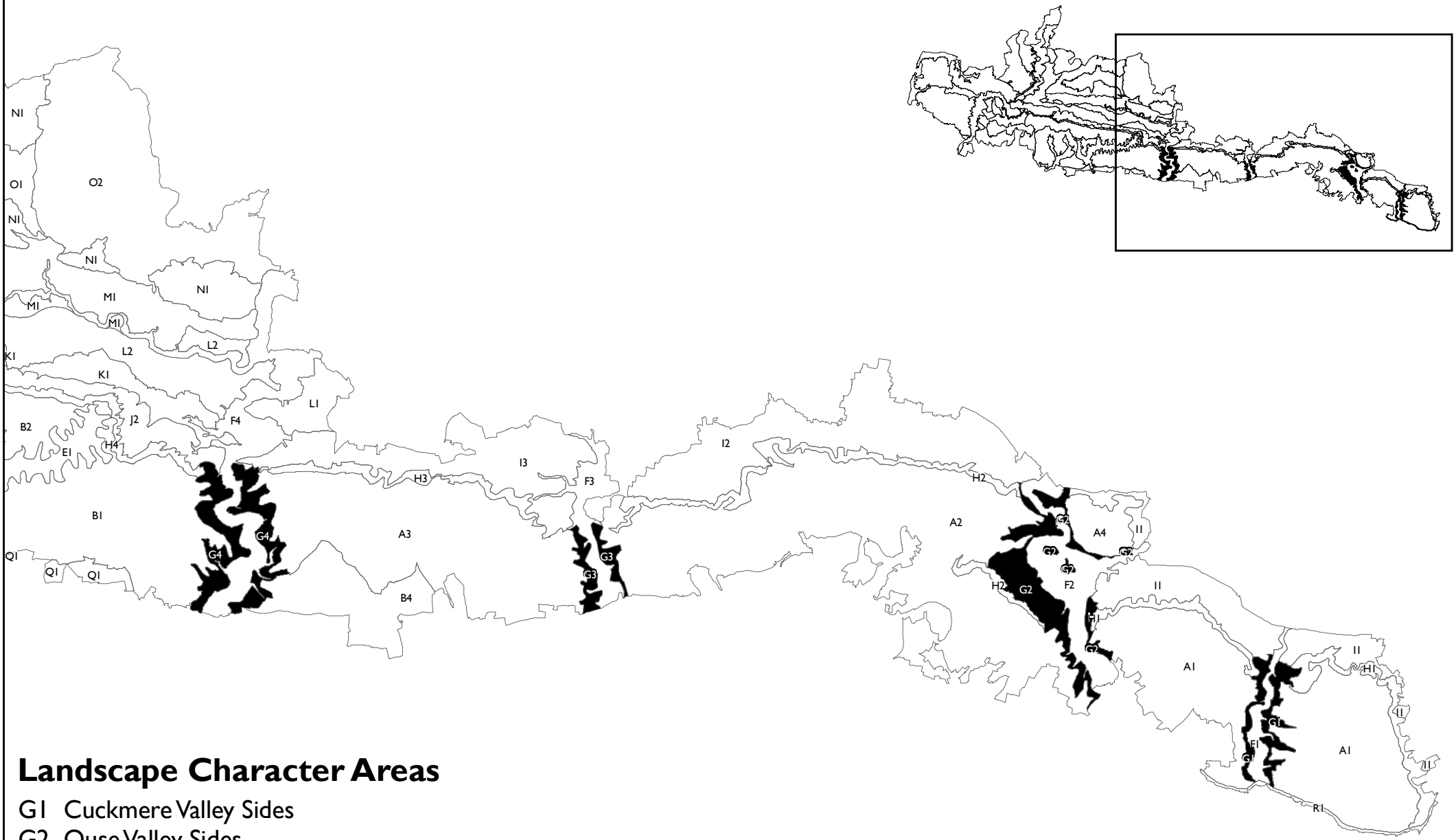
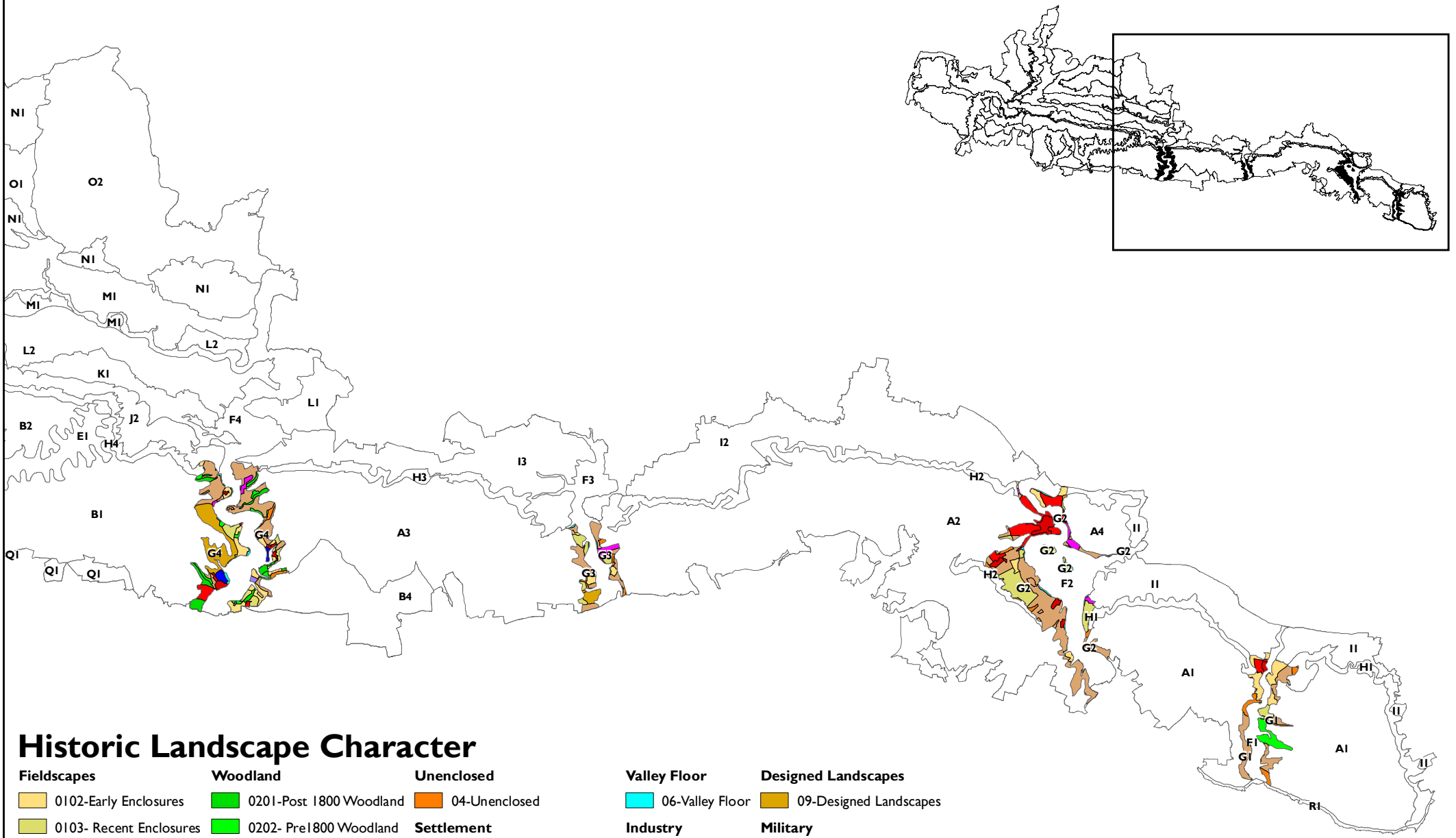


