Appendix J
Landscape Character Type J: Scarp Footslopes

The *Scarp Footslopes* landscape comprises the lowland shelf that lies at the foot of the steep northern scarp of the South Downs east of the Arun Valley. This landscape type is dominated by the chalk scarp which forms a dramatic backdrop. The footslopes themselves form a transition between the steep chalk scarp to the south and the Low Weald to the north.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Complex geology comprising bands of lower chalk, mudstones and sandstones giving rise to a locally undulating landform.
- Forms a transition between the steep chalk scarp to the south and the Low Weald to the north.
- Mosaic of farmland and woodland comprising irregular fields of arable and pasture bounded by an intact network of thick hedgerows, with hedgerow oaks, and woodland.
- Large, straight-sided arable fields close to the scarp foot have encroached up onto the scarp in places.
- Streams, arising from springs at the foot of the chalk flow northwards in narrow, hidden stream valleys, some enshrouded in woodland.
- Villages, located on the springline, are often associated with springs, mill ponds and mills. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to the settlements.
- Varied building materials – consisting of a mixture of flint, brick, sandstone, clunch, rendering and half timber.
- Underhill lanes, often surviving as rural lanes or rough tracks, indicate the course of ancient coaching lanes at the scarp foot.
- Historic picturesque parkland landscapes are important landscape features.
- Impressive panoramic views onto the footslopes from the adjacent scarp and downs reveal a balanced woodland and farmland mosaic.

Physical Landscape

J.1 The *Scarp Footslopes* are underlain by a complex geology comprising bands of lower chalk, mudstones and sandstones. The lower chalk outcrops at the base of the steep scarp where it has been eroded into a smooth concave form. Moving away from the steep scarp slope, a narrow band of Upper Greensand gives way to the older Gault mudstones which are revealed beneath the lower chalk and greensand bench. Further north bands of more resistant sandstones of the Lower Greensands (Folkestone formation) form localised undulations in the landform. The combination of these rocks types is reflected in the soils. The lower chalk gives rise to well drained lime-rich loamy soils nearer the scarp which generally

support arable cropping, and the mudstones give rise to slowly permeable loamy and clayey soils which tend to support permanent grassland and woodland with thick hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The Lower Greensands give rise to less fertile acid sandy soils. The solid geology is masked in places by deposits of 'Head' which relate to the lower lying ground.

Springs mark the junction between the chalk and clay. These springs feed small streams that flow northwards into the Low Weald. The clay substrate has also allowed the formation of many ponds, including field corner ponds, mill ponds and designed ponds associated with designed landscapes. The historic parklands are of picturesque design with sculpted landforms, groups of specimen trees, and woodlands.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

J.2 The balanced mosaic of arable, pasture and woodland gives the *Scarp Footslopes* a sense of unity as viewed from the adjacent scarp and downs to the south. The interlocking network of woodland, intact hedgerows and hedgerow trees creates a sense of seclusion and enclosure. The small scale irregular fields on clay provide a dramatic contrast with the vast scale landscapes of the adjacent downs to the south. Scattered farms, villages and designed parkland add a wealth of interest, contributing to a lively character.

J.3 This is a deeply rural landscape as a result of the low noise levels, peaceful villages, pastoral parklands and low incidence of overt built human impact. However, the sense of tranquillity is eroded in localised areas by roads and railways which tend to follow the scarp foot. Pockets of 'deep' remoteness exist where there is no intervisbility with surrounding settlement and intrinsic rural dark skies can be found.

J.4 The *Scarp Footslopes* generally have a good network of public rights of way, forming links both north into the Low Weald and south up into the downs. There are typically many visitor attractions on the *Scarp Footslopes*, including village pubs, country houses and parklands which provide public access.

J.5 In contrast to the open downs, the *Scarp Footslopes* provided a mellow, romantic setting for many Victorian novelists, including R D Blackmore who based 'Alice Lorraine: A Tale of the South Downs' (1875) in this landscape.

J.6 The *Scarp Footslopes* also became the home of writers' and artists' colonies. Most notably the Bloomsbury set whose summer retreat was Charleston Farmhouse. In 1916 Charleston became the home of the artist Vanessa Bell (sister of Virginia Woolf who lived at nearby Rodmell), fellow artist Duncan Grant, and the writer David Garnett. Regular visitors to Charleston included the Woolfs, Roger Fry, Lytton Strachey, John Maynard Keynes, T.S. Elliot, Desmond MacCarthy and E.M. Forster.

Biodiversity

J.7 The *Scarp Footslopes* are characterised by intensive arable agriculture on the chalk soils at the base of the scarp, changing to a mosaic of improved pasture grassland and woodland on the clay soils of the wider footslopes. Ecologically, the *Scarp Footslopes* support occasional blocks of deciduous woodland (a BAP Priority Habitat), much of which is of ancient origin and carries non-statutory designation as LWS. A particularly notable example is Parham Park SSSI, a medieval parkland dominated by oak and beech woodland, together with open parkland. This site is especially important for its lichen and invertebrate assemblages. Occasional areas of wetland and chalk grassland habitat, mostly extending from the chalk scarp (Priority Habitat lowland meadow, reedbeds and lowland calcareous grassland) along with semi-improved grassland (also a BAP Priority Habitats) provide additional habitat diversity.

J.8 In the wider landscape, areas of intermixed agricultural land uses, including improved pasture, arable land, hedgerows and mature trees, provide important ecological habitat for a range of farmland birds. The relatively intact network of hedgerows and mature trees also provide important habitat connectivity at a landscape scale, creating green corridors between existing woodland blocks. Occasional streams, ditches and ponds are also present, contributing to the landscape's overall ecological character.

