Appendices

Appendix A - Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Guidance

Principal items that are relevant to landscape and are covered within National Planning Policy Guidance are described below:

Planning Policy Statement 1 - Planning for Sustainable Development

This guidance lays down strict controls on development in open countryside away from existing settlements. The government's overall aim is to protect the countryside for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty; the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and so it may be enjoyed by all.

- Includes PPS1 supplement – Planning and Climate Change. A draft PPS1 supplement entitled 'Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate' is currently out for consultation.

Planning Policy Statement 7 - Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

Local Landscape Designations
Section 24 - Supports use of carefully crafted criteria based policies, utilising tools such as Landscape Character Assessment, without the need for rigid local designations that may unduly restrict acceptable, sustainable development and the economic activity that underpins vitality of rural areas.

Section 25 – Local Landscape Designations (LLDs) should only be maintained or exceptionally extended where it can be clearly shown that criteria-based policies cannot provide necessary protection. LLDs should state what it is that requires extra protection and why. When reviewing local area-wide development plans and LLDs, planning authorities should rigorously consider justification for retaining local landscape designations. They should ensure such designations are based on a formal and robust assessment of the qualities of the landscape concerned.

Agriculture, farm diversification, equine related activities and forestry
Changes in farming and land management practices are inevitable; a sustainable and considered approach to these matters should ensure that such changes have a positive impact on landscape quality and character. The following issues are highlighted in PPS7. Although they address matters of wider relevance they also have landscape implications and are therefore worthy of consideration:
- Changes in farming practice – diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Intensification of agriculture; abolition of set aside
- Best and most versatile agricultural land (PPS7 - S.28) – to be taken into account in planning applications alongside other sustainability considerations including quality and character of landscape.
- Equine related activities – (PPS7 - S.28) – Local Planning Authorities should set out in LDDs their policies for supporting equine enterprises that maintain environmental quality and countryside character
- Government's Forestry strategy (1999) – seeks sustainable management of existing woods and forests and continued steady expansion of woodland areas for society and environmental benefits.
- Agri-environment and woodland management delivery programmes. Environmental stewardship scheme with entry level (ELS) and Higher level (HLS) options and English Woodland Grant scheme as main incentive mechanisms to secure public benefits from land management.

Additional Planning Policy Guidance

The following policy documents should also be considered for their relevance to landscape related issues:
Planning Policy Statement 3 - Housing
Planning Policy Statement 5 - Planning for the Historic Environment
Planning Policy Statement 9 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
Planning Policy Statement 12 - Local Spatial Planning
Planning Policy Statement 17 - Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Planning Policy Guidance 20 – Coastal Planning
Planning Policy Statement 22 - Renewable Energy
Planning Policy Statement 25 – Planning and Flood Risk (includes PPS25 supplement: Development and Coastal Change)

A draft PPS has recently been published entitled 'Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment'. It proposes consolidation of planning policy contained within PPS7, PPS9, PPG17 and PPG20 and includes policy changes relating to the strategic provision of Green Infrastructure.

The European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape. Created by the Council of Europe, the convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues. Signed by the UK Government in February 2006, the ELC became binding from March 2007. It applies to all landscapes, towns and villages, as well as open countryside; the coast and inland areas; and ordinary or even degraded landscapes, as well as those that are afforded protection.

ELC definition of landscape The ELC defines landscape as:'An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.' (Council of Europe 2000). It highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes, and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation. The UK is recognised as already putting many of the principles of the ELC into practice. For example, the National Character Area map of England has been in use for nearly 10 years. Another example is the well-established practice of using Landscape Character Assessment to inform local policymaking.

Framework for implementation in England Natural England is leading the implementation of the ELC in England and has worked with Defra and English Heritage to produce A Framework for Implementation in England, published in October 2007. This framework seeks to further strengthen the protection, management and planning of England's landscapes, by providing a structure for action plans that will be prepared by any interested partners and stakeholders. It underpins a wide range of activities which, through public engagement and stakeholder involvement, will lead to wider understanding and appreciation of landscapes, improved knowledge and care, as well as a sense of inspiration, well-being and connection between people and place.

ELC action plan Natural England, English Heritage and the National Forest Company have produced action plans highlighting actions that show how implementing the ELC is being integrated into their work. The ELC Framework for Implementation in England invites others to prepare their own action plans. A set of guidelines are being produced to help with writing these: how to integrate the ELC language and intent into strategies, policies, plans and programmes.

Regional Planning Policy Guidance

The South East Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England (May 2009)

Several policies within the above strategy are related to landscape issues and are therefore of relevance to the Medway Landscape Character Assessment. The most relevant policies are listed below with brief summaries:

Countryside and Landscape Management

Policy C3: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
High priority will be given to conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the region's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and planning decisions should have regard to their setting. Proposals for development should be considered in that context.

Policy C4: Landscape and Countryside Management
• Outside nationally designated landscapes, positive and high quality management of the region's open countryside will be encouraged and supported by local authorities and other organisations…
• In particular, planning authorities and other agencies in their plans and programmes should recognise, and aim to protect and enhance, the diversity and local distinctiveness of the region's landscape, informed by Landscape Character Assessment….
• Positive land management is particularly needed around the edge of London and in other areas most subject to growth and change. In such areas long term goals for landscape conservation and renewal and habitat improvement should be set, and full advantage taken of agri-environmental funding and other management tools.
• Local authorities should develop criteria-based policies to ensure that all development respects and enhances local landscape character, securing appropriate

mitigation where damage to local landscape character cannot be avoided.