Landscape Character Areas

G1 Cuckmere Valley Sides
G2 Ouse Valley Sides
G3 Adur Valley Sides
G4 Arun Valley Sides

G: Major Valley Sides



Historic Landscape Character

Fieldscapes
- 0102-Early Enclosures
- 0103- Recent Enclosures
- 0104-Modern Fields

Woodland
- 0201-Post 1800 Woodland
- 0202- Pre1800 Woodland

Horticulture
- 03-Horticulture

Unenclosed
- 04-Unenclosed

Settlement
- 0501- Pre 1800 Settlement
- 0502- Post 1800 Expansion Settlement

Valley Floor
- 06-Valley Floor

Industry
- 08-Industry

Designed Landscapes
- 09-Designed Landscapes

Military
- 10-Military

Communications
- 11-Communications

G: Major Valley Sides

LANDSCAPE TYPE G: MAJOR VALLEY SIDES

G.1 The landscape type encompasses the valley sides/slopes which enclose and provide the setting for the major valley floodplains (landscape type F). The boundaries are defined by the change in slope to the flat floodplain and by the crest of the slope, as seen in the view form the valley floor.

DESCRIPTION

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Valley sides of varying steepness enclosing the major river floodplains and linking to the adjacent downland. The sides are often indented by dry valleys, and occasionally form steep chalk cliffs.
- An expansive large scale landscape containing, and providing the setting for, the floodplain. Some slopes provide excellent views down onto the floodplain revealing patterns of the river channel and meanders that are not a perceptible at ground level.
- Soils support arable land on shallower slopes, where large 20th century fields represent extensive re-organisation of the landscape. A mix of pasture/chalk grassland, scrub and woodland occupies steeper slopes.
- The valley sides frequently contain rural roads running along the contour above the floodplain and have formed a natural link between the Weald and the sea from the earliest prehistoric periods up to the present day. Minor lanes and unsurfaced tracks typically descend the valley sides.
- String of nucleated villages and ports, of medieval origin, lie along the lower slopes of the valleys, positioned to exploit the varied riverine and downland resources, and surrounded by early enclosures of late medieval origin.
- Typical building materials include flint, red brick, timber and clay tiles.
- Woodlands along the lower slopes are particularly distinctive and form a strong wooded edge to the floodplain.
- Away, from the roads, the valley sides form a tranquil, rural setting to the floodplain.

Physical Landscape

G.2 The *Major Valley Sides* are the sides of the deep U-shaped valleys that cut through the Chalk beds of the South Downs. These valleys were most likely deepened and enlarged by periglacial erosion to leave steep chalk slopes often indented by dry valleys, and occasionally forming steep chalk cliffs.

G.3 The underlying chalk geology has given rise to Brown Rendzina soils which are characterised by their shallow, well drained, calcareous and silty nature. Where the valley sides are shallow, the land generally has a good agricultural land capability, with

the majority of the land being classified as Grade 3 in Defra's Agricultural Land Classification (good-moderate quality agricultural soils) and are dominated by large fields of arable crops. The steeper slopes support areas of pasture, unenclosed chalk grassland or hanger woodland. Woodlands linked by hedgerows along the lower slopes mark the edge of the floodplain.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

G.4 This landscape type is of apparent large and expansive scale as a result of the rolling valley sides, with extensive views encompassing and looking down onto the floodplain and river. The geometric field patterns contrast with the sinuous woods, which provides texture and create shadows on the valley side. This is a landscape of contrasts where the exposed upper valley sides contrast with the deep, hidden and wooded coombes.

