

The Parish of LAMBERHURST

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

REVISION OF KENT HLC (2000)



March 2017

THE REVISION OF THE KENT HLC

FOR

**THE BOROUGH
OF
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

Summary Report
Parish of Lamberhurst

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	04
Period Table	04
1. Introduction	05
2. Historic context of the parish of Lamberhurst	05
3. Results of the revised HLC for the parish of Lamberhurst	09
3.1. The Phase 1 Kent HLC 2000	09
3.2. The revised Kent HLC for Tunbridge Wells Borough – Lamberhurst	09
3.3. The HLC Types for the present day landscape of Lamberhurst	09
3.4. The Time-depth and antiquity of the present landscape of Lamberhurst	10
3.5. The analysis of different character types	10
3.6. The conjectured medieval and early post-medieval landscape	11
MAPS	12
4. Initial Conclusions	19
References	20
Additional Bibliography	20

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.

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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 Lamberhurst
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 Lamberhurst 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 Lamberhurst. 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 Lamberhurst

The parish is bisected by the River Teise which flows west to east in the northern part and the River Bewl which flows south west to north east to join with the Teise at Finchcocks. Between and ridges of higher ground partially bisected by smaller streams which flow into these rivers. At the south east corner the landscape has been altered by the construction of the Bewl Reservoir in the 1970s. It is a heavily wooded parish especially in the west, which forms a larger part of the Bayham Abbey Estate. The A21 probably originated as one of the ancient ironways running from the coast towards the crossing of the River Medway at Tunbridge

The underlying geology forms two distinct areas. To the north of the River Teise is Wadhurst clay with Ashdown Beds exposed in the valleys and also extended to Spray Hail and Scotney where the sandstone was quarried to build Scotney Castle. To the south Tunbridge Wells Sand dominates with areas of inter-bedded clay. Within the river valleys is alluvium. The ironstone in the Wadhurst Clay together with the source of water in the Teise enabled furnaces to develop, such as at Bayham and Furnace Farm south of Lamberhurst village.

Hasted describes the part on the northern side of the River Teise as a '*continued hill and dale, the soil near the village is sand, but most of it is a very stiff clay, especially in the large tracts of coppice wood, which extend over a greater part of this parish*' (Hasted 1797 V 294). He describes the woods as *being mostly oak coppice, sometimes through rarely intermixed with hazel, and interspersed with oak trees, which are much fewer in them than formerly, owing to the great increase in the price of timber, and the consumption made of them for the furnaces.* (Ibid p295). Many of these woods were planted to Sweet chestnut in the C19 for hop poles.

Lamberhurst is traversed by at least two iron ways as identified by Witney, one linking Sights Camp to Saxonbury Camp in Sussex, which traversed through Bayham following the ridge top. The second was from Castle Toll Camp close to the River Rother to Castle Hill near Tonbridge, which also followed the ridge tops, the only break where the route crosses the Teise at Lamberhurst.

Archaeological field walking in the parish has recorded a significant presence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity by the presence of flint artefacts recovered from the plough soil. The concentration (may reflect where the survey was directed) but the Historic Environment Record shows the finds lying to the west of the village but more interestingly following the line of the ridge top routes and lands reaching down towards the River Teise.

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.

Much of the territory of the borough of Tunbridge Wells lies at the end of the Saxon commons or lathes which extended westwards from the parent manors in the north and east of the county. The main line of expansion initially followed the old ironways but as new grazing pastures were developed so the network of droves evolved creating the road, lane and footpath network seen today. The drive to claim territory for grazing pastures was slowing down as it extended west possible due to the long distance from these parent manors. Of all the parishes in the borough the history of Lamberhurst reveals this gradual termination of the Kentish commons as they reached into the territory or kingdom of the South Saxons or Sussex. The Lathe or common of Hollingbourne which formed much of Lamberhurst swung round to the west at the Kent Ditch and the common of Milton Regis was 'squeezed' by the adjacent commons to a narrow territory which became the Hundred of Marden. A large part of Lamberhurst was until the late C19 part of Sussex (Hasted 1797 V 294-5; Witney 1976, 54). Many names of settlements along the Kent - Sussex boundary both large and small bear the *OE* *hyrst* = 'hurst' suffix which means settlement near an enclosed grove or wood on high ground or settlement in a clearing on a wooded hill. Where it is used for woodland names it probably means enclosed coppice wood (Rackham 2001, 129). This indicates both the hilly and woody nature of this part of the Weald during the period of Saxon settlement.

