

The Parish of PADDOCK WOOD

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION REVISION OF KENT HLC (2000)



February 2017

THE REVISION OF THE KENT HLC

FOR

**THE BOROUGH
OF
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

Summary Report
Parish of Paddock Wood

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Landscape History & Conservation

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The parish summary should be read in conjunction with the Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape characterisation Report (Section I User Guide and Interpretation; Section II The Gazetteer of HLC Types and Section III the Maps). June 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The revised Historic Landscape Characterisation for the Borough of Tunbridge Wells could not have been undertaken without the dedicated support of David Scully, Landscape and Biodiversity Officer at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and also Lis Dyson County Archaeologists at Kent County Council. The Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Landscape Characterisation builds on the project begun by the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [AONB] Partnership. This work could not have been undertaken without the help of Paul Cuming Kent Historic Environment Records Manager and Richard Dadd GIS Technician at Kent County Council. A 'Thank you' is extended to all. Appreciation and thanks also goes to the team at the High Weald AONB Partnership especially Sally Marsh, Co-Director, Charles Winchester Landscape Researcher and Matt Pitts Land Manager Adviser.

My colleague Phil Sansum kindly undertook the processing of the missing Tithe maps for the Borough for which I am very grateful.

The views expressed in this report are entirely the author's own and do not reflect the policies of neither Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council nor the High Weald AONB.

PERIOD TABLE

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

The Archaeological and Historical Periods used in the Sussex HLC & Revised Kent HLC

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

**Summary Assessment of the Historic Landscape Characterisation
for the parish of Paddock Wood
Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells**

1. Introduction

Historic Landscape Characterisation [HLC] is a process by which the landscape of an area is interpreted and mapped by selected historic attributes which contribute to the local historic character. The dominant historic attributes are that of enclosure and settlement. The pattern of fields, the nature of the boundaries, the form and distribution of historic settlement shape the local character and distinctiveness of a given area. The term ‘historic landscapes’ means in this context all landscapes which have been shaped by human interaction. HLC maps character not land use though with finer grained HLCs for some of the historic types reflect the use of the land. It can be likened to a fine water-colour painting which despite using OSMM as its base does result in some ‘blurred’ boundaries between character types at the very detailed field by field level. HLC is a starting point when investigating the historic landscape for any given area, however it is not a substitute for detailed desk-based assessments and field observations.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation for Paddock Wood forms part of a district wide revision of the Kent HLC (2000). Four parishes in the east of the district have been completed on behalf of the High Weald AONB (Goudhurst, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook & Benenden) and the remaining parishes are being undertaken as part of a rolling programme of phased characterisation for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. As each parish is completed a short analysis is presented. The parishes will then be grouped up to form the district-wide HLC. The sequence of characterisation has been prioritised to provide firstly information on those parishes close to the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells, and secondly to complete the wider countryside of the borough. The centre of the built-up area of the town has been omitted as the priority is to characterise the historic landscape of the rural parts of the borough.

This report sets out a summary of the some of the results for the civil parish of Paddock Wood A Methods Report [Draft] together with a Gazetteer of Typologies and attributes has been prepared for the end of the first phase of this revision (end of September 2016). Phase 2 (Frittenden, Capel, Horsmonden and Brenchley) was completed at the end of December 2016. The third phase for the remaining parishes (Bidborough, Lamberhurst, Paddock Wood and Sandhurst) commenced in January 2017 for completion at the end of March 2017. At the end a summary report for the Tunbridge Wells Borough HLC will be prepared.

2. Historic context of parish of Paddock Wood

The modern parish of Paddock Wood centred on the railway line and station has been created from the northern part of the historic ecclesiastical parish of Brenchley. As Hasted describes in the 18th century, Brenchley is a large parish of being “*upwards of four miles from north to south, and about three in width*” (Hasted 1797 V p281). There are two main centres of settlement that of Brenchley itself and to the west that of Matfield Green, which as its name indicates has grown up around an area of common or green.

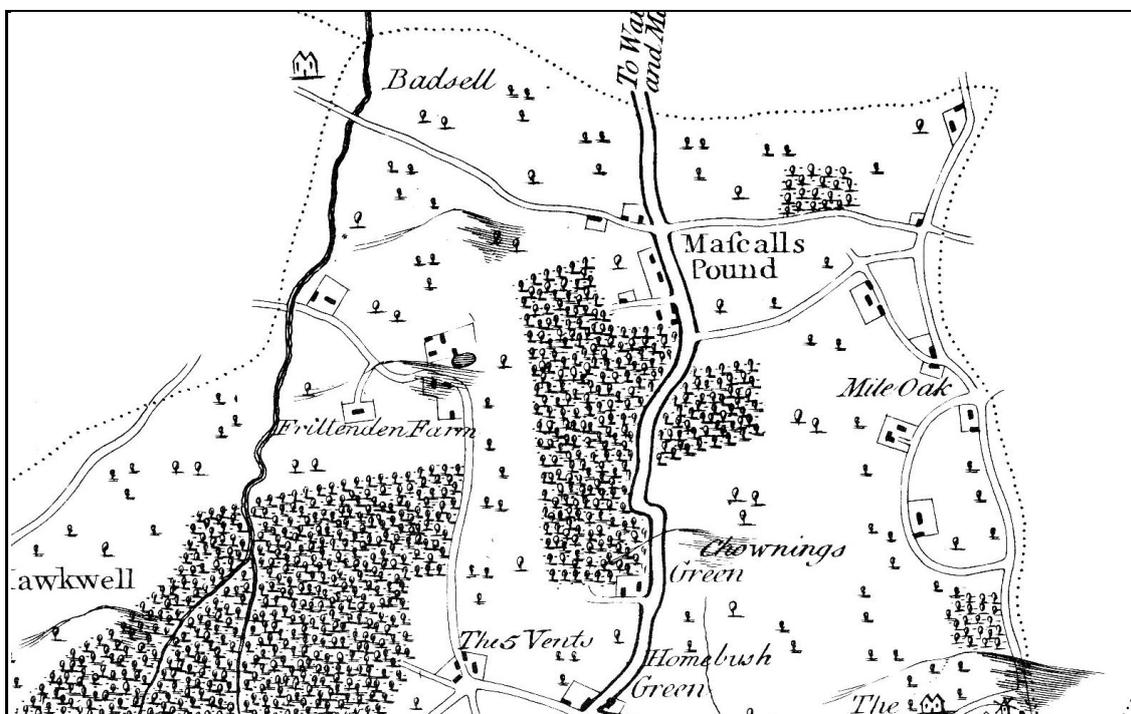
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Paddock Wood lies across the boundary of the Hundred of Brenchley and Horsmonden and that of the Hundred of Twyford and is shown on Hasted's maps of that hundred as a large area of woodland, divided by the north-south drove way route from Maidstone in to the Weald.

