



Rolvenden Parish Council

ROLVENDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018

LANDSCAPING REPORT

**COMPILED BY:
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
AND ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Landscaping Report

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1 Introduction

This area of the High Weald has been specially designated by *Natural England* as an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* and by definition is considered to have significant landscape value. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_of_Outstanding_Natural_Beauty) The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve *natural beauty* which includes wildlife, physiographic features, cultural heritage and the more conventional concepts of landscape and scenery. The designation helps to safeguard forestry and other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. (*Joint Nature Conservation Committee* <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1527>)

This report examines the historic formation of the local landscape and identifies important natural “assets” which help form Rolvenden’s distinctive character and relationship with the surrounding countryside.

2 Geology, Landform, Water Systems and Climate

‘Gills’ (steep sided ravines) are a natural feature of the High Weald and were created around 65 million years ago when layers of sedimentary rock were lifted by earth movements that also created the Alps. *Sparkeswood Gill* is a classic example. Erosion left a terrain of ridges and valleys - primarily of Wealden clay and sandstone - with deep sinuous “gills” draining into them. The resulting streams form the head waters of rivers flowing easterly to the English Channel.



The topography of the High Weald explains the high concentration of gill woods.

Fig 1. Topography in the High Weald (from Appendix A)

Whilst gills have proven impossible to cultivate they are essentially a stronghold for ancient woodland species, providing a more constant temperature than open country, a wide range of food items and protection from predators. Unique natural variations in soils, soil angle and aspects provide a habitat for a mix of plants and is uncommon elsewhere in the world. Ferns, mosses and fungi thrive in the damp environment and are essential micro-habitats for countless invertebrates. Dormice particularly thrive in this landscape. (**Appendix A: Woodland in the Weald of Kent, Sussex and Surrey: A guide to an outstanding feature and its archaeology and wildlife.** Published by the High Weald AONB Unit. Flimwell, East Sussex, TN5 7PR <http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/land-management-guidance/woodland-guidance/1145-woodlands-in-the-weald-habitat-leaflet/file.html>)

Biodiversity is already covered in the NPPF 2012 and Ashford Borough Council's plans, but it is important to note that woodland edges are particularly important for many species of insects and animals and need to be protected from development and shrinkage.

(*WILDLIFE HABITATS IN KENT: A Kent Wildlife Trust information sheet* <http://www..org.uk/sites/kent.live.wt.precedenthost.co.uk/files/Wildlife%20habitats%20in%20kent.pdf>)

Rolvenden is situated on a ridge of high land from Cranbrook to the Rother Levels. On the higher ground to the south of Rolvenden village, areas of Tunbridge Wells sand formation, sandstone and siltstone interbedded are found and Ashdown formation, (of Late Berriasian to Early Valanginian age) and sandstone and siltstone interbedded around Rolvenden station. The parish is bounded by the Newmill Channel to the east (with the crayfish lagoons) and the Hexden Channel to the south. Streams run from the ridges to the main channels through the gills. On the low ground a patchwork of field boundary ditches drain into these watercourses indicating historic land reclamation from the marshes.

(**Appendix B - From SETTLEMENT FORM, CHARACTER and BUILDING DESIGN within the PARISH of ROLVENDEN, KENT** – Old Akre Associates 2013

<http://www.rolvendenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/UserFiles/file/Rolvenden%20Study%20Main%20Report%20Part%201%20with%20Annex%20A%20lite.pdf>)

In simple terms the High Weald is a raised area of old sandstones and clays surrounded by a lower ring of clay (the Low Weald). These sandstones, the Hastings Beds, are deeply dissected by numerous rivers and streams. In a few, limited areas older Purbeck Beds break through the sandstone. There is a considerable diversity in the quality of the rocks and variation in the soils that are derived from them. Even within one field the soils can range from sandy to heavy clay. (From *HISTORIC FARMSTEADS & LANDSCAPE CHARACTER IN THE HIGH WEALD AONB for THE HIGH WEALD AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JAC)* – by Bob Edwards with a contribution by Jeremy Lake, English Heritage, 2008

<http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/uk-landscape-research-reports/1037-historic-farmsteads-a-landscape-character-in-the-high-weald-aonb/file.html>)

Ponds and water courses in the parish are valued particularly for natural drainage as well as habitats for wildlife. Whilst Rolvenden is not in an area prone to flooding, water collecting on or running down the road systems can prove hazardous during the winter months.

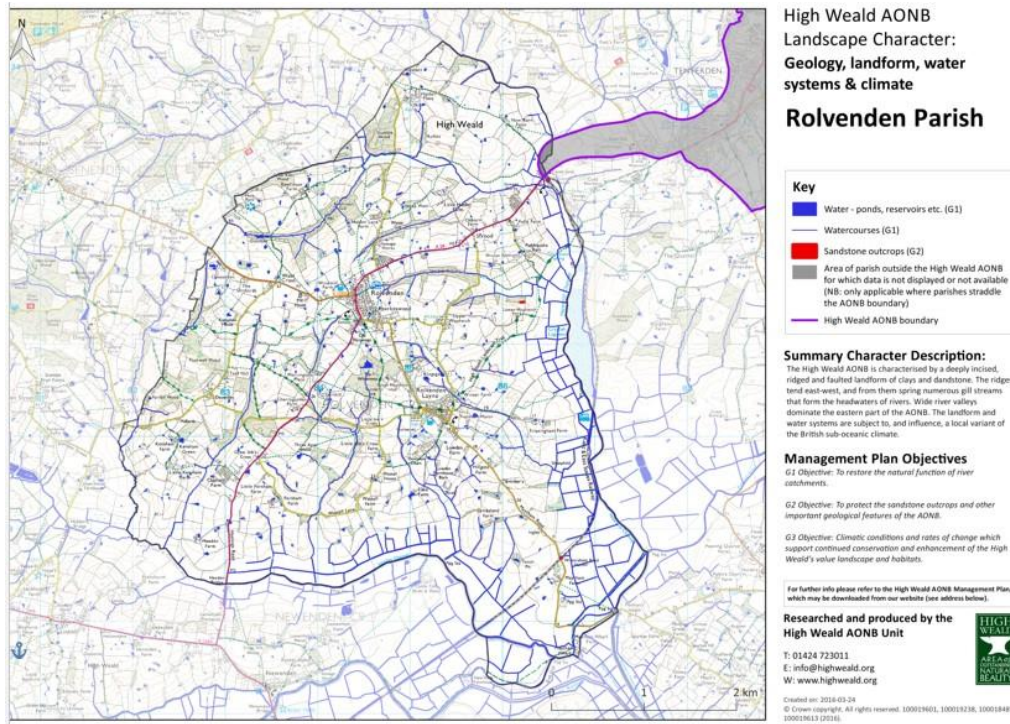


Fig 2: Geology, landform, water systems and climate around Rolvenden (Appendix C)

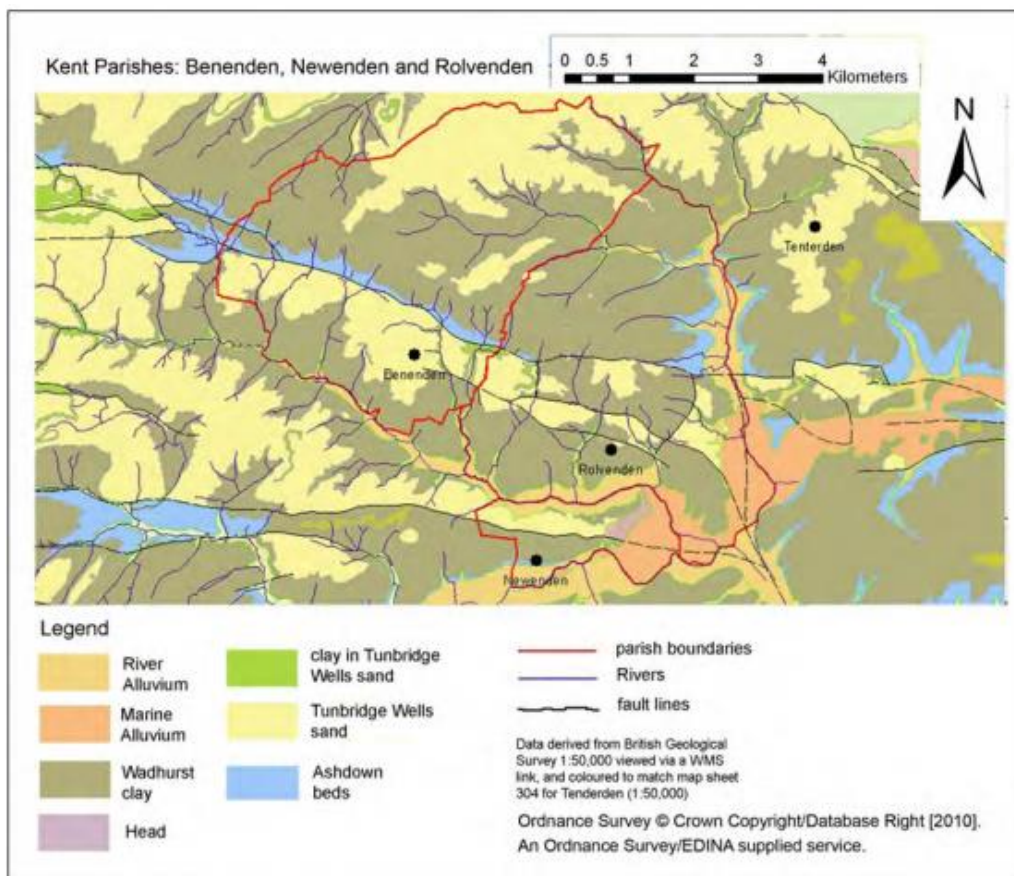


Fig 3: Ordnance Survey geological detail (from Appendix B)