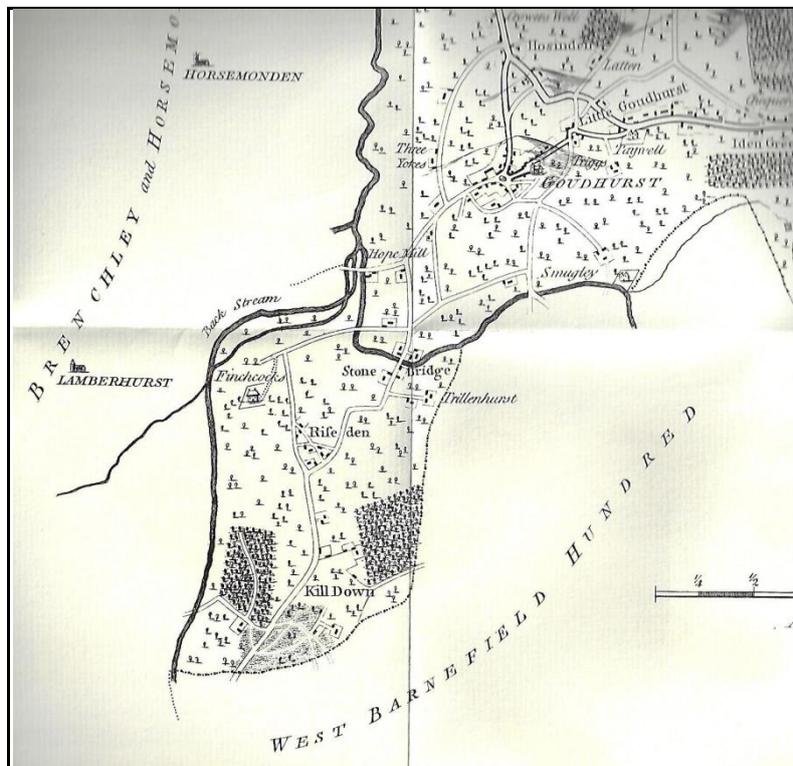
Around the C10 the boundary between Kent and Sussex was gradually fixed along water courses such as the Kent Ditch, the Teise and the Bewl, leaving some Kent swine pastures within Sussex. The larger part of the southern side of Lamberhurst comprised the land of four dens belonging to the Manor of Leeds in the Lathe of Hollingbourne. The manor of Leeds was paramount over Lamberhurst Village. The Manor of Leeds was owned by the Crêvequer Family in the C12 and C13 and who founded Leeds Priory c. 1200. These four dens comprised Courthope (alias Scotney - Sir Peter de Scotney an heir of the Crêvequer family), Crowhurst and Ewhurst identified as Yew Green. The fourth den was Lamberhurst. The dens lay south of the Teise and west of the Bewl and this part remained in Sussex until the early C19. Hasted's map of the hundreds of Kent show the Sussex portions. The Tithe maps for the Kent parishes show the territory firmly in Kent. However, small portions of Lamberhurst still lay in Frant and Wadhurst. The county boundary was then fixed in the mid C20.

There are several large estate maps for Lamberhurst held at the Kent History and Library centre which were useful for interpreting the pre-1800 historic landscape character.

**BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST**



Extract from Edward Hasted's Map of the Hundreds of Brenchley and Horsmonden and the Hundred of West Barnfield, 1797



Extract from Edward Hasted's Map of the Hundred of Marden 1797

3. Results of the revised HLC for the parish of Lamberhurst

Some examples of the digitising of Lamberhurst 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). Lamberhurst is the third of the Phase 3 parishes (Bidborough and Paddock Wood completed) leaving only Sandhurst to be digitised. A brief analysis of the HLC attributes is presented here. 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 Lamberhurst. 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 Lamberhurst can clearly be seen. The wooded character of the western part of the parish extends eastwards towards Hayden Wood. To the south west is the designed landscape of Bayham Abbey. Settlement is concentrated around Lamberhurst village and The Down. The meadows in the valleys of the Teise and Bewl are also shown.

3.2 The Revised Kent HLC for Tunbridge Wells Borough – Lamberhurst

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. The fragmented woodland character of the east and southern parts of the parish is shown together with the smaller areas of former common. The revised HLC highlights the survival of orchards across the parish. The designed landscape of Scotney is also shown as well as the large golf course to the east of the village. The absence of scattered settlement to the west shows the influence of the Bayham Abbey Estate.

3.3. The HLC Types for present day landscape of Lamberhurst

Map 3 shows the HLC types for Lamberhurst. The ancient woodland character dominates the western part of the parish, with an absence of settlement in the form of farmsteads. Areas of assart fields occur close to gills, areas of former commons and along the county boundary suggesting that these were area cleared to farmland in the C13-C14. The field patterns are varied with a concentration of formal planned type fields close to Lamberhurst itself and along The Down. It suggests that these sandy areas may have been extensions of the Down which were then enclosed in the past-medieval period, or were areas where cultivation has taken place over long periods of time and the fields have been re-organised. The designed landscapes of Bayham and Scotney have been developed from enclosures and these are still traceable in the present day landscape. Scattered farmsteads and settlement lie along the ridge top routes.