The parish lies within the valley of the River Medway and comprises gently undulating land with small streams flowing in a general north easterly direction towards the River Medway. The western boundary is marked by the valley of the Tudley Brook and its tributaries. The historical importance of this main north south route through Paddock Wood as a main drove is indicated by the number of greens present in the late 18th century – Belstrum Green to the north of Paddock Wood, Fouling Green, Rowden or (alias Rhoaden Green) and Mascalls Pound are all places which probably originated in the early medieval period as areas for holding stock overnight. The practice of holding stock is repeated in the 19th century when the station at Paddock Wood had a cattle sale ring and market place for loading stock on to trains bound for the Smithfield market in London.

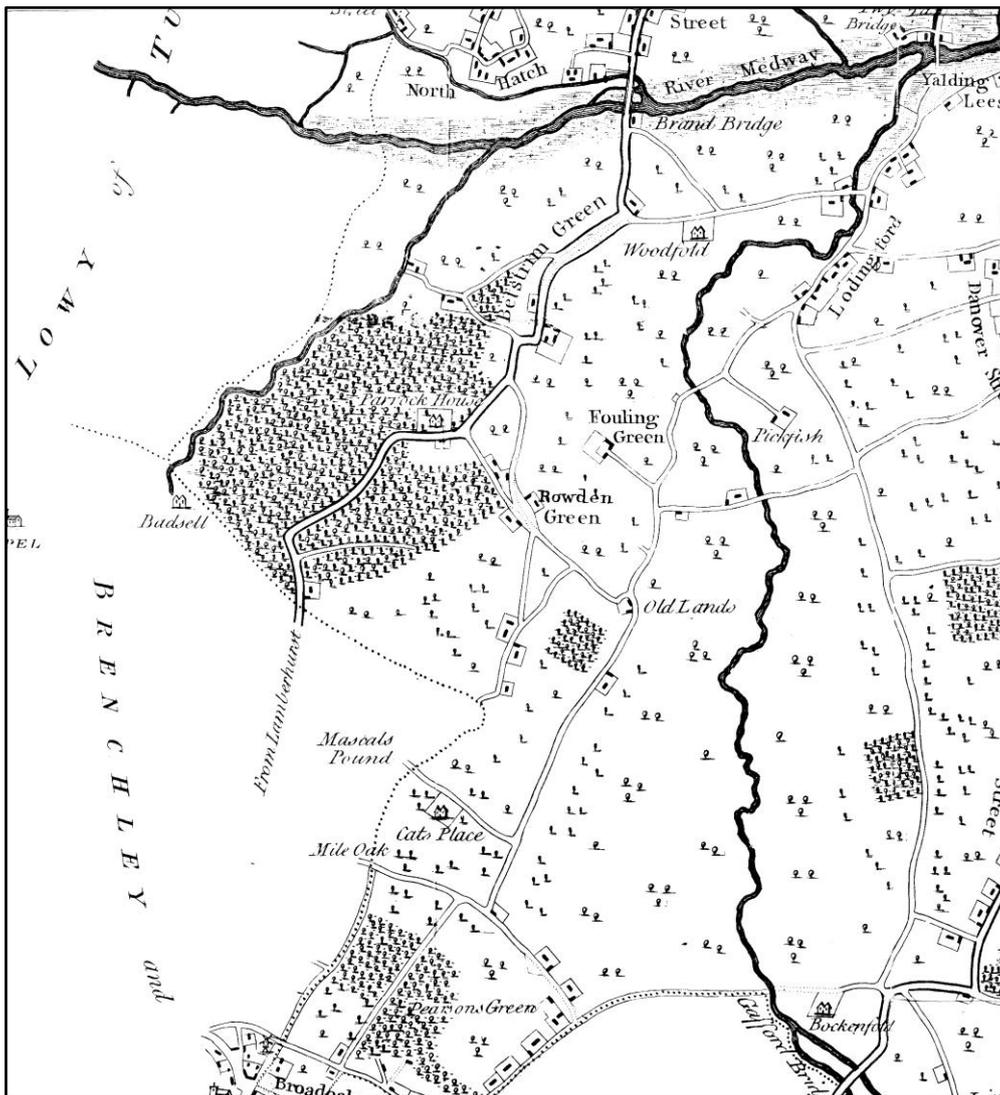
The underlying geology is dominated by Weald Clay in the east of the parish and Brickearth with River Terrace Gravels to the west. The Brickearth was exploited in two areas at Paddock Wood for the production of bricks tiles etc. The sites have now been built over.

This account of the historic landscape of Paddock Wood should be read in conjunction with that for the parish of Brenchley.



Extract from Hasted Hundred of Brenchley and Horsmonden (1797) showing the southern edge of Paddock Wood

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Extract from Hasted (1797) Hundred of Tywford

Paddock Wood is located on the edge of the Low Weald and the edge of the Wealden historic swine pasturage area, where the High Weald joins with the low meadow lands of the valley of the Medway. The historic settlement pattern together with place-name evidence preserves this wood-pasture and wooded landscape origins.

After AD 450 with the coming and settling in Kent of the Saxons the Weald was divided into large 'commons' attached to large agricultural estates in north and east Kent. Kent was carved up to utilise large swathes of the landscape. These estates became the lathes the territories of which spread into the Weald to lay claim to the woodland and grazing pastures. These commons were used for seasonal grazing but were gradually broken up into dens or swine pastures attached to the evolving manors located in the north and east on the demesne and farmed land. Eventually temporary settlements in the dens became permanent farmsteads taking their names from the 'dens' and the settlers enclosed land and laid out fields from the swine pastures in order to cultivate crops and keep stock. The area of Brenchley lay in the large and powerful lathe of Aylesford dominated by manors such as

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Yalding claiming extensive grazing pastures across this area of higher ground into the Weald. the area around Paddock Wood was probably one where the break-up of the Lathe common into manorial dens took place quite early one as indicated by the frequency of place-names derived from *gisella* meaning wooden shelters (Witney 1976,114). These names are typical of the transitional period between 8th century and 10th century; names such as Badsell and Catts Place (alias Cryalls). These alluvial river terrace lands were occupied by early settlers not just because of the fertility of the soils but also due to the ease of accessibility to the 'Medway gate' to north Kent (ibid p116). These were also lands where the land values were high but where the pannage dues say to the Church of Rochester (whose dens lay around Paddock Wood) were considerably low (ibid p101). The north-south route through Paddock Wood and Brenchley was a probably a prehistoric iron way from Sights Camp to Saxonbury Camp (ibid p191).

