

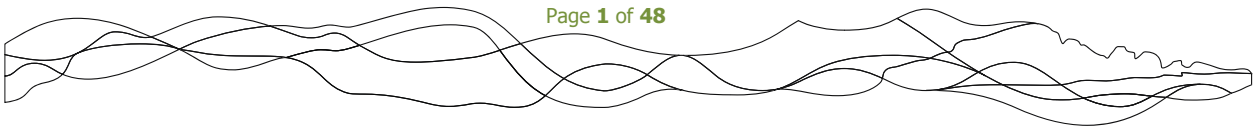
Project Title :

Truleigh Hill Landscape Project

Lead Partner or Landowner

Will this be led by another organisation or will the work take place with a specific landowner?
No

Pre-submission



Project Governance

Project Governance:

The project will be submitted for approval to the SDNPA Rampion Mitigation fund from which the project officer role is proposed to be funded.

The project officer would be line managed by the Landscape and Biodiversity strategy lead (Chris Fairbrother) with a steering/advisory group responsible for monitoring the project and overseeing its development and direction including the lead Ranger for the area, Phillippa Morrison Price, the Rampion Project manager (Liz Gent) and Stephen Sibbald for the interpretation work.

Other staff will also be needed to periodically input to the project steering group as follows; Adam Brown for data/survey gathering, Andy Gattiker (SDW Officer) will for the SDW, Allison Thorpe (Strat lead for Access) on Access, Roni Craddock (for infrastructure) and Roy Little will provide planning and enforcement advice to the project. Nicola Peacock (Cultural Heritage Lead) cultural heritage advice and Amanda Elmes (Education and Outreach Lead). The evidence and performance team will also be involved

Project Board Membership

Name	Water and Chalk TPB
Organisation	SDNP
Job Title	Rampion Project Officer

Project Team Membership

1	
Name	TBC
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Truleigh Hill Project Officer
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.6

2	
Name	Chris Fairbrother

Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Strategy Lead
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.1

3

Name	Phillipa Morrison Price
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Lead Ranger
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.1

4

Name	Roni Craddock
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Strategy Lead
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.05

5

Name	Liz Gent
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Rampion Porject Officer
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.05

6

Name	Andy Gattiker
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	SDW Officer
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.03

7

Name	Tanya Hibberd
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Performance and Research Lead
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.03

8

Name	Roy Little
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Planning link Officer
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.03

9

Name	Nicola Peacock
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Cultural heritage lead
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.03

10

Name	Amanda Elmes
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Education and outreach lead
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.03

Project

Project Name:	Truleigh Hill Landscape Project
Project Location:	Truleigh Hill
Project Location (Eastings):	522043
Project Location (Northings):	110542
Project Area: Please use the checkboxes if your project cannot be plotted to specific co-ordinates in the Eastings and Northing section above - the project will not be plotted onto a GIS layer if you do this. <i>(Park-wide, Western Downs, Central Downs, Eastern Downs, Wealden Heath)</i> Eastern Downs	
Need for Project: Truleigh Hill is a high point on the South Downs (216m). It was used for radar defences during WWII and there are 4 tall (47m) telecommunications towers around the hill which were originally part of the radar station at Truleigh. These towers are highly visible as 'eyesore' landmarks for many miles in all directions and in many skyline views of the wide and open downland. The newly installed wind turbines of the Rampion wind farm now also break the horizon in views over the coastal plain from Truleigh Hill further adding to the detrimental and incongruous influence of infrastructure on this part of the National Park. In addition to the impact of large scale industrial infrastructure on the wider landscape, the industrial scale clutter associated with the telecommunications towers eg security fencing; porta cabins; industrial buildings; electrical equipment; generators and hard surfacing are seen next to the South Downs Way. The 1905 map (supporting documents) shows at the turn of the 20th century, Truleigh Hill was open downland with few agricultural buildings. This is in direct contrast to the current condition of the landscape where field patterns have been eroded; land holdings dispersed and fragmented, large scale infrastructure has been installed and changes in land uses have eroded character along with modern agricultural barns; buildings from WWII, modern residential properties, stabling and derelict sheds together with disused caravans and scrubbed over and unmaintained pasture. The South Downs Joint Committee (AONB Board) commissioned a Landscape Assessment of the area in 1995 to identify the main detracting influences in the landscape and to act as a 'catalyst for action to upgrade the landscape of Truleigh Hill'. The resources to follow through with the whole scale recommendations of the study were never secured although smaller scale projects have been developed and undertaken by the area rangers, and the area was within the South Downs Way Ahead NIA Project. This landscape project would be a wider more comprehensive approach to the settlement, its people and the landscape which will unify the legacy of this earlier work. Truleigh Hill's hilltop location means that its influence and character visibly extends over a wide area of the park whilst also being experienced by the high numbers of visitors to the YHA and users of the PROW network at close range. The detrimental impacts of large scale infrastructure on the area has in no small way contributed to the persistent degradation of the landscape and this project proposal seeks to help Truleigh Hill to play its part in the landscape history of the Downs and to celebrate its unique location and landscape. The Truleigh Hill Landscape Project aims to take a holistic and stakeholder-led approach to improving the landscape character of Truleigh Hill through consistent and appropriate landscape	

management interventions.

The area is a hotspot for both recreational activities but there are also antisocial activities in this area of the National Park which is effectively the urban fringe to Brighton, Shoreham and the coastal plain. Truleigh Hill is a focal point of the South Downs Way (SDW) having a large Youth Hostel which has thousands of visitors - 5000 overnight stays per year and between 6000-10,000 day visitors. This is in addition to the many residents and visitors which use the South Downs Way and the surrounding public rights of way network.

All of these visitors experience the cumulative impact of large scale infrastructure on the landscape and its contribution to the long term erosion and fragmentation of downland landscape character around Truleigh Hill.

Without a targeted approach to landscape management in this area, further fragmentation of the landscape character and local distinctiveness is likely. Recent planning decisions and difficulties with planning enforcement have added to the cumulative degradation of the landscape and it is considered that a focussed effort by SDNPA working with the wide range of stakeholders at Truleigh Hill is needed to frame appropriate and desirable solutions.

An important aspect of the project would be to link with surrounding schools and colleges (building on connections made with the Truleigh Hill Access and Educational project) in order to educate and engage with young people in the surrounding settlements. It is hoped that through learning about the geography, history and evolution of the landscape they will treat it with regard in the future.

This landscape project would complement and be mutually beneficial to the Truleigh Hill habitat and access project and will build on this work in the surrounding landscape. Likewise it will add value to existing project work being undertaken by the area rangers.

Partnership Management Plan Outcomes

1. A Thriving Living Landscape

1.1 The landscape character of the South Downs, its special qualities and local distinctiveness have been conserved and enhanced by effectively managing the land and the negative impacts of development and cumulative change (outcome1)

1.4 The condition and status of cultural heritage assets and their settings (including monuments, buildings, towns and buried remains) is significantly enhanced, many more have been discovered and they contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place (outcome 4)

2. People Connected with Places

2.2 Widespread understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and the benefits it provides (outcome 6)

2.4 More responsibility and action is taken by visitors, residents and businesses to conserve and enhance the special qualities and use resources more wisely (outcome 8)

Partnership Management Plan Policies

1. A thriving and living landscape

1. Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the landscape and its setting, in ways that allow it to continue to evolve and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other pressures

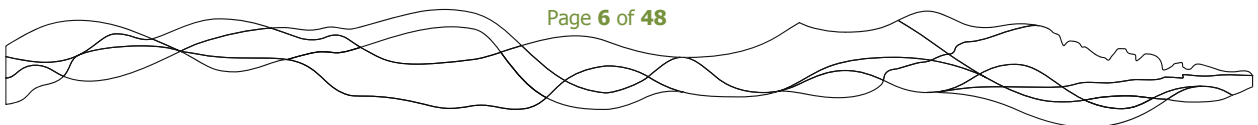
15. Increase understanding of farming and of farmers as the custodians of many of the special qualities of the National Park

2. Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives to focus on enhancing the key ecosystem services delivered by the National Park

4. Create more, bigger, better managed and connected areas of habitat in and around the National Park, which deliver multiple benefits for people and wildlife

9. The significance of the historic environment is protected harm, new discoveries are sought and opportunities to reveal its significance are exploited

2. People connected with places



- 28. Maintain and improve Rights of Way and Access Land, to provide a better connected and accessible network for a range of abilities and users and to reduce conflicts and
 - 31. Raise awareness and understanding about the National Park with consistent messages that inspire and celebrate a strong sense of place
 - 32. Encourage and support creative and cultural activities which connect with and increase appreciation of the National Parks' special qualities
 - 34. Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high quality community-led initiatives that contribute to the understanding, conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Park
 - 41. Maintain visitor enjoyment and influence visitor behaviour in order to reduce impacts on the special qualities and increase visitor spend in and around the National Park
 - 45. Develop high quality learning experiences, particularly in the outdoors, and resource materials that link to the special qualities of the National Park
- 3. Towards a sustainable future**
- 48. Support the towns and villages in and around the National Park to enhance their vital role as social and economic hubs

Project Outline:

The Rampion S106 mitigation funds are sought to support a landscape based project with a dedicated project officer to work with the wide range of local stakeholder groups to develop a programme of works for the area based around a coordinating landscape management plan. We would seek to secure funding for the project officer role for a period of 2 years. The project officer would be responsible for developing a landscape management plan for the Truleigh Hill area through reviewing the existing evidence base and commissioning ecological surveys. The project officer would work alongside SDNPA staff including the area ranger, infrastructure strategy lead, communications teams and volunteers to engage with project stakeholders and deliver a cohesive, community endorsed landscape management plan and immediate/long term action plan.