G.5 Despite the intensity of agricultural production, the low noise levels, sense of naturalness arising from the presence of open downland, and absence of overt built human impact contribute to a sense of remoteness and tranquillity on the valley sides.

G.6 Roads frequently follow the valley side, above the floodplain, making these landscapes easily accessible on foot and by car. Most notable in terms of access is the network of rural roads that link the villages along the lower valley sides and connect to areas of land in public ownership. There are also some areas of open access land coinciding with areas of chalk downland on the steeper valley sides.

G.7 Landmark buildings set against the imposing backdrop of steep valley sides have been a focus for artistic inspiration. Constable (1776-1837) painted Arundel Castle set on the valley side above the River Arun. The elegant Gothic chapel of Lancing College and the imposing medieval fortress of Amberley Castle have also formed subjects for paintings.

Biodiversity

G.8 The valley sides are typically dominated by a mixture of arable land, open improved pasture grassland and interspersed with occasional woodland, wet grassland (that extends up from the river floodplain) and chalk grassland (extending down from the chalk downland). Occasional chalk pits occur along the valley sides (particularly in the Ouse Valley), and many of these former pits are of significant geological interest.

G.9 The woodlands associated with these valley sides are of particular ecological value, with a number of statutory and non-statutory woodland sites. Of particular note, is the a large area of Arundel Park SSSI, which comprises an old deer park dominated by chalk grassland with dense or scattered scrub and mature semi-natural woodland. This site is considered to be one of the most important sites in the country for invertebrates, and also supports a diverse range of breeding birds.

G.10 Some grassland areas located in the southern section of the Cuckmere valley are strongly influenced by their coastal location, and include an area of the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI.

Key Biodiversity Features	*Importance*
Significant areas of woodland	• Includes nationally important sites such as Arundel Park, together with many non-statutory woodland sites
Chalk grassland (extending down valley sides from the chalk downland)	• Chalk grassland resource supports important populations of vascular plants, birds and invertebrates.
Mosaic of arable land, open improved pasture grassland and interspersed with occasional woodland and wet grassland (that extends up from the river floodplain)	• Provides an important habitat mosaic

Historic Character

G.11 The slopes vary in steepness, with the more gentle slopes suitable for settlement. Numerous finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic artefacts have been discovered along the valley sides. Evidence for prehistoric occupation is scarcer, due to suitable deposits being buried beneath later colluvial deposits. The fertile soils were identified by the Anglo-Saxons, who established a string of settlements along the lower slopes of the valleys, positioned to exploit the varied riverine and downland resources.

G.12 By the medieval period, the area formed an integral part of a sophisticated and efficient agrarian landscape based around sheep-corn husbandry. Nucleated villages were established along the lower valley slopes. The villages were surrounded by open fields, with woodland and downland pastures towards the extremities of the parishes. The rich meadowland forming the valley floor would have been an important component in this integrated mixed farming regime.

G.13 The valley sides are now occupied by a series of enclosed fields, largely of modern date reflecting 20th century expansion of arable farming onto land which was formerly sheepwalk, but also remodelling of earlier enclosed land around the main settlements. Some of the surviving medieval settlements are still surrounded by early enclosures of late medieval origin and some of the steeper slopes still remain as unenclosed downland.

Key Features of the Historic Environment	*Importance*
Nucleated settlements	Indicative of medieval manorial system based around open fields
Early enclosures around settlements	Indicative of relative prosperity of character area, allowing early response to changing economic and social conditions
Modern enclosures	Evidence for major reorganisation of landscape

Settlement Form and Built Character

G.14 The settlement pattern is characterised by strings of nucleated settlements along both sides of the valley, linked by rural roads which follow the edges of the floodplains. This conforms to English Heritage's rural settlement designation of East Wessex Sub-Province within the South-eastern Province. Some of the settlements on the lower valley sides are medieval ports, which thrived when the rivers were used a transport routes between the Low Weald and the sea. The typical settlement form is of mid-late Anglo-Saxon origin, and comprises nucleated groups of former

farmsteads situated around the church and manor house, and set within groups of fields enclosed in the later medieval period but originally forming open fields farmed on a communal basis. Scattered isolated farmsteads derive from more recent enclosures during the 18th-19th centuries, and are set within large regular field systems that have replaced earlier patterns.

G.15 Building materials are typically flint, red brick, timber and clay tiles.

EVALUATION

Sensitivity

G.16 This landscape type has many sensitive natural, cultural and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change. Key landscape sensitivities include:

- The intact chalk valley sides and occasional steep chalk cliffs that are vulnerable to quarrying operations.
- The rural road network that is vulnerable to heavy traffic and pressures relating to road upgrades and 'improvements'.
- The nucleated villages that are indicative of the medieval manorial system based around open fields. Views to church spires that are visible across the landscape are an important feature.
- The historic ports and their relationship to the river.
- The intact early enclosures around the medieval villages that remain and are vulnerable to boundary loss or lack of management.
- The consistency in building materials including flint, red brick, timber and clay tiles which create a consistent, unified and intact character.
- The remnant areas of chalk grassland on steeper slopes that are of great biodiversity interest and are vulnerable to changes in management particularly decline in grazing.
- The deciduous woodlands and network of hedgerows on the lower slopes that form a strong wooded edge to the floodplain.
- The tranquil, rural character of the landscape which forms a setting to the major river floodplains.

G.17 The woodlands and hedgerows limit visual sensitivity of this valley landscape, particularly on the lower slopes. However, the visibility of this landscape from opposite valley sides and from the adjacent downs increases the visual sensitivity of the valley sides. From within the valleys, the valley crests are seen against an open sky and are particularly visually sensitive.

Change – Key Issues and Trends

G.18 Observable changes to the valley sides in the past include:

- Conversion of the original chalk grasslands and medieval fields, to large arable fields and introduction of large steel framed agricultural buildings over the last 70 years.