Due to the location of the historic parish of Brenchley on the edge of the Weald the dens and settlement along the drove ways are possibly much earlier in origin than those deeper into the Weald developing as colonisation spread. The names of Crittenden and Bigginden preserve root origins of folk-names or *ingas* = the settlement belong to the people of? Witney also records that of the 130 dens recorded in pre-Conquest Anglo-Saxon Charters five had names indicating prior habitation one of which was Crittenden alias *Witheringefalodsto-gafol* AD 942 (Witney 1976, p112). *Gafol* means 'land paying rent'. These two places survive as farmsteads in the northern part of the parish close to the edge of the low lands of the Medway and close to north-south routes through Brenchley. Crittenden belonged to the Church of Rochester as part of their large manor of West Malling (Sawyer 1968, no 514). Bigginden was a den belonging to the Manor of Frindsbury also belonging to the Church of Rochester (Sawyer 1968, no 33 & 105).

The Clares of Tonbridge held sway over part of the parish with their over-lordship of the large manor of Yalding on the River Medway. Brenchley itself, together with Parrock (alias Park Farm and Knells Farm), Mascalls and Copt Grove alias Chekesell, Catts Place alias Cryalls and Tong were dens which belonged to this manor. Old Tong Farm is located on a ridge of high ground in the south of the parish and takes its name from *OE tang* meaning tongue which describes the north-east south west orientated land form. The topographic alignment of the high ground and valleys provides an underlying 'grain' or pattern to the southern part of the parish. Brenchley itself is located on higher ground and late medieval and early post-medieval hamlets grew up around small greens such as at Matfield.

Edward Hasted in 1797 describes the landscape of the historic parish Brenchley as being heavily wooded especially around the edges, with old-fashioned timber farmsteads sited around small forstals and greens, with wide verged and green-swarded bye roads, deep and miry in winter (Hasted 1797 V p281). The wood at Paddock alias Parrock was a large swathe of coppices straddling the main drove road from Maidstone into the Weald. Hasted is describing a medieval landscape which had remained relatively unaltered for centuries. However by the beginning of the 19th century top fruit, orchards and hop grounds were being laid out across the parish, sweeping away the woodland. The coming of the railway provided a transport system whereby fresh fruit could be delivered to markets in London and further afield. Large groups of medieval and early post-medieval field systems were swept away as regular-shaped orchards were established.

Paddock Wood is an example of a 19th century settlement which centred on the railway and a main junction between routes north and routes east-west. The suitable soils together with the transport links made it a centre for fruit and hop growing for the London markets and beyond. The station was close to the railway junction. The ancient coppices of Paddock or Parrock Wood were clear felled with much of the land enclosed to orchard growing (see the front's piece in Brandon 2003, vi). In the mid to late 20th century many orchards were cleared and settlement rapidly expanded with larger planned estates aimed at the London commuters. In addition several areas of light industrial units expanded across the former orchards to the north and east of the main areas of domestic settlement.

3. Results of the revised HLC for the parish of Paddock Wood

Some examples of the digitising of Paddock Wood parish as part of the wider revised HLC for the borough of Tunbridge Wells are presented in the map extracts on the following pages. The first phase and second phases of this project have been completed (December 2016). Paddock Wood is the second of the Phase 3 parishes (Bidborough completed) leaving Lamberhurst and Sandhurst to be digitised. Only a brief analysis of the HLC attributes is presented here and should be looked at in conjunction with that for Brenchley and Matfield. The HLC has been split into its main period and type component attributes, but by applying the different style sheets it is possible to show the various attributes for the present day HLC, as well as a conjectured image of what the historic character of the late medieval and early-post-medieval landscape might have looked like. The blank areas around the edge of the parish have been digitised as part of the adjacent parishes. Once all the parishes have been joined together these areas will be covered.

3.1 The Phase 1 Kent HLC

Map 1 shows the broad HLC type for the Kent Phase 1 for the civil parish of Paddock Wood. The Kent was one of the earliest HLCs to be undertaken in England and was produced using a very broad-brush approach to characterisation. The broad character areas of Paddock Wood can clearly be seen. Remains of the 19th century and early 20th century horticulture industry survives in the north and south of the main settlement with fields to the east. Woodland and coppices once common is today very rare. Valley fields along the edge of the Medway valley are also shown.

3.2 The Revised Kent HLC for Tunbridge Wells Borough – Paddock Wood

Map 2 shows the broad HLC type for the revised Kent HLC for Tunbridge Wells Borough. The finer-grained approach to the data capture can clearly be seen for example with the scattered settlements across the area. More areas of smaller pieces of woodland have been identified scattered through the fields. The revised HLC highlights the survival of orchards across the parish. Since the Kent 2000 HLC new industrial development has taken place with the establishment of a solar farm in the middle of the parish as well as a large area of artificial ponds and lakes near Catts Place. Settlement has expanded south of the railway with industrial development to the north. The ribbon settlement in the east of the parish near Rhoden Green is shown intermixed with fields compared with broader brush approach of blocks of settlement on the previous map.

3.3. The HLC Types for present day landscape of Paddock Wood

Map 3 shows the HLC types for Paddock Wood. Immediately it can be seen that large parts of the parish are dominated by modern field amalgamation which can be associated with particular farmsteads such as Knells and Park Farms to the east of Paddock Wood itself. The loss of so many boundaries is the result of modern farming techniques dating from the mid-19th century. Field enlargement coincided with both the development and installation of clay land drains and the laying out of the railway. The main land use change however was the development of orchards, which are still such a strong landscape feature today. The installation of land drains was easier in larger fields and these new layouts were suitable for the planting up of extensive orchards. The laying out of modern orchards in the early 20th century and their subsequent grubbing in the late 20th century has resulted in large areas of the parish undergoing significant landscape change since the late post-medieval period. This can be seen in Map 7. Many of the older orchards are laid out within the existing field patterns, thus preserving the pattern and field boundaries. Historic field systems pre-dating the orchard growing are rare in this parish. Formal planned fields occur across the parish and represent post-medieval field re-organisation of the earlier medieval field pattern and could be strongly associated with the number of 19th century farmsteads such as New Barn Farm. There is very little of the medieval landscape surviving in or around Paddock Wood, except perhaps where it abuts the present parish of Brenchley at Mascalls Pound and Foal Wood.