The project is proposed in two key stages:

Stage 1- Developing and Evidence

This stage will include the recruitment of the project officer, who will then review the existing evidence base including the 1995 landscape study, procure the ecological and archaeological surveys needed and initiate stakeholder engagement with support from the SDNPA communications team. It is envisaged this stage would last for a year and include engagement events to enable feedback into potential landscape management options to then feed into the end output of this stage which the project officer would deliver- a landscape management plan for the Truleigh Hill area.

The engagement events would also draw on stakeholder inputs to draft an immediate and long term action plan of physical changes on the ground including quick wins like tree removal, scrub and debris clearance that could be included in the landscape management plan and actioned within this stage of the project. An allowance of £5000 has been made within the costings of this stage to deliver quick wins in accordance with the action plan and landscape management plan.

Stage 1 outputs: Landscape management plan, evidence, engagement event, action plan, quick wins implemented (within the initial £5000 budget for this stage).

Stage 2- Implementation

This stage would include the implementation of the full action plan from the stage 1, some aspects such as scrub clearance/downland restoration, tree removal, new screening & structure plantings would be envisaged, but other actionable changes to be identified by the stakeholders in stage 1 are potentially unknown. Therefore the full detail of work proposed in stage 2 would be defined at the end of stage 1. Stage 2 is also expected to last for a year and would include the implementation of works from the action plan. Further liaison with stakeholders would continue as part of this stage, including further engagement and interpretation works on the history of the

Truleigh Hill area. It is envisaged long term outputs such as changes to the larger infrastructure would be ongoing with the telecommunications and electrical companies to help deliver mitigation options in line with the landscape management plan.

Stage 2 outputs: implementation of elements of the action plan; engagement events, ongoing stakeholder discussions on long term mitigation options.

Delivering the project in a staged approach enables us to focus the second implementation stage on the initial research and evidence base stages. This will enable a tighter control on the overall aims and objectives of the project with a more realistic understanding of what is achievable and deliverable in relation to the perception and buy in from the local community, landowners and infrastructure companies.

The costs we are applying for within this PID are to cover the Stage 1 works and the salary for a 2 year post for the project officer. The exact scope and costs for the Stage 2 outputs will be defined at the end of Stage 1 and applied for from the Rampion S106 funding.

Project aims and objectives:

The outcome of the Truleigh Hill Landscape Project is an improved landscape for the Truleigh Hill area. This will be delivered through the outputs of a landscape management plan, ecological surveys, engagement events and an action plan to physically improve the landscape. The benefits of these outcomes are an improved landscape, engaged community, ecological and environmental enhancements and improved access and understanding of the wider Truleigh Hill area.

1

Measure	Stakeholder groups involved in project development
Target	15
Unit	number of types

2

Measure	Truleigh Hill event
Target	3
Unit	event held

3

Measure	Volunteers carrying out project activity
Target	30
Unit	days

4

Measure	Landscape Management Plan
Target	1
Unit	plan/report/chart

5

Measure	Land brought into positive management
Target	10
Unit	land parcels

6

Measure	Planning guidance
Target	1
Unit	document

7

Measure	Telecommunications equipment removed
Target	1
Unit	tower

Project Evaluation:

The project will be led by the SDNPA Landscape and Biodiversity officer, the project officer will be the major source of resource for delivery of the landscape management plan. The ecological surveys and 1995 landscape assessment will document the baseline for the area in terms of ecology and landscape character. A post-project ecological survey could be carried out at the end of year 2 (or later to be defined in the year 1 action plan) to assess the improvements in the ecology in the area following the implementation of the action plan. In addition we would utilise qualitative data collection to measure the benefits to people and the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement.

Project Partners:

No approach has been made to potential partners as yet, but they would be expected to include

the landowners for the Truleigh Hill area, the YHA, the youth groups, local residents, surrounding community areas, telecommunications and infrastructure companies. These would be identified within the Stage 1 work and their roles and responsibilities on the project identified as part of the early engagement work.

Interface with other Projects:

This project would link closely to build on the existing Truleigh Hill Habitat and Access improvements (Rampion MF project) within the YHA project area, which are improvements to one field. The habitat and access project will enhance the visitor experience to Truleigh Hill whilst also enhancing local community engagement and interpretation for visitors at the YHA. This project may also link to Changing Chalk (National Trust Landscape Partnership HLF project) as Truleigh Hill is within the project boundary and strives to improve the landscape character. South Downs Way -SDW passes through Truleigh - the landscape project would seek to improve the experience of users of the SDW and other stakeholders in the area; consider the interactions between all user groups and stakeholders and how to address any issues. The Shoreham cement works area action plan (AAP) which the project officer may be able to contribute to.

Project Timing:

The project would last for a minimum of two years. At this stage we are only outlining the costs for the 2 year post for project officer and the activities and outputs from the stage 1 which would be delivered within the first year.

There are potential long term aspirations for the landscape management plan vision at Truleigh Hill and some of these such as infrastructure removal may require subsequent projects outside the proposed timespan of this project. These elements will be identified within the stages 1 and 2 of this project and any future recommendations clearly identified.

Scope exclusions:

At this point the scope for Stage 1 is the only element we are defining and proposing to start in year 1 of this project. Planning permission for any 'quick wins' has not been allowed for within the proposed programme of works for year 1.

Once the landscape project is completed further stakeholder engagement is not proposed, other than by SDNP business as usual activities such as ongoing ranger support and planning guidance documents such as a Truleigh Hill Area Action Plan or Design Plan in association with Horsham DC.

SDNPA Role in the Project:

A project officer will be recruited to deliver the specific landscape management plan. In addition they will have day to day management of the project and engagement activities with the stakeholders. To ensure the SDNPA retain and build on existing relationships with stakeholders, all engagement activities would be supported by our communications team as well as outreach and volunteers officer and lead ranger. The SDNPA SDW and infrastructure officers would also have input into the project to ensure the wider aspirations of the SDNP are being achieved through this project.

Data Ownership:

None known of

Promotion:

A communication strategy would be agreed in stage 1 with the SDNPA comms team. In addition links with the Truleigh Hill YHA project and Rampion projects would help improve the awareness of this project.

Equality and diversity:

Neutral

Project Exit Strategy:

At the end of year 1 and stage 1, should the landowners and local stakeholders be unwilling to support the project and aspirations of the landscape management plan, a review of the action plan and project aims would be required. The outputs from stage 1 could still be achieved but the overall aim or output of the project is unlikely to be achievable.

Following completion of year 2 works, long term aspirations such as the removal of telecoms equipment from the area may still be facilitated within the SDNPA, the recommendations for this will be outlined at the end of Stage 2 works.

Legacy:

Interpretation - web based (app) and site based

Planning guidance .

Comprehensive management plan will provide a framework for future landscape change which is supported by the stakeholders

Educational opportunities to WWII features

Mechanism for procurement:

SDNPA staff recruitment procedures for the post of project officer. Procurement of services to deliver stages 1 and 2 in line with SDNPA procedures.

Resource:

Total cost of project £84,000

Amount requested from SDNPA: £60,500

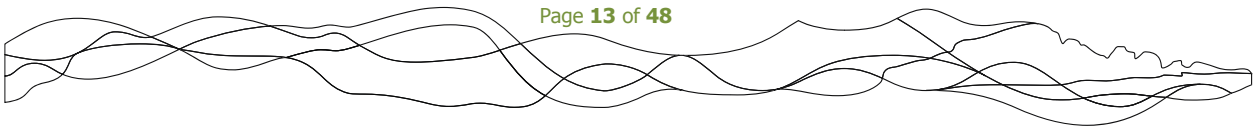
Resource

Show clearly who is supporting your project financially and in-kind.

Total cost of project:	84000.00
Amount Requested from SDNPA:	84000.00
Total match funding required:	0.00
Expenditure	Project officer and project budget costs
Year 1	35500
Year 2	48500
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Total	84000
Notes	
<hr/>	
Source of Funding	Volunteer time
Year 1	7
Year 2	8
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	

Total	15
Notes	number of days
Confirmed	No

Pre-submission



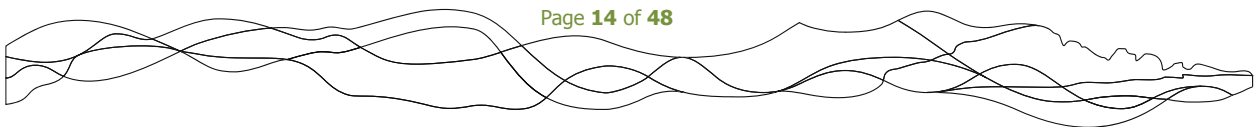
Co applicant

Co applicant

Please provide contact details if you would like a co-applicant to assist you with this bid (optional):

Co applicant	Status
Miss veronica craddock	Confirmed - No further action
Mr Chris Fairbrother	Confirmed - No further action

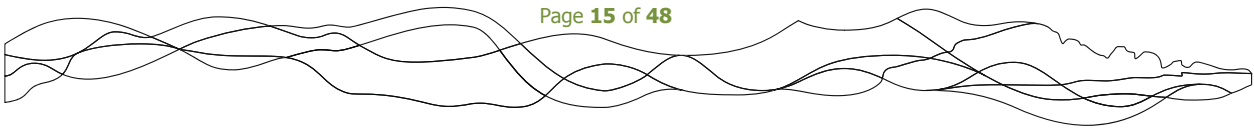
Pre-submission



Permissions

If there is a building or other lease associated with any element of this project please give details and show when it will expire?	
Lease details:	
Lease expiration date:	

