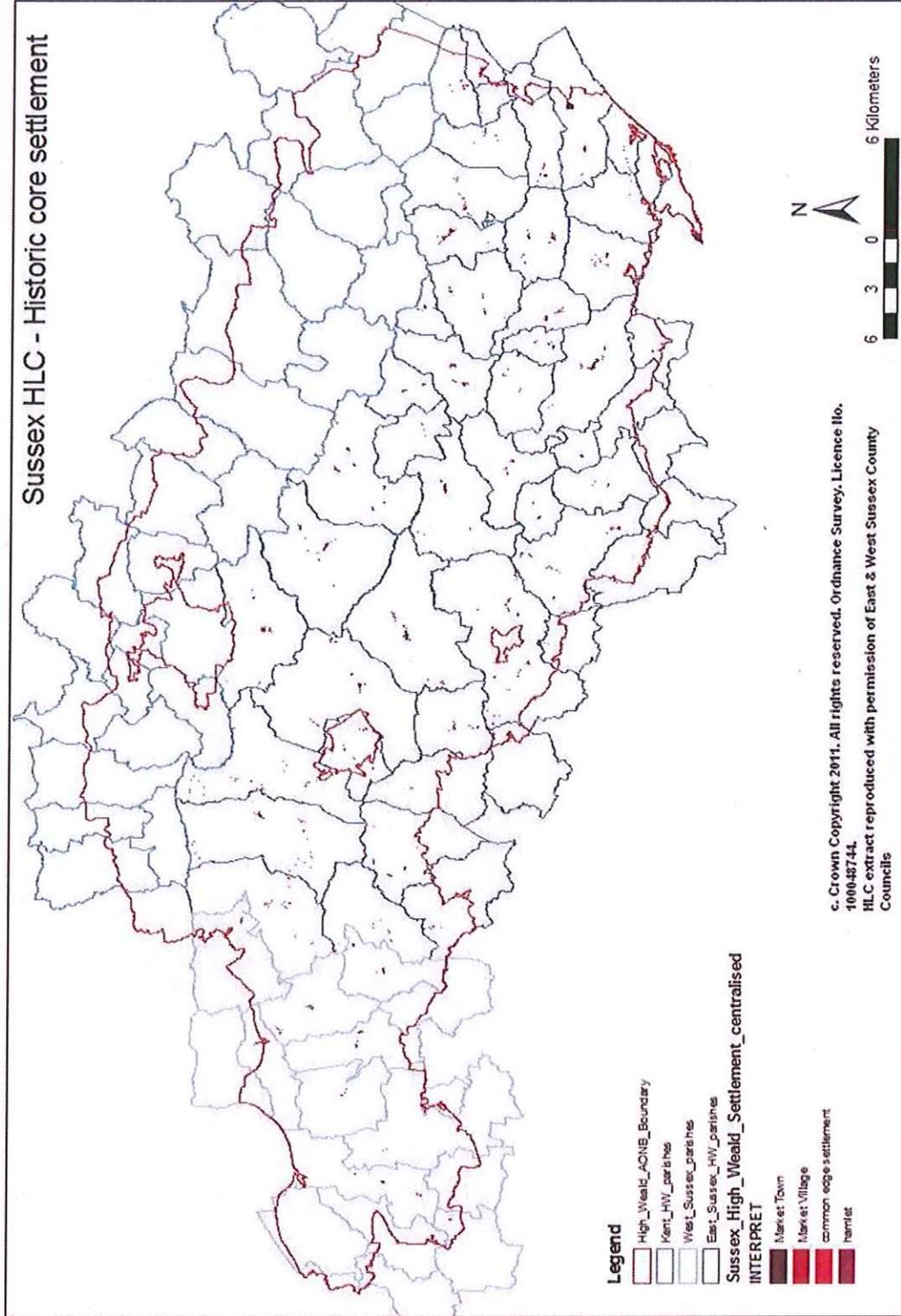


Map 7b Wadhurst previous time slices layered with the oldest on the top layer