Key Biodiversity Features	Importance
Areas of woodland (including BAP Priority Habitat deciduous woodland) many of which are of ancient origin and carry statutory or non-statutory designations.	Ancient woodland supports a range of important ground flora species and breeding birds. The nationally important parkland/woodland habitat at Parkham Park SSSI are important for their lichen and invertebrate assemblages.
Occasional small areas of calcareous grassland occurring at the foot of the scarp, lowland meadow and semi-improved grassland (all BAP Priority Habitats).	Small areas of nationally important unimproved grasslands, including chalk grassland, and lowland meadow support diverse plant assemblages and notable invertebrate species. Semi-improved grassland is valued for its potential for habitat enhancement.
Occasional wetland habitats	Small streams, ditches and ponds provide locally important features.
Network of hedgerows and mature trees	Intact hedgerows running along field boundaries are an important ecological feature at the local level, connecting a mosaic of habitats including areas of wetland and chalk grassland.

J.9 A few isolated grassland habitats within the the *Scarp Footslopes* are recognised within Natural England's Habitat Networks Mapping Project[1] as being suitable for restoration. Network Enhancement Zones also extend into the *Scarp Footslopes* from the neighbouring chalk scarp, where habitat creation on the footslopes could help to improve connectivity between habitats.

Historic Character

J.10 The fertile soils of the scarp foot, sandwiched between high downland and intractable clays, has long been recognised as a 'zone of preferred settlement'. Prehistoric occupation of the *Scarp Footslopes* is likely to have been extensive, although evidence is scarce and buried beneath later colluvial deposits. The fertile soils were identified by the Anglo-Saxons, who established a string of settlements along the foot of the scarp, positioned to exploit the varied forest and downland resources. Some of these early settlements were located in areas formerly occupied by Roman villa estates. A parallel string of settlements, possibly of secondary origin, occupied the outcrops of Lower Greensand further to the north, beyond the clay.

J.11 By the medieval period, the *Scarp Footslopes* formed an integral part of a sophisticated and efficient agrarian landscape based around sheep-corn husbandry. Nucleated villages were established along the scarp footslope, surrounded by open fields with woodland and downland pastures towards the extremities of the parishes. The open arable fields were manured by sheep flocks brought from the downland sheepwalks at night. Bostal tracks are the old droveways which climb the scarp of the downs – they survive as deep holloways running diagonally (sometimes zigzag) up the scarp. To the north of the fertile strip, situated on Gault Clay, many fields originated as woodland assarts and were enclosed during the medieval period. These fields were probably utilised for pasturing cattle.

J.12 The changing economic and social conditions of the later medieval period saw the decline of the open field system, and many of the remaining open fields were enclosed on a piecemeal basis, often beginning with the lords' demesne lands. Some of the richer landowners created landscape parks, evident at Folkington Manor, Firle Place, Charleston, Glynde Place, Middleton Manor, Danny House, Grey Friars House, Wiston Park and Parham House.

J.13 The scarp footslopes still reflects the dual nature of the medieval and later agricultural landscape. The nucleated villages, strung out along the chalk/clay boundary, are flanked to the north (on the claylands) by assarts and irregular enclosed fields of early piecemeal creation, representing a largely intact late medieval or early post-medieval (16th century) landscape. Woodland is relatively common in this area, including frequent but small blocks of ancient woodland of pre-1600 date, as well as more recent plantations and game coverts (mostly post-1800). The area close to the scarp foot, conforming to the main arable land, is now largely covered by modern fields, where 19th century private enclosure and modern field amalgamation dominates the fieldscape. This creates medium to large scale fields which are of regular shape and generally bounded by straight hedges, creating a regular pattern which is reflected in the network of roads which generally follow these boundaries. Occasional blocks of earlier enclosure hint at the earlier landscapes which once existed here before being swept away during the 19th and 20th century. This dichotomy reflects the relative wealth of the two soil types in the past.

Key Features of the Historic Environment	Importance
Nucleated settlements	Indicative of medieval manorial system based around open fields.
Early enclosures on clay	Indicative of areas of less productive soil.
Pre-1800 woodland	Provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, *e.g.* coppicing and charcoal burning.
Designed parkland	Indicative of the changing economic and social conditions of the later medieval period.
Modern enclosures on chalk	Evidence for major reorganisation of landscape of more productive soil.

Settlement Form and Built Character

J.14 The settlement pattern in the scarp footslopes is characterised by strings of nucleated settlements along the foot of the downs. The first is situated on the springline at the boundary of two contrasting soil types, chalk and clay. Sometimes there is a secondary string of settlement located on the Lower Greensand outcrops. This conforms to Historic England's rural settlement designation of East Wessex Sub-Province within the South-eastern Province. 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, set within groups of fields enclosed in the later medieval period but originally forming open fields farmed on a communal basis. The springline settlements are linked by an 'underhill lane', an historic coaching route which runs along the bottom of the scarp slope. This is often visible as a rough track or rural road. The *Scarp Footslopes* are generally free from larger

[1] Natural England. 2018. *National Habitat Networks Mapping Project*

settlements within its boundaries, with the village of Ditchling being an exception. However, larger urban areas are commonly found along its border, outside of the National Park boundary. 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.

J.15 Building materials are varied, but typically include a mixture of flint, brick, sandstone, clunch, rendering and half timber, with clay tile roofs. This gives the villages a lively character.

Evaluation

Ecosystem Services provide by the Scarp Footslopes

J.16 Ecosystem services are the benefits people and society get from the natural environment. The *Scarp Footslopes* provides:

Provisioning	■ Food provision– mixed farming with arable agriculture at the base of the scarp producing cereals crops and livestock grazing on areas of improved grassland on the less fertile clays. ■ Timber provision– mixed and deciduous plantations offers opportunity for timber provision. However, many woodland blocks are managed for either game or wildlife conservation. ■ Water availability – chalk aquifers which underly the scarp and its footslopes supply water for the region.
Regulating	■ Regulating water flow – the underlying chalk aquifer supplies the base flow to streams on the spring line at the base of the scarp. Lower chalk at the base of the scarp is characterised by freely draining soils, whereas the gault clays further north are less permeable and more susceptible to surface run-off. ■ Water quality – the underlying chalk geology acts as a natural filter for the water feeding streams on the spring line. This maintains the ecological and chemical equilibrium of watercourses in the area. ■ Regulating soil erosion – soils under permanent pasture or woodland are less susceptible to erosion. The thin chalk soils utilised for arable farming at the base of the scarp are much more prone to erosion by run-off. ■ Soil quality – soil which is less prone to erosion can maintain nutrient and moisture levels and is more resilient to drought and compaction. ■ Climate regulation – areas of woodland play an important role in the uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. ■ Air quality regulation – woodland plays an important role in regulating local air quality. ■ Pollination – unimproved or semi-improved grasslands are important nectar sources for pollinator insects.
Cultural	■ Sense of place – this mosaic of farmland, parkland and woodland interspersed with picturesque villages with the downs forming a distinctive backdrop has sense of place and has provided inspiration and a home to many writers and artists. The historic field pattern and string of spring-line villages provide a sense of time-depth. ■ Tranquillity – pockets of tranquillity, and even areas with a 'deep' remoteness, exist in this area. ■ Recreation – a good network of public rights of way link with both the Low Weald and the downs. Visitor attractions on the *Scarp Footslopes*, include villages, pubs, country houses and parklands.
Supporting	■ Biodiversity – ancient woodland supports a range of important ground flora species and breeding birds. The woods at Parham Park SSSI are especially important for its lichen and invertebrate assemblages. Occasional wetland and chalk grasslands provide a mosaic of habitats, connected by intact hedgerow systems running along field boundaries.

Sensitivities

J.17 This landscape has many sensitive physical and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change, as set out in the table below:

Key Landscape Sensitivities
1. Distinct undulating topography creates a small scale landscape which is vulnerable to large scale development, road schemes and infrastructure.
2. The pattern of small irregular fields of pasture and meadow, with fields originating as woodland assarts, which represent a largely intact historic landscape, would be vulnerable to field expansion or boundary loss.
3. Intact network of hedgerows, hedgerow oaks and woodland, which creates a sense of seclusion and enclosure as well as being of high biodiversity value.
4. Hidden stream valleys and stream side habitats including woodland that form important visual and biodiversity features and would be vulnerable to a lowering of the water table.

Key Landscape Sensitivities
5. Field ponds, mill ponds and designed ponds which are important visual features and would be vulnerable to a lowering of the water table.
6. Picturesque, nucleated villages exhibiting a consistent palette of building materials (a mixture of flint, brick, rendering and half timber, with clay tile roofs) which provides unity. These could be vulnerable to insensitive, or excessive, built development.
7. Underhill lanes and bostal tracks, often surviving as rough tracks and public rights of way, indicating the course of ancient coaching lanes and droveways. These may be vulnerable to erosion as a result of recreational pressure and particularly from off-road vehicles.
8. The presence of historic picturesque parkland landscapes.
9. The deeply rural character and intact visual structure of the area which could be vulnerable to the cumulative effect of many piecemeal changes.
10. Pockets of 'deep' tranquillity, where overt human features and visibility of settlement are not present, are sensitive to change. The rural dark skies associated with the South Downs International Dark Skies Reserve which are vulnerable to light sources, particularly in the 'Dark Sky Core' of the International Dark Sky Reserve.
11. Views towards the strongly sculptural chalk scarp landform, which contrasts with the gently undulating topography of the *Scarp Footslopes,* as it sits prominently on the skyline. The area's proximity to the scarp creates intimate and dramatic experiences of the face of the chalk ridge, revealing the rich cultural heritage and associated chalk habitats.
12. The *Scarp Footslopes* are highly visible from the adjacent scarp and downs to the south and this intervisibility increases visual sensitivity although the intact hedgerow network and presence of woodland creates enclosure within the landscape.

Change – Key Issues and Trends

Past Change

J.18 Past change includes:

Past Change
1. Encroachment of arable fields onto the lower scarp slopes, replacing calcareous grassland in the 20th century, reducing biodiversity and altering landscape character.
2. Modern development on the edges of rural villages and introduction of 'suburban' features into the rural landscape, including the use of exotic tree and shrub species, eroding the area's rural character.
3. Amalgamation of small fields and hedgerow loss in the 20th century eroding historic small-scale field patterns.
4. The development of golf courses, reservoirs, and pylons in the 20th century introducing overt human features onto the landscape, Vertical elements such as pylons compete with the distinctive scarp in views to the downs.
5. The appearance of apparently abandoned land due to the fragmented and mixed nature of the agricultural land-use altering the area's agricultural character.
6. An increase in fields used as paddocks and small holdings and associated features such as stables and horse tape resulting in the subdivision of fields, visual clutter and poor quality pasture.
7. Increased traffic and upgrades to roads which run along the border of the *Scarp Footslopes* or directly through the area. Major roads can create considerable noise, therefore reducing the remote experience felt by users.
8. Spread and urbanisation of settlements outside the National Park boundary but adjoining the *Scarp Footslopes*, introducing overt human features and light pollution into the landscape.

Future Landscape Change

J.19 The likely future changes are set out in the table below:

Future Change
1. Dry conditions and more intense rainfall events on the thin chalk soils found at the base of the scarp could lead to increased rates of soil erosion.
2. Drier conditions and over abstraction of the chalk aquifers which underly the scarp and scarp slopes for residential and agricultural purposes could see changes to flow and water quality of chalk streams found along the spring line.
3. Wind damage, due to increases in severe gales, could result in damage to woodlands. The predominance of older age classes may increase the susceptibility of woodland to damage from both storms and drought.
4. Beech woodland is particularly vulnerable to loss due to its drought sensitive nature and the potential impact of sun scorch. Increased winter temperatures could also lead to beech woodland loss due to a reduction in bud initiation.
5. Increased temperatures may result in changes to species composition of habitats, particularly affecting the ancient woodlands. This could also lead to increased prevalence of pathogens which in time could result in the decline in the ability of woodland to regenerate and enhanced woodland senescence. However, future management of woodlands for fuel or timber production may be a positive benefit.
6. Positive landscape change could result from regimes to promote enhanced environmental management of hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland, and chalk grassland at the foot of the scarp.
7. The introduction of ornamental tree planting within private properties can erode the rural character of the area.
8. Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and changes in agricultural policy. If NetZero commitments are implemented, it is likely that there will be key changes to land use, including a reduction in grazing land to free up land for other land uses such as bioenergy crop planting (and low-grade biomass production), arable crops and woodlands (related to afforestation initiatives).
9. An increase in dry conditions could result in the potential to grow different crop types, which could change the landscape character of the *Scarp Footslopes*.
10. Increased interest in viticulture due to the suitability of the soils and elevation and an increase in dry conditions. Wine making could impact the rural character of the landscape due to the potential for associated diversification, such as statement winery buildings, glamping, weddings etc,
11. Marginal land areas may be vulnerable to purchase as hobby farms or for horse grazing and associated stables, which may affect the open rural character of the *Scarp Footslopes*.
12. On the arable fields at the scarp foot it is likely that agricultural production will continue to intensify with amalgamation of farms and potential new large scale farm buildings.
13. Pressure for small scale incremental development and land use change around the spring line villages. Although the *Scarp Footslopes* contain many village settlements and a good communication network, their location in the National Park will limit pressure for extensive built development. However, the historic character of these villages could be eroded by incremental small scale changes.
14. Small alterations to individual properties and villages (such as lighting or introduction of (suburban style fencing and boundaries), plus increased demand for leisure land uses such as horse riding and golf may cumulatively start to erode the perceived rural, remote character of the area, which is an especially sensitive and vulnerable characteristic.
15. Pressure for development, particularly residential, outside the National Park boundary (e.g. large scale residential development at Hailsham) may result in visual impacts on the *Scarp Footslopes,* and affect general perceptual qualities including tranquillity and dark skies.
16. Increased traffic pressures may impact the narrow rural roads that characterise the area and reduce the tranquillity of the *Scarp Footslopes*.
17. The risk of wildfires will increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. This is of particular concern on chalk grassland sites that are at higher risk at times of dry weather due to high recreational use.
18. Increased recreational pressure on the network of tracks and public rights of way, particularly the underhill bostal tracks which are vulnerable to erosion.

Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines

J.20 The overall management objective should be to conserve the deeply rural, secluded character of the intact medieval landscape of interlocking irregular fields, woodlands and parklands, and conserve areas of chalk grassland on the lower scarp.

Guidance for Landscape Management

A. Conserve the intact pattern of small irregular fields of pasture, which represent a largely intact late medieval landscape, and resist field expansion or boundary loss. These areas would be most suited to pasture.

B. Manage the hedgerow network and monitor regeneration of hedgerow oaks, re-planting where necessary. Improve the connectivity of woodlands across the *Scarp Footslopes* through tree planting and hedgerow corridors to enhance green corridor networks which are particularly valuable for nature conservation.

C. Ensure land use changes, such bioenergy crop planting or viticulture, do not result in the loss or harm to mature field boundary woodlands and trees which overhang existing fields.

D. Manage areas of deciduous 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. As conditions change, plant suitable species and manage woodland to improve structure, health and diversity of habitat, Encourage interest in, and marketing of, local wood products.

E. This landscape type provides opportunities to increase planting of indigenous species woodlands to support local biodiversity, soil stability, water objectives and climate change mitigation as part of afforestation programmes.

F. Avoid harsh woodland edges which are visually intrusive on the lower scarp slopes, creating transitional habitats between grassland and woodland which will also provide a variety of habitats and microclimates, allowing species to adapt better to the changing climate.

G. Be alert to new pests and diseases and plan for their management.

H. Continue to monitor native species to assess changes in numbers and distribution. Monitor and control the spread of invasive species which are a cause of decline in native habitats, such as Cotoneasters *Cotoneaster spp.*on the chalk grassland or Rhododendrons *Rhododendron ponticum* in woodlands. Refer to the SDNP INNS Strategy.

I. Monitor water flows in the streams and conserve and manage sinuous, linear streamside woodlands and copses, placing emphasis on planting of wetland species. Seek to minimise water pollution from agriculture through sensitive land management practices, including restoration of buffer strips along watercourses and field ponds to minimise run-off.

J. Seek to conserve and restore historic designed landscapes, and their settings. Encourage reversion of arable to pasture in these landscapes.

K. Support extension of chalk grassland habitats onto the lower slopes of the scarp to improve the visual integrity of the adjacent scarp. This will also help to maintain good soil structure and reduce erosion on the thin chalk soils.

L. Monitor erosion of underhill lanes and bostal tracks as a result of recreational pressure, particularly by bikes and off-road vehicles.

M. Promote responsible recreational behaviour to reduce the risk of trampling and wildfire. This is particularly important during dry conditions where fires can spread rapidly, particularly in areas of drought-prone chalk grassland on the footslopes.

Guidance for Integrating Development into the Landscape

A. Conserve the nucleated form of spring line villages and limit development along the underhill lanes that link villages at the foot of the scarp.

B. Conserve the rural setting to villages - consider using woodland or tree planting to screen development on the edge of villages. In particular, conserve the striking undeveloped scarp backdrop to the spring line villages.

C. Monitor the cumulative effect of many piecemeal changes that could alter the deeply rural character and intact visual structure of the area – resist suburban style garden boundaries, kerbs, and lighting - and minimise such change by providing design guidance and encouraging applicants to enter into discussions at an early stage in the preparation of their proposals.

D. Maintain the consistent range of building materials (a mixture of flint, brick, sandstone, clunch, rendering and half timber, with clay tile roofs) which gives the villages a distinctive character.

E. Encourage sensitive integration of fencing, tracks, hardstanding, jumps and other paraphernalia that are associated with hobby farms or private stables.

F. Consider the use of techniques such as whisper tarmac on main roads which run adjacent to or through the *Scarp Footslopes*, helping to reduce the impact they have on the tranquillity of the area.

G. Take account of views to and from the adjacent scarps and downs to the south in relation to any change, including change outside the National Park boundary. Refer to guidance in the View Characterisation and Analysis[2].

H. Avoid the introduction of overt vertical features into the landscape which would compete with views towards the distinctive chalk scarp and its prominence on the skyline.