Pre-submission



Supporting Information and Documents

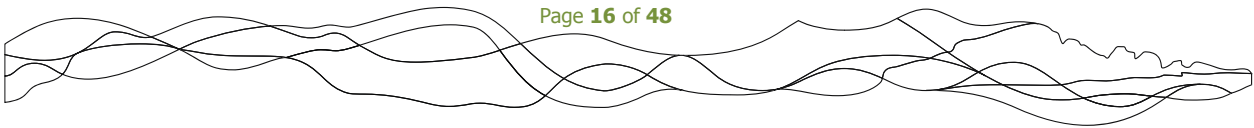
Additional Information:

Additional Documents:

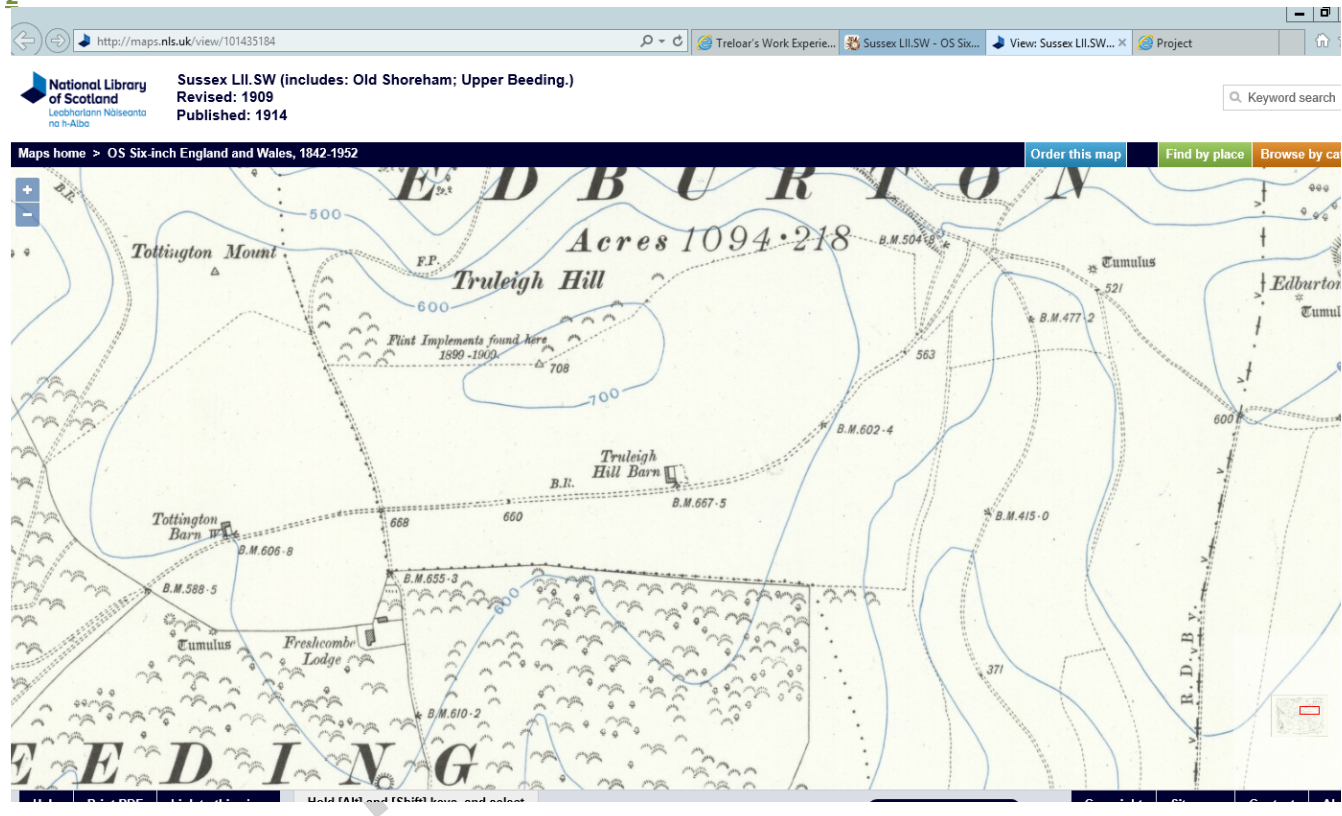
(Site Map or Photographs - 3_MASTS_COLD_WAR_BUNKER.pdf) is included as an appendix within this file.

1
(Other - Truleigh Hill Landscape Study 1995(2).pdf) is included as an appendix within this file.

Pre-submission

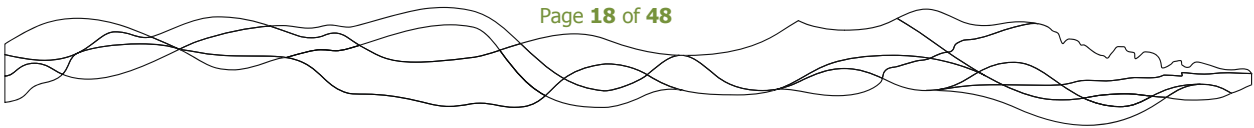


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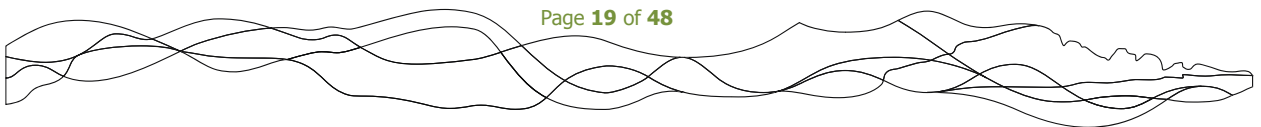
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Appendices

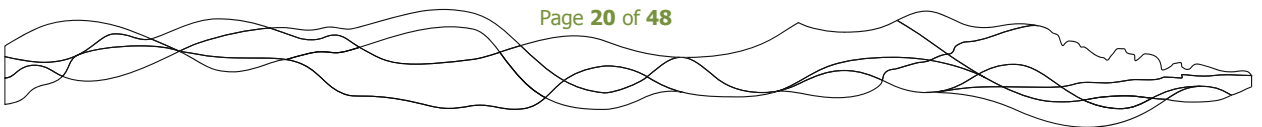
- 1) Site Map or Photographs - 3_MASTS_COLD_WAR_BUNKER.pdf
- 2) Other - Truleigh Hill Landscape Study 1995(2).pdf

Pre-submission



1) 3_MASTS_COLD_WAR_BUNKER

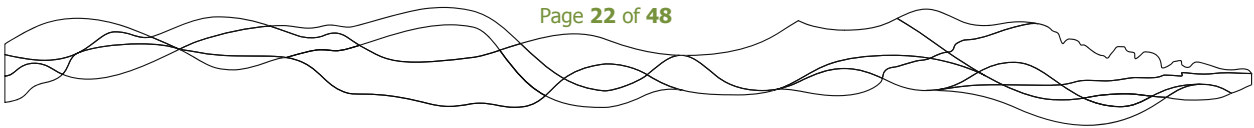
Pre-submission





2) Truleigh Hill Landscape Study 1995(2)

Pre-submission



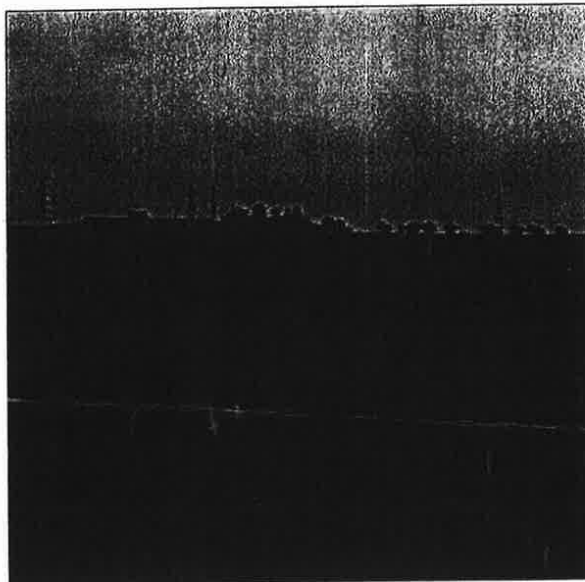
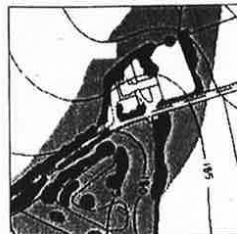
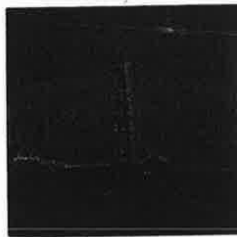
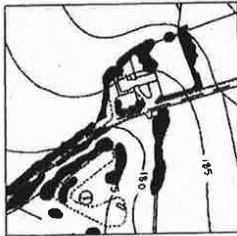
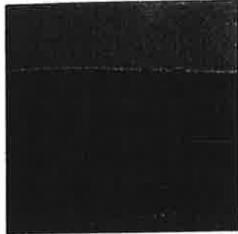
RONNIE! + VL

For Pete

Try not to lose this
copy!
Steve



Landscape Design Associates



Truleigh Hill Landscape Study

SUSSEX DOWNS

CONSERVATION BOARD

SUSSEX DOWNS CONSERVATION BOARD

**Truleigh Hill
Landscape Study**

July 1995

**Landscape Design Associates
17, Minster Precincts
Peterborough
PE1 1XX**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Dwg.	781D/19	Location Plan
Dwg.	781D/2	Landscape Character (East)
Dwg.	781D/27	Landscape Analysis
Dwg.	781D/28	Strategy - Option one
Dwg.	781D/29	Strategy - Option two
Dwg.	781D/30	Valley approach
Dwg.	781D/31	Truleigh Hill summit
Dwg.	781D/32	Woodland option
Dwg.	781D/33	Long distance view

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A landmark or an eyesore?