Sussex and Kent HLCs Historic settlements

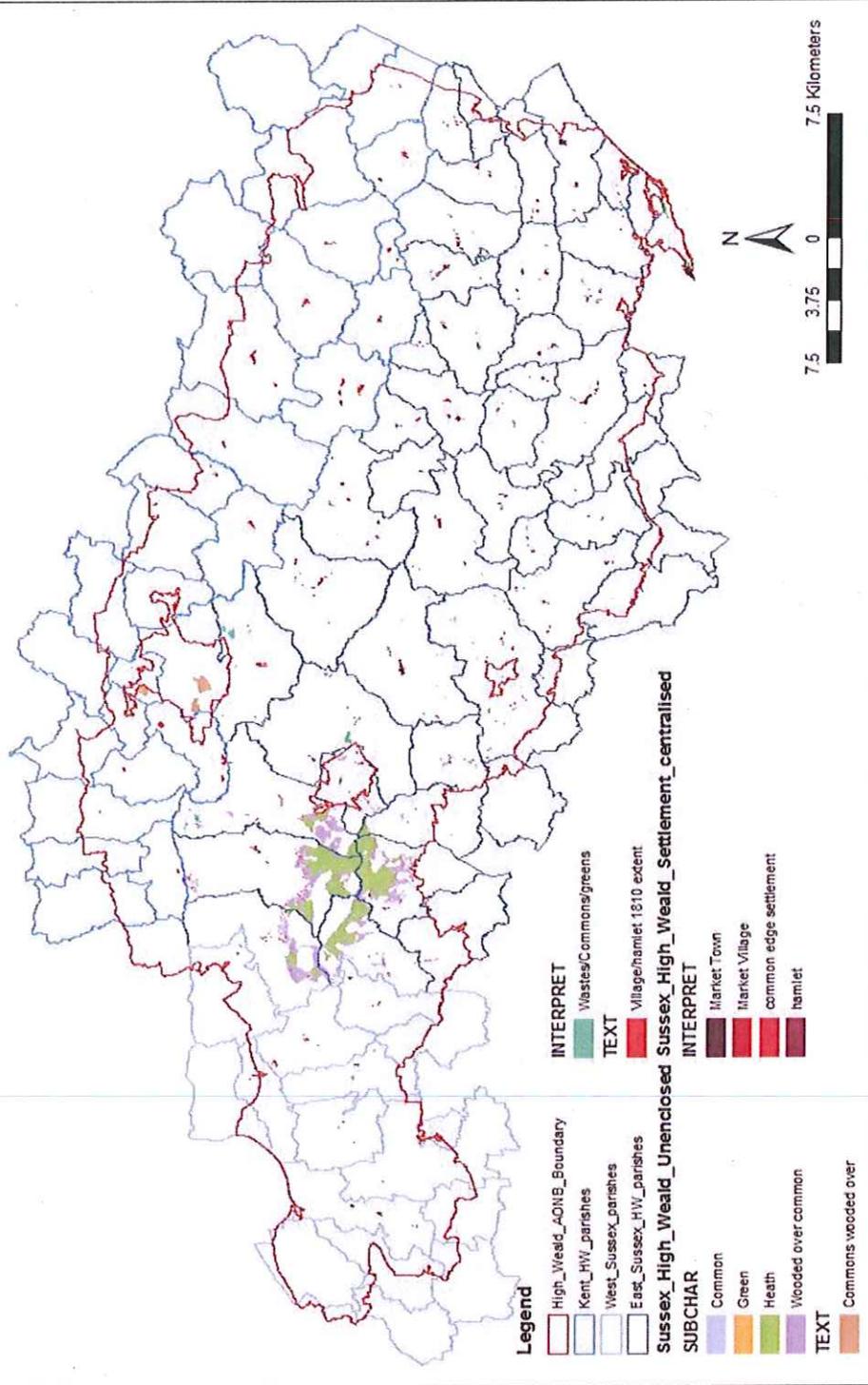


MAP 8 Kent and Sussex HLC