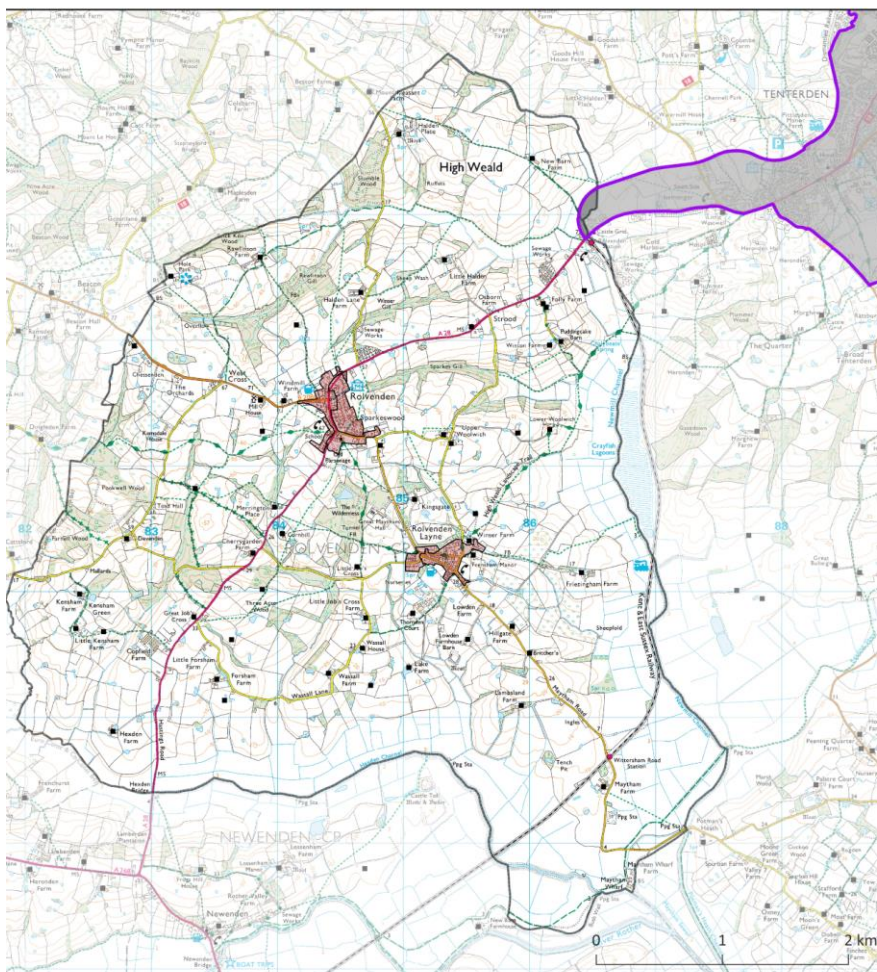
3 Historic Settlement Patterns

Historically, rural settlement can broadly be divided into two types - nucleated villages and dispersed farmsteads and hamlets. The Weald generally is recognised as an area within which scattered, isolated farmsteads are the dominant element of the early settlement pattern. Associated with 'dens' or wooded pasture of at least Anglo Saxon origin they were located around a handful of historic manors. The two largest nucleated settlements – the older *Rolvenden Streyte* and its younger hamlet, *Rolvenden Layne* probably developed in the late medieval period around the greens or common land along the ridgetop routeway.

(From *SETTLEMENT FORM, CHARACTER and BUILDING DESIGN within the PARISH of ROLVENDEN, KENT* – Old Akre Associates 2013

<http://www.rolvendenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/UserFiles/file/Rolvenden%20Study%20Main%20Report%20Part%201%20with%20Annex%20A%20lite.pdf>)

Rolvenden is mentioned in the *Domesday Book* of 1086. Over the years, people gradually moved away from farmsteads and closer to the main thoroughfares. Rolvenden Layne is believed to have been created during the 1660's when much of the High Street had to be burned down due to the Great Plague. People moved a mile down the hill to the common land.



High Weald AONB Landscape Character: Historic settlement Rolvenden Parish

Key	
■	Historic farmsteads (S2)
■	Historic settlement extent c.1860 (S2) (NB: This data is not available for every parish)
■	Area of parish outside the High Weald AONB for which data is not displayed or not available (NB: only applicable where parishes straddle the AONB boundary)
—	High Weald AONB boundary

Summary Character Description:

The High Weald AONB is characterised by dispersed historic settlements of farmsteads and hamlets, and late medieval villages founded on trade and non-agricultural rural industries.

Management Plan Objectives

S1 Objective: To reconnect settlements, residents and their supporting economic activity with the surrounding countryside.

S2 Objective: To protect the historic pattern of settlement.

S3 Objective: To enhance the architectural quality of the High Weald.

For further info please refer to the High Weald AONB Management Plan, which may be downloaded from our website (see address below).

Researched and produced by the
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Fig 4: AONB and Historic Settlement Areas (Appendix C)

4 Historic routeways

There has been very little change in the historic routeways to those of today which were generally dictated by the character of settlement: the more dispersed the pattern of settlement the greater the density of public rights of way normally become. The main through routes in the High Weald tend to follow the principle ridges but have to cross principle water courses at the low points. Off shoots to these allowed access to their associated farmland and comprised common land left after the wastes and commons were divided up during the Middle Ages. (**Appendix B: SETTLEMENT FORM, CHARACTER and BUILDING DESIGN within the PARISH of ROLVENDEN, KENT** – Old Akre Associates 2013 <http://www.rolvendenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/UserFiles/file/Rovenden%20Study%20Main%20Report%20Part%201%20with%20Annex%20A%20lite.pdf>)

The B2086 is a medieval long distance route from Tonbridge to Rye and Winchelsea.

There are additionally many miles of beautiful and well managed PROWS within Rolvenden and residents and visitors alike are encouraged to explore and enjoy them.