3.4 The Time-depth and antiquity of the present landscape of Lamberhurst

Map 4 shows the projected period of origin for each historic character type in the present landscape of Lamberhurst. Essentially much of the north and western parts of the parish have remained relatively unaltered since the early medieval period. The distribution of ancient woodland with its small medieval assart enclosures dominates. Around Lamberhurst itself the present character dates from the Late 20th century with the development of vineyards, paddocks and the golf course. To the west the early post-medieval enclosures dominate the valley of the Teise, indicating field re-organisation with the development of Little Scotney Farm.

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 parish retains a variety of the field patterns, with a high incidence of Formal planned fields, either from field re-organisation or from enclosures of medieval greens such as at Yew Tree Green, to the south. The old meadows the River Teise are shown by the irregular informal enclosures. Assart fields are strongly associated with the woods and gills.

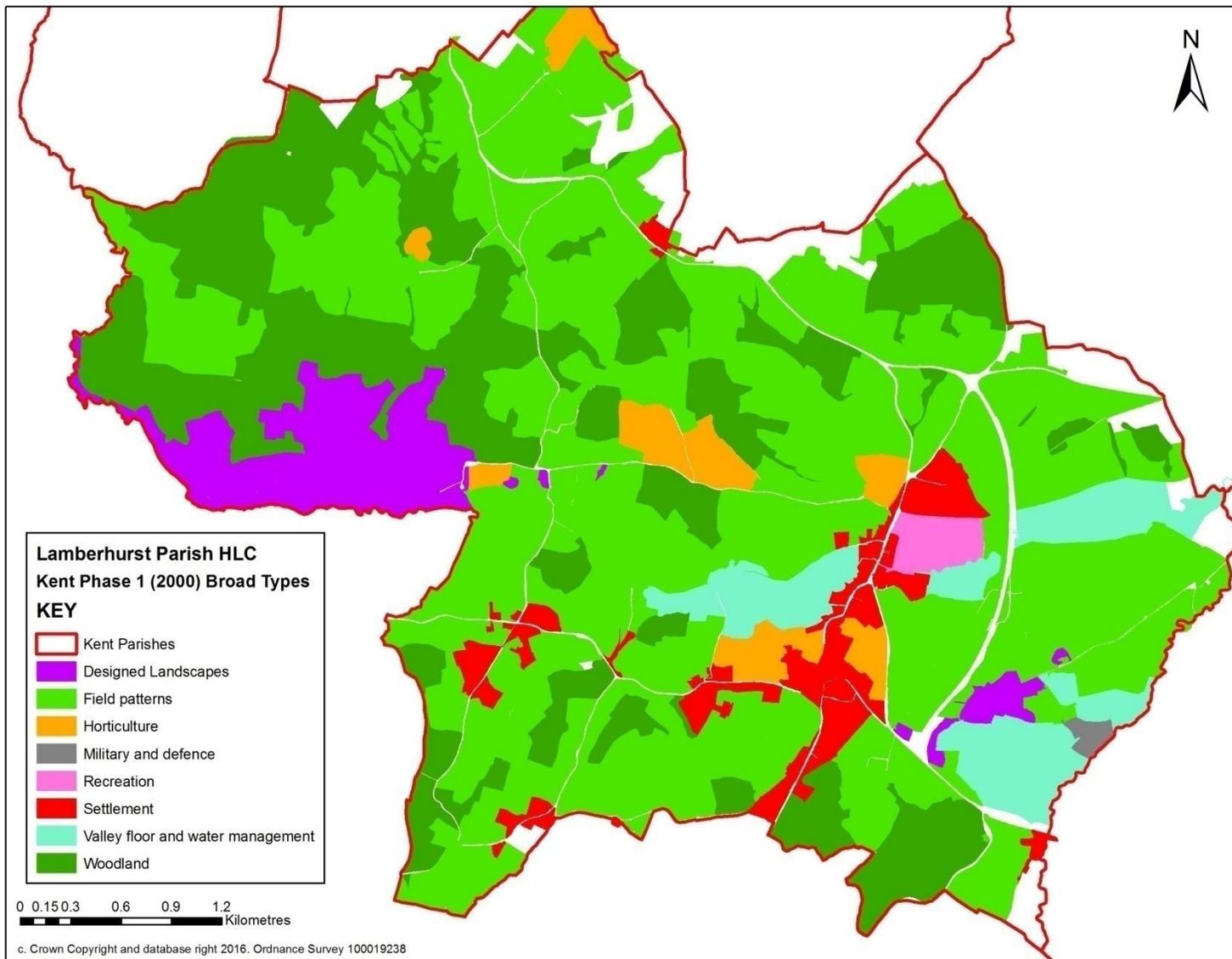
Map 6 gives an indication of this polygons have been illustrated by the Boundary type attribute associated with them. Ditched boundaries as are expected occur in the valley of the Teise and wooded hedges dominate the north and central part of the parish. Hedges occur bounding the formal planned and regular informal fields across the Down, between the Teise and Bewl and towards Yew Tree Green. Overall the wooded hedges together with the large tracts of woodland gives Lamberhurst a dominant woodland landscape character which is relatively unchanged since the medieval period.