Historic settlement



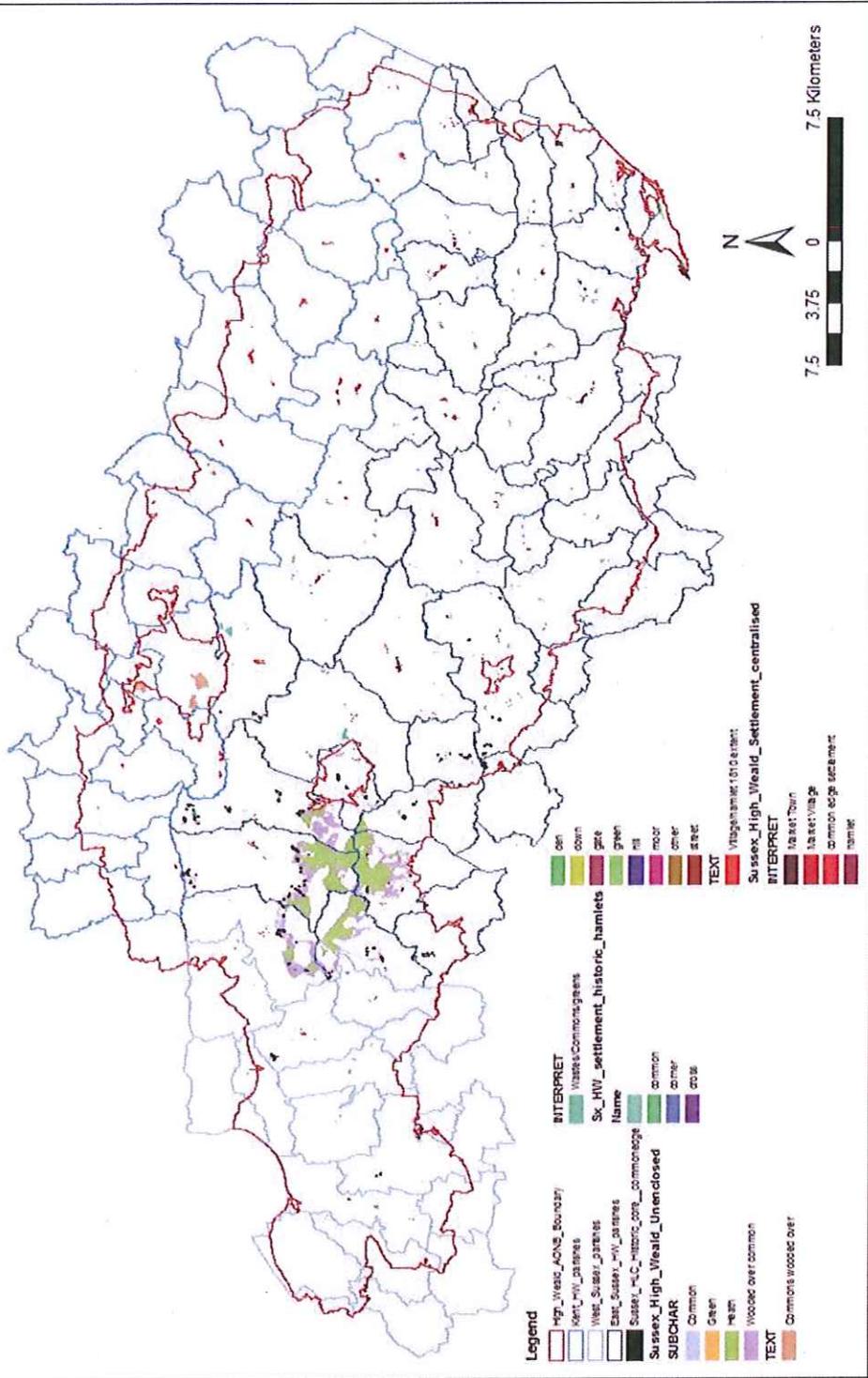
**MAP 9 Sussex Historic centralised settlements**