- Invasion of scrub into areas of remaining chalk grassland as a result of decline in grazing pressure.

- Quarrying of chalk and introduction of industrial buildings, including cement works.

- Creation of cuttings associated with transport corridors.

Future Landscape Change

G.19 In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive change in the form of conversion of arable land back to pasture and creation and management of chalk grassland habitats as a result of ongoing policies and incentives. However, global agricultural competition is likely to continue to hamper efforts to reinstate sheep grazing. Patterns of crops in the arable areas are also likely to continue to change - some of these crops can have a sudden impact, e.g. oil seed rape adds bright splash of yellow to an otherwise muted landscape and be highly visible and incongruous in the context of views from the floodplain up to the valley sides and views across the valleys. There may be decline in the structure of valley side woodlands that are not in active management. In particular, the distinctive elm populations could be under threat.

G.20 It is difficult to be prescriptive about long term change (20 years) as this will be dependent on prevailing policies and incentives. The South Downs Management Plan will be a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Some potential changes and key vulnerabilities within the *Major Valley Sides* are outlined below.

Climate Change: Changes to the precipitation and temperature could impact upon the species composition of habitats, particularly chalk grasslands. This could result in a greater abundance of species with a continental distribution, but the impact of extreme events and the spread of more competitive grasses could cancel out these benefits. Higher temperatures could also lead to incidence of different livestock pests and possible increased use of pesticides if pests and pathogens increase.

Increased drought conditions could result in the potential to grow different crop types, which could further change the visual character of the landscape, and could also result in withdrawal of arable land from cropping and reversion to natural grassland, particularly in areas of thin soils such as the chalk valley sides. These conditions could also put stress on the valley side woodlands and increased storms could result in damage to the woodlands. Storms may also contribute to increased erosion of soils on the steeper valley sides, with consequent effects on the water quality of the rivers. The demand for wood fuel as a source of renewable energy could result in improved management of woodlands.

In response to climate change, the pursuit of renewable energy may result in demand for growth of biomass crops, which could alter the open character of the valley

sides, or demand for wind energy development on the crests of the valley sides, which could affect the remoteness and tranquillity of the valleys.

Agricultural Change and Land Management: Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and the CAP. It is likely that agricultural production will continue to intensify on the shallower valley slopes with amalgamation of farms and potential new large scale farm buildings. The steeper slopes which are currently in pasture, or chalk grassland, may become more marginal and vulnerable as grazing continues to decline. On the other hand, there may also be positive landscape change arising from regimes to promote enhanced environmental management of chalk grassland habitats. Sustained grazing management will be critical to the success of these schemes.

Development: The existing designation of the valleys as part of an AONB and, if confirmed, the new designation of National Park, is likely to continue to limit pressure for built development on the valley sides. However, there may be increased pressure for development of recreational facilities along the valley sides as an entry point to the downland landscapes (particularly along the route of the long distance public rights of way that cross the valleys), and possible demand for tall structures such as masts and wind turbines along the crests of the valley sides.

Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines

G.21 **Conserve the bold chalk landforms, the simple uncluttered landscape pattern and the historic villages which provide a rural setting to the major river floodplains.**

Landscape Management Considerations

- Conserve the intact chalk valley sides and steep chalk cliffs, avoiding cuttings or quarrying operations that would threaten the landform.
- The continued conversion of arable land to grassland would be a beneficial change, particularly on upper valley sides – seek to extend and link chalk grassland habitats to create unified swathes of open grazed grassland which enhance the dramatic profile of the valley sides.
- Ensure active management of chalk grassland, through selective scrub clearance and introduction of long term grazing.
- Manage areas of deciduous valley side woodland to ensure a diverse species and age structure by thinning, coppicing, and replanting as necessary. This will minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Consider new woodland planting, particularly on lower slopes. Avoid harsh woodland edges which are visually intrusive on the valley sides, and ensure appropriate on-going management.
- Consider effects on panoramic views from the valley sides and crests when considering woodland planting or felling.

- Conserve the rural character of the road network, avoiding road 'improvements' that would change the character of the winding lanes.

- Conserve the tranquil, rural character of the landscape, and its function as a rural setting and containment to the major river floodplains.

Development Considerations

- Conserve the nucleated character of the medieval villages and their setting including the early enclosures that surround these medieval villages. Maintain uncluttered views to church spires.

- Conserve the rural character of the road network, avoiding road 'improvements' that would change the character of the winding lanes.

- Encourage sympathetic re-use of any traditional farm buildings that may become redundant so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads study[24].

- Planting could be used on lower valley sides to soften the existing settlement fringes.

- Ensure recreational facilities are well integrated into the landscape through careful siting and design, and using indigenous planting.

- Maintain the open and undeveloped valley crest skylines – avoid siting of buildings, telecommunication masts, power lines and wind turbines on the sensitive skyline.

- Consider panoramic views from the valley sides and crests and up from the valley floor in relation to any proposed change.

- Encourage methods to store water run-off to minimise flooding of the rivers in times of heavy rain and storms.