Truleigh Hill is a windswept summit on the chalk escarpment to the east of the Adur valley. At 216m, it is one of the highest points on the escarpment and, as a result, the summit is the site for a cluster of telecommunication masts, ensuring that Truleigh Hill is a landmark for miles around.

From a distance, the masts and buildings on this open ridgetop are a distraction, detracting from the expansive, sweeping scale of the landform. At close quarters the summit of Truleigh Hill can only be described as an eyesore. The four telecommunication masts are surrounded by a scattered collection of buildings, fences, the remains of war-time concrete bunkers and scraps of ornamental planting. The farmland at the highest point has been subdivided into small paddocks by wire fencing, adding to the impression of visual clutter. Yet this summit is particularly sensitive and important in visual terms, not only as a landmark, but also because it is a prominent viewpoint along the South Downs Way and one of the few places where there is accommodation en route.

The local landscape of Truleigh Hill is a prime target for upgrading as it has a far-reaching negative influence but falls within an area recognised and protected for its scenic beauty. The entire chalk escarpment falls within the area designated as the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and it is essential that individual, small sites, such as Truleigh Hill, should not be allowed to detract from the overall scenic beauty of this nationally important landscape.

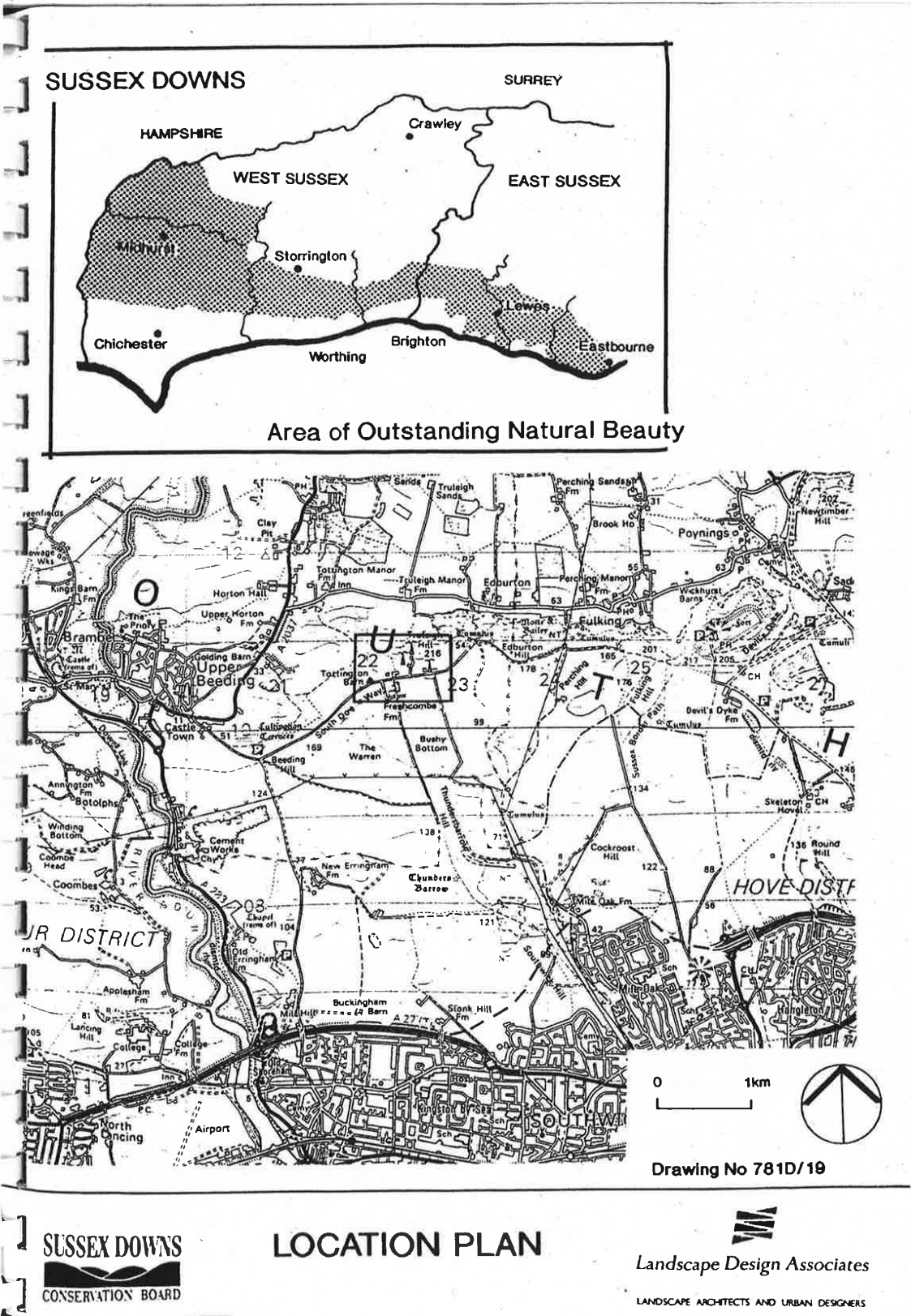
The Sussex Downs AONB

A landscape assessment of the Sussex Downs AONB, commissioned jointly by the Countryside Commission and the Sussex Downs Conservation Board, was carried out by Landscape Design Associates in 1994. This study sets out to analyse the range of landscape types within the AONB in a comprehensive, structured way, specifically identifying the qualities and characteristics which make it special and distinctive. Different types of landscape have varying capacities to absorb and assimilate change. In analysing the vulnerability of the different landscape types in relation to forces for change, the landscape assessment noted that the denuded, exposed character and vast, sweeping scale of the open chalk uplands, and in particular the escarpment in the eastern part of the Sussex Downs ensure that this landscape is particularly sensitive: *"Even relatively small elements in the landscape, such as hedgerows or isolated barns, are visible over long distances."*

A catalyst for action at Truleigh Hill

This landscape study is intended as a catalyst for an ongoing programme of action to upgrade the landscape of Truleigh Hill. It records the existing condition of the landscape and makes suggestions for its improvement. The study follows directly from the landscape assessment of the AONB and the first part of the report describes the character of this part of the chalk escarpment in relation to this overall context, referring closely to the landscape types and the related guidance for landscape management identified in the assessment.

781D/Truleigh Hill final report/KC/July 1995



The second *landscape analysis* section describes the existing structure and pattern of the landscape in terms of its landform, vegetation cover and buildings. The *strategy* section of the report includes proposals for improving the landscape with suggestions for removing existing potentially

redundant structures and for new planting which could provide a visual screen at some critical locations without detracting from the overall character of the landscape. This strategic overview is analysed in more detail by the illustrations and text within the final part of the report. Here descriptions of four key views, with before-and-after images, provide a clear indication of what could be achieved with relatively little intervention.

2.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The landscape assessment identifies and defines variations in landscape character across the AONB. Dwg. 781D/2 shows the landscape types for the eastern half of the AONB and the context for the three landscape studies of Truleigh Hill, Devil's Dyke and the Shoreham-Hove-Brighton Urban Fringe.

An open, windswept chalk escarpment

Drawing 781D/2 indicates that Truleigh Hill falls within the *open chalk escarpment* landscape type (3A). The escarpment forms a dramatic, undulating ridge along the northern margin of the chalk. Panoramic views from the ridgetop provide a stunning overview of the surrounding landscape and the escarpment itself is a dominant feature in views throughout the AONB. The chalk escarpment of the Sussex Downs is subdivided into two different landscape types: the *open chalk escarpment* and the *wooded chalk escarpment*. The former is predominantly open grassland, but also includes areas of woodland and scrub:

"The skyline of the open chalk escarpment is generally open and vegetation cover usually decreases with elevation. However, there are some partially wooded sections, and irregular patches of scrub often extend up to the ridgeline".

It is therefore distinct from the *wooded chalk escarpment*, which has a simpler visual structure, with the steep slopes entirely clothed in established, mature woodland.