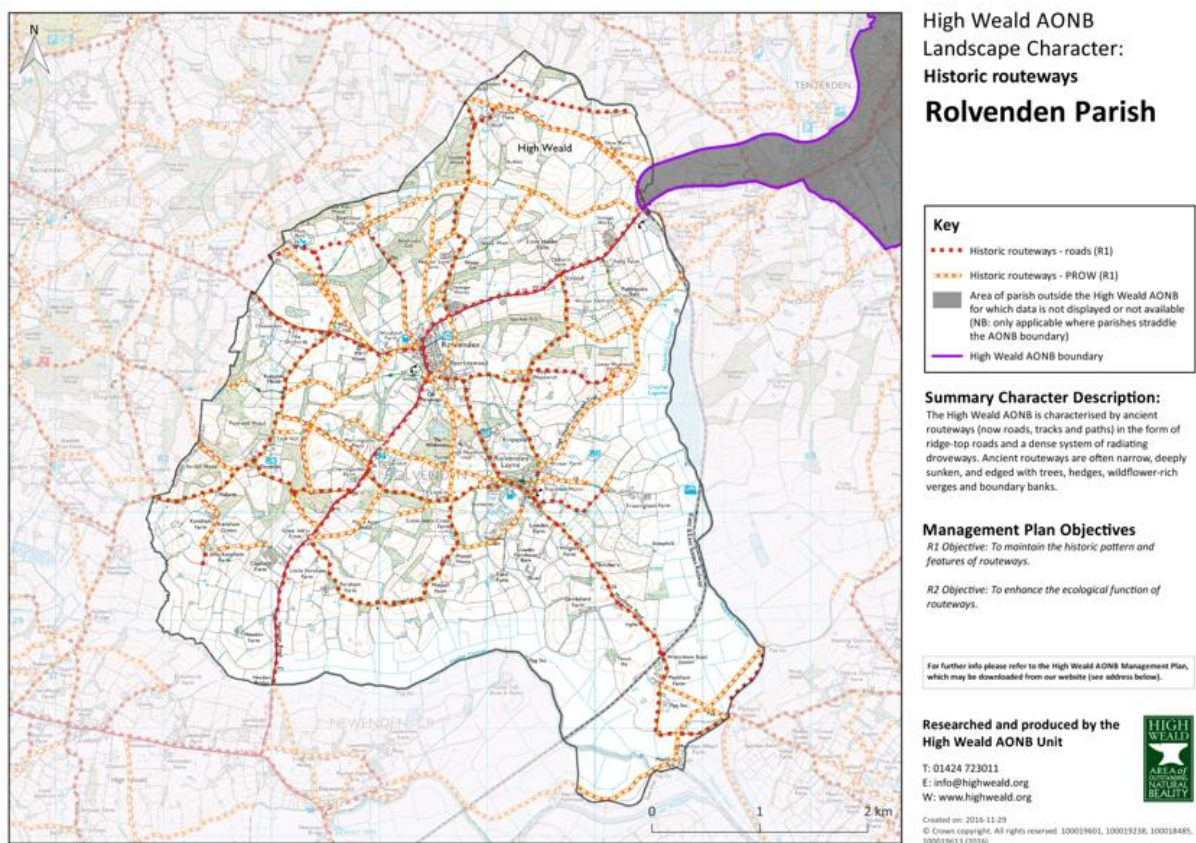


Fig. 5: Historic routeways have changed little. (Appendix C)

5 Field and Heath

Historic field boundaries have also changed very little since the 19th Century. Some irregular shaped fields (assarts) on the higher ground such as those around Windmill Farm and Little Halden are likely to be medieval in origin, chopped by hand (assarted) out of woodland. The smaller squarer fields on the lower ground to the south and south east are likely to have been reclaimed later from the marshes.

The map below shows the historic field boundaries and location of wildflower meadows. There is no heathland in the parish.

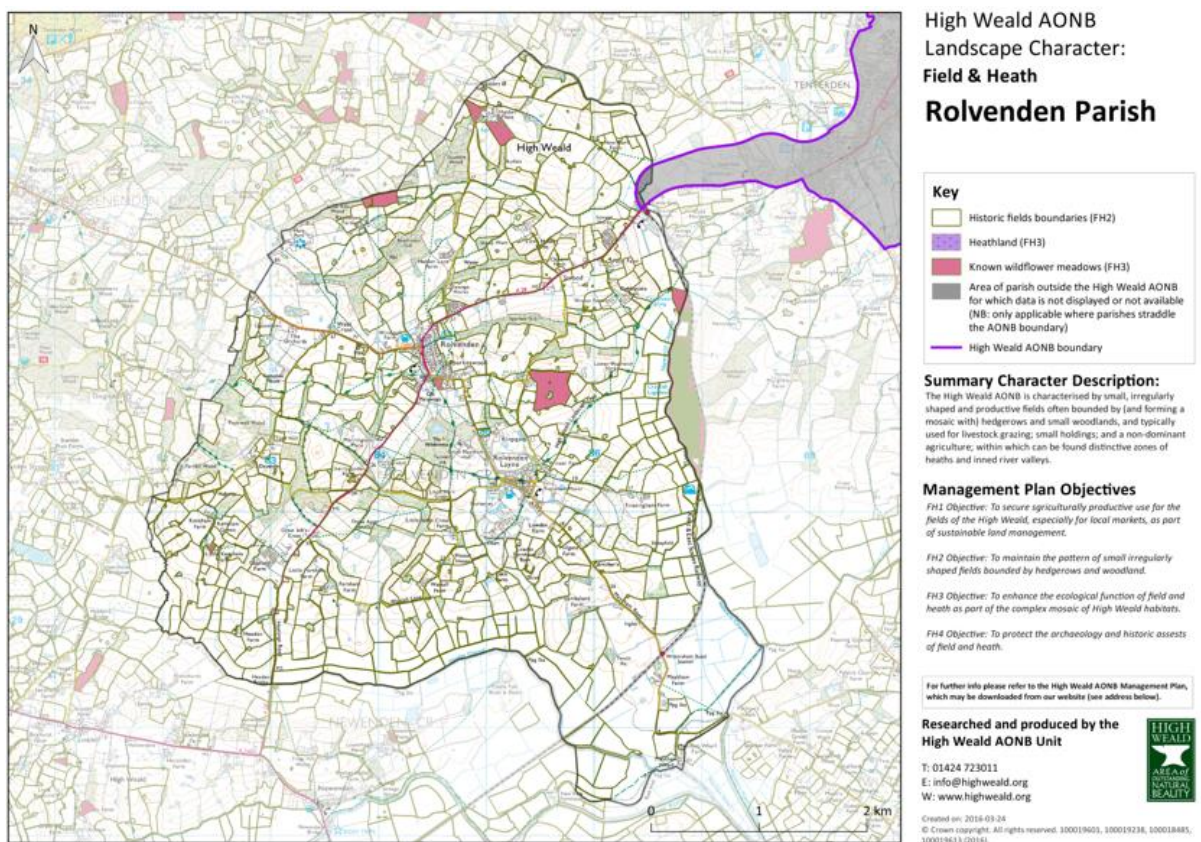


Fig. 6: Field and Heath Data for Rolvenden (Appendix C)

6 Woodland

The generally accepted assumption is that the High Weald is a heavily wooded landscape and was even more so in the past, but as a fact this is uncertain.

Today, gills, stands of ancient woodlands on the higher slopes, the small Wealden fields with their multi-species hedges and the narrow strips of woodland ('shaws') can produce the impression that the woodland here is nearly continuous. The Domesday Book suggests that the Weald was heavily wooded in the eleventh century, but how the woods were distributed or what form they took are not recorded. (From: *SETTLEMENT FORM, CHARACTER and BUILDING DESIGN within the PARISH of ROLVENDEN, KENT* – Old Akre Associates 2013)

Ancient woodland is defined as an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It is a nationally important and threatened habitat, and its existence over hundreds of years has preserved irreplaceable ecological and historical features. About 11% of the area of the borough is covered by ancient woodland.

Figure 7a below shows areas containing areas of some ancient woodland, designated TPO's and the conservation areas in Rolvenden from Ashford Borough Council's interactive planning map. A dedicated *Ancient Woodland* option is not yet available. Figure 7b shows Ancient Woodland and 'other woodland' (all woodland above 0.5ha) from *The Forestry Commission England's National Forest Inventory (NFI)* data and Figure 7c shows ancient semi natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland or plantations on ancient woodland sites in Rolvenden from *A revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Ashford Borough, Kent* Project carried out by the Weald and Downs Ancient Woodland Survey for East Sussex and Kent November 2006 to March 2009.

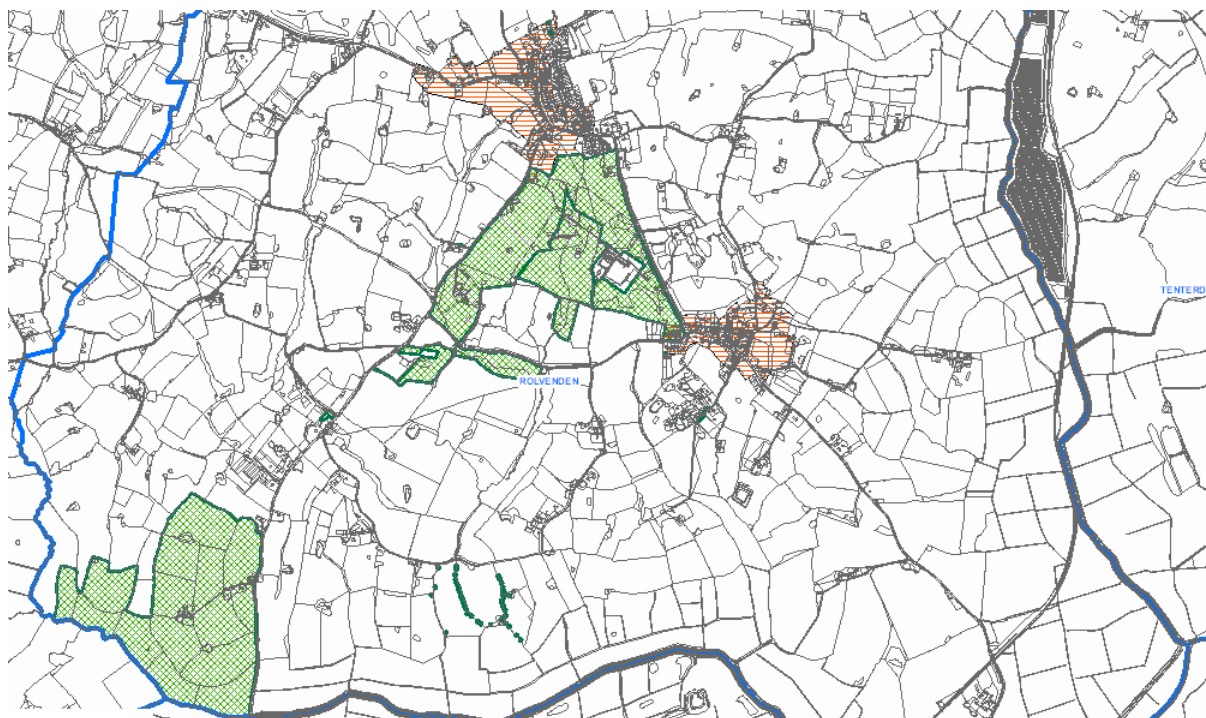


Fig. 7a – Ancient Woodland (green shaded area), some individual TPO's (darker green) and the conservation areas (red shaded areas) in Rolvenden.