Sussex and Kent HLCs Historic settlements with commons and greens

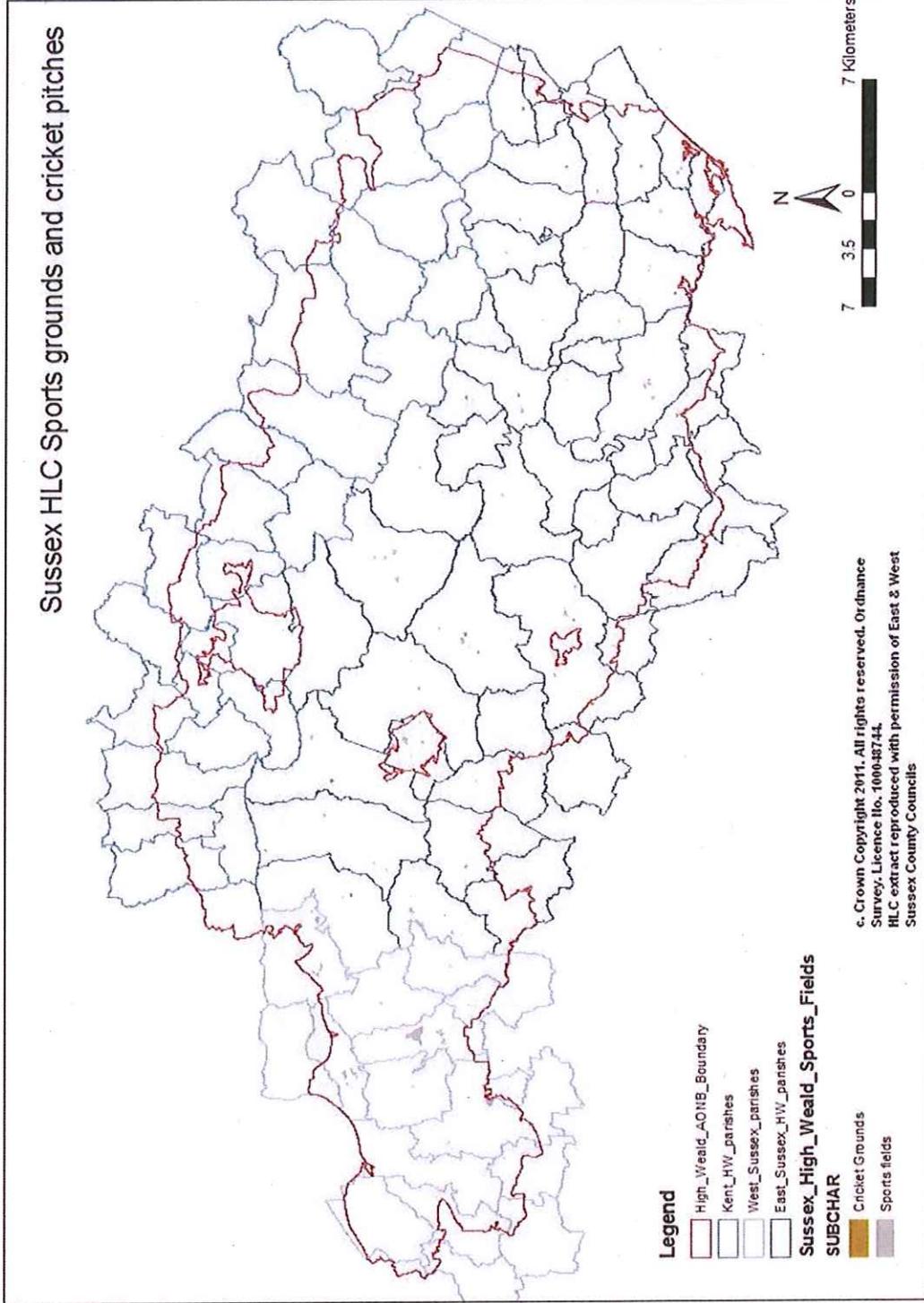


MAP 10 Kent and Sussex Historic Settlements with commons and greens