Modern paddocks are a feature around settlement, together with the larger designed (or laid out) gardens associated with converted farmsteads or larger detached country properties. Pockets of regenerated woodland occur where fields and orchards have been abandoned.

Hop growing was an extensive land use and dominated the early 19th century character. These were difficult to identify on the 1940 RAF AP and the limit on time meant that a systematic search of the Tithe map schedules was not undertaken. Thus some of the areas identified as orchards may have been hop gardens.

3.4 The Time-depth and antiquity of the present landscape of Paddock Wood

Map 4 shows the projected period of origin for each historic character type in the present landscape of Paddock Wood based on the historic map evidence and understanding of the Kent landscape. Essentially Paddock Wood is a landscape dominated by early modern and 20th century historic character under-pinned by the medieval structure of routeways, and historic settlement in the form of medieval farmsteads. Sixteen years on from the Kent Phase 1 HLC in 2000 has revealed a landscape where extensive areas of orchards have been converted to arable lands, or fields have been used for solar farms or the creation of artificial lakes.

Elements of that past historic landscape character still may survive within the present landscape, for example some of the field boundaries for the older field systems in the areas of modern field amalgamation or orchards. These boundaries are also the remnants of the older parishes, manors, and farmsteads. Some also survive in the edges of settlements – the eastern edge of the core area of Paddock Wood town itself is the former edge of the ancient woodland. The edges of planned estates often correspond to the edge of particular field or group of fields.

3.5 Analysis of different character types

Map 5 shows only the HLC broad type for Enclosures or Field patterns by HLC type for Paddock Wood. This is an example of how the HLC can be queried in order to assess the different historic character types. The rural landscape is dominated by the patterns of enclosures and it can be seen that middle of Paddock Wood is dominated by modern field amalgamation and smaller paddocks, the result of the railway, agricultural improvements and changes in cropping regimes in the modern era. The areas of modern field amalgamation occur on the lower ground close to the valley of the Medway where the soils and topography enabled changes and improvements in cultivation techniques to take place. The modern fields are also closely associated with areas of abandoned fruit growing. To the east are fragments of formal planned fields intermixed with areas of modern paddocks. The formal planned fields appear to be associated with 19th century farms or reorganisation of older fields such as at Great Old Hay.

Map 6 gives an indication of this where the same polygons have been illustrated by the Boundary type attribute. Immediately the River Medway valley can be identified by the fields bounded by ditches and these are fields where many boundaries have been removed. The boundaries formed of hedges occur across the south east of the parish, whilst fences are associated with areas of paddocks.

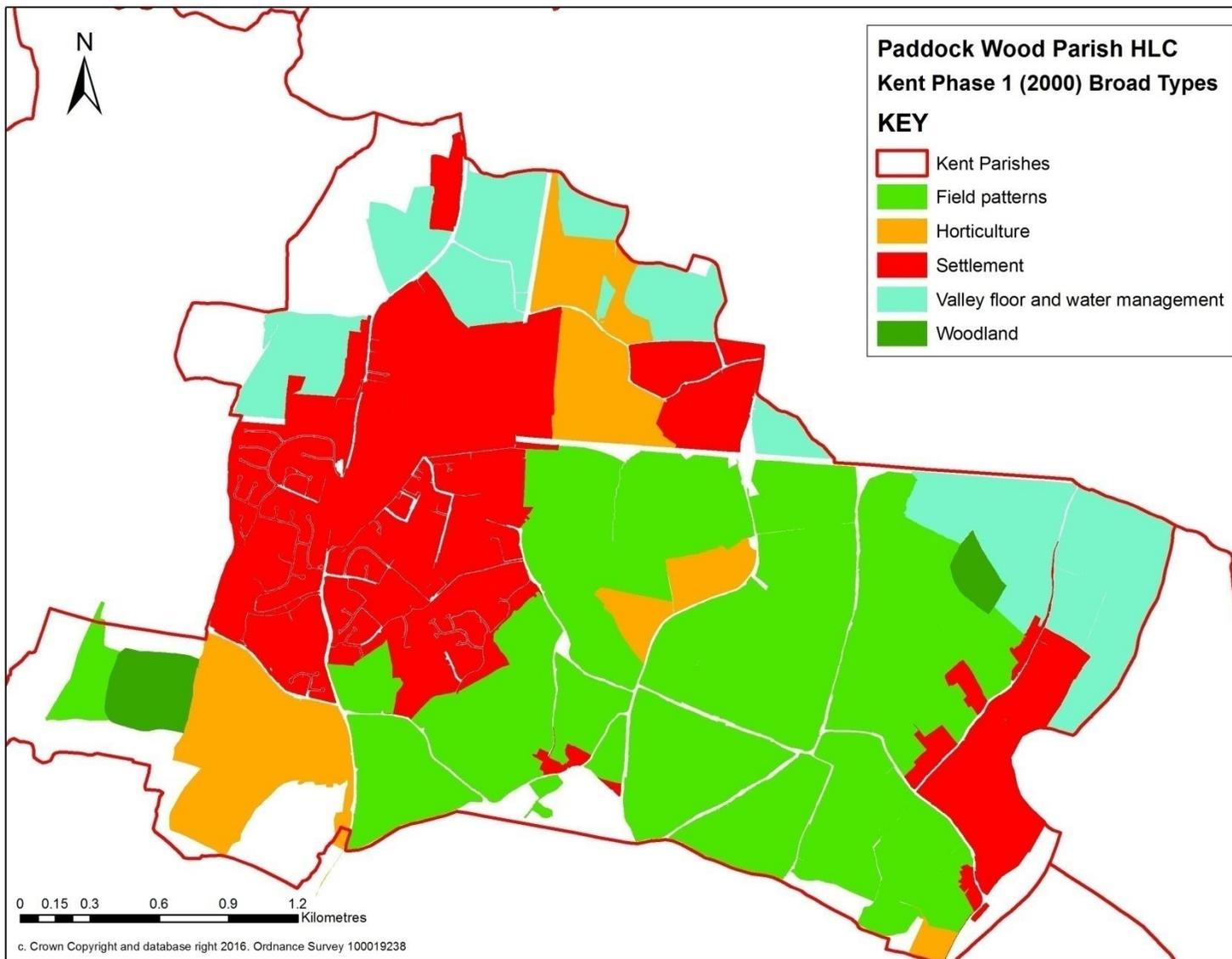
3.6. The conjectured medieval and early post-medieval landscape of Paddock Wood

Map 7 is a composite map of the present HLC overlain with those polygons where the previous historic character can be identified from the historic mapping. Each time there is a character change as shown by the historic maps (up to 4 changes recorded in the GIS attribute table as Prev1 to Prev 4) this has been captured in the data base. The result is that this map gives an indication of what the landscape may have appeared like c.1500-1600, when much the medieval features would still have been intact.