(Appendix D: From Ashford Borough Council / Planning Applications / interactive map.)



Figure 7b: Ancient Woodland and ‘other woodland’ (all woodland above 0.5ha) from *The Forestry Commission England’s* National Forest Inventory (NFI) data.

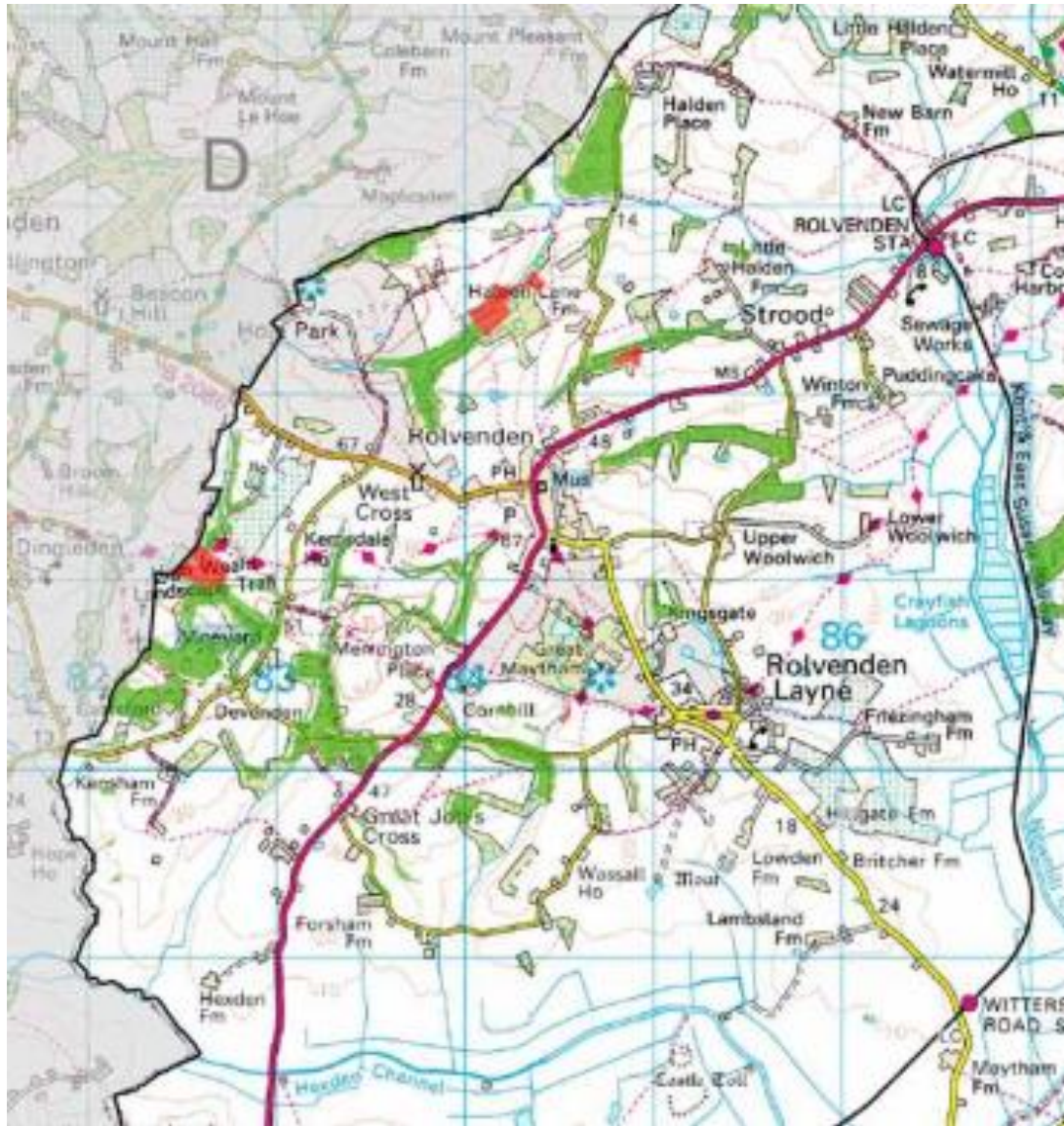


Fig. 7c: The revised Ancient Woodland Inventory for Rolvenden

(key: Green = Ancient semi-natural woodland ; Red = Ancient replanted woodland or Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites)

From *A revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Ashford Borough, Kent* - Project carried out by the Weald and Downs Ancient Woodland Survey for East Sussex and Kent November 2006 to March 2009

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/2078/a-revision-of-the-ancient-woodland-inventory-for-ashford-borough-kent-4950kb-pdf.pdf> (Map 4)

7 Trees, Hedgerows and Landscaping Guidelines

There is a presumption in favour of preserving important wildlife habitats and ancient woodland. This includes heritage or veteran trees outside ancient woodland areas unless *“the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss”* (NPPF 2012 paragraph 118 PPG11).

A heritage tree is described by Wikipedia as *“typically a large, individual tree with unique value, which is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for heritage tree designation are age, rarity, and size, as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and historical value.”* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heritage_tree)

Individual trees may be considered important community resources because of unique or noteworthy characteristics or values.

Likewise, hedges are an essential part of the Weald landscape’s special and distinctive rural character. In the High Weald they are often the remnants of ancient woodland left when the first farmers cleared areas to make small fields in the forests. Subsequently managed to form hedges, they usefully indicate land ownership and administrative boundaries, help manage livestock, provide shelter for farm animals and crops, were once a source of timber and fuel and are both functional and invaluable to wildlife. Natural and unplanted hedges are said to be most common in the High Weald, often developing in areas that are difficult to graze or crop such as along the edges of ditches, streams, fence lines and roadsides. Planted hedges are generally attributed to the enclosures in the 18th and 19th centuries although some of Rolvenden’s planted hedges have medieval origins. Many are straight and were created using hawthorn.

Hedgerow Regulations were introduced in 1997 to protect important hedgerows in the countryside and unless an exception applies, it is a criminal offence to deliberately remove a hedgerow without permission. This applies to most countryside hedges of 20 metres or more in length and all hedgerows less than 20 metres in length which meet another hedgerow at each end. All hedgerows on, or adjoining land used for agriculture or forestry, the breeding and keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys, common land, village greens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves are included. Garden hedges are not affected by these regulations.

Land, property owners and developers should consider the management of the local natural environment in any designs for Rolvenden and consider plans for trees and hedges. This may include felling and planning for regrowth or replanting if appropriate or necessary. Woodland, trees and hedgerows provide maturity to developments and can enhance property values but there are many other benefits to planned landscaping. Trees in particular have a positive effect on health & wellbeing and there is evidence that trees increase productivity on both arable and livestock farms.

(Woodlandtrust.org : Why plant trees?

http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/why-plant-trees/health/?gclid=CjwKEAiAluG1BRDrvsqCtYWk81gSJACZ2BCeXlj6fS_Wof6OWKE7VxPqh2RxNTEs2beGUiz3YlBYcBoCd6nw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100083882/Benefits-of-trees-to-arable-farms-evidence-report.pdf>

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2012/08/benefits-of-tree-on-livestock-farms/>)

Landowners are encouraged to consider specimens which add to the appearance of the character areas in which any proposed plans lie or adjoin but homeowners are free to plant whatever interesting species they wish. Planting around the Village Hall has attempted to introduce a variety of trees and shrubs into the village, being between the domestic garden environment and the more general landscape. Here there is an up and coming Liquidambar, Ginkgo, and Liriodendron (Tulip Tree) as long-term tree plantings as well as the more immediately effective Prunus autumnalis (Autumn Cherry Tree) and Magnolia grandiflora. The locations of more traditional, notable specimens in their Character follow below.