Sussex and Kent HLCs Historic settlements with commons and greens

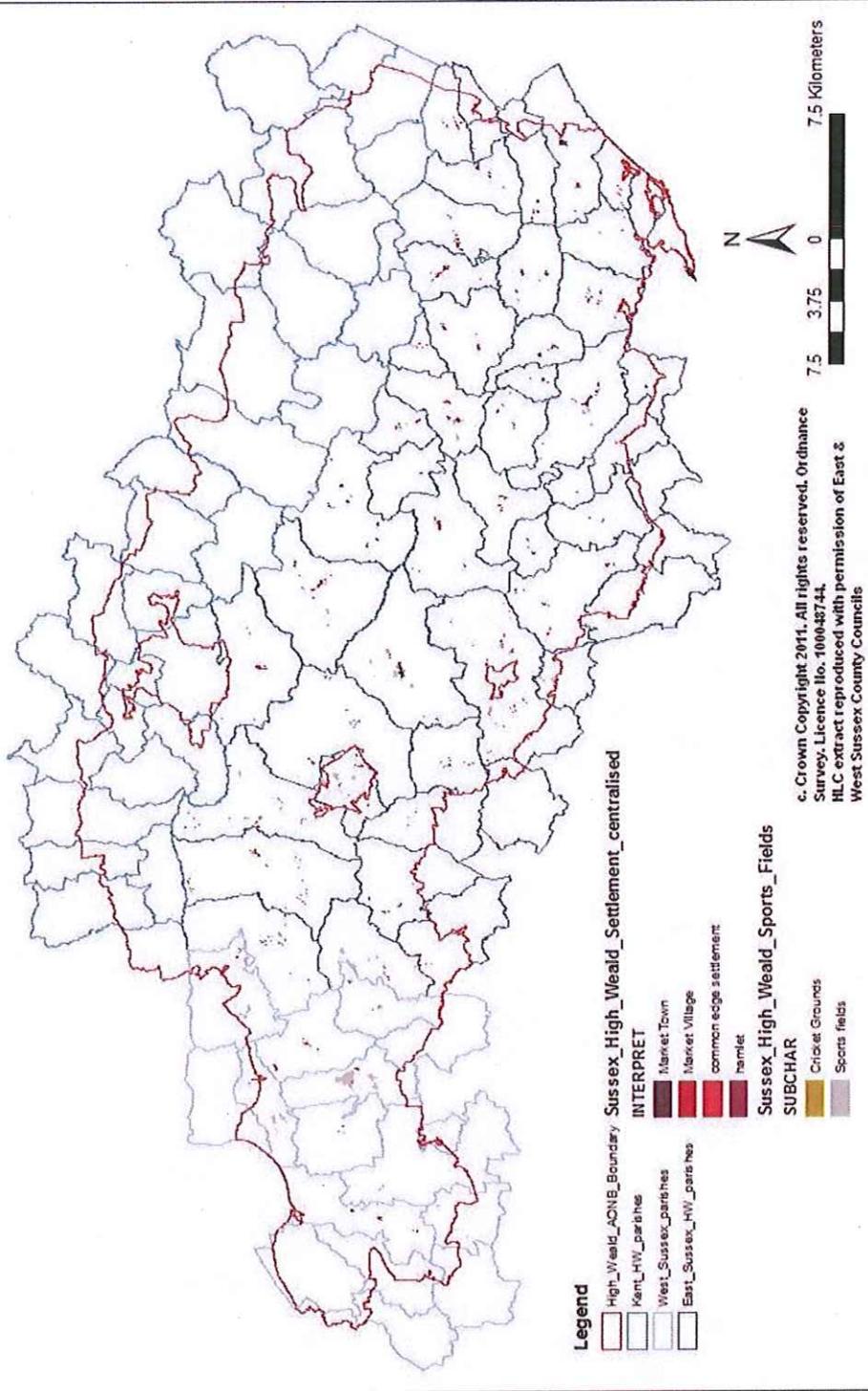


MAP 11 Kent and Sussex Historic settlement by sub-character type and place-name with unenclosed types