This is the landscape that Hasted describes being wooded, especially around the skirts, giving it a gloomy aspect due to the woods and the numerous spreading oaks. These oaks would have occupied the wooded shaws and hedges of the medieval field pattern which is indicated by the dominance of cohesive (or semi-planned assart fields) around the area of Paddock Wood itself. Many of the ancient woods and gills have been removed from the middle of the parish and this map shows their extent in the late-medieval and early post-medieval period.

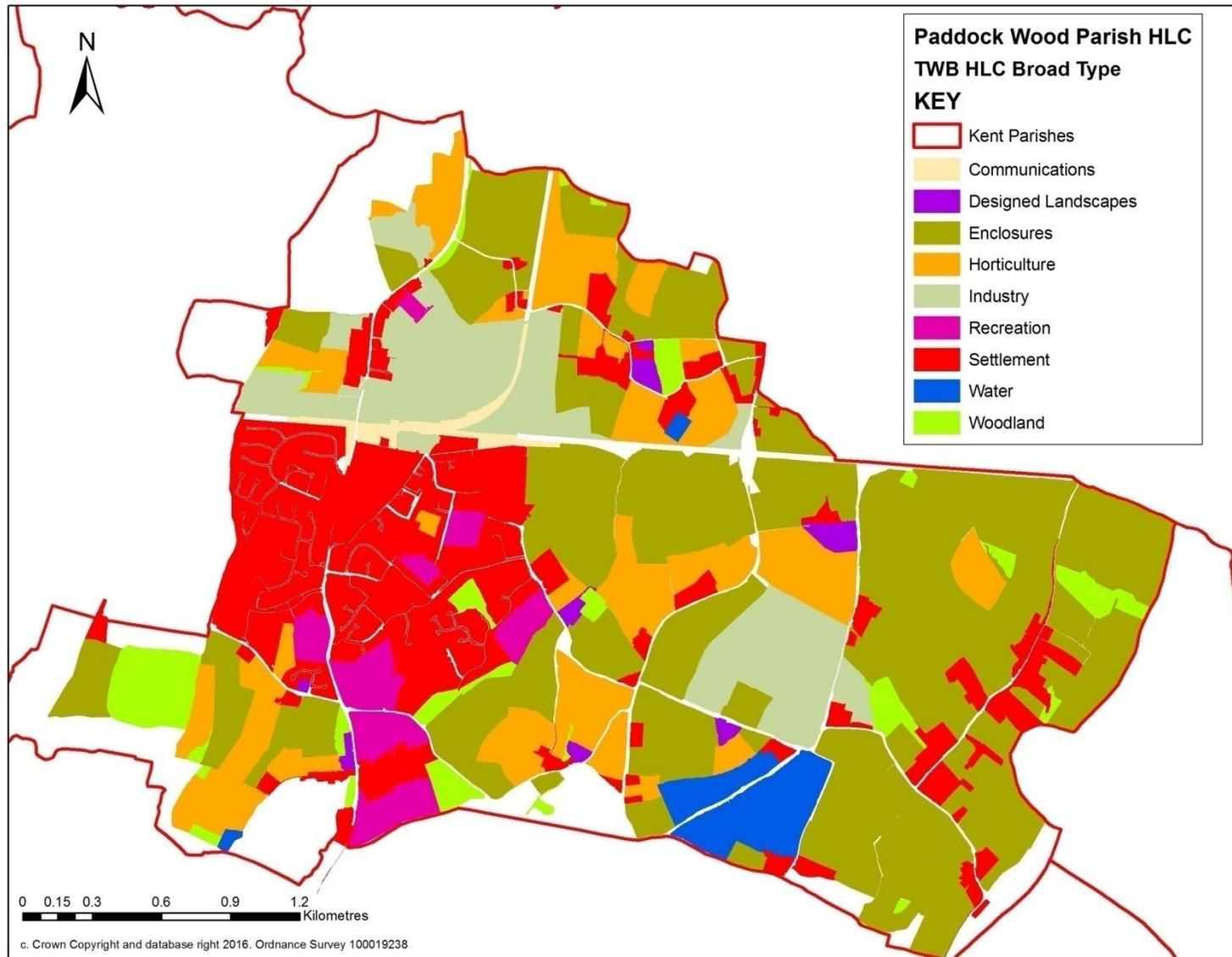
Formal planned fields and Regular informal fields dominate the area to the east of the ancient wooded area of Paddock Wood. These coincide with historic settlements which place-names suggesting early settlement of the swine pasture dens to farm land as described by Witney (1976). The origins and antiquity of the regular informal fields is difficult to assess, but these fields could date from the early post-medieval due to field re-organisation or may even be late-medieval in date.