Lists of primary native species of trees known to thrive in typical soils of Weald clay and sandstone and hedgerow types hedgerow plants suitable for the High Weald AONB are available as guidelines:

(Species suitable for planting in typical soils of Weald Clay and Sandstone are listed in **Appendix G** - From *Guidance Notes for Applicants - Landscape and Nature Conservation Planting Guide August 2002 Part 4 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council*

http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/38991/PP_SPG_LCA_GN_Part4.pdf

<http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/land-management-guidance/271-leaflet-hedges/file.html>

<http://www.highweald.org/look-after/land-management/hedges/472-hedgerow-plants-suitable-for-the-high-weald-aonb.html>)

However diversification of tree mix for new planting is generally accepted and other suitable species should be utilised to enhance the landscape. Trees that are generally considered 'inappropriate' include certain types of cypress trees in built areas, willows should not be planted or grow near drains and leylandii when used for boundaries or hedging must be well managed or avoided. Any tree planted near a house needs careful selection. Ash is included in the list of native species although new planting should be reconsidered until dieback resistant strains have developed. Existing Ash trees should be tended and managed to help enable this to happen. To ensure the 'right trees' are planted in the right places for maximum benefit, professional advice should always be sought.

8 - Tree Conservation and Preservation Orders

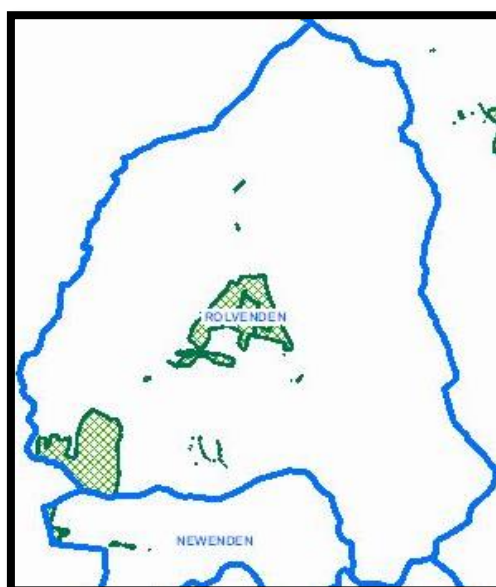
The historic centres of The Streyte and Layne lie mainly within conservation areas (Fig 7).

A **Conservation Area** means that landscapes and specimens within it are deemed worthy of preservation or enhancement. Cutting down or carrying out any work on any tree with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level requires special permission. Since 2012, penalties for non-compliance were upgraded to an 'unlimited fine' (previously up to £20,000) – and the landowner would be required to replace the tree that was removed. For less serious offences, the penalty is a fine of up to £2,500.

Trees with **Preservation Orders** (TPO's) are afforded specific legal protection and these can be single trees, groups of trees or woodland areas, referenced below. Other *notable* specimens are included in this report due to their being *Heritage* or *Veteran* trees or having been planted in the parish to mark special occasions. A tree can be protected not only because it contributes to the public's enjoyment of the local environment but also because:

- the tree is particularly beautiful
- is of a rare species
- has a role in the historic environment
- there are very few trees in the area
- or it serves to screen an eyesore.

TPO's in Rolvenden since 1999 – are listed in **Appendix H**.



M4 - showing areas of TPO's within the Parish boundary from Ashford Borough Council's interactive map.

Individual locations of TPO's may be found on Ashford Borough Council / Planning Application Search / Interactive map:

<http://newmaps.ashford.gov.uk/EXTPlanningMap/default.aspx>

Veteran trees in the parish are listed in **APPENDIX I** and their location may be found via the *BCTV Ashford Veteran Tree Project* - funded by the Heritage Lottery fund:

<http://newmaps.ashford.gov.uk/EXTVeteranTreeMap/default.aspx>

There are 51 recognised **Heritage Trees** in Rolvenden. Further details are available via the lottery funded *Kent Heritage Trees Project* <http://kenthalheritagetrees.tcv.org.uk/>

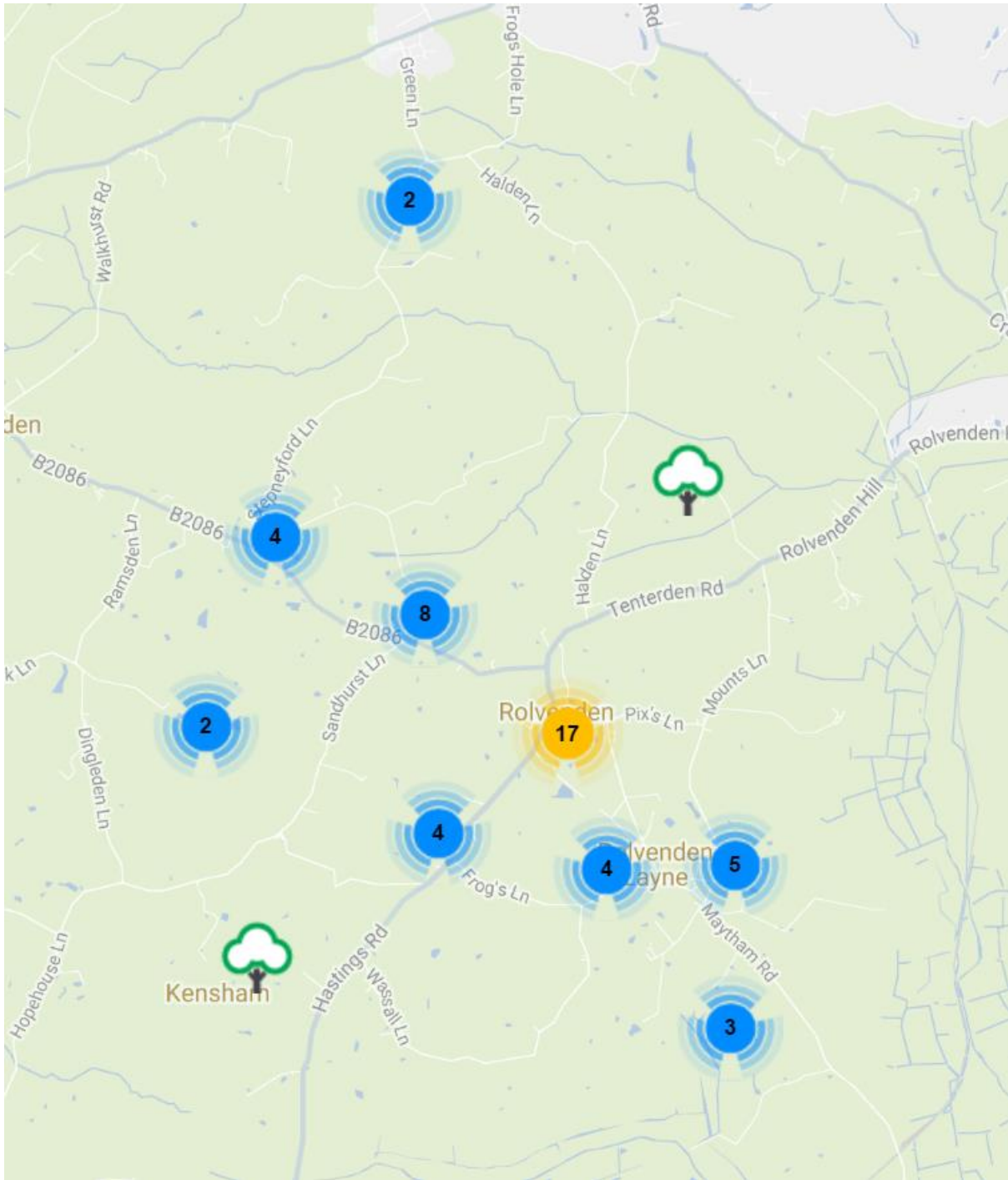


Fig 8: detail from *The Kent Heritage Project (The Conservation Volunteers)* showing general locations of the 51 Heritage trees in the parish.

9 - Notable trees in the parish by Character Area: (with contributions from Sylvia Kellet, the Tree Warden)

Character Area 1 – *The Streyte*



L1 and L2 - Common Hawthorn (Maiden) on the green open space south east section of the High Street. Two Pink Mays remaining from 5 originally planted for the coronation of George VI.

An ancient male yew (L3) grows on the north side of the Churchyard within *The Streyte* Character Area. It is hollow with internal growth and divides at 10ft into 2 main growth areas, one, thick girthed and rising, the other breaking into many branches and leaning. In 1995 Owen Johnson recorded a girth of 456cm (15' 3") at 0.4m. In 2013 it was 15' 4" at 1m. An expert once aged the tree, giving it a planting date of 1650 but it could well be nearer 1,000 years old.