I. Conserve the tranquil and rural character of the footslopes and associated dark skies, particularly in the pockets of most remote landscape which lack visibility of adjacent settlements. Pay attention to the introduction of any new lighting into this landscape, particularly in the 'Dark Sky Core' of the International Dark Sky Reserve, taking account of the technical guidance advice note://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TLL-10-SDNPA-Dark-Skies-Technical-Advice-Note-2018.pdf.

Woodland Strategy and suitable species

J.21 The LCT contains 10.11km^2 of woodland, approximately 10% woodland cover. A mosaic of farmland, parkland and woodland, the LCT has occasional small blocks of deciduous oak and beech woodland, much of which is ancient with more recent plantations associated with parkland estates. There is an opportunity in this area to increase deciduous woodland cover through creation of new areas of woodland, particularly in more open areas to promote a balanced farmland and woodland mosaic, including perpetuation of parkland planting patterns of specimen trees and thickening of field boundaries.

J.22 Appropriate plant species may be informed by the National Biodiversity Network Gateway, relevant Biodiversity Action Plans and biological records from the relevant Biological Records Centre.

J.23 Ensure any purchased plant stock is through reputable nurseries, operating the Plant Health Assurance Scheme (once it has been trialled) to protect against the risk of *Xylella fastidiosa* and other plant health risks.

Character Areas There are three distinct areas of *Scarp Footslopes* in the South Downs – each separated by a major river valley. They run along the northern edge of the major scarps forming a transition between the steep Chalk scarp to the south and the Low Weald to the north.	
J1:	Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes
J2:	Adue to Ouse Scarp Footslopes
J3:	Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

[2] LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis

J1: Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes

Location and Boundaries

The *Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes* forms a relatively narrow strip of land at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp,* between Lewes and Eastbourne. The character area is divided in three by the River Cuckmere and Glynde Reach. There are also two small outliers which have been separated from the remainder of the area by built development on the edge of Eastbourne.

The southern boundary of this character area is defined by the steep scarp of the *Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp* and has been drawn along the southern edge of the arable fields that form part of the *Scarp Footslopes*. To the north the character area extends beyond the National Park boundary (marked by the A27) where it forms a gradual transition to the landscape of the Low Weald.

Key Characteristics

- A lush lowland landscape at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp*.
- Large, fertile straight-sided arable fields on the Lower Chalk geology at the foot of the scarp, enclosed in the 20th century from open fields and earlier piecemeal enclosures.
- Small irregular fields of pasture on the less productive clay soils, which originated as woodland assarts, represent a largely intact late medieval landscape.
- Hedgerows with mature hedgerow oaks link with the woodland, forming an interlocking network that is of high biodiversity value as well as creating a sense of seclusion and enclosure.
- Streams, arising from springs at the foot of the chalk flow northwards in narrow, hidden stream valleys, some enshrouded in woodland. Field ponds, mill ponds and designed ponds are common features of the clay.
- Anglo-Saxon villages, for example Wilmington, Berwick, Alciston and Firle, located on the spring line between the chalk and clay, linked by the busy A27.
- Underhill lanes and bostal tracks, often surviving as rough tracks and paths, indicate the course of ancient coaching lanes and droveways.
- Historic picturesque parkland landscapes e.g. Firle Park, Glynde Park and Ryngmer Park are important landscape features.
- Charleston Farmhouse was the summer retreat of the Bloomsbury set.
- A number of visitor attractions including golf courses on the edge of Eastbourne, Drusillas Zoo, Firle Place, Charleston Farmhouse, and Glynde Place, in close proximity to the A27.
- A consistent palette of building materials (a mixture of flint, brick, rendering and half timber, with clay tile roofs) provides unity across the area.
- Visually dominated by the steep Chalk scarp to the south, which forms a backdrop to views. Impressive panoramic views from adjacent scarp and downs reveal a pleasingly balanced woodland and farmland mosaic.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes

J.24 The *Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes* occur at the eastern end of the South Downs. Here the landscape has a relatively simple solid geology composed of Lower Chalk and Gault mudstone. The Lower Chalk outcrops at the base of the steep scarp, where it has been eroded into a smooth concave form, support the modern arable fields that replaced the former medieval open field systems. These chalk slopes support some remnant chalk grassland, most notably at Folkington Reservoir SSSI. Moving away from the steep scarp slope, the older Gault mudstones are revealed beneath the Lower Chalk as a clay vale. Here, irregularly enclosed fields represent a largely intact late medieval landscape with many fields originating as woodland assarts – this area has a more 'Wealden' character. In the north west of the character area there is also a block of fields representing a medieval deer

park associated with the former Ryngmer Park, with a characteristic oval boundary associated with deer.

J.25 Small stands of broadleaved semi-natural and broadleaved plantation woodland also occur, including some of ancient origin, such as Tilton's Wood LWS. The intact network of hedgerows and mature trees which link with existing woodland blocks provide important habitat connectivity at a landscape scale.

J.26 Typical of the *Scarp Footslopes*, springs mark the junction between the chalk and clay. These springs feed small streams that flow northwards into the Low Weald or into the River Cuckmere and contribute to the area's ecological diversity.

J.27 Also typical of the footslopes landscape are nucleated villages which are positioned along this spring line as at Wilmington, Berwick, Alciston, and Firle. Designed landscapes can be seen at Folkington Manor, Firle Park, and Glyndebourne. Firle Place and Glynde Place are designated as Registered Parks and Gardens and open to the public. The annual Glyndebourne Festival and Charleston Book Festival in the summer retreat of the Bloomsbury set, attract visitors to the area.

J.28 The sense of tranquillity is eroded in this area by traffic on the A27, which is never far away, the urban edges of Eastbourne (including golf courses), and the presence of visitor attractions such as Drusillas Zoo. The area's proximity to Eastbourne and the A27 means that there are a large number of potential users of the area. A good network of rights of way, focussed around the Cuckmere Valley, includes the Weald Way and Vanguard Way, which cross the *Scarp Footslopes* before heading north into the Low Weald. By comparison, there is a notable absence of public rights of way in the footslopes of *Mount Caburn*.