- This policy under item 11.11 sets out the need to address two key areas. Firstly to understand why the South East's landscapes are unique, and how future changes can support their environmental, cultural and economic value. Secondly to understand how planning policy, land management practices and funding initiatives can be best used in unison to achieve the objectives of this Plan. In particular it highlights the significant role played by the agricultural sector in shaping the landscape character of the countryside and how it can continue to manage the countryside to support farming enterprise while preserving the unique character of local landscapes.

Note: Regional and sub-regional landscape designations are not considered within the South East Plan. This means that there is no discrete level of landscape protection below the national level of landscape designation (i.e. National Parks and AONBs).

Policy C5: Managing the rural-urban fringe
- Identify issues and opportunities that require action to deliver a sustainable multi-functional rural-urban fringe
- Identify parts of rural-urban fringe around settlements currently or potentially subject to dereliction
- To ensure action, local authorities should ensure better management of rural-urban fringe by working with neighbouring authorities and targeting positive management on planned urban extension areas, working with local communities and landowners to consider landscape and biodiversity enhancement, woodland management, recreation provision and access routes
- Ten key functions for rural-urban fringe are identified – a bridge to the country; a gateway to the town;

a health centre; a classroom; a recycling and renewable energy centre; a productive landscape; a cultural legacy; a place for sustainable living; an engine for regeneration; a nature reserve

Policy C6: Countryside Access and Rights of Way Management
- This policy seeks to encourage access to the countryside, particularly by maintaining, enhancing and promoting the Public Rights of Way system; linking settlements and reducing car use for shorter journeys; making routes multi-functional; avoiding adverse impacts on Natura 2000 and Ramsar wetland sites.

Policy C7: The River Thames Corridor
- Riparian local authorities and other stakeholders should work together to establish a co-ordinated policy framework for the river and its valley corridor to reflect environmental, heritage and recreational value through rural and urban areas
- Taking account of Thames River Basin Management Plan, local authorities should work together to maintain and enhance the landscapes and waterscapes of the River Thames corridor, in terms of scenic, conservation value and overall amenity; address nature conservation, accessibility, recreation and setting of the river
- Through urban areas local authorities provide for riverside open spaces and access routes; protect and improve scenic views of the river and from the river, especially where they contain significant natural or built heritage features; ensure high quality of sympathetic design within sight of the river; seek to conserve and improve historic built environment that is part of river's heritage and setting

Natural Resource Management

This section starts with an introductory table summarises the region's key environmental challenges - water resources, water quality, flooding, biodiversity, coast, air quality, noise, sustainable design and construction, energy, waste and minerals. The table provides a list of issues and responses to these challenges.

The following polices within this section are of particular relevance to this study and wider green infrastructure planning within Medway and are listed with a brief summary of key issues:

Policy NRM5: Conservation and improvement of biodiversity
- Provide the highest level of protection to sites of international nature conservation importance (European sites); avoid damage to nationally, county and locally important sites; ensure appropriate access; identify biodiversity improvement opportunities and set targets, including connection of sites, large scale habitat restoration, enhancement and re-creation
- Identifies major losses of species populations and habitats in recent decades due to inappropriate management, agricultural practices, development and fragmentation; discourages further fragmentation of habitats
- Seeks to preserve and improve biodiversity through regional biodiversity targets
- Identifies role of planning in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and helping natural systems to adapt to climate change impacts
- Identifies areas of strategic opportunity based on key habitat types, including chalk downs (restoration, re-creation and management of chalk grasslands, chalk woodland and species-rich scrub); seeks to restore enhance and re-connect concentrations of important woodland habitats; to restore and re-create wetlands (including coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, reed beds, inter-tidal mud flats and salt marsh)

Policy NRM7: Woodlands
- Seeks to ensure the value and character of the region's woodland is protected and enhanced; seeks the protection of ancient woodland; the promotion of effective management, extension and creation of new woodland areas including, in association with areas of major development, restoration and enhancement of degraded landscapes; replacement of lost woodland from new development; promotion of economic use of woodlands and woodland resources
- Notes that the region is the most wooded in England, the social and environmental benefits of woodland and the levels of neglect; seeks to promote higher woodland management standards

Policy NRM8: Coastal management
- Seeks to ensure adoption of an integrated approach to management and planning in coastal areas, noting dynamic nature and character of coast and need for enhanced collaboration across administrative boundaries; including planning for climate change and forecasting effects on coastal zone; conservation and enhancement of the most valuable habitats and environments; development and management of public access, recreation and tourism within context of Catchment Management Plans, Shoreline Management Plans, Coastal Defence Strategies, Catchment Flood Management Plans, Estuary Management Plans, Harbour Management Plans and River Basin Management Plans
- Identifying opportunities and impacts of development on options for managed realignment; protection of undeveloped coastline; prevention of development on unstable land or areas at risk of erosion; realising opportunities for sustainable flood defences

Note: Two separate strategies consider flood risk management for coastline areas within Medway – 'The Shoreline Management Plan (Isle of Grain to South Foreland

and Medway Estuary and Swale)' and 'Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100)'. Considering the fine detail of these strategies is outside the scope of this study but certain issues relating to the creation of inter-tidal habitats have been considered within the Introduction and relevant character area summary sheets.