Character Areas There are four *Major Valley Sides* in the South Downs. These are all located within the valley bottoms of the large U shaped valleys that cut through the eastern half of the South Downs.	
G1:	Cuckmere Valley Sides
G2:	Ouse Valley Sides
G3:	Adur Valley Sides
G4:	Arun Valley Sides

[24] Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

G1: CUCKMERE VALLEY SIDES

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries

G1.1 The Cuckmere Valley is the easternmost of the wide gaps that cut though the South Downs. The bottom edge of each valley side is clearly defined by the change in topography to the flat floodplain - this also coincides with the extent of underlying river alluvium. The upper edge of the valley is defined by the crest of the slope and has been drawn along the apparent skyline of the valley as seen from the valley bottom. The valley extends north-south between the designated National Park boundary to the north and the shoreline at Cuckmere Haven to the south. There are views from the valley sides over the Cuckmere floodplain.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- The Cuckmere Valley is the easternmost of the deep U-shaped valleys that cuts through the chalk of the South Downs.
- The valley sides are indented by dry valleys, which are particularly well developed along the eastern edge of the valley, and steep chalk cliffs at 'High and Over', etched with a chalk carving of a white horse.
- An expansive large scale landscape containing and providing the setting for the Cuckmere floodplain. Some slopes provide excellent views down onto the floodplain revealing patterns of the river channel and meanders that are not a perceptible at ground level.
- The valley sides support a network of rural roads and have formed a natural link between the Weald and the sea from the earliest prehistoric periods up to the present day.
- String of nucleated villages, of medieval origin, such as Farley and Litlington, lie along the lower slopes of both sides of the valley, positioned to exploit the varied riverine and downland resources, and surrounded by early enclosures of late medieval origin. The small market town of Alfriston is located to the north of the valley.
- Typical building materials include flint, red brick, timber and clay tiles.
- Fertile soils support arable land on shallower slopes, where large 20th century fields represent extensive re-organisation of the landscape. Pasture, chalk grassland and woodland occupy steeper slopes.
- Hedgerows and trees are features of the lower valley sides. Woodlands along the lower slopes are particularly distinctive and form a strong wooded edge to the floodplain. Friston Forest is an extensive area of beech woods and coniferous plantations.

- Good access to the valley sides by car, bicycle and on foot with a network of rural roads, part of which forms part of Sustrans' National Cycle Network, part of the Seven Sisters Country Park and the South Downs Way national trail.

- A tranquil, rural setting to the Cuckmere floodplain.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Cuckmere Valley Sides

G1.2 The Cuckmere Valley is the only valley that meets the sea within the study area. This is reflected in the southern part of the character area possessing a range of nationally important coastal habitats, including maritime grassland, foreshore and chalk cliffs, including part of the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI.

G1.3 The valley sides have a particularly well developed system of dry valleys along their eastern edge with subsequent contrast between the exposed upper valley sides and deep, hidden coombes. This character area also includes distinctive steep chalk cliffs at 'High and Over' – where a white horse is etched into the steep downland above the cliffs.

G1.4 The sloping valley sides of the River Cuckmere are dominated by a mixture of open improved pasture grassland and arable land, interspersed with occasional woodland and wet grassland that extends up from the river floodplain. Wet ditches frequently dissect the fields, and many of these are at least seasonally wet and support fringes of marginal vegetation. The valley is also notable for supporting an important, and increasing, population of elm, includes a number of mature specimens trees. Unique to this character area is the extensive area of beech woods at Friston Forest - this extensive 20th century plantation extends from the open downs onto the eastern valley slopes and is designated as an SNCI.

G1.5 Most notable in terms of access is the network of rural roads that link the villages along the lower valley sides and connect to areas of land in public ownership, for example at Friston Forest where there are opportunities for walking and cycling. The Seven Sisters Country Park provides further recreational opportunities. The road along the eastern side of the valley forms part of Sustrans' National Cycle Network (National Route No.2). The South Downs Way national trail passes through Alfriston before crossing to the eastern valley side where it continues southwards to the sea. There are further opportunities for way-marked walks, and a Youth Hostel, at Frog Firle. There are also some areas of open access land coinciding with areas of chalk downland on the valley side.

G1.6 This valley contains nucleated settlements along both sides of the valley, typical of the landscape type - one village, Alfriston, is well-placed on the river and developed into a small market town and trading settlement. Former open fields associated with the, now shrunken, medieval settlements of Chyngton, Sutton and Exceat have been eradicated by large modern fields. In contrast, the surviving medieval settlements in the remainder of the character area e.g. Lullington, Litlington, and Westdean are still surrounded by early enclosures of late medieval origin.

Sensitivities Specific to the Cuckmere Valley Sides

G1.7 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

- The Litlington White horse at 'High and Over' which is a distinctive landmark on the valley side.
- Valley side woodland that forms part of the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI, and the population of Cuckmere elms.
- Beechwoods at Friston Forest that provide diverse habitats.
- Panoramic views over the floodplain and valley from 'High and Over' and the Seven Sisters Country Park.

Change Specific to the Cuckmere Valley Sides

G1.8 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include the cutting of the Litlington white horse in the early 20th century (about a hundred yards from the site of the earlier Litlington horse cut around 1838) and the planting of Friston Forest in 1926.

G1.9 The significant elm population in the Cuckmere Valley, which lies within the East Sussex Dutch Elm Control Area, has been increasing since the control area was established in the 1970s.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Cuckmere Valley Sides

G1.10 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- Conserve the Litlington white horse as a landmark feature.
- Support the conservation of the elm population in the Cuckmere Valley - the health of these elms must be monitored in the future to minimise the impact of any future outbreaks of Dutch elm disease.
- Consider effects on panoramic views from High and Over and the Seven Sisters Country Park when considering woodland planting or felling.

Panoramic views over the floodplain from the Seven Sisters Country Park.

Distinctive steep chalk cliffs at 'High and Over' where a white horse is etched into the cliff edge.

The sloping valley sides are dominated by a mixture of open, unimproved pasture, grassland and arable land.

Typical building materials include flint, red brick, timber and clay tiles.

Alfriston is well placed on the river and developed into a small market town and trading settlement.

Hedgerows and trees are features of the lower valley sides and form a distinctive wooded edge to the floodplain.