L3 – The ancient yew tree in Rolvenden Churchyard

It should also be noted that the churchyard and wild flower meadow provide an important refuge for many animals and plants, particularly lower plants such as lichens and bryophytes.

Character Area 2 – (Newenden Approach adjoining) “Hastings Road”.



Close to this character area there is a coppiced hedgerow with Hornbeam.

This is a hedge stool by the north side of the track on the top of the bank. It was probably bundle planted with three roots, now grown into one. Some trunks have been cut off at the top of the stool, but it still has three healthy tall stems. This was originally part of a mixed hedge including hazel, beech, and oak, all of which can be seen along the trackside. This by-way is paved with a gravel-like substance, possibly iron slag as it was probably part of the iron industry in this area. The sunken nature of the lane, and the state of the stump all show that it is very old.

Similar looking trees can be found along several PROWS in the parish.

L4

PO/07/00015 27 Nov 2007 Great Job's Cross Bungalow, Hastings Road, Rolvenden. The Council made this Order due to a planning application and the significant oak trees on the site. The row of large mature oak trees forming a row parallel to the Hastings Road is highly visible and forms a significant visual feature. A further six large mature oaks within a belt of broad-leaved species are also prominent in the landscape and clearly visible from the Public Right of Way (AT62). The new house became known as *Oak View*. (L5)



L5

Character Area 3 – Regent Street

There are Copper Beech, Walnut and cut leaf Beech trees beside the cricket field which are now growing away well, but establishing trees on this old hedge line has been difficult, with

numerous failed attempts. These trees will mature into large specimens which allow views through. Other trees in-between could crowd, and block views. The Copper Beech was planted to commemorate 50th anniversary of VE Day in 1990 by Suzane Marsham.

There are also ancient hedges along Bull Lane planted with specimen trees that must remain protected.

Character Area 4 – Halden Field / Gatefield

The ancient hedge along the edge of Halden Field bordering Halden Lane and the Tenterden Road teems with wildlife, is a feature of the entrance into Rolvenden High Street and is to be protected and maintained for the forthcoming housing development.

(Not adjoining but in association with this character area)

TPO/00/0002429 Mar 2001 Field Boundary of land to south-west of Halden Lane Farm, Rolvenden.

86 poplars. The line of Poplars creates a visual screen for a proposed telecommunications mast. Their protection is expedient in order to ensure continuity of tree cover in the area in the long term.

(N.B. 07/00125/AS - consent granted to fell all but 12 under field reorganisation, the future of these remains uncertain due to their condition.)

Character Area 5 – Coveney's Corner

TPO/96/000034 Apr 1996 Rondale House, High Street, Rolvenden, Kent (This property was replaced by *Woodstock House* and *Homestall*, next to *Coveney's* but it is believed the trees remain)

- T1 Wild Service - rear garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T2 Wild Service - rear garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T3 Holly - front garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T4 Laurel - front garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T5 Holly - front garden of Rondale House, High Street.
- T6 Holly - front garden of Rondale House, High Street

TPO/92/0000314 May 1992 Landsdale House, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden

- T1 Scots Pine - front garden of Landsdale House, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden
- T2 Holly - rear garden of Landsdale House, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden

Character Area 6 – Sparkeswood



L6

Two magnificent Horsechestnut trees marked the entrance to the 'garden city designed' tree lined development at the north end of Sparkeswood. This one was removed since the start of this report due to suspected bleeding canker but is noted here due to its characterful impact. It is hoped the replacement will have a similar effect in due course.

Sparkeswood Ave also has WI planting at both ends: a Crataegus Prunifolia near the pond and a Red Oak at the Tenterden end.

There are several others trees of note adjoining this character area in Sparkeswood Park, as follows.



L7 , L8 and L9 Three Black Poplars in a row (Maiden)

L7 lies on boundary with gardens at rear of houses in Sparkeswood Avenue. It is one of three black poplars which form a line with English oaks along an old hedge bank. These are now in a pasture field which is crossed by footpath which runs nne-ssw across the field. The line of trees lies to the west of the path. Many burrs with young shoots and small branches 1.5m above ground. Tree healthy. Impenetrable mass of twigs and growth 3m above ground. The trunk of L8 has deep indentations and some rot at the base where there was clear evidence of recent boring by insect larvae. Also some old fungi at base where bark had been broken off to leave bare heartwood. Roots splay from bottom of tree on ditch side of bank. Lots of young shoots sprouting above 1.2m above ground. Tree healthy.

L9 has quite deep indentations in trunk. Small amount of rot in very bottom of trunk in indentations. Impenetrable mass of twigs, small branches and dead material 3m above ground. Some shoots from trunk at 1m upwards from ground.

Interesting fact: according to the Forestry Commission, Black Poplar is the most endangered native timber tree in Britain. It is the foodplant for the caterpillars of many moths, including the hornet, wood leopard, poplar hawk and Figure of Eighty. The catkins

provide an early source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects, and the seeds are eaten by birds.

L10 and L11 : Two photographs of the same Pedunculate Oak (Pollard). Windfirm, and cold hardy, an English oak which forms part of the line of oak and black poplar. This tree is pollard at 2m above ground (Type B) or it was two trees planted together. Some of lower branches have fallen off both trunks. Small amount of rot at the base of the trunk at ground level.



L10



L11

Character Area 7 - *Gybbons to Glebefield*



L12

Adjoining Glebefield is another mature Horse Chestnut of note in pasture land close to the hedge, mentioned in the Public Consultation as worthy of protection. (L12)

Also adjoining the character area a short distance away by the *White House* and at the entrance to the car park of Rolvenden Club are two Wild Cherry trees (Maiden) planted for the coronation of George the sixth. (L13 and L14) L14 is heavily strangled with ivy, it has Hawthorn bushes growing around it. Now the recycling bins have been removed it might be possible to tend to it.



L13



L14

Character Area 8 - Barton Lodge Bend

L15

Barton Lodge Bend character area is home to several large Scots Pines. (along with *Coveney's Corner* and *Frensham*). They thrive in drier, sandier acidic soils.



L15

Character Area 9 – Maytham/Winser/Frensham Road Triangle

TPO/84/00011 1984 Thornden Lane, Rolvenden Layne

- T1 Horse Chestnut - field no OS 2296, north east of Thornden Lane
- T2 Horse Chestnut

Notable tree at 28 Maytham Road, Rolvenden Layne - Tamarisk (Private - garden)
Supported by prop and metal strap. House built in 1801 but owners consider tree although leaning in good condition.

There are few other mature trees of a good size in the Layne area of Maytham Road.



Considered good for purposes of scale and proportion but often residents are not so keen on having such large specimens in close proximity (L16)

L16 Mature oak in Maytham road.

Rolvenden Layne playing field is an Important Open Space and adjoins this

character area with *Wittersham Approach* and *Frensham*. Several trees have been planted for special occasions. The corner catalpa was planted by the WI for an anniversary, the roadside *Sorbus torminalis*/Chequer tree was planted by *The War Memorial Trust* for Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and the oak tree further into the field was planted by the oldest resident, Mr. Steadman, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Character Area 10 - *Four Wents*



L17

An important feature of this character area are the trees standing on the green in front of Oakfield cottages. They do not have TPO's on them but are notable, were mentioned in the Public Consultation and should be protected.

Character Area 11 – *Maytham Cottages*

TPO/89/0000919 May 1989 3 Maytham Bungalows, Rolvenden Layne, Rolvenden

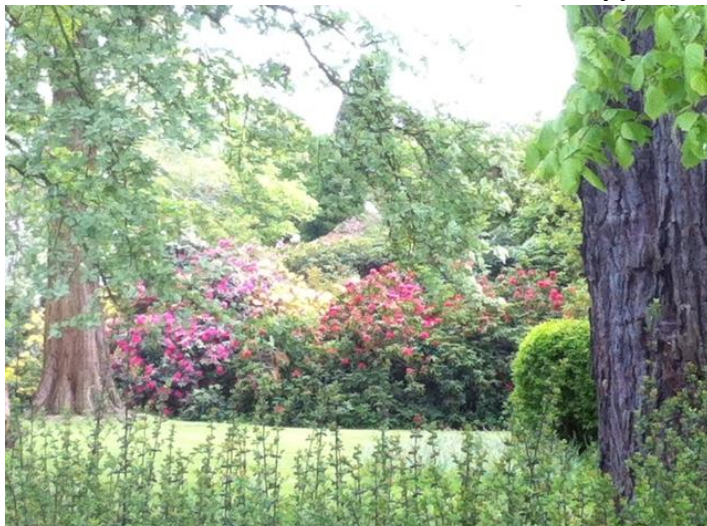
T1 Wild Service - rear garden of 3 Maytham Bungalows, Rolvenden Layne

Adjoining the area at Slade Wood, Frogs Lane, Rolvenden

TPO/83/000063 1983 The grounds for the making of the Order are as follows: It is considered that the woodland is of special amenity value to the area.