Further policies listed below have relevant to landscape impacts within Medway but are considered beyond the scope of this study to address in further detail. They are therefore provided here for further reference without summary information.

Policy NRM1: Sustainable water resources and groundwater quality
Policy NRM2: Water quality
Policy NRM3: Strategic water resources development
Policy NRM4: Sustainable flood risk management

Minerals and Waste Section D of the South East Plan is devoted to policy guidance on Minerals & Waste. This specialist area has not been considered in detail within this study. However future planning decisions that relate to the sting of minerals extraction works and waste facilities are likely to have significant impacts on landscape character. These impacts will need to be addressed through the Environmental Impact Assessment process and should take account of the guidance within this LCA study.

Cross Cutting Policies

Policy CC2: Climate Change
- Seeks measures to mitigate and adapt to current and forecast effects of climate change; including reduction in carbon dioxide emissions
- Adaptation to risks and opportunities to be achieved through guiding strategic development to locations offering greater protection from impacts such

as flooding, erosion, storms, water shortages and subsidence; increase in resilience of building stock to climate change impacts; incorporation of sustainable drainage measures and high standards of water efficiency to building stock; increasing flood storage capacity and developing sustainable new water resources; promote options for sustainable flood management and migration of habitats and species
- Mitigation through reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to be addressed through greater resource efficiency, including improved energy efficiency and carbon performance of buildings; reducing need to travel and ensuring good accessibility; promoting land use that acts as carbon sinks; encouraging renewable energy; reducing biodegradeable waste landfill
- Research indicates South East could be more affected by climate change than other regions of England; climate change will affect development and land use and there is a need to introduce challenging mitigation and adaptation measures over the Plan period.

Policy CC8: Green Infrastructure
- Local authorities and partners will work together to plan, provide and manage connected and substantial networks of accessible, multi-functional green space. Networks should be planned and managed to deliver the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits including conserving and enhancing biodiversity as well as landscape, recreation, water management, social and cultural benefits to underpin individual and community health and 'well being'. They will be created and managed as a framework of green spaces and other natural features that will boost the sustainable development of settlements and increase the environmental capacity of the locality and region as a whole, helping communities to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.
- The provisions of this policy apply region-wide. However the successful designation and management of

green Infrastructure will be particularly important in areas designated as regional hubs, where growth may impact on sites of nature conservation importance or where there is a need to enhance the existing environmental capacity of an area. It requires the planning and management of GI with multi-functional objectives in mind: including biodiversity, enhancement, protection and mitigation; creating a sense of place and opportunities for greater appreciation of valuable landscapes and cultural heritage; increased recreational opportunities (including access and enjoyment of countryside, supporting healthy living); improved water resources, flood mitigation and reduced flood risk through sustainable surface water run-off management; a positive contribution to combating climate change through adaptation and mitigation of impacts; sustainable transport; reducing crime and disorder potential and fear of crime; improved educational opportunities. It also seeks integral planning of GI alongside new development and consideration of wider GI networks; it requires that GI policies and strategies in LDFs should be spatially expressed and not just be restricted to definition.

- This policy is supported by the *South East Green Infrastructure Framework: from Policy into Practice*. This document which seeks to define GI as an integral and essential component of sustainable communities, provides a definition of GI, explains the relationship of GI to spatial planning and sustainability and provides guidance on delivery of GI. See Bibliography for reference details.

Access
- The Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, makes provision for the establishment of a coastal access route around the coast of England
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act makes provision for certain tracts of land (mainly mountain, moor, heath and down) for the purposes of outdoor recreation.

Contaminated land

Medway has a significant industrial history and there is potential for land contamination in both urban and rural environments. There are areas of mixed use, where sensitive receptors exist in close proximity to potential sources of contamination. In April 2000, a new regime for contaminated land was brought in to force by Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This regime provides a system for the identification of land that is posing an unacceptable risk to human health, to property or the environment. Local authorities are required to collate this information and publish details in a Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy. The Medway Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy was published in April 2002

as an iterative document that will develop as information is collected, screened and assessed. The strategy has to consider all landholdings including property or land where the Council may have been an owner, lessee or polluter. A review will be made of past development sites and areas where remediation may have already been carried out. When considering potential development sites the possibility of encountering contamination should be considered on a site by site basis. Where landscapes have an industrial past or present use, development led decontamination works may be required at some point to reduce environmental risks. This may impact on landscape character in the short term, but may also be used to gain longer term enhancement.