G2: OUSE VALLEY SIDES

Location and Boundaries

G2.1 The *Ouse Valley Sides* enclose the *Ouse Floodplain*, a particularly wide floodplain that cuts though the South Downs between Lewes in the north and Newhaven in the south. The bottom edge of each valley side is clearly defined by the junction with the flat floodplain - this also coincides with the extent of underlying river alluvium. The upper edge of the valley is defined by the crest of the slope and has been drawn along the apparent skyline of the valley as seen from the valley bottom. To the north the valley meets the scarp north of Lewes, and to the south the valley sides meet the designated National Park boundary which also coincides with the urban edge of Newhaven. There are views from the valley sides over the Ouse floodplain.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Valley sides carved from chalk, varying from extremely steep at the north and south ends, to very shallow in the middle.
- Severe cuttings and quarries around Cuilfail and along the A26 and A27 on the edge of Mount Caburn form white scars in the landscape.
- Fertile soils support arable land on the shallower slopes above Lewes Wild Brooks where large 20th century fields represent extensive re-organisation of the landscape.
- Pasture, chalk grassland and woodland occupy steeper slopes close to Newhaven, Lewes and on the edges of Mount Caburn.
- The valley sides support an extensive road network, including the A27 (and its junctions), the A26 (which passes through the Cuilfail Tunnel), and a minor road along the western valley side.
- Minor lanes and unsurfaced tracks descend the valley sides – many of these are now public rights of way that allow access up onto the adjacent downs.
- A string of nucleated villages, of medieval origin, lie along the lower slopes of the western valley side where the slopes are less steep e.g. Kingston near Lewes, Iford, Northease, Rodmell, and Southease. These are surrounded by a field pattern of early enclosures.
- Lewes is an historic port, located on the steep valley side alongside the River Ouse. Typical building materials in Lewes include flint, red brick, timber and clay tiles. Lewes Castle is a landmark.
- Woodlands along the lower slopes are particularly distinctive and form a strong wooded edge to the floodplain.
- Away, from the roads, the valley sides form a tranquil, rural setting to the floodplain.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Ouse Valley Sides

G2.2 The physical characteristics of the *Ouse Valley Sides* are typical of their landscape type in that the chalk sides exhibit great variation in the steepness of slope. The valley sides are extremely steep above Cliffe where the Cuilfail Tunnel takes the A26 through the chalk valley side. The steep slopes have also been quarried for chalk which has left white scars on the valley side. Many of these former pits are of significant geological interest, including nationally important sites such as Southerham Grey Pit SSSI and Southerham Work Pit SSSI. Occasional small areas of chalk grassland also extend into this character area from the adjacent open downland, for example Kingston Escarpment and Ilford Hill SSSI, and Lewes Downs SSSI.

G2.3 In contrast, the shallow valley sides around Lewes Wild Brooks support an extensive area of arable crops in large 20th century fields. Combined with areas of permanent pasture and ditches, this are provides important habitat for a range of farmland birds.

G2.4 Another distinctive feature of this character area is the amount of built development on the valley sides – this is mostly associated with the historic port of Lewes, positioned at the junction between the Downs and Weald.. Most notable in terms of access is the extensive road system. The South Downs Way national trail also crosses the valley sides providing access by foot to the adjacent downs. This combination of built development and traffic erodes the sense of tranquillity in this character area.

G2.5 In addition to Lewes, this valley contains nucleated settlements along its western side, from Kingston near Lewes in the north to Piddingnhoe in the south. Small blocks of 18th-19th century enclosure survive south of Kingston and west and south of Beddingham.

Sensitivities Specific to the Ouse Valley Sides

G2.6 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

- The small blocks of 18th-19th century enclosure south of Kingston and west and south of Beddingham.
- Former chalk pits of significant geological interest, including nationally important sites such as Southerham Grey Pit SSSI and Southerham Work Pit SSSI.
- Views of Lewes Castle.

Change Specific to the Ouse Valley Sides

G2.7 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include the building of Cuilfail Tunnel, the creation of road cuttings through the chalk associated with the A26 and A27, and the expansion of built development on the edge of Lewes.

G2.8 In this character area further requirements for built development on the valley sides may be a pressure for change in the future.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Ouse Valley Sides

G2.9 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- Avoid further quarrying operations that would be highly visible. Encourage the creative restoration of redundant chalk quarries, exploiting the potential for geological interest, nature conservation, and recreation, and ensuring they blend with their surroundings.
- Conserve the small blocks of 18th-19th century enclosure south of Kingston and west and south of Beddingham.

G2.10 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Maintain a consistent palette of built materials – including flint, red brick, timber and clay tile.
- Maintain views to Lewes Castle on the valley side.

Away from the roads, the valley sides form a tranquil, rural setting to the floodplain.

View across the Ouse floodplain to Southerham Pit on the eastern valley sides.

Arable land on the shallower slopes on the edge of the Glynde Reach.

The steeply sloping edge of Mount Caburn forms the north eastern valley sides.

Wooded valley sides rise above the industrial estate on the floodplain.

Infrastructure associated with the historic port of Lewes is a development on the valley sides.