W1 mixed hardwoods, mainly Oak over underwood - south of Frogs Lane, Rolvenden

Character Area 12 – *Frensham and Wittersham Approach*



L18

Although not protected, several species of magnificent pines feature in this character area along with splendid mature rhododendrons. (L17)

Adjoining this area and *Mounts Lane Approach* is a Wild Service-Tree (Public Access - next to roadside) next to Upper Bridge Farm, Winser Road. It has considerable damage believed to be storm damage but tree is growing well. Pollarded by forces of nature not by man. Lichen on tree. Another Wild Service-Tree can be found on the front lawn of private garden at Winser Farm, and a Sallow stands next to the Coach House.

On the High Weald Landscape trail next to the stream is a line of old pollarded willows, many hollow and re-rooted.

Further along Maytham Road and associated with *Wittersham Approach*:

A Durmast Oak stands in a hedgerow on private land at Lowden Farm. There is also a Sessile Oak with cherry laurel successfully growing in cavity for over 10 years. However, it is like a bonsai, as it does not increase in size. Hollows/large split trunk.

Other notable trees in the parish:

- Ranters' Oak (Pedunculate Oak) is probably the most famous tree in the parish from its association with the travelling Methodist (Wesleyan) preachers in mid-18th early 19th century. At least three quarters of original trunk now dead/removed. Surviving third very much alive. Several metal/wooden props supporting trunk.



L19

- Maiden Beech in a newly planted vineyard off Sandhurst Lane (L20)



Ref: http://www.btcv.org.uk/kent_trees/files/1651/DSCF3839.JPG

Wassall Farm: TPO/84/00001 1984- 42 oaks

Great Maytham Hall Estate:

- Spanish Chestnut
- Sweet chestnut
- Copper Beech
- Wild Service tree to south of the main drive in grounds of Great Maytham Hall. A healthy tree with a sound bole that forks at 1.3m above ground.
- Smooth-leaved Elm in parkland of Great Maytham Hall, Rolvenden. A big example of a long-leaved High Wealden wild form in good health in 1999 but standing dead in 2010.
- Wild Service tree in parkland of Great Maytham Hall, just off the line of the footpath. Clean columnar bole; growing very slowly
- Cornish Elm, Maiden, standing.

TPO/54/00001 1955 Great Maytham Estate, Rolvenden

W1 and A1 area including wilderness with variety of broadleaved and coniferous trees south of parkland area with mainly scattered trees and some small groups - almost

10 Conclusion

The landscape of the parish within the High Weald AONB is evidently paramount to the historic and distinctive rural character of Rolvenden, the origins of which are still recognizable today. The emphasis is on preservation of the village's natural beauty. Any future development should therefore respond to, and respect, the character of this important landscape.

Appendices

A) <http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/land-management-guidance/woodland-guidance/1145-woodlands-in-the-weald-habitat-leaflet/file.html>

B) SETTLEMENT FORM, CHARACTER and BUILDING DESIGN within the PARISH of ROLVENDEN, KENT – Old Akre Associates 2013

<http://www.rolvendenpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/UserFiles/file/Rovenden%20Study%20Main%20Report%20Part%201%20with%20Annex%20A%20lite.pdf>

C) Rolvenden Landscape Character Maps

<http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/parish-information.html>

D) Ashford Borough Council – planning application search: interactive map

<http://newmaps.ashford.gov.uk/EXTPlanningMap/default.aspx>

F) http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/why-plant-trees/health/?gclid=CjwKEAiAluG1BRDrvsqCtYWk81gSJACZ2BCeXlj6fS_Wof6OWKE7VxPqh2RxNTeS2beGUiz3YIBYcBoCd6nw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

G) <http://www.highweald.org/look-after/land-management/hedges/472-hedgerow-plants-suitable-for-the-high-weald-aonb.html> Shrubs and trees for all rural hedges and situations

Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) - spiny; has white flowers in May; sloes in October.

Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) - spiny; has white flowers in March - April, red berries in autumn.

Field Maple (Acer campestre) - a light shrub or tree; has delicate leaves turning butter yellow in autumn; thrives with trimming.

Hazel (Corylus avellana) - a very traditional hedgerow shrub or coppice tree; has soft round leaves and bears hazel nuts in autumn.

Holly (Ilex aquifolium) - glossy, dense evergreen with spiky leaves and red berries in autumn and winter.

Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) - native only to the southern half of Britain; dense, serrated leaves; clusters of papery seeds in autumn.

Elder (Sambucus nigra) - white scented flowers in June; glossy black berries in autumn.

Wild Dog Rose (Rosa canina) - thorny, rambling rose with delicate leaves; pink-white flowers in June; red hips in autumn and winter.

Spindle (Euonymus europaeus) - leafy shrub with lovely pink and orange berries.

Yew (Taxus baccata) - our only native conifer; dense evergreen needles and red berries.

Trees that will grow as hedges or mature specimens:

Beech (Fagus sylvatica) - grows into stately tree if untrimmed; retains dense orange-brown leaves all winter.

Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) - feathery leaves, turning yellow in autumn; decorative clusters of seeds or 'keys' retained all winter.

Alder (Alnus glutinosa) - large round leaves; catkins in spring and black woody 'cones' in winter; thrives especially in damp soils and along water.

Trees for growing to maturity in hedges (also any of the above list):

Wild Cherry or Gean (Prunus avium) - tall, delicate trees; white blossom in spring; red fruit in summer and red leaves in autumn.

Oak (Quercus robur) - will grow within hedges, but ideally should be allowed to mature into our most traditional and best-known tree; has acorns in autumn.

Note - the above plants are all native to Britain and appropriate to the High Weald. However, there are many different varieties of most of the above plants now available in nurseries, which have been bred for their ornamental qualities and are not native to Britain. It is important to check the exact Latin name, as given above, to ensure the correct native species has been chosen if it is the native species that is required.

H) List of TPO's in Rolvenden since 1999

<http://planning.ashford.gov.uk/treePreservations/SearchResults.aspx?new=true>

TPO/07/00015 27 Nov 2007

Great Job's Cross Bungalow, Hastings Road, Rolvenden

The Council has made this Order due to the recent planning application and the significant oak trees on the site (07/00676/AS). The row of large mature oak trees (G1) forming a row parallel to the Hastings Road is highly visible and forms a significant visual feature. A further six large mature oaks (G2) within a belt of broad-leaved species are also prominent in the landscape and clearly visible from the Public Right of Way (AT62).

TPO/00/00024 29 Mar 2001 6 Sep 2000

Field Boundary of land to south-west of Halden Lane Farm, Rolvenden, Kent

The line of Poplars creates a visual screen for a proposed telecommunications mast granted planning consent under reference 00/00788/AS. Their protection is expedient in order to ensure continuity of tree cover in the area in the long term.

(NB. 07/00125/AS - consent granted to fell all but 12 under field reorganisation, the future of these remains uncertain due to their condition.)

TPO/00/00012 30 Nov 2000

The Oak, Ranters Oak, Benenden Road, Rolvenden

The Oak trees are an important feature of the local landscape, one of them having historical significance. Their protection is expedient in the context of development proposals and highway safety issues which may require reduction of their crowns. Such works could threaten the long term amenity value and viability of the trees if not made subject to appropriate standards of tree surgery.

TPO/00/00003 19 Apr 2000

Land to west of Tanyard Cottages, Rolvenden Road, Tenterden

This mature oak tree is prominent in the street scene of Rolvenden Road where it makes a valuable contribution to the local amenity. Its protection is expedient in the context of development proposals for the surrounding land which may jeopardise its long term retention and viability.