Map 12 Sussex HLC showing distribution of sports fields and cricket pitches

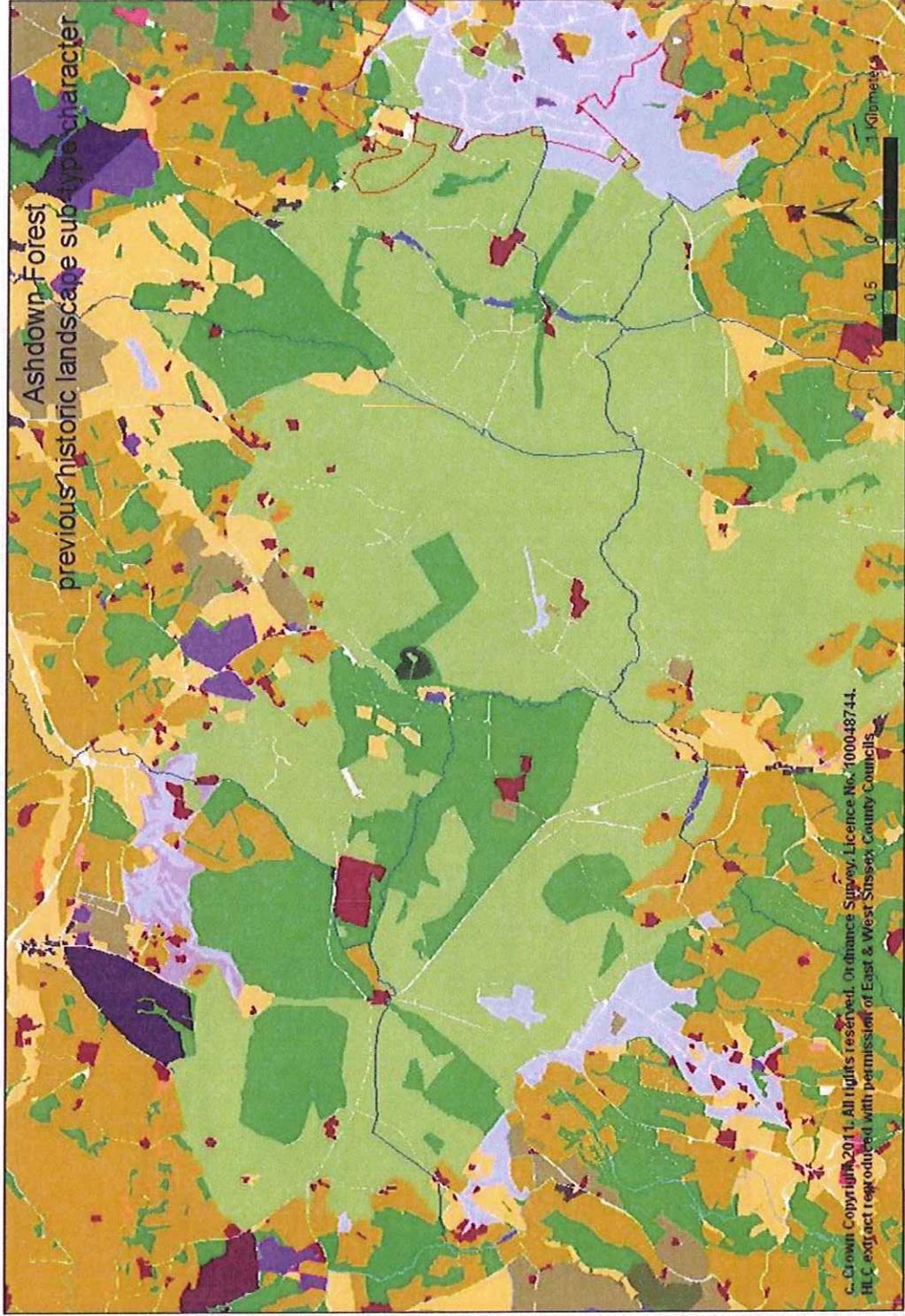
Sussex HLC Recreational open spaces and historic settlement



Map 13 Sussex HLC showing distribution of sports fields and cricket pitches with historic settlement