Appendix B - Landscape Types

Rural Types

R1 Prominent wooded or farmed hills
R1a Wooded Hills and ridges
R1b Open, farmed hills and ridges
R2 Chalk scarps and valleys
R3 Farmed Valleys
R3a Wooded valley with pasture
R3b Wooded valley with arable
R3c Minor valley with mixed farmland
R4 Coastal marshes
R4a Saltmarsh
R4b Grazing marsh
R4c Cultivated marsh
R5 Flat or undulating mixed farmland
R5a Orchards and mixed farmland (small-scale)
R5b Horticulture and mixed farmland (small-scale)
R6 Flat or undulating open farmland
R6a Flat, open arable farmland (large-scale)
R6b Undulating, open arable farmland (large-scale)
R6c Open pasture (large-scale)
R7 Flat or undulating wooded farmland
R7a Arable farmland with wooded blocks (large-scale)
R7b Pasture with woodland (large-scale)
R7c Estate farmland
R7d MIxed farmland with woodland blocks

Transitional Types

T1 Rural Fringe
T1a Rural fringe farmland
T1b Rural suburbia
T1c Rural fringe with industrial/urban unfluences
T1d Rural fringe with amenity uses
T1e Rural Fringe heathland
T2 Urban fringe
T2a Transportation corridor
T2b Urban fringe with urban/industrial influences
T2c Derelict land
T2d Amenity land and green space
T2e Active quarries
T3 Marshland fringe
T3a Marsh with urban/industrial influences
T3b Marsh with urban/industrial dominance

Rural Types

R1 Prominent wooded or farmed hills

Significant elevated landforms (essentially prominent hills and ridges), providing important features within otherwise flat or undulating rural landscapes. These features are set within a rural context which is generally free of urbanising or industrial features. These landforms provide containment and screening sometimes reducing the impact of adjacent urban/industrial influences.

R1a *Wooded hills and ridge*
Prominent hills and ridges in agricultural use (grazing or arable) with significant/prominent woodland cover and a strong landscape structure. These are contained, predominantly unspoilt, rural landscapes set within a rural context.

R1b *Open, farmed hills and ridges*
Elevated, open, large scale, predominantly arable landscapes with a noticeable lack of land-cover containment, particularly an absence of woodland, hedgerow or scrub vegetation. These landscapes often have a denuded exposed character resulting in any built forms and urbanising elements upon them being visually prominent features.

R2 Chalk scarps and valleys

A series of prominent landforms, that form a unified, usually complex landscape. Essentially a system of ridges and valleys and/or scarps in predominantly rural use. Land-cover is often scrub woodland/rough grassland on the steeper valley sides and scarps, and prominent woodland blocks within the flatter areas. Significant containment.

R3 Farmed valleys

Distinctive, often isolated, valley forms in predominantly agricultural use. These landforms have definite well contained rural character but often contain roads and associated ribbon development which introduce varying degrees of urban influence.

R3a *Wooded valley with pasture*
Distinctive valley forms with predominantly grazed agricultural land use contained by woodland. Woodland is the main influence on landscape structure and containment, otherwise this landscape is quite open. There is little influence from urbanising elements.

R3b *Wooded valley with arable*
Distinctive valley forms in predominantly arable use with woodland blocks. Apart from the influence of woodland the landscape structure is relatively weak with few hedgerows, trees and little scrub vegetation. Where roads and ribbon development are present along the valley floors these introduce an urban influence.

R3c *Minor valley with mixed farmland*
Well-contained and localised valley forms with small scale mixed agricultural use comprising of fruit growing (small orchards), vegetable production (market gardening) and pasture. Division into smaller fields than dictated by hedgerow distribution. Varied land use results in an intricate landscape pattern. Very rural in character. Minor roads have little impact on character.

R4 Coastal marshes

Areas of low-lying, extremely flat alluvial land adjacent to the sea/estuaries, the majority of which have been reclaimed for agriculture and are protected from tidal influences by raised embankments. Includes inland waters within tidal reach.

R4a *Saltmarsh*
Unimproved salt-marsh within predominantly rural context, subject to tidal influences. Characterised by typical pattern of creeks and channels. Typically extremely flat and open with expansive views of sea and sky. Remote and wild character accentuated by presence of marshland birds, exposure to the elements and smells of the sea.

R4b *Grazing Marsh*
Reclaimed marsh, mostly under grazing management. The natural saltmarsh vegetation converted to semi-improved pasture through drainage and fertiliser. Quality not consistent. Despite loss of saltmarsh vegetation, generally retains a 'natural' marshland character, particularly where remnant features such as creeks and sea and sky. Remote and wild character accentuated by presence of marshland birds, exposure to the elements and smells of the sea.

R4c *Cultivated marsh*
Areas of marshland which have been drained an cultivated primarily for the growing of arable crops. The characteristic features of grazing marsh are lost and the resulting landscape is exceptionally featureless, flat and barren. The character is more exposed and less 'natural' than other marsh types.

R5 Flat or undulating mixed farmland

Small scale, mixed agricultural land uses on flat or undulating landform

R5a *Orchards and mixed farmland*
Dominated by the presence of orchards and adjacent shelter belts (mainly of poplar) which provide containment and an intricate landscape pattern, in combination with a mix of arable land and pasture. A small scale, intimate and diverse landscape. Set on flat or undulating landform which offers little visual containment in itself.

R5b Horticulture and mixed farmland
Small-scale farmland typically comprising an intricate mix of horticultural crops with areas of pasture and sometimes arable, occasionally with existing or remnant orchards. Small, intricate and diverse landscape pattern although normally lacks the visual containment of the landscapes dominated by orchards.

R6 Flat or undulating open farmland

R6a Flat or undulating arable farmland
Large field pattern and a general lack of containment results in a large scale, open, sometimes 'prairie-like' landscape with extensive and distant views. The landscape structure is weak with few trees, hedgerows removed or in poor condition; a generally denuded landscape. This is intensively farmed land predominantly in arable use but with some pockets of remnant orchard. Built forms and urbanising features (especially power lines) tend to be visually prominent. Boundaries are often completely absent, or comprise post-and-wire fences, often in poor repair.