The landscape assessment describes the *open chalk escarpment* as a "*windswept, exposed ridgetop.....At close quarters, the ridge is commanding and dominant; from a distance it is a distinctive landmark. The massive, smooth rounded summits have a primitive, monolithic quality and there is an overwhelming sense of the power of natural forces.*"

Sensitivity to change

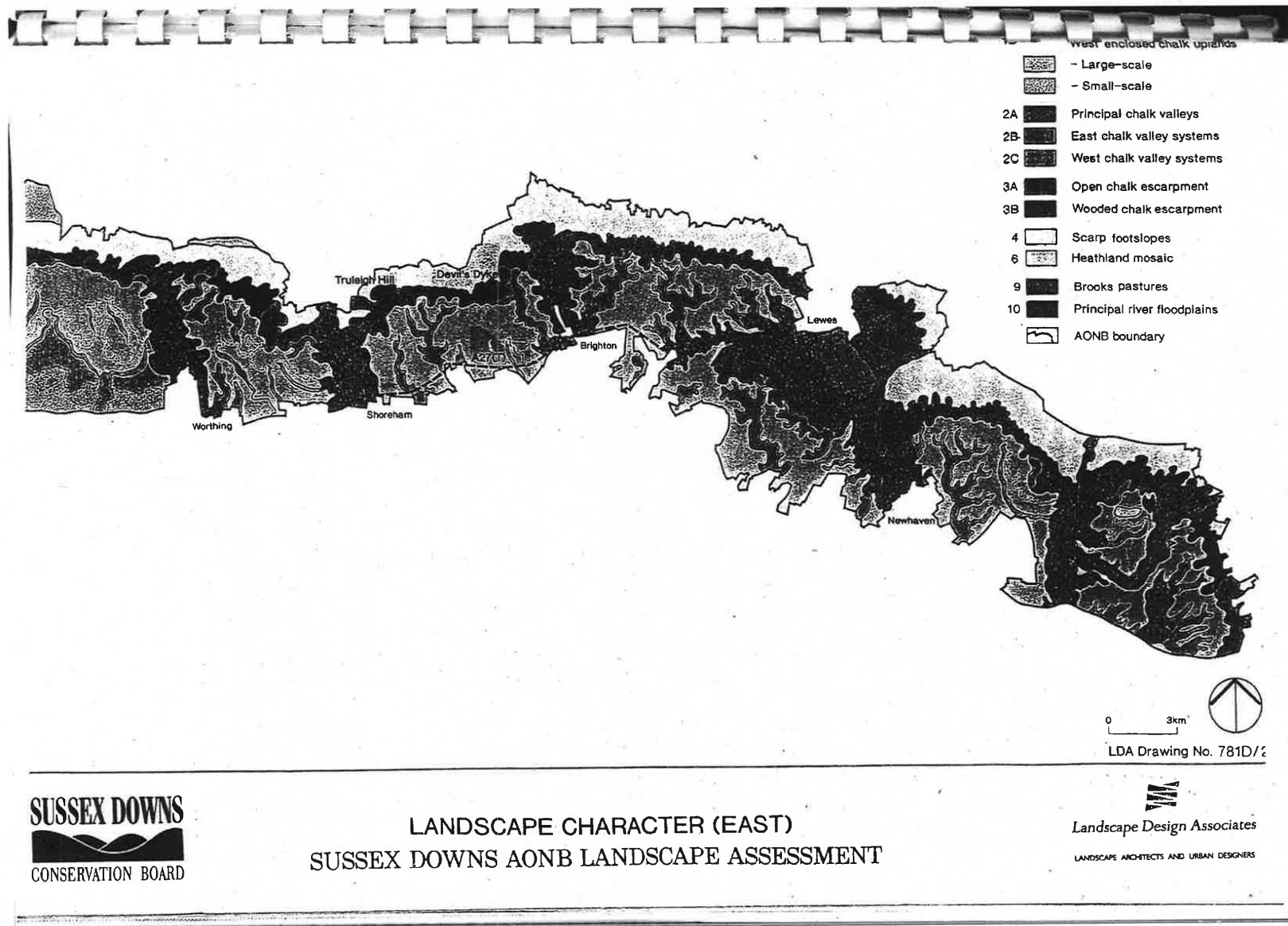
The assessment also analyses the different landscape types in relation to their relative sensitivity to change:

"The north-facing slopes of the open chalk escarpment are prominent in views across the Weald and ensure that the Sussex Downs are a landmark for miles around. This landscape is therefore extremely sensitive to change. Any built development is likely to be visually intrusive and to have a particularly widespread visual influence.

The elements of the landscape which are most vulnerable to change are the skyline of the escarpment ridge and the headlands at the wind gaps where the principal chalk valleys have broken through the escarpment. It is important that skylines are uninterrupted by elements such as buildings, telecommunication masts and power lines and that their predominantly open character is retained."

Situated immediately to the east of one of these wind gaps, the Adur valley, the summit of Truleigh Hill is one of the most prominent along the chalk escarpment and the profusion of buildings and masts are visible from a range of different angles - from within the wide valley to

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the west, as well as from the lowlands to the north and other high points along the escarpment itself.

Priorities for action

The landscape guidelines in the landscape assessment suggest some key issues for landscape management and priorities for action within each of the landscape types. They are intended to demonstrate how landscape management action can be a positive influence on landscape character, conserving and enhancing or upgrading as opportunities arise. This landscape study builds on the guidance offered within the assessment, providing some site-specific solutions to the particular circumstances at Truleigh Hill.

These ideas are explored in more detail in the following two sections of the report. The landscape assessment is available from the Sussex Downs Conservation Board in Storrington and forms the basis for the recommendations it contains.

3.0 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

The landscape analysis plan (Drawing 781D/27) illustrates the existing pattern of the landscape on Truleigh Hill.

A scattering of buildings, structures, transmission masts

An odd collection of buildings, structures, trees and scrub are scattered along the ridgetop. On the approach to the summit, a group of mature, rather windblown Scot's pines surrounds the Youth Hostel at the head of a minor dry valley. Beyond this distinctive group of trees, piles of rusting farm machinery in an open field to the left of the track create an appalling first impression. Further up the hill, a group of farm cottages are sheltered by belts of ornamental conifers and garden plants. These buildings, together with the farmhouse and outbuildings at a short distance to the south of the track, are located on a slight rise and are therefore particularly visible in long distance views in which they appear as scattered blobs, disrupting the clean sweep of the chalk skyline.

A large barn, immediately to the north of Freshcombe Farm, has been set well down into the ridge and is surrounded on three sides by a steep screening bund. The acute slope profiles of this embankment are poorly integrated with the typically rounded surrounding chalkland relief and, in particular, do not relate to the landform of the minor dry valley to the south-east of the farm.

Further to the east, Truleigh Hill Barn is only in partial use and is potentially superfluous to requirements for agricultural use. This large modern barn stands next to a tall transmission mast and its surrounding complex of small buildings and security fences, some of which are apparently derelict or under-used. This large isolated barn stands on the crest of the escarpment ridge and is extremely prominent in views along the South Downs Way. In local views the barn looms large, detracting from the characteristically open sweeping scale of this distinctive landscape. However, its influence extends further afield. Drawing 781D/33 shows that it is visible as a prominent geometric block on the skyline from the popular viewpoint on the summit of Devil's Dyke, some 3 kilometres to the west.

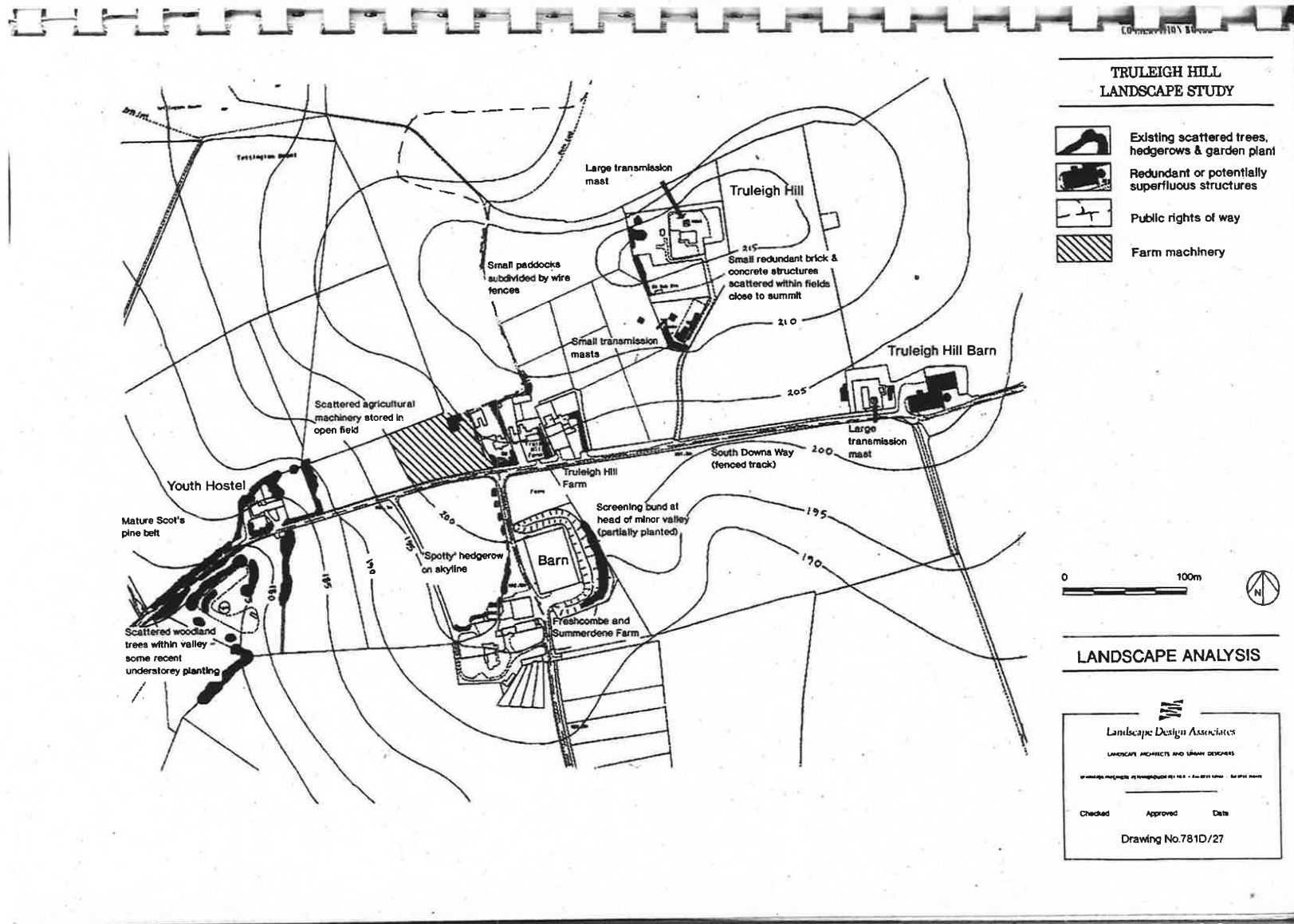
On the crest of the Truleigh Hill there is a further group of three transmission masts. Of these, the two smaller masts are only partially used and it should be possible to transfer the transmission equipment from these to the larger mast so that they can be removed, together with the structures associated with them.