3.6. The conjectured medieval and early post-medieval landscape of Lamberhurst

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.

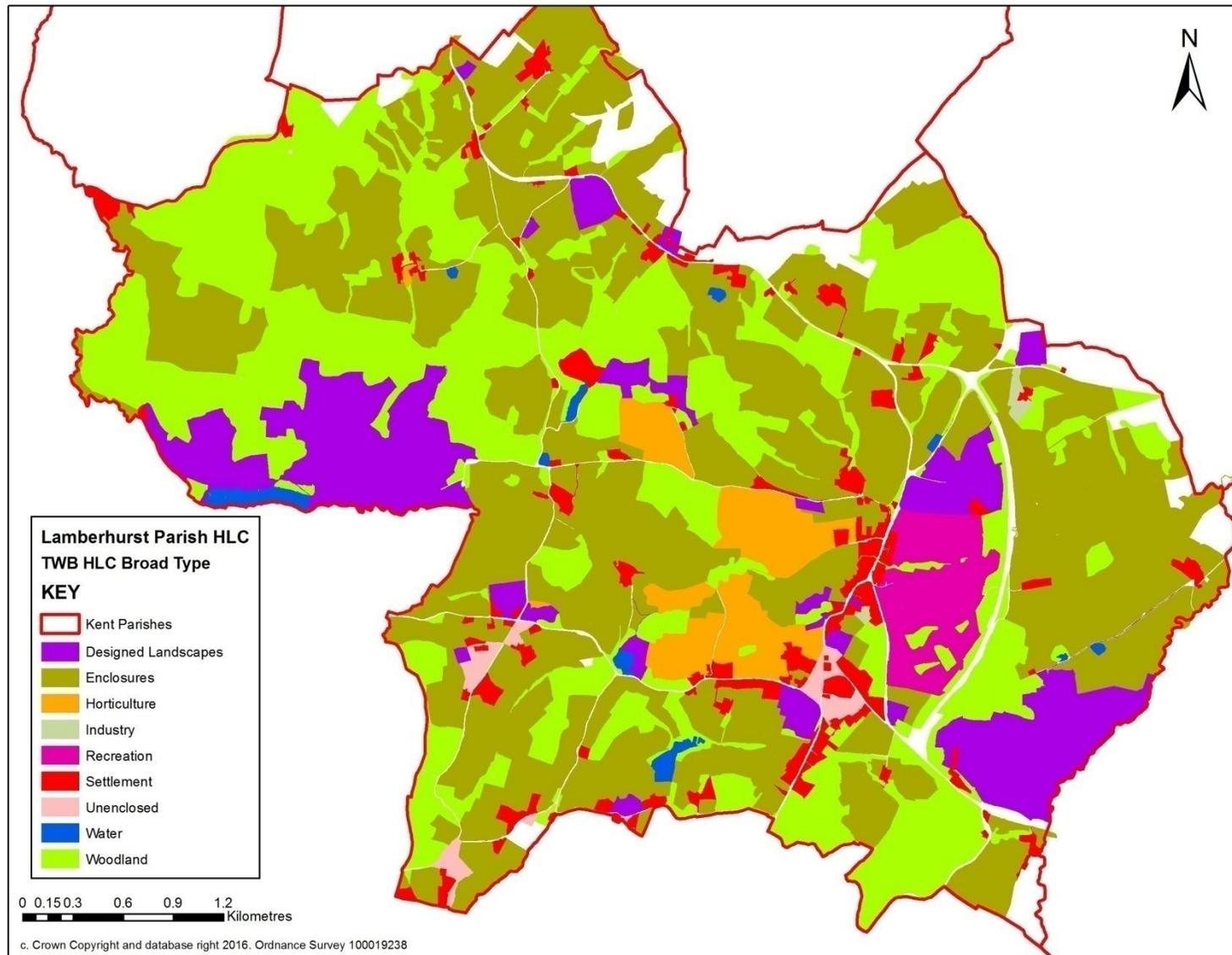
This is the landscape that Hasted describes being wooded especially to the west. Lamberhurst Down and the land around it contrasts with the wooded landscape to the west and the farmed landscape to the east, with its formal planned fields which may have been enclosed from remnants of common. Immediately to the east of the Down is the medieval deer park of Scotney, which is now part of the golf course. The greens at Yew Tree and Hook are more evident and may have once joined together. The presence of Downs and the greens indicates that droving and pasturing were still present into the post-medieval period. The higher ground on the more sandy soils favoured early woodland clearance and may also be a contributing factor to the density of prehistoric flints in this locality.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST



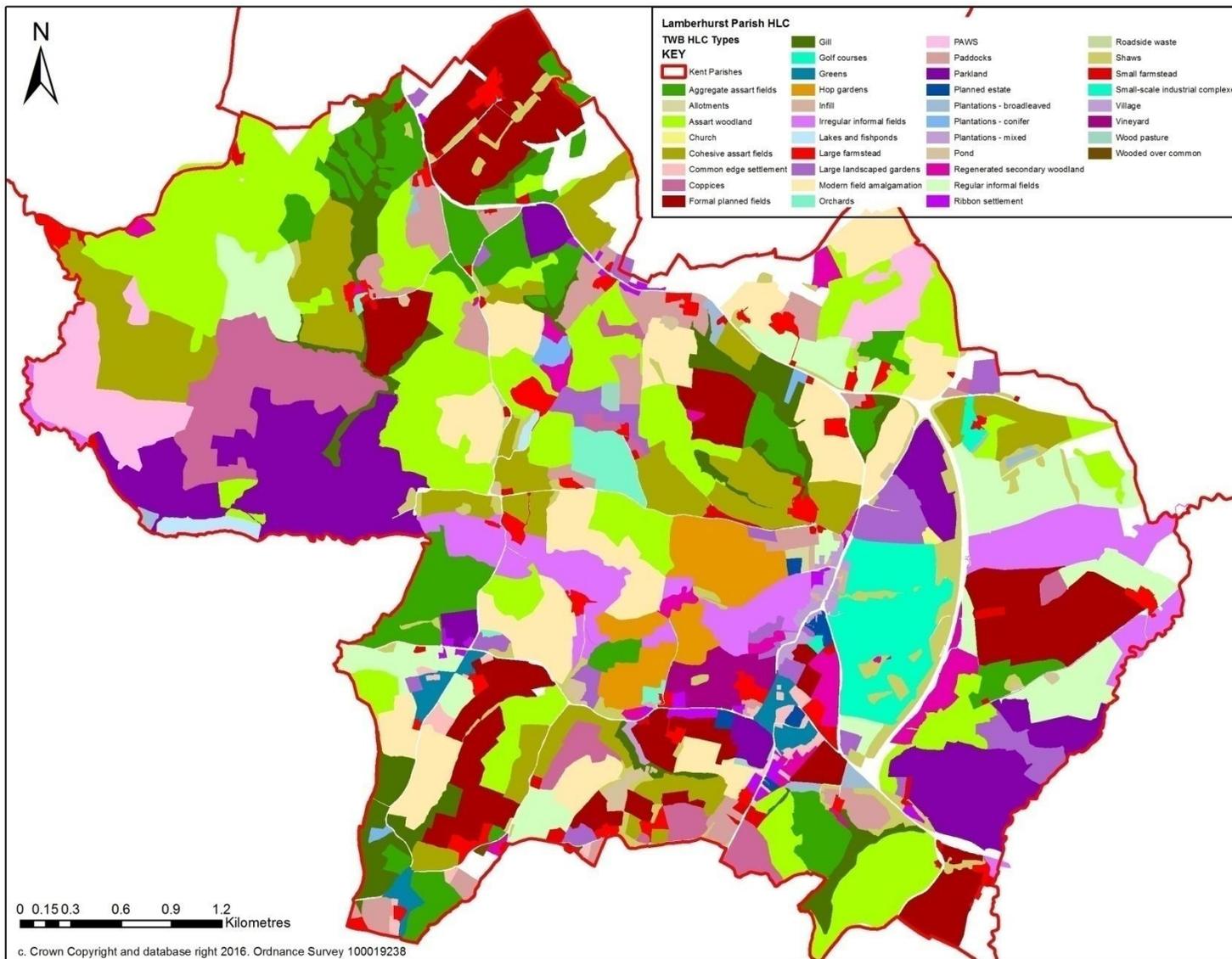
MAP 1

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST



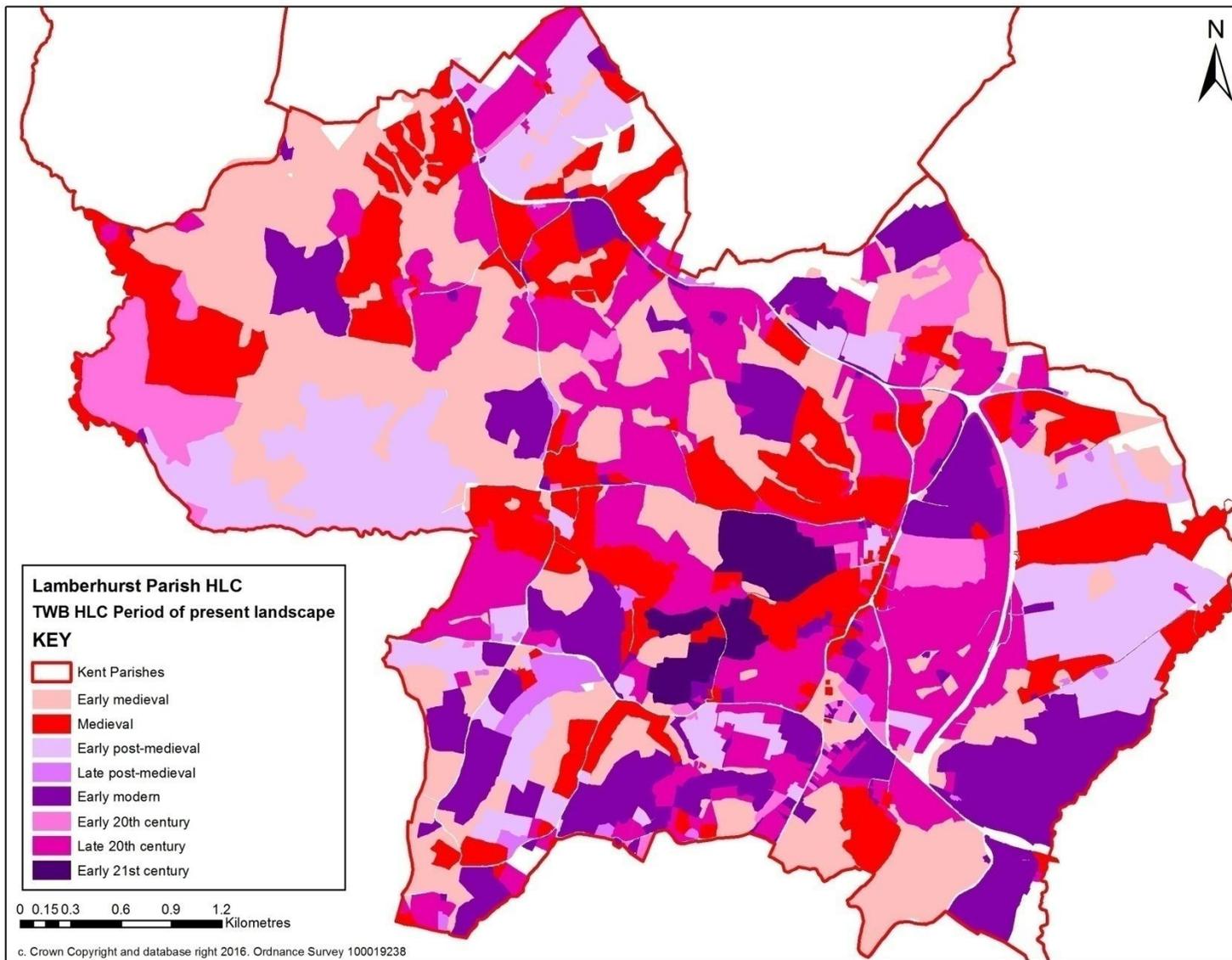
MAP 2

**BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST**



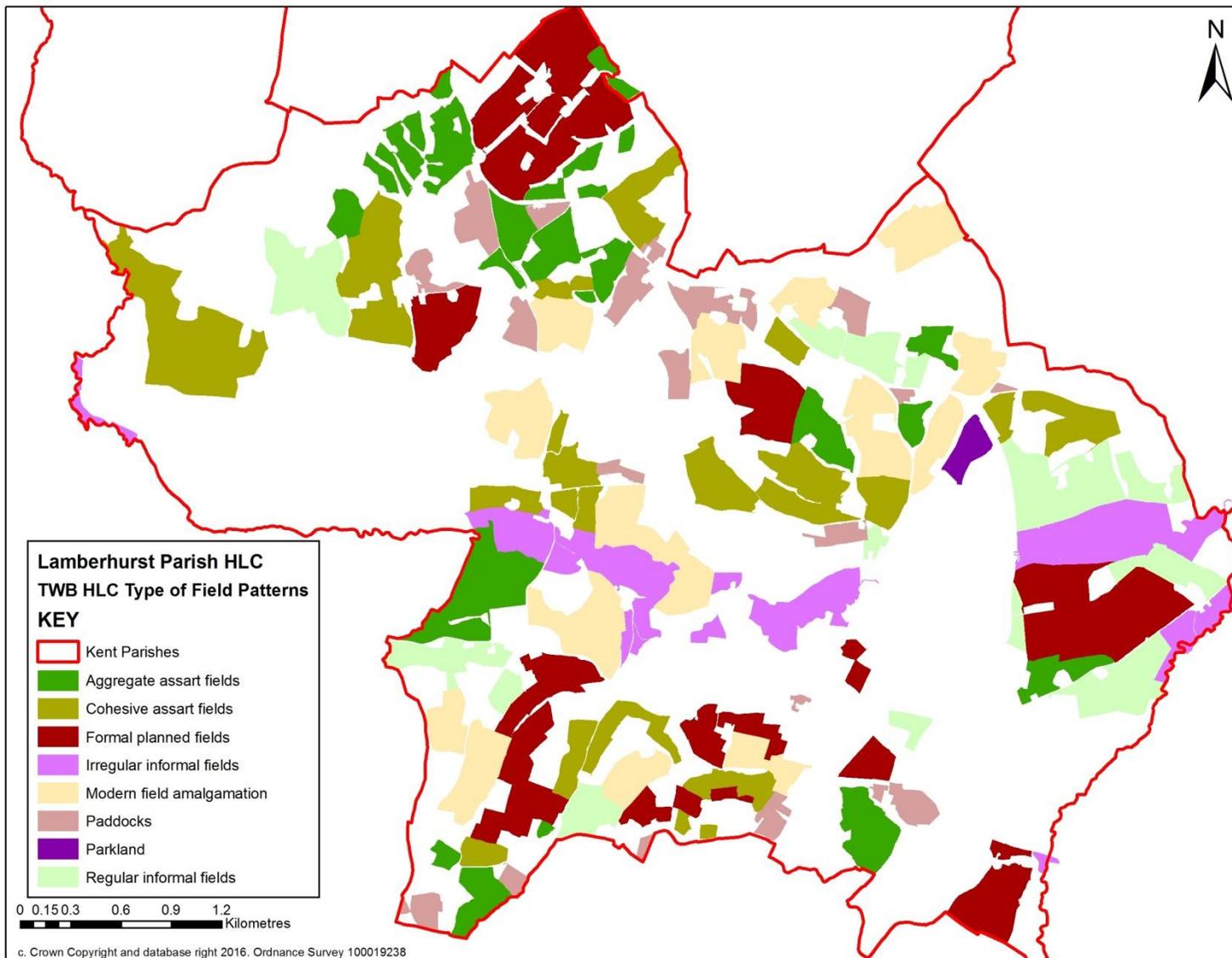
Map 3

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST



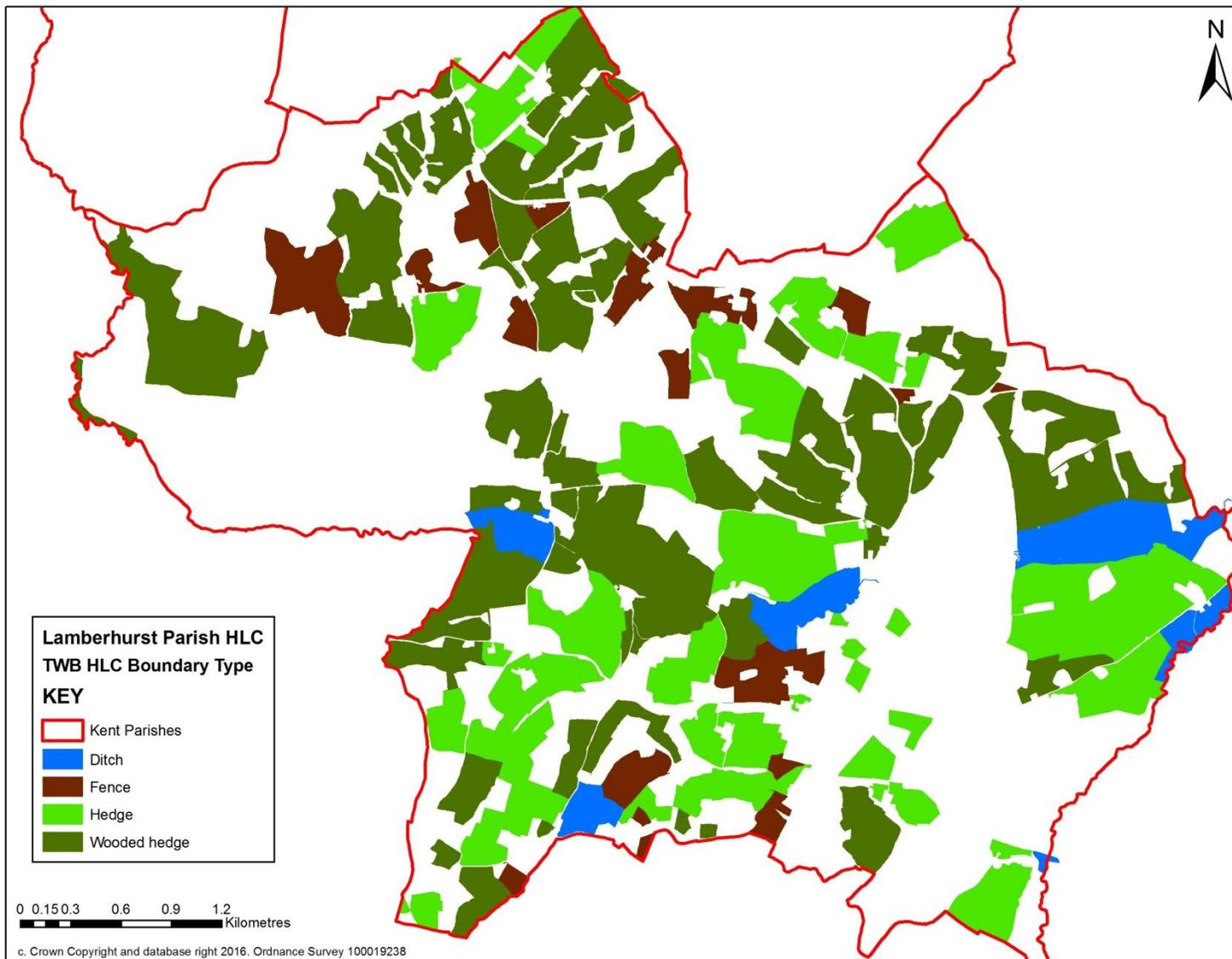
MAP 4

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST

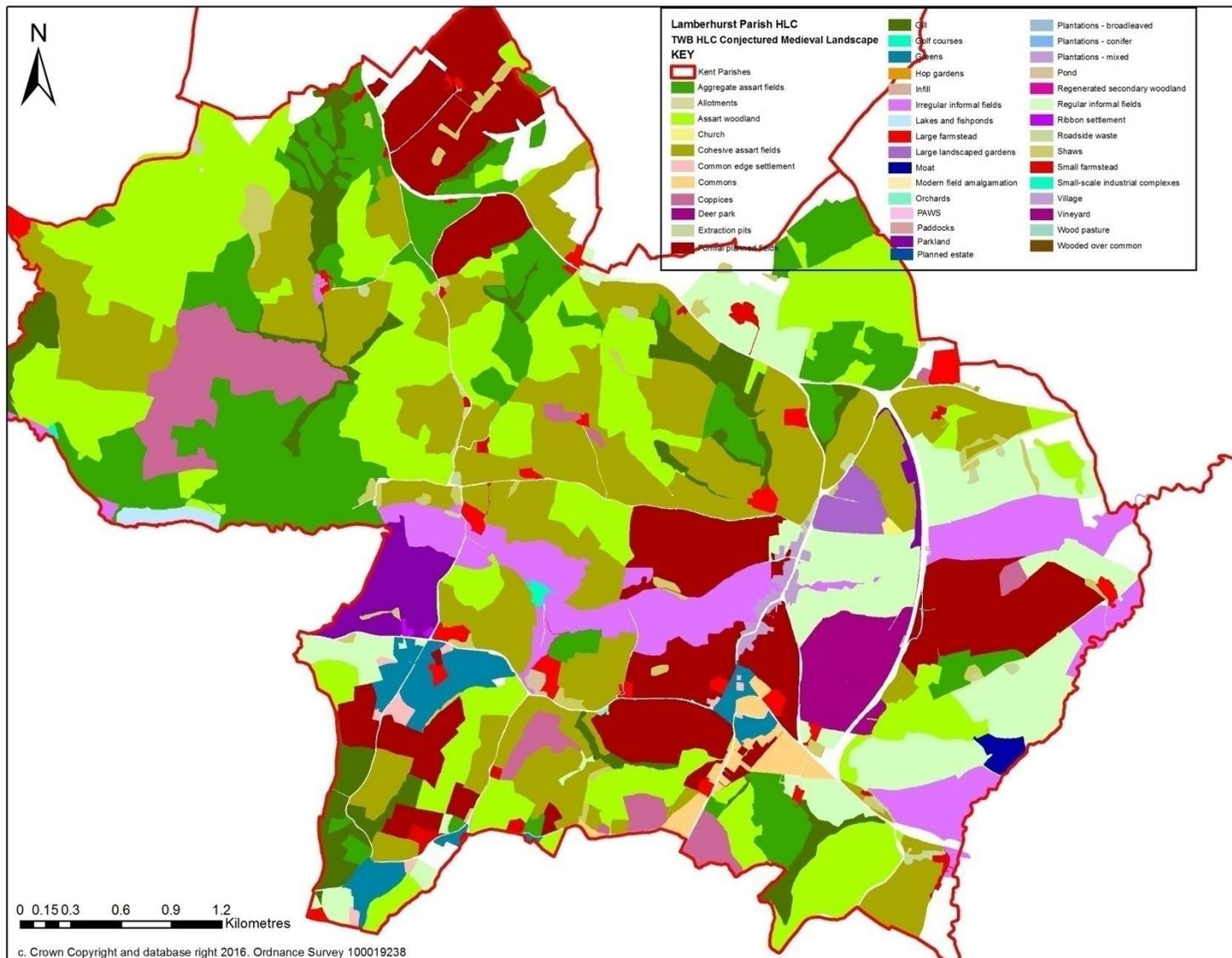


MAP 5

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
PARISH OF LAMBERHURST



**BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
REVISED KENT HLC (2000)
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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 Lamberhurst is essentially one with a medieval character which is under-pinned by the Saxon origins in its layout. The historic character of Lamberhurst 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 around the village 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. Lamberhurst as a parish on the edge of the Kentish swine pasture territory retains much of this early medieval history, which in turn can still be identified on the ground through the survival of historic landscape features. The two large parks of Bayham Abbey and Scotney reflect the C18 and C19 gentrification of the landscape through the Picturesque movement; one originating as a secluded religious house and the other a fortified manor site. The eastern part of the parish has under-one significantly more landscape change and this is reflected in its character of more modern fields, loss of boundaries and the modern routeways carved through medieval features.

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. Research into the assarting process and the development of the Saxon dens is also needed.

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