J.29 From the adjacent downs there are panoramic views out over the scarp footslopes to the Low Weald beyond and from the footslopes views up to the downs, including the iconic view of the Long Man of Wilmington (as noted in the View Characterisation and Analysis report[3]).

Sensitivities Specific to the Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes

J.30 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The form of spring line villages (Wilmington, Berwick, Alciston, and Firle) at the scarp foot.
2.	The historic picturesque parkland landscapes of Folkington Manor, Firle Park, Glynde Park and Ryngmer Park which add diversity and 'time depth' to the landscape and would be vulnerable to change.
3.	The remnant chalk grassland at Folkington Reservoir SSSI.

Change Specific to the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp Footslopes

J.31 In addition to the changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area are set out in the table below:

Forces for Change	
1.	Increased recreation pressures from neighbouring populations in Eastbourne.
2.	Pressure for renewable energy development outside of the park boundary e.g. the solar farms at Chalvington and Ripe. These could have a negative effect on the views from the downs.
3.	Pressure for residential development outside the park boundary e.g. large scale development at Hailsham and incremental built development around Eastbourne and Polegate.
4.	Upgrading of the A27(T) leading to an increase in traffic and further impacting tranquillity.
5.	Upgrades to the East Coastway line, which runs parallel to the A27(T), impacting the tranquillity of the area.

Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes

J.32 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:

a. Conserve the intact medieval landscape, particularly the fields originating as woodland assarts.

b. Conserve the historic picturesque parkland landscapes of Folkington Manor, Firle Park, Glynde Park and Ryngmer Park - encourage reversion of arable to pasture in these landscapes.

c. Conserve the remnant chalk grassland at Folkington Reservoir SSSI.

[3] South Downs National Park Authority (2015) View Characterisation and Analysis - View 28

J.33 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

a. Conserve the settlement pattern of nucleated spring line villages (Wilmington, Berwick, Alciston, and Firle) at the scarp foot.

b. Use planting to mitigate the visual impact of existing intrusive features such as the A27 and built development on the edge of Eastbourne.

c. Consider how development both inside and outside of the National Park including residential, transport infrastructure and renewable energy, will affect views to and from the adjacent scarps and downs, such as the iconic view to the Old Man of Wilmington.

d. Preserve the pockets of remoteness away from the edge of adjacent settlements and busy trunk roads, particularly around Wilmington.

J2: Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes

Location and Boundaries

The *Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes* form a wide band of lowland at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp*, between Upper Beeding and Lewes. The southern boundary of this character area is defined by the steep scarp of the *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp* and has been drawn along the southern edge of the arable fields that form part of the *Scarp Footlsopes*. To the north the character area forms a gradual transition to the landscape of the Low Weald.

Key Characteristics

- Complex geology comprising bands of chalk, mudstones and sandstones giving rise to a locally undulating lowland landscape at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp*.
- Large, fertile, straight-sided arable fields on the Lower Chalk geology at the foot of the scarp, enclosed in the 20th century from open fields and earlier piecemeal enclosures.
- Small irregular fields of pasture on the less productive clay soils, which originated as woodland assarts, represent a largely intact late medieval landscape.
- Frequent but small blocks of ancient woodland of pre-1600 date, as well as more recent post-1800 plantations and game coverts (e.g. Foxhole Shaw near Hurstpierpoint).
- Hedgerows with mature hedgerow oaks link closely with the woodland, forming an interlocking network that is of high biodiversity value as well as creating a sense of seclusion and enclosure.
- Sandstone outcrops give rise to locally sandy soils, e.g. Ditchling Common SSSI which support areas of dry acid grassland, and woodland.
- Streams, arising from springs at the foot of the chalk flow northwards in narrow, hidden stream valleys, some enshrouded in woodland. Field ponds, mill ponds and designed water bodies are common features of the clay.
- Villages, located on the spring line, are often associated with springs, mill ponds and mills – Edburton, Fulking, Poynings, Westmeston, Plumpton, and Offham are all linked by an underhill lane. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to these villages.
- Secondary row of settlements located on the sandstone outcrops further north e.g. Ditchling, Streat, and East Chiltington.
- Historic picturesque parkland landscapes at Plumpton, Danny and Newtimber Parks, although the small size of these suggests that the character area was too valuable for agricultural use to waste on unproductive aesthetics.
- A well developed network of rights of way, and Stoneywish Country Park on the edge of Ditchling, provide opportunities for countryside access.
- A consistent palette of building materials (a mixture of flint, brick, rendering and half timber, with clay tile roofs) provides unity across the area.
- Visually dominated by the steep chalk scarp to the south, which forms a backdrop to views. Impressive panoramic views from adjacent scarp and downs reveal a pleasingly balanced woodland and farmland mosaic.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes

J.34 The *Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes* cover a relatively large area at the foot of the northern scarp of the Adur to Ouse Downs, between Upper Beeding and Lewes. The footslopes extend some way north of the scarp, and include parts of the Low Weald, exhibiting a number of different geological bands. These include Lower Chalk, Upper Greensand, Gault Mudstone and Lower Greensand. The area also includes a small area of Weald Clay at its very northern boundary, north of Ditchling.

J.35 The Lower Chalk at the base of the steep scarp has been eroded into a smooth concave form. These chalk slopes support some remnant chalk grasslands, which extend from scarp e.g. a small area of Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI. North of this is a narrow band of Upper Greensand bench.

Moving away from the scarp slope, the older Gault Mudstones are revealed. Across the area, irregular enclosed fields represent a largely intact medieval or early post-medieval (16th century) landscape with many fields originating as woodland assarts – this area has a more 'Wealden' character. In places large modern arable fields have replaced these older field systems. Frequent but small blocks of woodland of pre-1600 date, as well as more recent mixed plantations and game coverts (e.g. Foxhole Shaw near Hurstpierpoint) characterise the area. Many of these woodland blocks are classified as ancient woodland, and a number carry non-statutory designation, for example Tottington Wood LWS, Warningore Wood LWS, and Lag Wood and Butcher's Wood LWS. Ecologically they are notable for supporting a range of ancient woodland plant species, as well as providing important habitat for breeding birds.