G3: ADUR VALLEY SIDES

Location and Boundaries

G3.1 The *Adur Valley Sides* enclose the *Adur Floodplain* that cuts though the South Downs between Upper Beeding in the north and Shoreham in the south. The bottom edge of each valley side is clearly defined by a marked change in topography to the flat floodplain - this also coincides with the extent of underlying river alluvium. The upper edge of the valley is defined by the crest of the slope and has been drawn along the apparent skyline of the valley as seen from the roads in the valley bottom. To the north the valley sides form a transition to the scarp footslopes, and to the south the valley sides meet the designated National Park boundary at the A27. There are views from the valley sides over the Adur floodplain

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Valley sides carved from chalk, relatively steep along their whole length. The large disused chalk quarry at Shoreham Cement Works forms a white scar in the landscape.
- Pasture, chalk grassland and woodland occupy steeper slopes, for example at Mill Hill and Anchor Bottom – these are important for biodiversity.
- The valley sides support an extensive road network, including the A283 on the eastern valley side and Coombes Road in the western valley side.
- Minor lanes and unsurfaced tracks descend the valley sides – many of these are now public rights of way that allow access up onto the adjacent downs.
- A string of shrunken medieval villages lie along the lower slopes of the western valley side e.g. Botolphs, Coombes, Applesham Farm. These are surrounded by early enclosures.
- Woodlands along the lower slopes are particularly distinctive and form a strong wooded edge to the floodplain.
- Away, from the roads, the valley sides form a tranquil, rural setting to the floodplain.
- The prominent Gothic chapel of Lancing College is a particularly distinctive landmark standing at the southern end of the Adur valley. The chimney of the Shoreham Cement Works is also a key landmark feature.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Adur Valley Sides

G3.2 The physical characteristics of the *Adur Valley Sides* are typical of their landscape type, being carved from the underlying chalk bedrock. The large disused chalk quarry at Shoreham Cement Works is a particularly notable feature of the Adur Valley and reveals the underlying bedrock as a white scar on the valley side. The chimney of the adjacent cement works is a major feature on the valley side. A further distinctive feature of this character area is the Gothic chapel of Lancing College which stands at

the southern end of the valley – there are clear views of this landmark, which stands in an open setting against the steep backdrop of the valley side, from much of the southern half of the valley as well as from the coastal plain to the south.

G3.3 Although dominated by arable agriculture, the area has retained significant ecological interest, particularly associated with the small areas of chalk grassland and woodland which occur on the steeper slopes. Notable examples are at Mill Hill and Anchor Bottom. In the wider landscape, habitats such as permanent pasture, arable land and hedgerows provide locally important ecological features.

G3.4 Most notable in terms of access is the road system - the A283 runs along the eastern valley side and the minor Coombe Road runs along the western side providing access by car the length of the valley. Parking alongside the A283 gives access to the South Downs Way national trail which descends to the river floodplain to the west and up onto the adjacent downs to the east.

G3.5 In this character area the medieval villages on the valley sides have shrunk down to the size of small hamlets (Coombes and Botolphs) or single farms (Applesham and Erringham). The absence of villages is notable and gives the valley a remote and tranquil character.

G3.6 Unique to this character area is the historic salt-making industry which thrived from Saxon times until the 14th century – salt-making was associated with Applesham, Coombes, Annington and Botolphs. The presence of small raised mounds on the adjacent floodplain provides evidence of this industry.

Sensitivities Specific to the Adur Valley Sides

G3.7 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

- The small blocks of 18th-19th century enclosure around the medieval settlements of Botolphs, Coombes, Applesham and Erringham.
- The swathes of chalk grassland and woodland on steep valley sides at Mill Hill and Anchor Bottom.
- Views to the Gothic chapel of Lancing College which stands as a major landmark at the southern end of the valley.
- Panoramic views from parking and nature reserve at Mill Hill.

Change Specific to the Adur Valley Sides

G3.8 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include the building of Lancing College in 1848; the gothic Chapel is now a major landmark of the valley. The opening of the Shoreham Cement Works in 1851 introduced a new element to the valley. Although they ceased operation in 1991, the cement works factory and quarry still dominate the eastern side of the valley.

G3.9 In this character area the disused Shoreham Cement Works and disused chalk quarry may be a focus for future change.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Adur Valley Sides

G3.10 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- Encourage the creative restoration of the redundant chalk quarry and Shoreham Cement Works, exploiting the potential for geological interest, nature conservation, education, and recreation, and ensuring they blend with their surroundings.
- Conserve the small blocks of 18th-19th century enclosure around the medieval settlements of Botolphs, Coombes, Applesham and Erringham.
- Seek opportunities for creation of additional chalk grassland sites on steep valley sides, linking them to existing chalk grassland at Mill Hill and Anchor Bottom.

G3.11 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Maintain views to the Gothic chapel of Lancing College and its open setting which stands as a major landmark at the southern end of the valley.
- Conserve links between the valley side settlements and the adjacent floodplain landscape through historic interpretation (Applesham, Coombes, Annington and Botolphs role in the salt-making industry on the floodplain) and physical/visual connections.
- Consider views from the parking and nature reserve at Mill Hill in planning any change.

The less steep valley sides are cultivated and contain isolated farm buildings.

Hedgerow trees mark the field boundaries.

The gothic chaple of Lancing College is located at the southern end of the valleyd forms a prominent landmark.

Scrub and chalk grassland characterises the steeper valley sides.

Pylons are a feature of the valley sides.

A large, disused cement works is prominent on the valley sides at Shoreham.