Many of the fields on and near the summit are subdivided into small paddocks by wire fences. Small, temporary sheds, abandoned agricultural machinery and other paraphernalia are commonplace.

The existing pattern of vegetation

The scattered clumps and belts of existing vegetation generally add to the impression of disorder, particularly near the farm buildings where the mixture of dark and golden foliage around the cottages seems out of place in this relatively wild setting and remnants of a

hedgerow between Freshcombe Farm and the cottages appear as a distracting sequence of dark dots on the skyline in longer views. The few existing trees, predominantly beech, oak and sycamore, are concentrated within the minor dry valley on the approach to the summit.



4.0 STRATEGY

The strategy plans (Drawings 781D/28 and 781D/29) show two options for upgrading the local landscape of Truleigh Hill.

Removing visual clutter

Common to both options is a proposal for the removal of all redundant or under-used structures. The removal of the two smaller transmission masts on the summit would result in the most dramatic change, but it is equally important to reduce the clutter of objects at ground level which have such a distracting and widespread influence.

The removal of two transmission masts represents an opportunity to reduce the number of buildings and fences associated with them, along with the scattered bunkers, planting and derelict sheds. The generator for one of the masts is housed in a small bungalow close to its base, an oversized building which is prominent in views to Truleigh Hill. The removal of all these structures would greatly improve the visual appearance of this windswept summit, reducing the existing visual clutter and revealing the smooth profiles of the chalk landform.

It would clearly be preferable to remove both of the two smaller masts. However, should this not be possible in the short term, it would be worth considering whether it would be feasible to accommodate the existing equipment on one mast or even, if necessary, to replace these two masts with a single, larger version. The intention should be to minimise the number of structures on the skyline of the summit of Truleigh Hill and, even if the transmission masts must remain, there is scope to remove all of the fences, shrubs and structures which surround them. If it is to remain, the bungalow containing the generator should be demolished and this machinery rehoused in a structure designed to be as small and minimalistic in form as possible.

The immediate surroundings of Freshcombe Farm and Truleigh Hill Farm would be improved by the removal of the "spotty" hedgerow on the skyline and the agricultural machinery and temporary, half-derelict barns in the field alongside the South Downs Way. Part of the bund screening the barn to the north-east of the farmhouse could be reshaped to reflect the local topography of the dry valley so that it seems more integrated with the surrounding chalk landform.

New beech woodlands

Both options show a new small beech woodland planted within the minor valley to the south of the youth hostel. This woodland would ensure that the youth hostel is screened from view but would also provide a strong contrast to the surrounding chalk uplands and a sense of transition on the approach to the summit. In time, the mature Scots pines would be replaced by more appropriate native species.

The summits of the *open chalk escarpment* are predominantly open, but individual trees, scrub and small woodlands often form prominent landscape features. The two larger transmission masts can be expected to remain as a feature on the summit of Truleigh Hill, at least for the

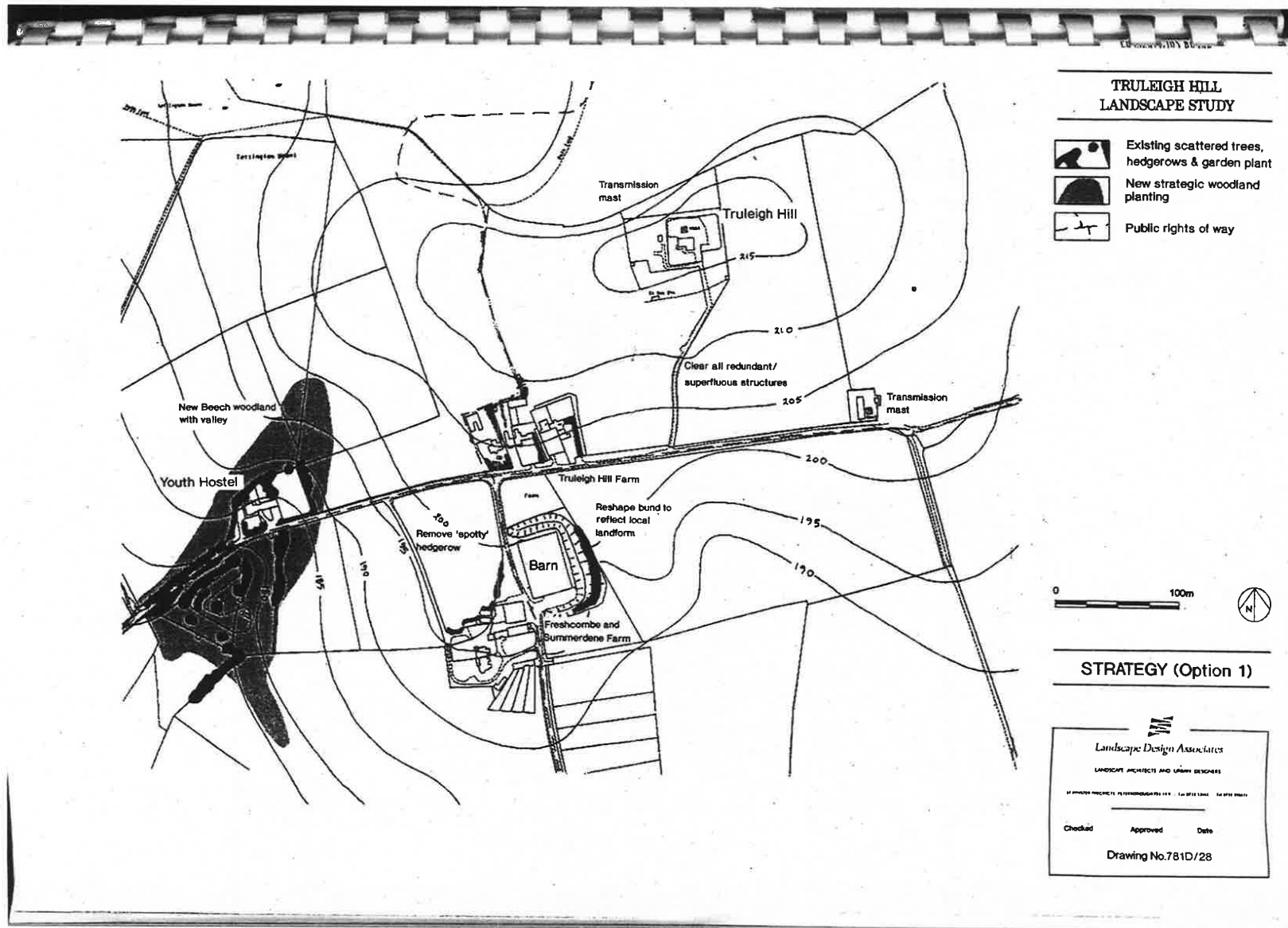
foreseeable future. However, the visual analysis contained in this report suggests that the visual intrusion of these structures would be minimised if they appear as individual, isolated vertical elements on the skyline, uncluttered by any additional built structures or vegetation, so that the sweeping landform of the chalk escarpment remains as uninterrupted as possible.

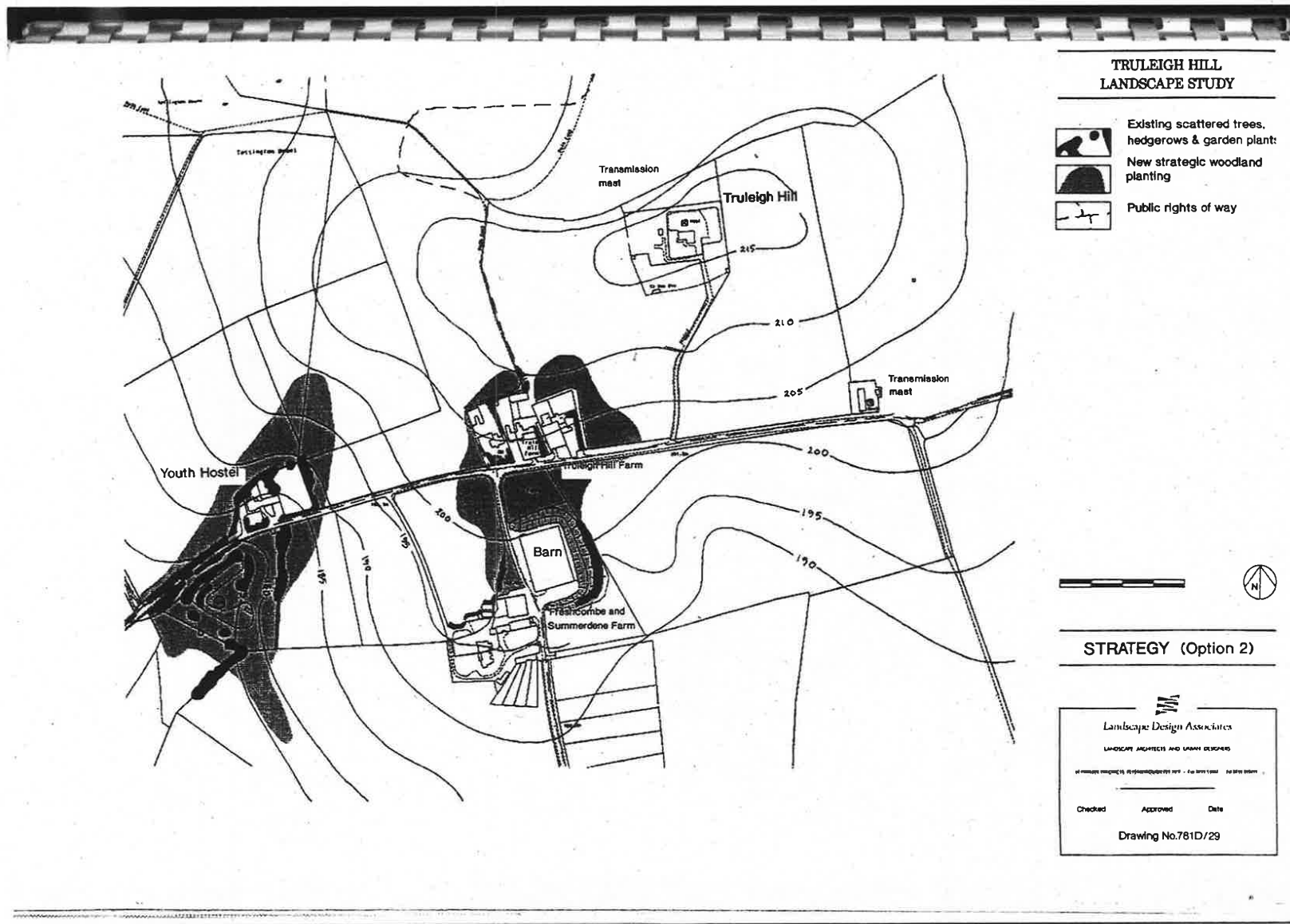
It is neither possible nor desirable to screen the masts in the long views along the South Downs Way by planting new trees around the base of the structures. The transmission masts would be sufficiently high and prominent to remain visible above such a belt of woodland planting, and there is a risk that it would draw further attention to them.