TPO/96/00003 4 Apr 1996

Rondale House, High Street, Rolvenden, Kent (This property was replaced by *Woodstock House* and *Homestall*, next to *Coveney's* but it is believed the trees remain)

- T1 Wild Service - rear garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T2 Wild Service - rear garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T3 Holly - front garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T4 Laurel - front garden of Rondale House, High Street
- T5 Holly - front garden of Rondale House, High Street.
- T6 Holly - front garden of Rondale House, High Street

TPO/94/00013 6 Sep 1994

Thornden Lane, Rolvenden Layne,

The reason for the making of the Order is that it is in the interests of amenity

TPO/92/00009 3 Sep 1992

No 1 Thornden Court, Thornden Lane, Rolvenden Layne, Rolvenden

The reason for the making of the Order is that it is in the interests of amenity

TPO/92/00003 14 May 1992 12 Feb 1992

Landsdale House, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden

- T1 Scots Pine - front garden of Landsdale House, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden
- T2 Holly - rear garden of Landsdale House, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden

TPO/90/00021 12 Dec 1990 18 Jul 1990

Thornden Lane, Rolvenden

The reason for the making of the Order is that it is in the interests of amenity

TPO/90/00019 13 Sep 1990 6 Jun 1990

Whiting Wood, Rolvenden, Cranbrook

The reasons for the making of the Order are that it is in the interests of good forestry & amenity

TPO/89/00023 16 Nov 1989 2 Aug 1989

Bayards Oast, Hastings Road, Rolvenden

The reason for the making of the Order is that it is in the interests of amenity

TPO/89/00009 19 May 1989 8 Mar 1989

3 Maytham Bungalows, Rolvenden Layne, Rolvenden

- T1 Wild Service - rear garden of 3 Maytham Bungalows, Rolvenden Layne

TPO/84/00011 Thornden Lane, Rolvenden Layne

- T1 Horse Chestnut - field no OS 2296, north east of Thornden Lane

- T2 Horse Chestnut

TPO/84/00001 26 March 1984 Wassall Farm - 42 oaks

TPO/83/00006 3 Nov 1983 29 Jul 1983

Slade Wood, Frogs Lane, Rolvenden

The grounds for the making of the Order are as follows: It is considered that the woodland is of special amenity value to the area

TPO/67/00007 13 Apr 1967 N/A

Rolvenden Road, (Heronden Hall), Tenterden

The reason for the making of the Order is that it is in the interests of amenity.

TPO/60/00001 27 Oct 1960 N/A

Rolvenden Road (Westwell), Tenterden

The reason for the making of the Order is that it is in the interests of amenity.

TPO/54/00001 12 Sep 1955 N/A

Great Maytham Estate, Rolvenden

The reason for the making of this Order is that it is in the interests of amenity.

1) Table of veteran trees in Rolvenden www.ashford.gov.uk/environment/trees.aspx

TO8558038-B40	Wisper Farm, Rol Layne	Wild Service-Tree	On front lawn of private garden.
TO85580823	28 Maytham Road	Tamarisk	Supported by prop and metal strap. House built in 1801 but owners consider tree, plus two elderly pear trees. Although tree leaning in good condition.
TO825295		Hornbeam	Many old trees and hedgerows remain and existed on 1779 map. Several hedgerow trees have been cut and laid years ago, while at the edge of the farm house a field maple with a sizeable girth still exists.
TO82373110	Dingleton Farm	Salow	Various ages. One very old pollard plus other younger trees mainly common alder. Willow can be seen from footpath but wrong side of river to measure. Split down centre. Hollows.
TO85162991	11 Thornon Court	Peulunculate Oak	In garden, maiden. Other trees of interest in the vicinity.
TO835254479		Peulunculate Oak	On roadside, Oak growing at the junction of ancient trackway parallel to Roman Road, several lanes join in this area. Maiden. Upright. Alive
TO84453118	Rolverden Churchyard	Yew	Site map 2. Lichen.
TO84453118	Rolverden Churchyard	Yew	site map 3
TO84453118	Rolverden Churchyard	Yew	
TO84453118	Rolverden Churchyard	Yew	site map 6. birds nesting. lichen
TO84453118	Rolverden Churchyard	Yew	next to road in a hedge on wisper road. Considerable damage believed to be storm damage but tree is growing well. Pollarded by forces of nature not by man. Lichen on tree.
TO85593073	next to Upper Bridge Farm,	Wild Service-Tree	
TO85553043	next to Coach House	Salow	On High Weald Landscape trail, next to river. Girth estimated as difficult to get to safely. It is a line of old pollarded willows, many hollow and re-rooted on bank of small stream.
TO85592940	Lowden Farm	Durmast Oak	in a hedgerow on private land (Lowden Farm). Cherry laurel in its cavity. Sessile Oak with cherry laurel successfully growing in cavity for over 10 years. However, it is like a bonsai, as it does not increase in size. Hollows/large split trunk.
TO85482954	Lowden Manor	White Willow	Salix Alba (White willow). 2 trees, on private land, both split down the middle, half standing, half lying on the ground. Some re-growth.
TO85482954	Lowden Manor	White Willow	Salix Alba (White willow). 2 trees, on private land, both split down the middle, half standing, half lying on the ground. Some re-growth.
TO85580388	Wisper Farm, Rol Layne	Tulip Tree	Tulip Tree in private garden - right side at bottom of entrance drive. A tall and fine specimen of this species.
TO84553113	Near church	Peulunculate Oak	On pasture next to footpath. Sheep in field. Lichen. One branch has been cut off. Lichen. Another oak nearby has a girth of 450 on (photo 2 with people) .
TO82753225	Hole Park drive	Horse-Chestnut	Horse Chestnut Avenue, main approach to Hole Park. Visually impressive, but not veteran as the approach to hole Park was re-aligned from Green Lane/Stepney
TO84833033	ATH6688	Comish Elm	Maiden, standing
TO84453118	Rolverden Churchyard	Yew	Upright. lichen. birds nesting. Yew 1 on site map in sources.
TO834824292	Green Lane (Hornbeam	Various hedge trees (chestnut, hornbeam, oak) Impressive hedge line by Backitt Wood, Green Lane/Stepneyford Lane between Rolverden and Benenden Hospital.
TO8493245	Hole Park	Hornbeam	Coppice stool by footpath, in woodland. Extremely old coppiced hornbeam, the centre having vanished and the living tree now forming a circle, the surviving growing coppice being hollow at every base. Significant boundary ditches and banks in the area.
TO83793051	Byway off A28	Beech	Next to Byway, part of old hedge, on a bank. Possibly a boundary hedge? Tree has two main trunks and many stems. Lichen.
TO8462831225	Vicarage	Peulunculate Oak	Tree has been reduced to main trunk and main branches because of safety issues - concerns after it appeared dead last year. At present surrounded by piles of cut logs, hence not possible to accurately measure
TO8470931241	Barton Lodge	Monterey Pine	Said to be tallest tree in Rolverden.
TO82773109	Ranters Oak	Peulunculate Oak	Known as Ranters Oak from association the travelling methodist preachers in mid 18th early 19th century. Surviving section very much alive. Several metal/wooden props supporting trunk.
TO84673072		Copper Beech	
TO84483065	Maytham Hall	Spanish Chestnut	Sweet chestnut in Maytham hall grounds.
TO83373259	Parkland	Ash	Maiden, standing in parkland.

List of Figures:

Fig 1: Topography in the High Weald - Detail from Appendix A.

Fig 2: Geology, landform, water systems and climate around Rolvenden - from Appendix C

Fig 3: Ordnance Survey geological detail - from Appendix B

Fig 4: AONB and historic settlement areas - from Appendix C

Fig. 5: Historic routeways have changed little – from Appendix C

Fig. 6: Field and Heath Data for Rolvenden – from Appendix C

Fig. 7: Ancient Woodland, TPO's and the conservation areas in Rolvenden – from Appendix D

Fig. 8: detail from *The Kent Heritage Project* (The Conservation Volunteers) showing general location of the 51 Heritage trees in the parish.

List of *Landscape* illustrations:

L1 - Common Hawthorn on the green open space by No's 1 - 28 High Street. Two Pink

L2 - Mays remaining from 5 originally planted for the coronation of George VI.

L3 – Yew Tree in the northern section Rolvenden churchyard.

L4 – Hornbeam alongside a PROW thought to be in the location of character area 2.

L5 – Specimen Oaks along the Hastings Road in Newenden Approach

L6 – One of two horse chestnuts planted at the north end of Sparkeswood Avenue

L7, L8, L9 - Three Black Poplars in Sparkeswood Park

L10, L11 – Pedunculate Oak - Sparkeswood Park

L12 Horse Chestnut in-between the White House and Glebefield along Maytham Road

L13 - Wild Cherry to the right of the entrance to the Village Club planted for the Coronation of George VI

L14 - Wild Cherry to the left of the entrance to the Village Club planted for the Coronation of George VI

L15 – View of the Scots Pines at Barton Lodge Bend.

L16 – No 20 Maytham Road TN17 4NP

L17 – Row of mature oaks at Oakfield, along Maytham Road.

L18– Pines and rhododendrons at Frensham Manor

L19 - Old photograph of Ranters Oak, Benenden Road. (Appendix u)

L20 – Specimen Beech in a vineyard off Sandhurst Lane (Appendix w)