J.36 Woods Mill Countryside Centre and Nature Reserve is located in the north west of the character area and is the headquarters of Sussex Wildlife Trust, an environmental education centre. It comprises coppiced woodland, meadows and a lake, which attracts a wide variety of wildlife, including nightingales, woodpecker, turtle doves and warblers.

J.37 Within the clay vale are outcrops of sandstone which give rise to locally sandy areas, such as around Ditchling, which support pasture and coniferous plantations, for example Ashurst Farm Meadow LWS and the acid heath grassland at the Ditchling Common SSSI. There are also a number of active and former sand quarries associated with this geological formation, demonstrating the economic value of the sands.

J.38 Typical of the scarp footslopes, the junction between the chalk and clay is marked by springs and a string of nucleated villages. Edburton, Fulking, Poynings, Westmeston, Plumpton, and Offham are all typical spring line villages, some developing on areas formerly occupied by Roman villa estates (Danny, Clayton and Plumpton). The villages are linked by an underhill lane, indicating the course of the ancient coaching lane at the scarp foot. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to these villages, such as at Fulking. A regular road network traverses the area, with lanes running perpendicular to the scarp where they join with the underhill lane at regular intervals.

J.39 This area of *Scarp Footslopes* is typical of its type in that it contains a number of picturesque parkland landscapes, including at Plumpton (a Registered Park and Garden), Danny and Newtimber Parks. The small size of these provides an indication that the character area was deemed too valuable for agricultural use to waste on unproductive aesthetics.

J.40 This area supports a well-developed network of rights of way, with a north-south orientation providing access between the downs to the south and the Low Weald to the north. The density of public rights of way is particularly high around Ditchling and includes the Sussex Border Path long distance recreational route. Stoneywish Country Park, on the edge of Ditchling, provides further opportunities for countryside access.

J.41 The footslopes are highly visible from the adjacent scarp, such as the panoramic views from Devil's Dyke and Black Cap.

Sensitivities Specific to the Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes

J.42 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The form of spring line villages (Edburton, Fulking, Poynings, Westmeston, Plumpton, and Offham) at the scarp foot.
2.	Remnant chalk grassland, for example the small area of Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI.
3.	Ancient woodland, for example Tottington Wood, Warningore Wood, and Lag Wood and Butcher's Wood LWS.
4.	Areas of acid grassland on sandstone, for example at Ditchling Common SSSI.
5.	The intact medieval and early post-medieval landscape which contribute to the 'Wealden' character of the area.
6.	The historic picturesque parkland landscapes of Plumpton, Danny and Newtimber Parks.
7.	The footslopes are highly visible from the adjacent scarp which increases their visual sensitivity.

Change Specific to the Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes

J.43 In addition to the changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area are set out in the table below:

Forces for Change	
1.	Pressure for development, could result in small scale incremental development and land use change around larger urban areas, including Ditchling, Hassocks and Keymer, eroding rural character.
2.	Demand for sand extraction could have a negative impact on the landscape and associated traffic movements disrupt tranquillity. Restoration of former extraction sites can have a positive impact.
3.	Demand for timber during the inter-war and post war periods, resulted in the planting of coniferous species in existing ancient woodlands. Restoration of deciduous woodlands is a potential positive change in landscape character and biodiversity.

Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes

J.44 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:

a. Conserve the intact medieval and early post-medieval landscape, particularly the fields originating as woodland assarts which contribute to the 'Wealden' character of the area.

b. Conserve the historic picturesque parkland landscapes of Plumpton, Danny and Newtimber Parks - encourage reversion of arable to pasture in these landscapes.

c. Conserve small areas of chalk grassland, for example at Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI, and seek to extend such habitats on areas of Lower Chalk at the scarp foot.

d. Conserve, and seek to extend, areas of unimproved acid grassland on sandstone outcrops, such as around Ditchling.

e. Conserve ancient deciduous woodland, for example Tottington Wood LWS, and support the restoration of conifer plantations to native species.

J.45 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

a. Conserve the settlement pattern of nucleated spring line villages (Edburton, Fulking, Poynings, Westmeston, Plumpton, and Offham) at the scarp foot.

b. Ensure urban fringe land uses, such as garden centres, nurseries and sewage farms, do not erode the rural character of the landscape. Seek to minimise use of excessive lighting, signage and 'suburban' features, particularly on the edge of Ditchling.

c. Use broadleaved woodland planting to screen built development and quarries.

d. Consider views to and from the adjacent scarps.such as the panoramic views from Devil's Dyke and Black Cap, when planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes. Refer to guidance in the View Characterisation and Analysis report[4].

[4] LUC 2015 South Downs National Park Authority View Characterisation and Analysis (Views 2 and 13)

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

Location and Boundaries

The *Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes* forms a lowland strip at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Arun to Adur Downs Scarp*, between Amberley and Steyning. The southern boundary of this character area is defined by the steep scarp of the *Arun to Adur Downs Scarp* and has been drawn along the southern edge of the arable fields that form part of the *Scarp Footslopes*. To the north the character area forms a gradual transition to the landscape of the Low Weald.