R6b Open pasture
Similarly large scale and rural landscape but predominantly under pasture, either permanent or re-seeded. Grazing management lends a more pastoral character to these areas. Weak landscape structure and little variation in landform result in an open, featureless landscape. Hedgerows have typically been replaced by fences, often in poor repair. Farm buildings, urban areas and other built forms can be visually prominent even at some distance.

R7 Flat or undulating wooded farmland

R7a Arable farmland with woodland blocks
Large scale, rural landscape predominantly in arable use. Field pattern is large and demarcation is rarely used. Field pattern is large and demarcation is rarely by hedgerows. Deciduous woodland, usually in large blocks, is a significant landscape feature and the main form of visual containment and landscape incident.

R7b Pasture with woodland
Large scale rural landscape predominantly pasture. Field pattern is large and demarcation is rarely hedgerows. Deciduous woodland, in large blocks, is a significant landscape feature and main form of visual containment and landscape incident.

R7c Estate farmland
Smaller-scale pockets of land, generally on more undulating landform. Characterised by a well-managed appearance and by the presence of deciduous woodland, free-standing trees and distinctive styles of fencing (e.g. metal estate railings). Land-use is predominantly pasture with a small scale field pattern, and grazing animals contribute to the pastoral scene.

R7d Mixed farmland with woodland blocks
Small scale rural landscape, predominantly arable but including orchards and horse pasture. Deciduous woodland in large blocks provide strong sense of containment and significant landscape feature.

Transitional Types

T1 Rural Fringe
Transitional landscape which contain or are surrounded by features which intrude upon or detract from their essentially rural, agricultural character to a significant degree or which are characterised by farmland in poor condition (often horse-grazed pasture) or degraded by unsightly fencing or activities. Distinguished from urban fringe landscapes by retaining a predominantly rural character, despite the strong urban influences.

T1a Rural fringe farmland
Farmland within a rural context (especially around the fringes of rural settlements) which has a generally degraded character. Typically comprises permanent pasture under horse-grazing, areas abandoned from agriculture or degraded by unsightly features (shacks, rubbish etc.), fencing in poor repair and other activities (such as allotments) which are characteristic of settlement fringes. Usually small-scale field pattern, often with hedgerows or fences in poor condition.

T1b Rural suburbia
A definitely rural landscape but significantly influenced, but not dominated, by industrial or urban features such as roads, lighting, intrusive signage, ribbon development, power lines, industrial buildings etc. Agricultural land-uses help to retain a predominantly rural feel but these elements introduce a discordant and fragmented character.

T1c Rural fringe with urban/industrial influences
Agricultural landscapes significantly influenced, but not dominated, by industrial and urban features such as, roads, lighting, intrusive signage, ribbon development, power lines, industrial buildings etc.

agricultural land uses help to retain a predominantly rural feel but these elements introduce a discordant and fragmented character.

T1d Rural fringe with amenity uses
Land obviously managed for amenity/sports uses on the fringes of rural/urban areas. For example, country parks, golf courses, football pitches etc. Characterised by well-managed appearance, which can appear incongruous and discordant within a rural setting, though not necessarily unattractive.

T1e Rural fringe heathland
Distinctive areas of open or wooded heath or common lying within the rural/urban transition. Very important open space for informal recreation. Characterised by heathy vegetation, scrub and oak woodland. Semi-natural in appearance although peripheral roads and residential development and heavy recreational usage lend a suburban influence.

T2 Urban fringe
Landscape adjacent to intrusive built-up/urban areas and containing features which intrude upon or detract from the essentially rural, agricultural character to a significant degree. Distinguished from rural fringe landscapes by a distinctively and predominantly urban feel, with urban/industrial elements dominating the landscape in some urban areas.

T2a Transportation corridor
Land that is significantly degraded by road or railway development and associated features (e.g. bridges) and/or, route-side development which is out of context with its setting. This is generally ribbon development sometimes fragmented by pockets of agricultural use.

T2b Urban fringe with urban/industrial influences
Land that is either significantly degraded by adja-cent intrusive urban or industrial areas (sometimes characterised by an abrupt urban/rural transition) or contains features which significantly intrude upon or detract from it's once rural character.

T2c Derelict land
Land that is not in active use, either abandoned/ derelict land or vacant land awaiting future occupa-tion/management. Can vary from those areas which are visually degraded by unsightly dereliction, to abandoned areas on which valuable semi-natural grassland, scrub and woodland communities may have developed, to land which is in the process of reclamation from mineral workings to landfill operations and which has a distinctive 'amenity-type' character.

T2d Amenity land
Usually discrete amenity uses within the urban con-text e.g. golf course and sports grounds. Obviously managed for such purposes and has a very distinc-tive character which is not always unattractive but has a man-made effect. This can be discordant in a more rural context but can be a valuable attribute in the harder, urban context.

T2e Active quarries
Quarries that are currently being worked and therefore result in the interruption of the 'natural' landscape pattern/flow. These are often dramatic man-made landscapes with tall cliffs, lakes and regenerating scrub/woodland in worked areas. Machinery and actively areas are unsightly however, and the quarries often have a significant influence on their surroundings – general degradation by dust deposits, litter as well as visually unattractive secu-rity fencing and unnatural screen bunding. However, usually visually contained until seen from perimeters or an elevated viewpoint.