G4: ARUN VALLEY SIDES

Location and Boundaries

G4.1 The *Arun Valley Sides* enclose the floodplain of the River Arun that cuts though the South Downs between Amberley in the north and Arundel in the south. The bottom edge of each valley side is clearly defined by a marked change in topography to the flat floodplain - this also coincides with the extent of underlying river alluvium. The upper edge of the valley is defined by the crest of the slope and has been drawn along the apparent skyline of the valley as seen from the roads in the valley bottom. To the north the valley sides form a transition to the scarp footslopes, and to the south the valley sides meet the designated National Park boundary. There are views from the valley sides over the Arun floodplain.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Valley sides carved from chalk, relatively steep along their whole length, and deeply indented by a system of dry valleys.
- Disused chalk quarries above Amberley, relating to the production of lime in the 19th century, are now recognised for their biodiversity interest and are designated a SNCI.
- Pasture, chalk grassland and woodland occupy steeper slopes, for example at Peppering Down, Warningcamp Hill and New Down, and Coombe Wood – these are important for biodiversity and often provide open public access.
- The eastern valley side is composed of large scale arable fields while the western valley side, by comparison, consists largely of surviving early enclosures of late medieval date, reflecting the histories of land use and ownership.
- Arundel Park, a major 18th century landscape park, has a major influence on the wooded character of the western valley sides.
- The valley sides contain a fragmented road network of narrow rural lanes which often end in dead-ends.
- A string of villages are located along the lower valley sides e.g. Houghton, North Stoke, South Stoke, Offham, Burpham, Wepham, surrounded by fields enclosed in the later medieval period.
- Includes the town of Arundel, a former port on the Arun. Arundel Castle is a particularly distinctive landmark standing at a commanding position at the southern end of the Arun valley.
- The limited road network ensures the valley sides provide a tranquil, rural setting to the River Arun and its floodplain.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Arun Valley Sides

G4.2 The physical characteristics of the *Arun Valley Sides* are typical of their landscape type, being carved from the underlying chalk bedrock and indented by dry valleys. However, this character area is unique in that its eastern and western valley sides exhibit different characteristics. While the eastern valley side has an agricultural history typical of the generic landscape type (an efficient agrarian landscape based around sheep-corn husbandry), the poorer soils on the western valley have historically been associated with woodland and Arundel Park, a major 18th century landscape park. The character of the valley sides are now subtly different on each side – the eastern valley side exhibits large scale (20th century) fields in arable use on land which was formerly sheepwalk while the western valley side consists largely of surviving early enclosures of late medieval date and woodland associated with Arundel Park.

G4.3 The woodlands are of particular biodiversity value as exemplified by the large number of statutory and non-statutory woodland sites on the valley sides. This includes a large area of Arundel Park SSSI, which comprises an old deer park dominated by chalk grassland with dense or scattered scrub and mature semi-natural woodland. This site is considered to be one of the most important sites in the country for invertebrates, and also supports a diverse range of breeding birds. A number of woodland SNCI's also occur including Coombe Wood.

G4.4 Elsewhere, steeper areas support areas of chalk grassland and permanent pasture, for example at Peppering Down, Warningcamp Hill and New Down. These sites are important for biodiversity supporting a wide range characteristic chalk grassland plant species, as well as providing important areas for open public access.

G4.5 This character area has a fragmented road system which restricts access by car – the large amount of land in private ownership, particularly along the western valley side inhibits access further. However, connections to and from adjacent landscapes are provided by minor roads and public rights of way, including the South Downs Way national trail which crosses the valley above Houghton. There is also a Youth Hostel at Warningcamp.

G4.6 The settlement pattern in this valley is typical of the *Major Valley Sides* landscape type, exhibiting a string of medieval villages along the length of the valley e.g. Houghton, North Stoke, South Stoke, Offham, Burpham, and Wepham. These are surrounded by small blocks of late medieval and 18th-19th century enclosure.

G4.7 This character area includes the historic port and town of Arundel as well as Arundel Castle, a particularly distinctive landmark standing at a commanding position at the southern end of the Arun Valley.

Sensitivities Specific to the Arun Valley Sides

G4.8 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

- Early enclosures of late medieval date on the western valley side.
- The tranquil character of the valley resulting from incomplete and minor road systems.

- The small blocks of late medieval and 18th-19th century enclosure around the medieval settlements of Houghton, North Stoke, South Stoke, Offham, Burpham, and Wepham.

- The swathes of chalk grassland and woodland on steep valley sides, for example at Peppering Down, Warningcamp Hill and New Down, and Coombe Wood.

- The historic designed parkland landscape at Arundel Park.

- Views to Arundel Castle, a particularly distinctive landmark standing at a commanding position at the southern end of the Arun Valley.

Change Specific to the Arun Valley Sides

G4.9 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include the growth of Arundel, the arrival of the railway in 1863, and the successive restorations of Arundel castle – the last of which was completed in 1900.

G4.10 In this character area, future change may be seen in relation to the further growth of Arundel and changes within the town that could impact on the wider landscape of the valley.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Arun Valley Sides

G4.11 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- Conserve small blocks of late medieval and 18th-19th century enclosure around the medieval settlements of Houghton, North Stoke, South Stoke, Offham, Burpham, and Wepham and the late medieval enclosures on the western valley side.

- Seek opportunities for creation of additional chalk grassland sites, linking them to existing chalk grassland at Peppering Down, Warningcamp Hill and New Down.

- Maintain the wooded character of the western valley side as distinct from the east - manage areas of deciduous valley side woodland to ensure a diverse species and age structure by thinning, coppicing, and replanting as necessary.

- Support the River Arun Heritage project, which aims to re-connect people with the heritage of the River Arun.

- Conserve the tranquil character of this valley – encourage access on foot/bicycle rather than by car. Consider providing parking facilities close to the main road approaches to the valley.

G4.12 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Maintain views to Arundel Castle, a particularly distinctive landmark standing at a commanding position at the southern end of the Arun Valley.
- Ensure any development within the town is assessed in terms of it impact on the composition of the town as seen from the wider valley – consider views of the town from local public rights of way and roads in assessing proposals.

Valley sides carved from chalk are relatively steep and indented by a system of dry valleys.

Woodland occupies steeper slopes as at Warning Camp.

Arundel Castle stands at a commanding position at the southern end of the Arun Valley.

The woodlands are of particular biodiversity value, as exemplified by the large number of statutory and nonstatutory woodland sites.

Valley sides incorporate both arable fields and pasture.

Disused chalk quarries are visually prominent on the valley sides.