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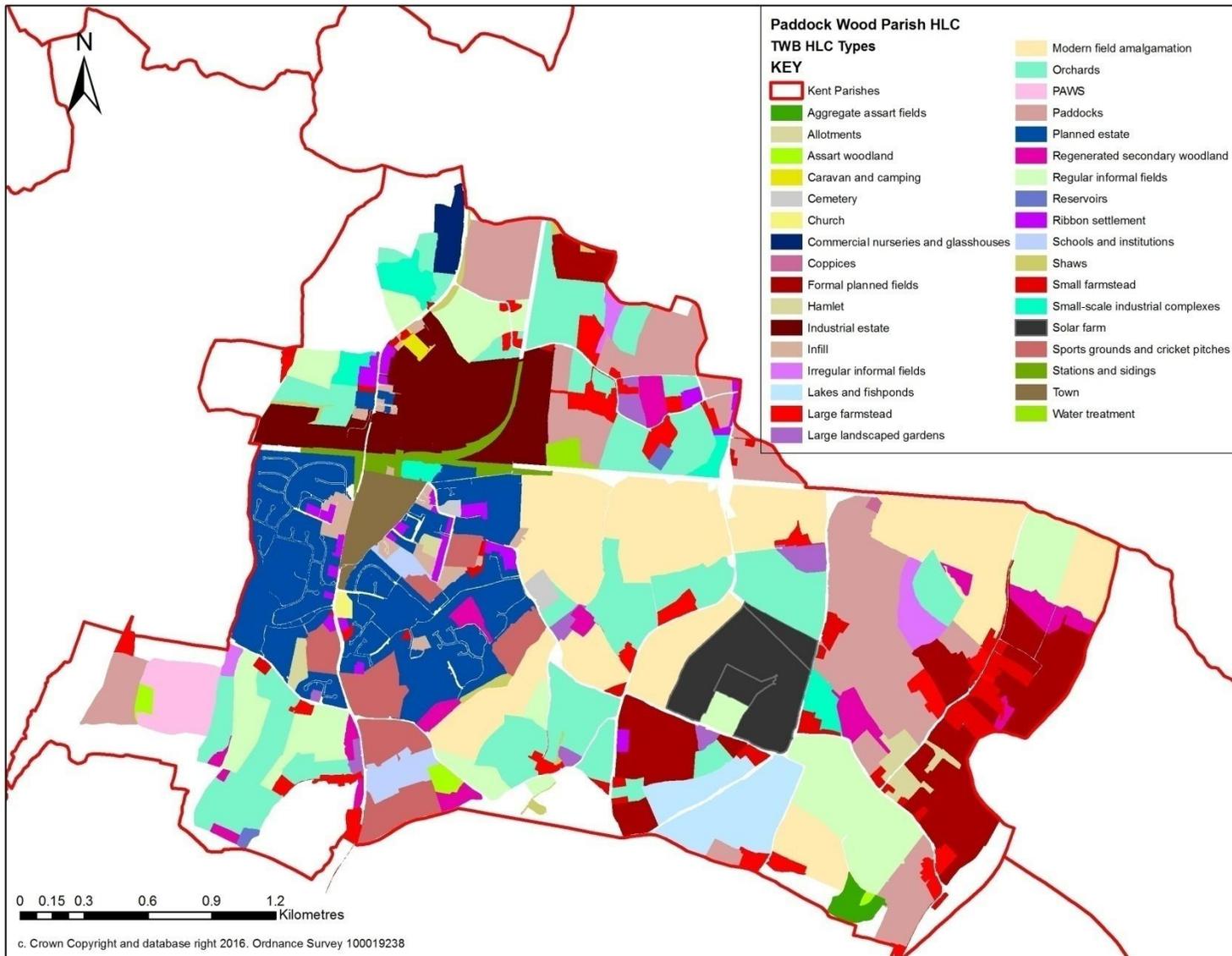
MAP 1

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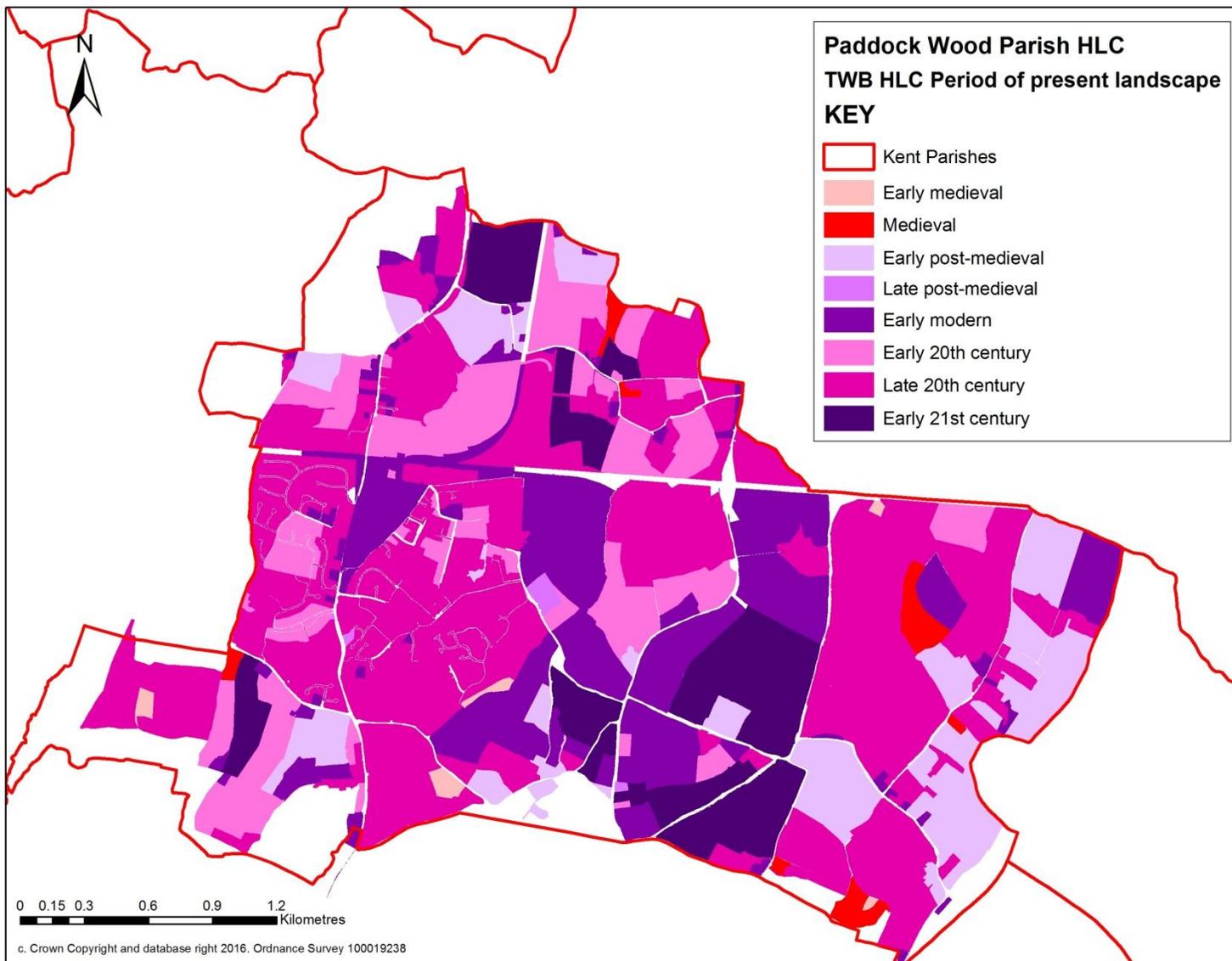
MAP 2

**BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
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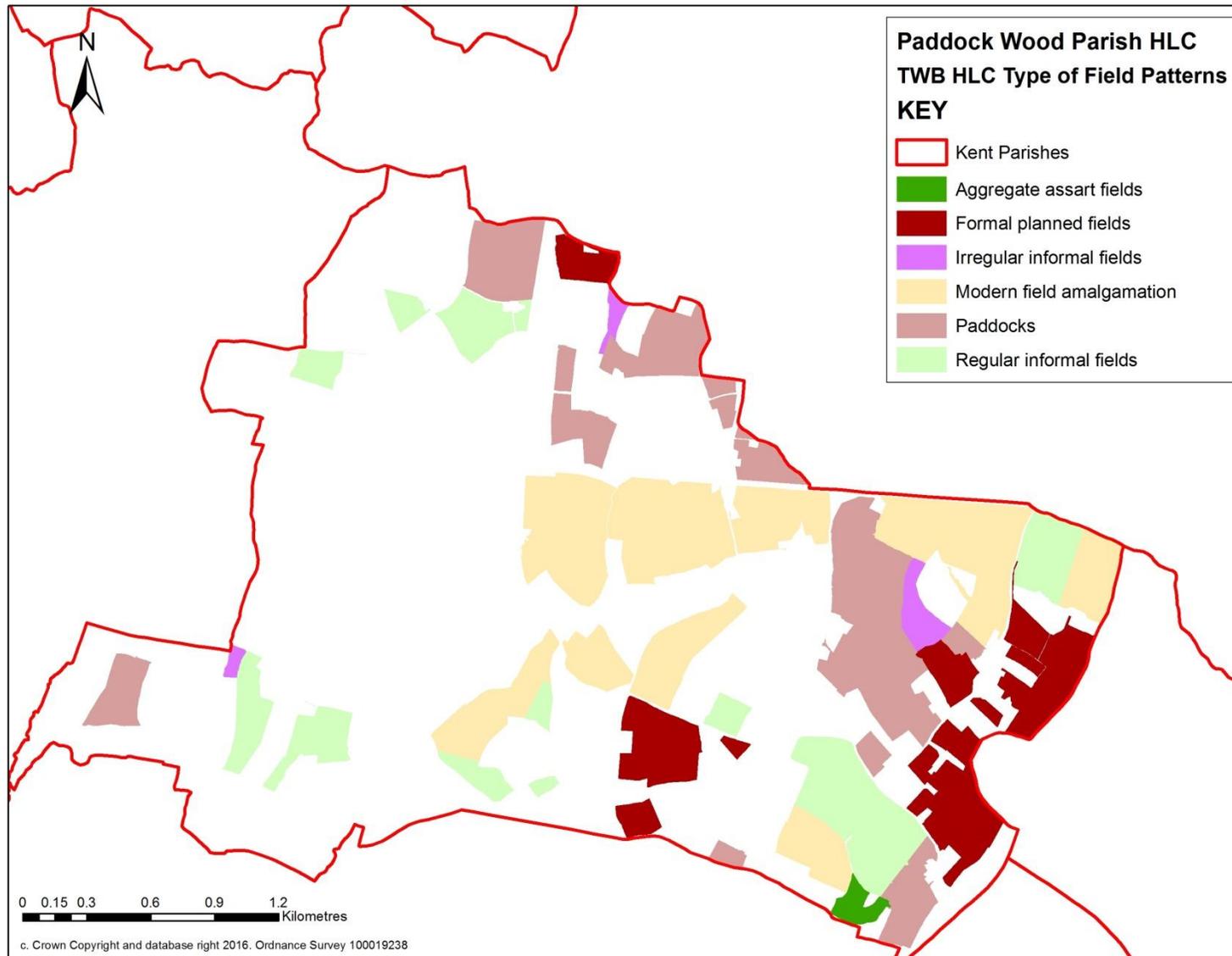
Map 3

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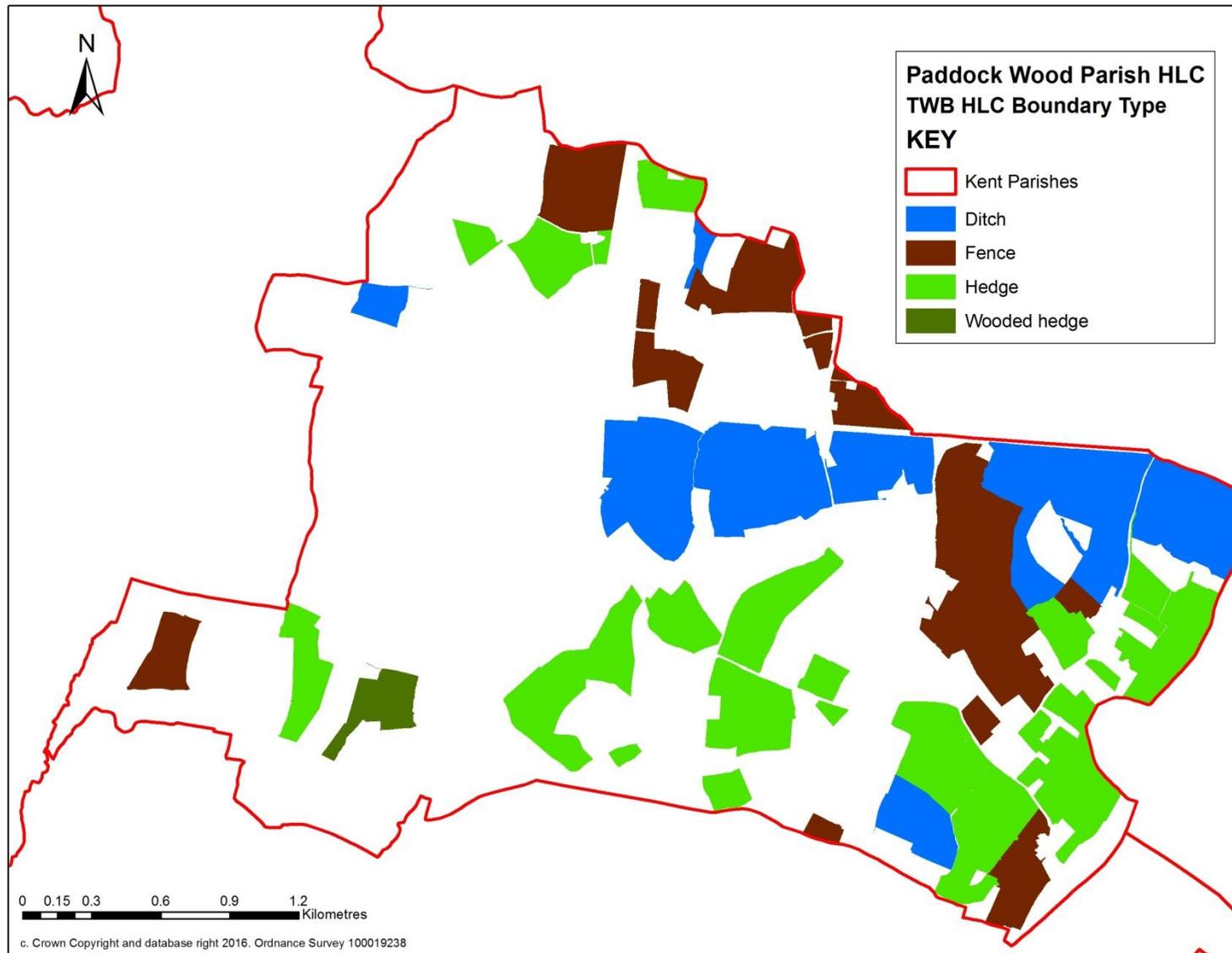
MAP 4