T3 Marshland fringe
Marshland landscapes which have been influenced to some degree by urban development, industry or other non-agricultural land uses. The particular sub-type classification depends on the degree of influence that the urban/industrial land uses have upon the typical marshland character.

T3a Marshland with urban/industrial influences
Areas of low-lying, marshland, the character of which is affected by peripheral industrial/urban influences or by features within the marsh, notably power lines, roads or isolated pockets of industry. Remnant marshland features, such as ditches, coun-ter walls, creeks etc., help to maintain a marshland character.

T3b Marshland with urban/industrial dominance
Generally smaller pockets of marshland where the urban/industrial elements are more concentrated and therefore the degree of influence is greater, to the point at which the marshland character is over-whelmed.

NB. The above landscape types were defined as part of the Kent Thames Gateway study, which covered a wider area; most but not all of these types occur within the Medway area. The full original list has been retained for completeness but with some minor amendments. One new category (R7d) and one merged category (R6a and R6b) describing flat and undulating arable farmland were previously separate but very similar categories; they are now one landscape type – R6a)

Appendix C - Methodology and analysis

This section explains the methodology adopted for the assessment of Condition and Sensitivity.

Condition

Condition is strongly influenced by the impact of external factors. The assessment of condition evaluates the pattern of the landscape and the presence of incongruous features on the unity of the landscape. It also evaluates how well the landscape functions as a habitat for wildlife and the condition of cultural or 'man-made' elements such as enclosure, built elements and roads. Urban fringe areas are often under pressure that can frustrate other land uses. This often means that these areas are described as being in a poor condition whilst other more remote areas may still have the same basic features but be in a better condition. It is therefore practical to assume that condition may vary throughout a character area so that any conclusions should be regarded as a summary of the overall situation. Condition is defined by an analysis of *Visual Unity* and *Functional Integrity*.

- *Visual Unity* is the result of an analysis of the Pattern of Elements, for example the pattern of vegetation, enclosure, settlement, and the relationship of these to landform, weighed against the number of Detracting Features in the landscape.

- *Functional Integrity* is an assessment of how the landscape functions and considers both the influence of man (*Cultural Integrity*) and nature (*Ecological Integrity*).

Sensitivity

Sensitivity is a measure of the ability of a landscape to accept change without causing irreparable damage to the essential fabric and distinctiveness of that landscape. The term change refers to both beneficial changes such as a new woodland as well as change that may be brought by new land uses. Sensitivity is defined by an analysis of Sense of Place and Visibility

Sense of Place balances *Distinctiveness* with *Time depth*. Distinctiveness is defined by how much the key characteristics contribute to a sense of place. For example in a landscape where hedgerows are a key characteristic if the network is intact the landscape can be described as distinct or 'characteristic'. Some landscapes have features that may be considered unique or rare and these will obviously contribute to a strong sense of place. Time depth ranges from recent, through historic to ancient and reflects how long that landscape has taken to establish. Ancient landscapes are uncommon in Kent but include those that have had very little intervention by man or contain ancient or prehistoric features. Historic landscapes are generally from the medieval period onwards. This is when the pattern of most landscapes in Kent was established and is generally discernible today (although overlain with modern features). Recent landscapes are those where historic elements have been replaced with new elements or land management. They include reclaimed landscapes.

Visibility addresses the issues of *Landform* and *Tree cover*. For example an open hilltop landscape has a higher visibility than an enclosed lowland landscape.

The conclusions reached for each of the character areas are expressed using a matrix that balances Condition and Sensitivity. This analysis gives a broad indication of each area's ability to accommodate a change in management or use without loss of overall integrity. The matrix helps to assist in the direction of any policy that might be applied to the land in question. Each character area is assessed with this method and a set of appropriate actions are identified.

Although conclusions are reached for each of the character areas, it is not the purpose of this study to rank one character area against another. Likewise this study is not intended to identity areas suitable for development. It

may however offer guidance on whether development is appropriate and at what type and scale whilst respecting the character of the landscape.

	low	moderate	high
good	REINFORCE	CONSERVE AND REINFORCE	CONSERVE
moderate	CREATE AND REINFORCE	CONSERVE AND CREATE	CONSERVE AND RESTORE
poor	CREATE	RESTORE AND CREATE	RESTORE

Condition (vertical axis)

Sensitivity (horizontal axis)

Conserve Actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features and features in good condition.

Conserve and reinforce Actions that conserve distinctive features and features in good condition, and strengthen and reinforce those features that may be vulnerable.

Reinforce Actions that strengthen or reinforce distinctive features and patterns in the landscape.

Conserve and restore Actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features and features in good condition, whilst restoring elements or areas in poorer condition and removing or mitigating detracting features.

Conserve and create Actions that encourage the conservation of distinctive features and features in good condition, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

Restore Actions that encourage the restoration of distinctive landscape features and the removal or mitigation of detracting features.

Restore and create Actions that restore distinctive features and the removal or mitigation of detracting features, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

Reinforce and create Actions that strengthen or reinforce distinctive features and patterns in the landscape, whilst creating new features or areas where they have been lost or are in poor condition.

Create Actions that create new features or areas where existing elements are lost or in poor condition.