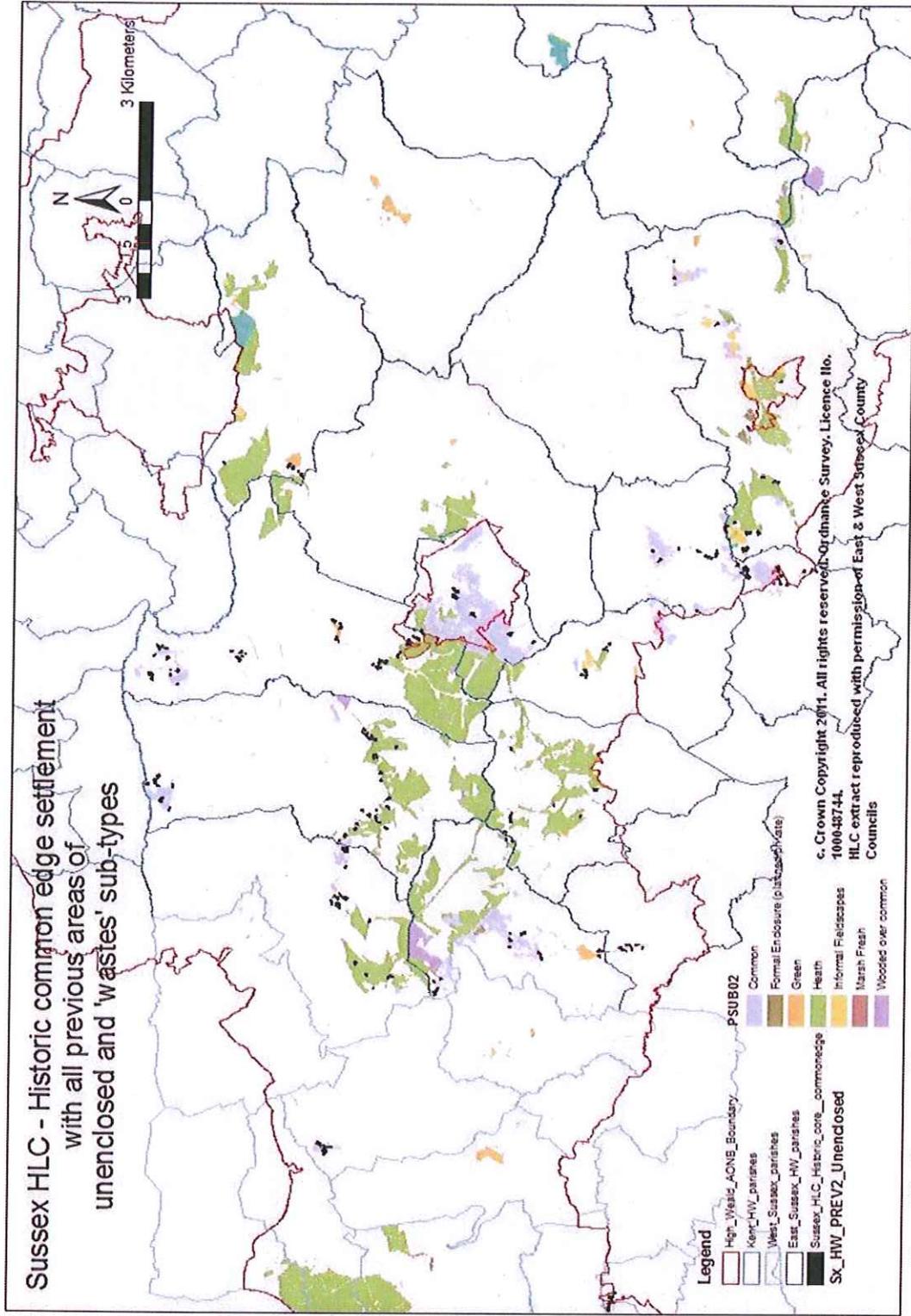


MAP 14a Ashdown Forest sub-type character of present landscape



MAP 14b Ashdown Forest sub-type character of previous landscape layered with oldest on top





Map 15b Sussex HLC Historic common-edge settlement and unenclosed/unimproved in previous landscape

LEGEND FOR MAPS 5, 14a 14b

Legend	
	High_Weald_AONB_Boundary
	Kent_HW_parishes
	West_Sussex_parishes
	East_Sussex_HW_parishes
<b>Sussex_High_Weald_HLC</b>	
<b>SUBCHAR</b>	
	Ancient (Hillfort)
	Ancient Semi-natural
	Assarts
	Barracks
	Cliffs & Beaches
	Common
	Creeks & fleets
	Cricknet Grounds
	Expansion - other
	Expansion - suburbs
	Extraction
	Formal Enclosure (planned/private)
	Formal parkland
	Fort
	Fresh Water
	Golf courses
	Green
	Heath
	Historic Core
	Historic dispersed
	Informal Fieldscapes
	Informal parkland
	Lakes
	Marinas
	Market Gardens/Allotments
	Marsh Fresh
	Motorway Services (large areas of)
	Motorway junctions (large areas of)
	Non-historic isolated
	Nursery(s) with Greenhouse(s)
	Orchard
	Other Industry
	Other Woodland
	Plantations
	Ponds
	Processing
	Racecourses
	Regenerated
	Replanted Ancient Semi-Natural
	Reservoirs
	Sports fields
	Stations & Sidings
	Vineyards
	Wooded over common

LEGEND FOR MAPS 7A & 7B

Legend		Sussex_High_Weald_HLC	
<b>SUBCHAR</b>			
Ancient (Hillfort)		Fresh Water	Orchard
Ancient Semi-natural		Golf courses	Other Industry
Assarts		Green	Other Woodland
Barracks		Heath	Plantations
Cliffs & Beaches		Historic Core	Ponds
Common		Historic dispersed	Processing
Creeks & fleets		Informal Fieldscapes	Racecourses
Cricket Grounds		Informal parkland	Regenerated
Expansion - other		Lakes	Replanted Ancient Semi-Natural
Expansion - suburbs		Marinas	Reservoirs
Extraction		Market Gardens/Allotments	Sports fields
Formal Enclosure (planned/private)		Marsh Fresh	Stations & Sidings
Formal parkland		Motorway Services (large areas of)	Vineyards
Fort		Motorway junctions (large areas of)	Wooded over common
		Non-historic isolated	
		Nursery(s) with Greenhouse(s)	