Key Characteristics

- Complex geology comprising bands of chalk, mudstones and sandstones giving rise to a locally undulating lowland landscape at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Arun to Adur Downs.*
- Large, fertile straight-sided arable fields on the Lower Chalk geology at the foot of the scarp, enclosed in the 20th century from open fields systems and earlier piecemeal enclosures.
- Small irregular fields of pasture on the less productive clay soils, which originated as woodland assarts, represent a largely intact late medieval landscape.
- Hedgerows with mature hedgerow oaks link closely with the woodland, forming an interlocking network that is of high biodiversity value as well as creating a sense of seclusion and enclosure.
- Sandstone outcrops give rise to locally sandy soils which support areas of acid grassland, bracken, gorse, woody scrub, and oak-birch woodland.
- Streams, arising from springs at the foot of the Chalk/Upper Greensand flow northwards in narrow, hidden stream valleys, some enshrouded in woodland. Field ponds, mill ponds and designed ponds are common features of the clay.
- Villages located on the springline, e.g. Washington, are linked by the A283, which coincides largely with the character area boundary. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to villages at the scarp foot.
- Landscape parks such as Parham are located on the less fertile Gault Clay and Lower Greensand. These add diversity and 'time depth' to the landscape. Parham Park, which is a designated SSSI also provides great ecological interest, comprising a mixture of ancient woodland and parkland, as well as areas of lowland raised bog and alder carr.
- A network of public rights of way provides opportunities for countryside access, however, it is less well-developed than other areas of the *Scarp Footslopes*.
- The *Scarp Footslopes* are visually dominated by the steep chalk scarp to the south, which forms a backdrop to views. Impressive panoramic views from the adjacent scarp and downs reveal a pleasingly balanced woodland and farmland mosaic.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

J.46 The *Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes* cover a relatively large area at the foot of the northern scarp of the *Arun to Adur Downs Scarp,* between Amberley and Steyning. The footslopes extend north of the scarp and include a number of different underlying bands of geological bedrock resulting in significant local landscape diversity. Moving from the scarp foot northwards these include Lower Chalk, Upper Greensand and Gault Mudstone.

J.47 On the Lower Chalk outcrops at the base of the steep scarp, where it has been eroded into a smooth concave form, 19th century and modern arable fields have replaced the former medieval open field systems. These chalk slopes support some small areas of remnant chalk grassland which extend from the scarp, e.g. Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI. North of this is a narrow band of Upper Greensand. Moving away from the steep scarp slope, the older Gault Mudstones are revealed beneath the Lower Chalk and Upper Greensand as a clay vale with irregular enclosed fields representing a largely intact late medieval and post medieval (16th century) landscape with many fields originating as woodland assarts – this area has a more 'Wealden' character. North of the clay vale is a band of Lower Greensand which give rise to locally sandy areas, which support acid grassland, bracken, gorse, woody scrub, and oak-birch woodland. This intimate mix of semi-natural habitats and agriculture creates valuable foraging and over-wintering sites for a range of bird species. Of particular ecological note is Parham Park SSSI, a medieval deer park situated on Folkestone Sands. This site comprises a mixture of woodland and parkland with areas of

lowland raised bog and alder carr. The park also contains a number of artificial ponds and ditches with marginal plant communities and has one of the richest epiphytic lichen floras in south east England. Other notable features are a diverse invertebrate fauna and one of the largest heronries in Sussex.

J.48 Typical of the *Scarp Footslopes*, springs mark the junction between the chalk and clay where a string of farmsteads and nucleated villages have developed - Springhead Farm and Washington are examples. These were once linked by an underhill lane at the scarp foot, but are now linked by the A283 to the north. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to these villages.

J.49 As in the other *Scarp Footslopes* landscapes, during the medieval period some of the richer landowners created landscape parks on the otherwise unproductive Gault Clay and Lower Greensand in this character area. Parks such as Parham (Registered Park and Garden) or Wiston Park continue to have a strong influence on the character of the *Scarp Footslopes* today, adding visual and ecological diversity and 'time depth' to the landscape. In addition to these parklands are numerous smaller manor houses, farms and mills.

J.50 This area contains a relatively low density of public rights of way – the underhill lane is now a bridleway along part of its length.

J.51 The footslopes are highly visible from the adjacent scarp such as the panoramic view from Sulllington Hill. There are views to Bramber Castle, which lies just outside the National Park east of Steyning.

Sensitivities Specific to the Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

J.52 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities
1. The historic picturesque parkland landscapes such as Parham. Parham Park SSSI is a medieval deer park of high ecological value with one of the richest epiphytic lichen floras in south east England.
2. The intact medieval and early post-medieval landscape, which contribute to the 'Wealden' character of the area.
3. Acid grassland, bracken, gorse, woody scrub, and oak-birch woodland on outcrops of sandstone to the north of the area.
4. Bramber Castle, a major landmark on the edge of the *Adur Floodplain,* outside the National Park.
5. The footslopes are high visible from the adjacent scarp which increases their visual sensitivity,

Change Specific to the Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

J.53 In addition to the changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area are set out in the table below:

Forces for Change
1. The further restoration of conifer plantations on ancient woodlands to native species is a potential positive change in character and biodiversity.
2. Upgrades to roads including the A283, which runs along the northern boundary, and the A24 which cut through the area. This could increase traffic and noise, therefore reducing tranquillity.
3. A continued increase in fields being used as paddocks and the introduction of equestrian facilities including stables and lighting could continue to erode the rural character of the *Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes*, due to the proximity of larger settlements.
4. Pressure for development outside the National Park boundary particularly incremental built development around larger urban settlements, such as Steyning and Storington and sand extraction.

Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

J.54 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:

a. Conserve the intact medieval and post-medieval landscape, particularly the fields originating as woodland assarts which contribute to the 'Wealden' character of the area.

b. Conserve the historic picturesque parkland landscapes such as Parham - encourage reversion of arable to pasture in these landscapes.

c. Conserve the mosaic of acid grassland, bracken, gorse, woody scrub, and oak-birch woodland on outcrops of sandstone to the north of the area and support the restoration of conifer plantations to native species.

J.55 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

a. Use planting (e.g. broadleaved woodland) to mitigate the visual impact of existing intrusive features, including those outside the National Park boundary.

b. Seek to minimise use of excessive lighting, signage and 'suburban' features on the edge of adjacent settlements e.g. Steyning and Storington.

c. Encourage sensitive integration of fencing, tracks, hardstanding, jumps that are associated with hobby farms or private stables and that fall outside planning control.

d. Take account of views from the adjacent scarps to the south in relation to any change, such as panoramic views from Sullington Hill. Preserve views to major landmarks such as Bramber Castle. Refer to guidance in the View Characterisaton and Analysis report[5].

[5] LUC 2015 South Downs National Park Authority View Characterisation and Analysis - Views 34