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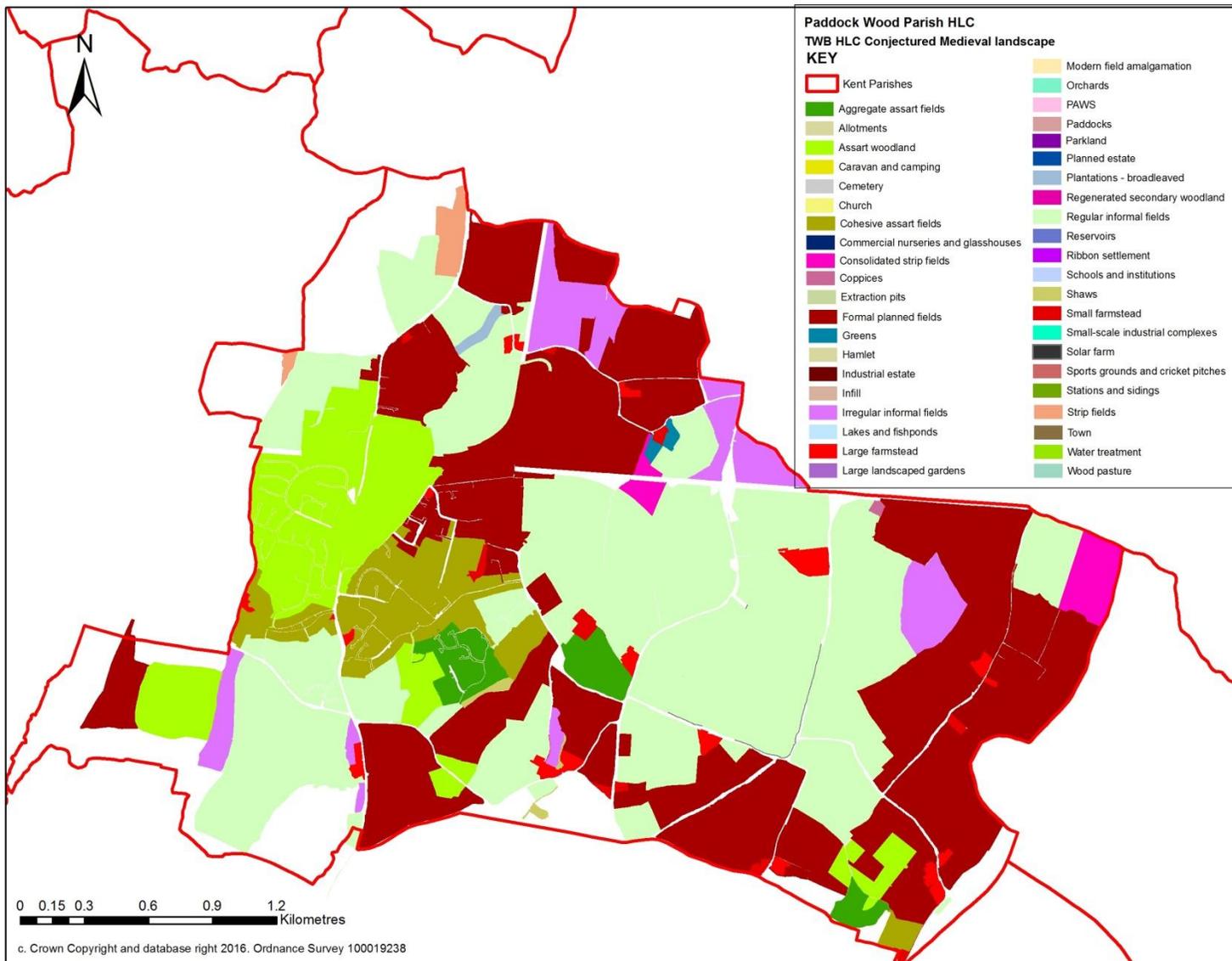
MAP 5

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MAP 6

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MAP 7

4. Initial Conclusions

This analysis only touches on the potential of HLC to understand the historic character of the landscape and provides the starting point for research for any given area. The HLC reveals that the landscape of Paddock Wood carved from the historic parish of Brenchley is essentially one with a post-medieval character which is under-pinned by the medieval origins in its layout. The historic character of Paddock Wood reflects both the ancient landscapes (antiquity) and the modern landscapes (time-depth). The changes in the 19th century and 20th century with the development and then gradual decline in orchards growing are shown across the whole of the parish but the underlying structure of remaining field boundaries, old routeways (lanes and paths) and the dispersed nature of the historic settlement is still present and can be identified here. Paddock Wood as a part of Brenchley is a parish with considerable recorded medieval history, which in turn can still be identified on the ground through the survival of historic landscape features. The fragmented field patterns which still survive are evidence of how the landscape was farmed in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Paddock Wood is an area of considerable time-depth, where the landscape has undergone several cycles of change. Evidence for the medieval landscape survives in the routeways, older settlement, ancient boundaries and place-names.

Far more research is needed to understand the different process of enclosure in the Weald of Kent, especially in the understanding the medieval settlement and expansion. Further research is needed on the division of land with their farmsteads into yokes, yardlands, sulungs, virgates etc. and interpreting medieval manorial surveys with the actual territories in the landscape.

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