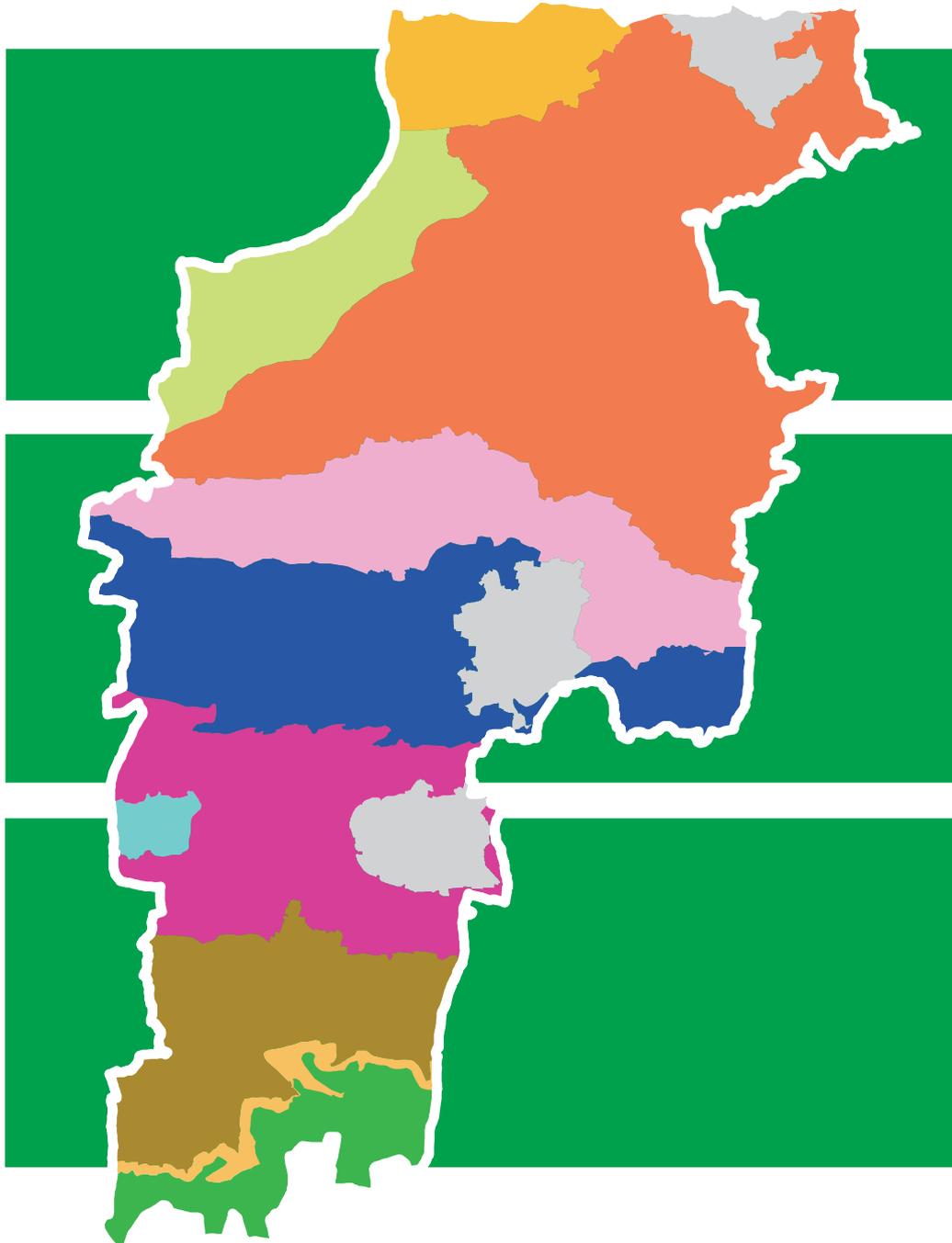


A LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT FOR MID SUSSEX



November 2005



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Mid Sussex District Council

November 2005

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Eastern Downs (Sheet SD6)

Upper Adur Valley (Sheet LW9)

Eastern Low Weald (Sheet LW10)

Eastern Scarp Footslopes (Sheet LW11)

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Foreword

The quality and diversity of the Mid Sussex landscape is one of the District's greatest assets. In preparing this Landscape Character Assessment, the District Council recognises this. The enhancement and protection of character and sense of place is an important element in current District Council policies and programmes concerning planning, land management and the environment. It will continue to be the subject of appropriate policies and actions arising from the forthcoming District Local Development Framework.

The landscape in Mid Sussex is going through a period of considerable change due to climatic, economic and other pressures. It is therefore vitally important that the District Council has a clear vision to guide effort designed to protect, conserve and enhance the landscape. Working with other agencies with similar aims will be essential. The District Council therefore commends the Assessment as a framework for guiding co-ordinated action in Mid Sussex for the years to come.

The Assessment was developed in consultation with stakeholder interests. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who contributed, including local authority and AONB partners.

Gordon Marples

Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

A GUIDE TO USING THIS ASSESSMENT

The Assessment document is laid out in sections as follows:

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

This Part introduces the Assessment, focusing on the importance of landscape character; the planning context; the purpose of the Assessment; and its relationship with other, similar studies. It describes the technical approach and methodology followed.

PART TWO: THE MID SUSSEX LANDSCAPE

Containing map illustrations, this Part describes the physical landscape of the District (geology, landform, soils and ecology). It contains a section on the historic landscape including how it has changed over time. It considers Forces for Change in the landscape and concludes with a brief section on monitoring, indicators and targets and avenues for further research.

PART THREE: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

This part describes the ten Landscape Character Areas defined in the District. The descriptions are followed by an evaluation based on key issues for change and landscape and visual sensitivities. The evaluation concludes with a management objective and land management guidelines for each area.

PART FOUR: LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

This part contains eight *Land Management Guidelines* sheets covering the locally distinctive landscapes within the District. The sheets have been prepared by West Sussex County Council in association with the District Council.

APPENDICES

The Assessment concludes with seven appendices containing background information:

Planning and land management policy background.

Relevant policies in the *Mid Sussex Local Plan (2004)*.

The means of implementing landscape restoration and biodiversity work.

Details of the Stakeholder Workshop held to discuss the draft Assessment.

Cultural perceptions of the South Downs and High Weald landscapes.

Indicative Tree Planting Guide for different areas of the District.

Background Documents used in compiling the Assessment.