Assessment values for Condition and Sensitivity categories were defined as follows:

Condition
- Pattern of elements – Coherent/Variable/Incoherent
- Detracting features – Few/Some/Many
- Visual Unity – Intact/Interrupted/Fragmented
- Ecological integrity – High/Moderate/Low
- Cultural integrity – Good/Variable/Poor
- Functional integrity – High/Moderate/Low

Sensitivity
- Distinctiveness – Very distinct/Distinct/Indistinct
- Continuity – Ancient/Historic/Recent
- Sense of place – Strong/Moderate/Poor
- Landform – Dominant/Apparent/Insignificant
- Tree cover – Enclosed/Intermittent/Open
- Visibility – High/Moderate/Low

Appendix D: Sample survey sheets

Field Evaluation Sheet Side 1

Local Character area	BALD TOP HILL	Regional Character area	
Landscape character type	R1B	National Character area	
Geology		Panoramic Photo Nos	
Date 17/03/09 Viewpoint No:		Survey Point 41	

Topography

Flat   plain   dry valley
Undulating   rolling lowland   deep gorge
rolling   plateau   broad valley
(steep) *(hill)*   scarp/cliffs   narrow valley

Sketch

Dominant landcover & landscape elements

Buildings	Heritage	Farming	Landcover	Woodland/trees	Hydrology	Communications
Farm buildings	Vernacular blgs	Walls	Parkland	Deciduous	River	Road
Masts/poles	Country house	Fences	Scrub	Coniferous	Stream	Track
Pylons	Field systems	Hedges	Marsh	Mixed	Reservoir	Footpath
Industry	Forts	Fields	Moor/heath	Shelterbelt	Dry valley	Lane
Settlement	Fortifications	Arable	Rough grassland	Hedge trees	Winterbourne	Railway
Urban	Monuments	Improved pasture	Water meadow	Orchard	Pond	Military
Follies	Ecclesiastic	Rough grazing	Grassland	Clumps	Lake	Pylons
Military	Coppice	Hedge banks	Species rich grassland	isolated trees	Drainage ditch	Communication masts
		Orchard				

Aesthetic & perceptual factors

Aesthetic
Pattern (2D)   dominant/strong/broken/weak
Texture   smooth/textured/rough/v rough
Complexity   uniform/simple/diverse/complex
Unity   uniform/interrupted/fragmented/chaotic
Enclosure   expansive/open/enclosed/constrained

Scale   intimate / small/medium/large   — at h.p
Colour   monochrome/muted/colourful/garish
Remoteness   wild/remote/vacant/active
Form (3D)   straight/angular/curved/sinuous
Balance/proportion   good/variable/poor

Perceptual
Security – intimate/comfortable/safe/unsettling/threatening
Tranquillity – inaccessible / remote / vacant / peaceful / busy
Stimulus – monotonous/bland/interesting/challenging/inspiring
Pleasure – unpleasant/pleasant/attractive/beautiful

Key characteristics / Distinctive features and why they are important

Interaction of landform, land cover, semi-natural vegetation, field pattern, aspects of settlement and aesthetic considerations like open skies, long views or a strong sense of enclosure; balance of natural factors & human influence; distinctiveness of area boundaries
How do main features contribute to local distinctiveness – natural features/land use/farm type/woodlands/tree cover (groups; linear; hedgerow; scattered; shelterbelt) field boundaries (hedges; ditches; stock fence; electric) / highways & footpaths (major road, rail, local road, footpath, no public access / built features (village, settlement, farm, church, oast) urban edge/pylon/mast/new housing

Distinctive, open pastoral landscape on prominent hill, visible from A289 + Wainscott (to South) Very tranquil, rural on north slope, views to settlement, roads to south but still a remote feel. Some remnant hedgerows, groups of trees on slopes, but top very open, exposed. → hence name. Long views – Chattenden Ridge, Round Top Hill + right out to North Downs, Tilbury power station. Stream running round hill, attractively lined with trees

Brief description (incl main elements, features, attractors & detractors)

Describe overall character of landscape with reference to geology, landform, land cover, land use, settlement and enclosure

Scrub to lower slopes - Woodfield way + Upchat Rd

Field Evaluation Sheet Side 2

Landscape quality / Condition

Intactness - Visual context & unity (Visual unity - extent of uniform/unifying features / views, outlook, adjacent land uses & overall unity)

Pattern of elements (intact/interrupted/fragmented)	Coherent	Variable	Incoherent
Detracting features (extent & significance)	Few	Some	Many
Analysis	Intact		

Functional integrity (influence of nature and man)
Ecological Integrity [1] Extent of semi-natural habitat & patches/ Ecological corridors & networks / Intensity of land use & habitat trend

How well does area function as habitat for wildlife	High	Moderate	Low
Analysis			

Cultural integrity   Condition of heritage features

a) Tree cover (age structure/extent)	Good	Variable	Poor
b) Field boundaries (survival of historic field pattern/condition)	Good	Variable	Poor
c) Marshland (saltmarsh/grazing/cultivated) N/A	Good	Variable	Poor
Analysis	Moderate		

Condition Analysis - Good / Moderate / Poor

Landscape sensitivity
Measure of landscape's ability to accept change without causing irreparable damage to essential fabric and distinctiveness of that landscape