Elsewhere on the summit, where there are existing farm buildings which must remain, the strategy is different. Here the best option is to create a new block of woodland planted on the slope to the west of the summit and away from the transmission masts. Designed to surround, screen and shelter the farm cottages and large barn on the ridgetop to the south-west of the summit, this woodland would absorb the visual clutter of the buildings and ornamental planting in this area while taking up relatively little agricultural land. It would be prominent in longer views to Truleigh Hill, simplifying the skyline and creating a new, more positive and permanent landmark which would outlive the remaining transmission masts. This option is illustrated on drawing 781D/29, which shows an additional beech woodland.

The large square-shaped transmission mast situated on the very summit of Truleigh Hill is also particularly prominent in views from below the escarpment. From the underhill road, the mast is viewed against the sky, surrounded by the open chalk grassland of the steep north-facing slope. While it appears extremely prominent, it would not be possible or worthwhile to attempt to screen the mast by new planting on this slope. Such planting would detract from the typically open character of the escarpment in this area, and might also reduce the nature conservation value of local chalk grassland sites. It is therefore not possible to improve the setting of these larger masts in views from below the escarpment. At best they can be seen as temporary features and efforts should be concentrated on conserving and enhancing the visual continuity and strong identity of this distinctive landmark landscape so that the visual impact of the remaining masts is minimised.

These strategic proposals are illustrated in section 5.0 of the report, where a sketch and photomontages compare the existing character of the landscape to that proposed on the strategy plans.





5.0 ILLUSTRATIONS

5.1 Valley approach (Drawing 781D/30)

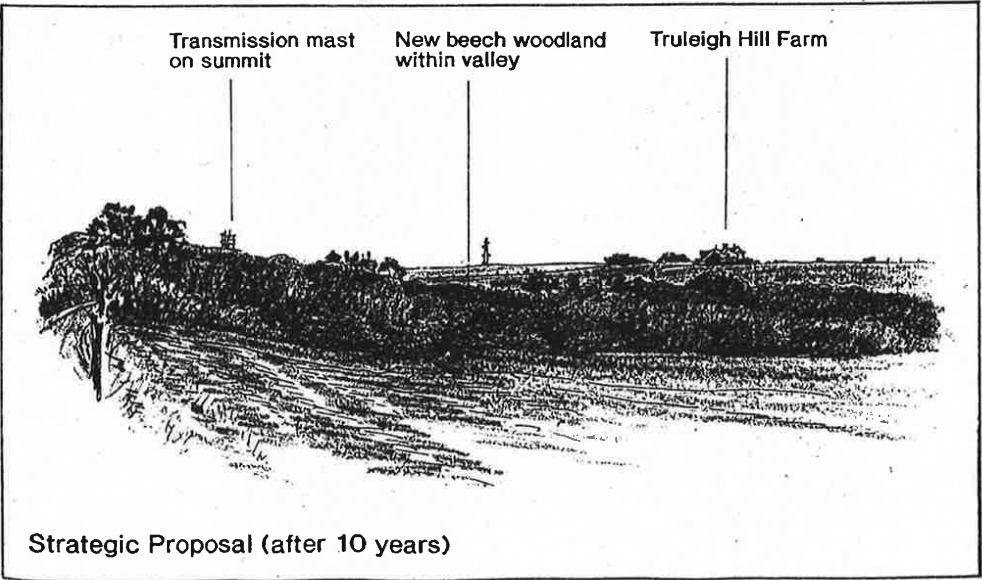
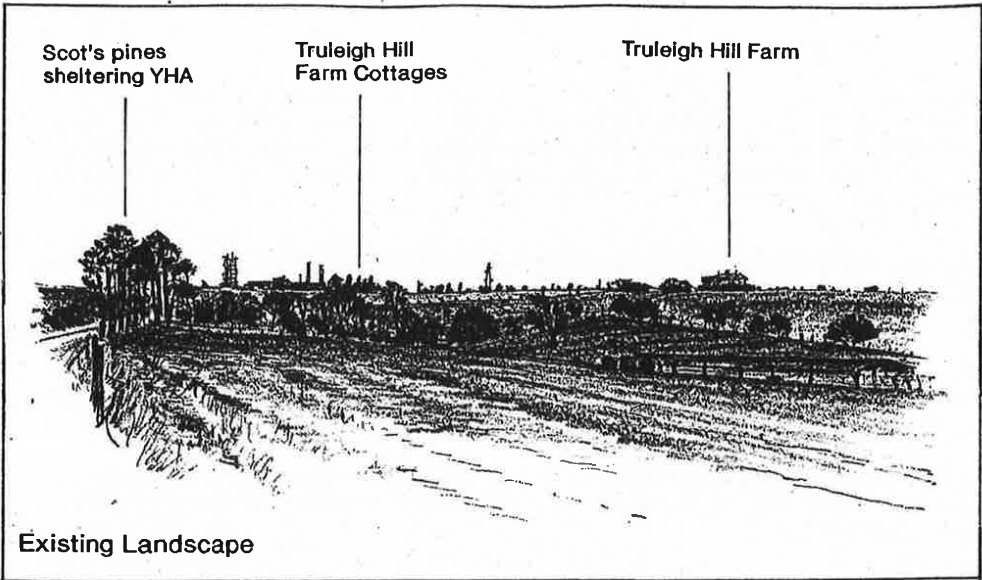
The Youth Hostel is sited at the head of a small coombe, surrounded by a stand of mature Scots pine. This group of trees have a striking profile and create a sense of entry on the approach to the summit. Other woodland trees and scrub are scattered within the valley and some recently planted trees - beech, sycamore, ash, hazel and hawthorn - will, in time, form a belt of woodland alongside the road.

The Scots pines are distinctive, but arguably an inappropriate species within the chalk uplands, and in particular, on the crest of the open chalk escarpment where the quality of individual landscape elements has such a far-reaching visual influence.

The sketch illustrates a proposal for a new, predominantly beech woodland concentrated within the valley. This woodland is designed to screen and shelter the youth hostel while also reflecting the typical character of the open chalk escarpment where occasional individual blocks of trees have a distinctive profile and a strong visual unity.

Initially planted around the Scots pines, the new woodland will rapidly replace these non-native trees, forming an attractive gateway to the summit and screening views to the transmission masts and farm buildings.

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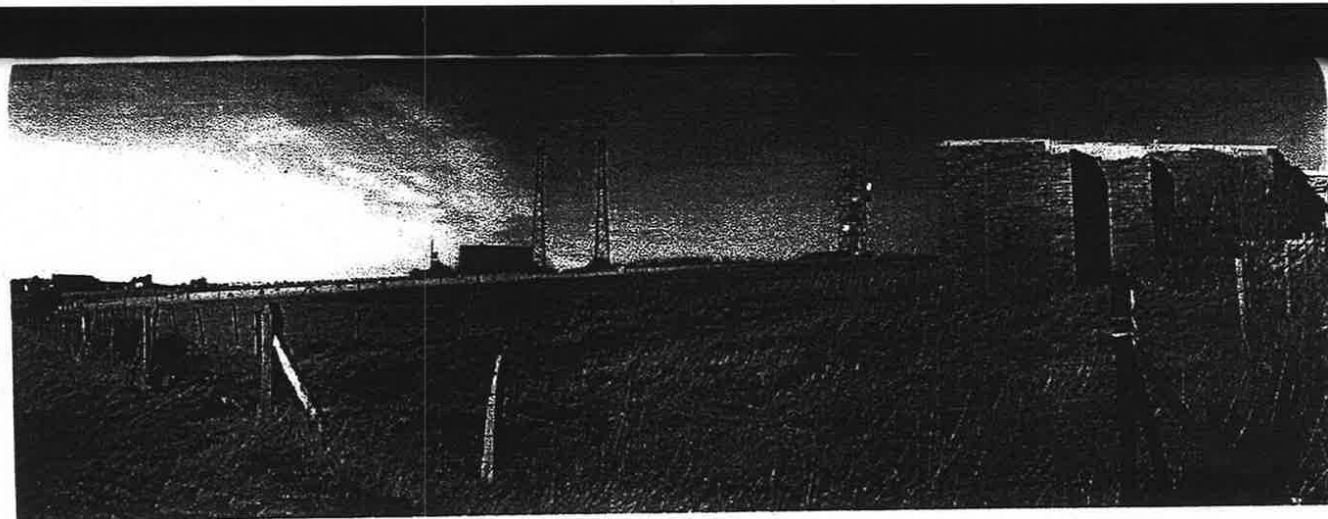


781D/30

5.2 Truleigh Hill summit (781D/31)

The strategic proposal illustrates how the removal of the two smaller transmission masts on the summit of Truleigh

Hill would have an immediate and dramatic positive visual impact. There is an opportunity to restore the sweeping, open character of this windswept summit. The existing scattered structures - wire fencing, concrete/brick bunkers, scraps of ornamental planting, buildings, sheds and the transmission masts themselves - create a distracting clutter; their removal will reveal the gently rounded profile of the chalk landform.



EXISTING



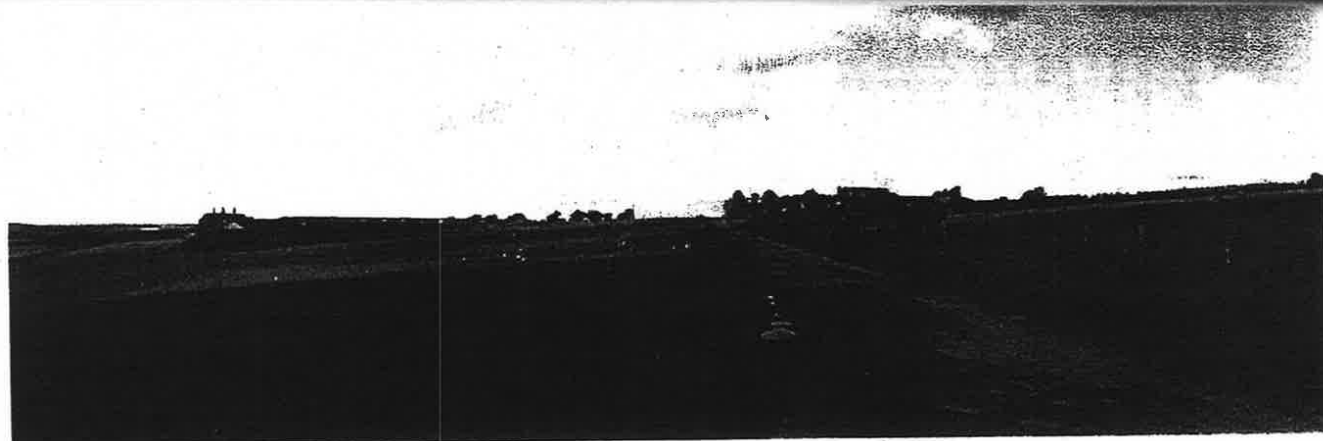
LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS AFTER 10 YEARS

781D/31

5.3 Woodland option (781D/32)

This additional stand of woodland is designed to surround, shelter and eventually screen the farm cottages, barn and farm buildings. While the removal of the two transmission masts and their associated structures will represent a striking improvement to the immediate landscape of Truleigh Hill, the farm cottages, with their associated ornamental garden plants, walls, sheds, fences and paddocks, and the adjacent modern barn, would continue to be a negative visual influence, bearing little relation to the character of the surrounding landscape.

This woodland would be similar in scale and character to that beside the Devil's Dyke Hotel further to the east. From some angles, this woodland would seem contiguous with that within the coombe containing the Youth Hostel; from others it would appear as a separate stand.



EXISTING



LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS AFTER 10 YEARS

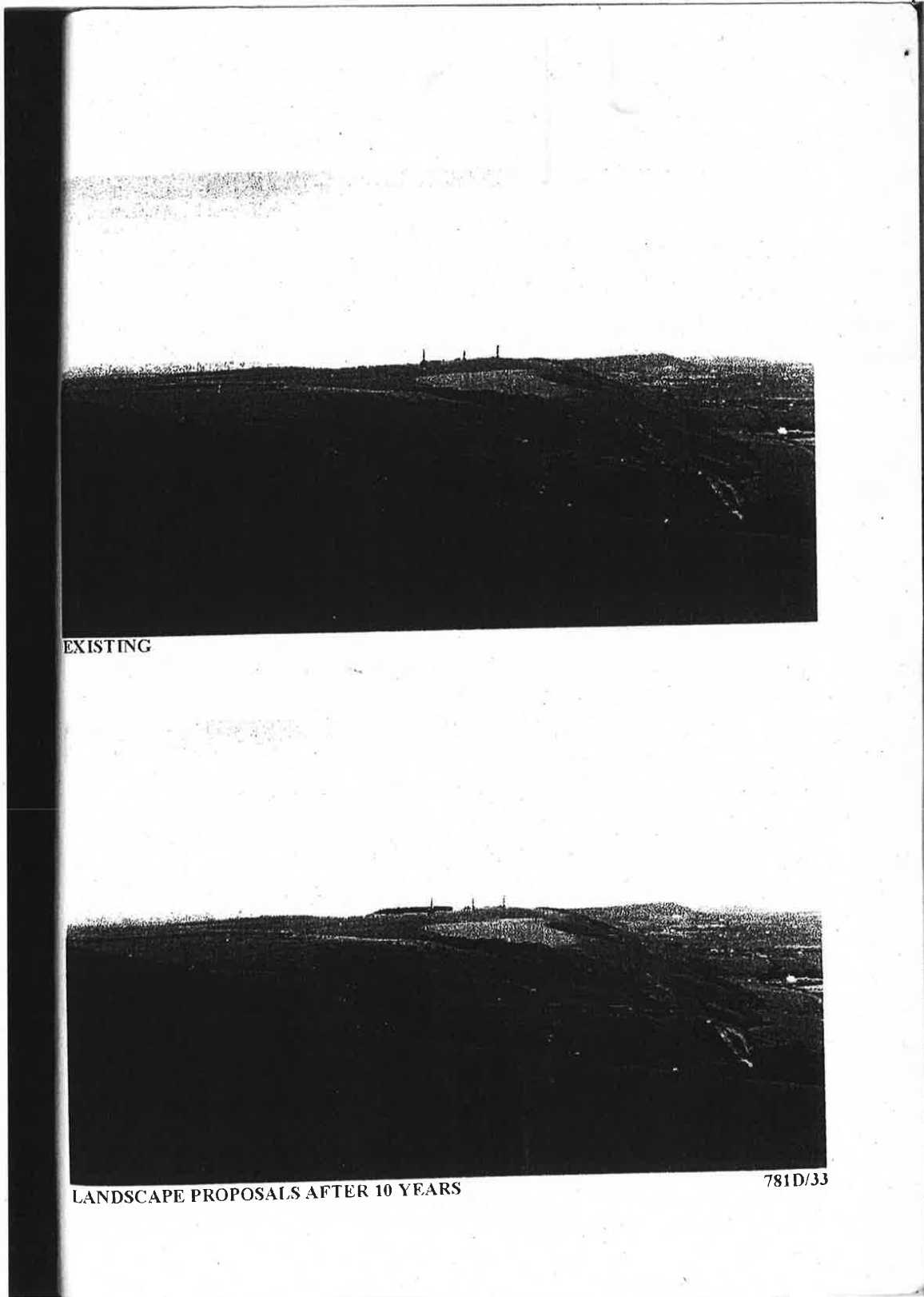
781D/32

5.4 Long distance view (781D/33)

This view from the Iron Age hillfort at Devil's Dyke to the east clearly illustrates the far-reaching negative visual influence of the existing collection of structures on the summit of Truleigh Hill.

The alternative view accepts that Truleigh Hill will remain a landmark, but that its wider visual impact is positive, or at least neutral. The rounded silhouettes of the new woodland would create a more unified profile on the skyline than the existing, distracting collection of built forms and the woodlands are in keeping with the scale and character of other, occasional groups of trees found on the crest of the escarpment and the adjacent chalk uplands. The remaining two transmission masts are less visually intrusive when they stand alone, uncluttered by other buildings and structures.

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6.0 CONCLUSION

The landscape assessment of the AONB commissioned by the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the Countryside Commission provides a basic tool for defining landscape character. It suggests ways in which the landscape can be managed, and in places improved, so as to strengthen its character and provide a more distinctive identity in areas where it has been degraded. Truleigh Hill is a striking example of such a site.

Truleigh Hill is renowned as a landmark for all the wrong reasons. The proposals outlined in this report demonstrate how the removal of many of the structures on its summit would have an immediate positive visual impact, revealing the smooth profile of the rounded chalk landform. Woodland planting, designed to screen the buildings associated with the Youth Hostel and Truleigh Hill Farm, would simplify the landscape pattern and integrate the remaining buildings with the character of the surrounding chalk uplands.

The chalk escarpment is a landmark for the Sussex Downs AONB and Truleigh Hill is its most significant eyesore. This prominent site is therefore particularly significant and should be a top priority for upgrading. This study represents the first step towards such positive action.

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