Sense of Place	moderate/strong			
Key characteristics	Distinctiveness (how much do key characteristics contribute to sense of place)		Continuity (reflection of how long landscape has taken to establish)	
Natural features	Very distinct / Distinct / Indistinct		Ancient / Historic / Recent	
Land use/farm type	Very distinct / Distinct / Indistinct		Ancient / Historic / Recent	
Woodlands/tree cover	Very distinct / Distinct / Indistinct		Ancient / Historic / Recent	
Field boundaries	Very distinct / Distinct / Indistinct		Ancient / Historic / Recent	
Highways/built features/pylon	Very distinct / Distinct / Indistinct		Ancient / Historic / Recent	
Analysis				

* Ancient – very little intervention by man or contains ancient or historic features / Historic – generally from medieval period onwards (this is when the pattern of most landscape in Kent was established and is generally discernible today (although overlain with modern features) / Recent – where historic elements have been replaced with new elements or land management

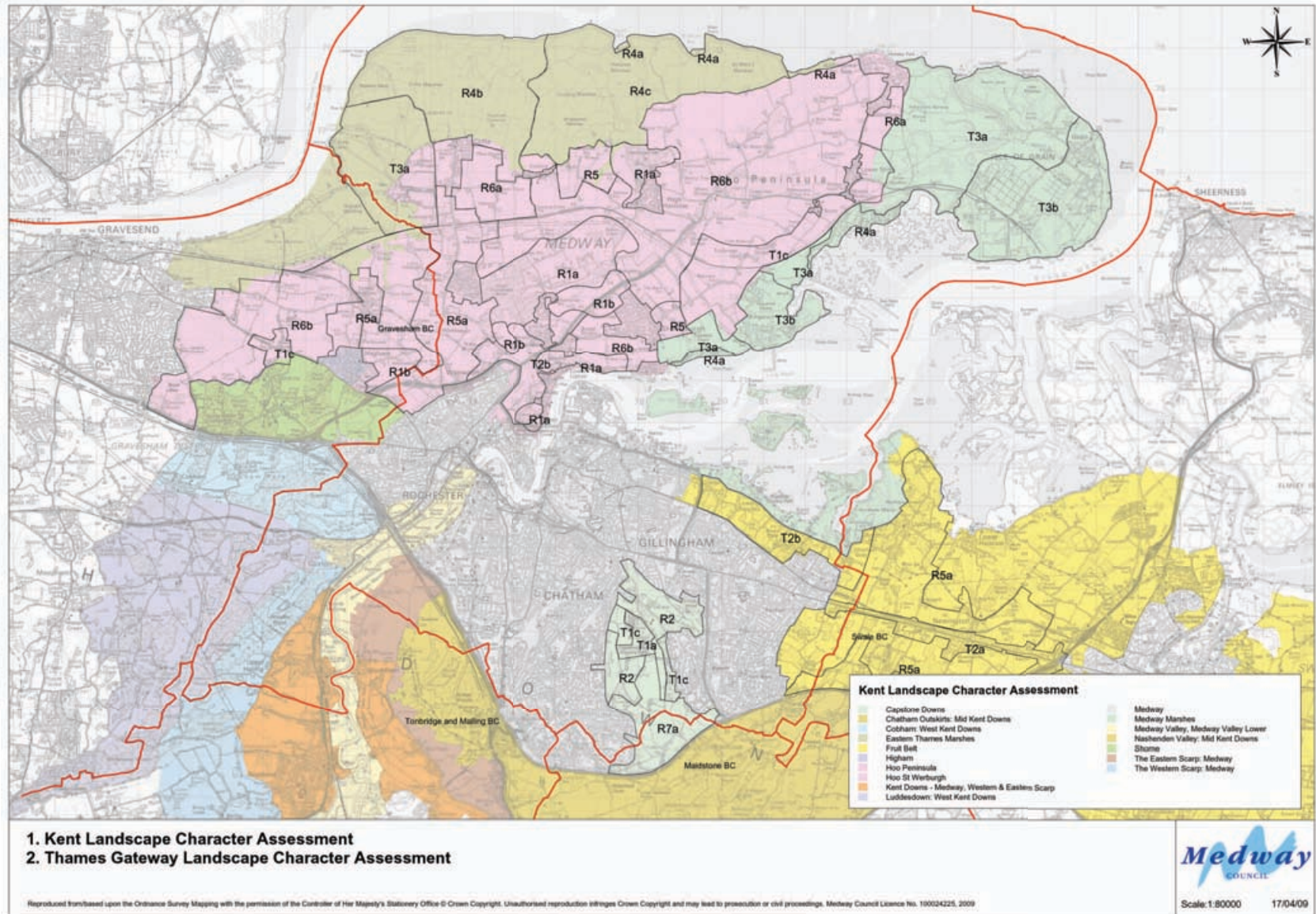| Visibility - assesses interaction of/relative dominance of elements in landscape view							
Landform	Dominant	Apparent	Insignificant	Tree cover	Enclosed	Intermittent	Open
Analysis	High						

Sensitivity Analysis - Low / Moderate / High   Conserve & Restore

Landscape guidelines
Key characteristics – what is distinctive about this area. Positive characteristics should be protected from adverse change. Overcome negative characteristics by some form of enhancement. Need to consider overall character, key characteristics of landscape, its history and origins and opportunities that may exist to create new landscapes to meet the emerging social, economic and environmental needs of stakeholders. Consider in relation to landscape type and main pressures likely to result in landscape change – eg. agriculture, forestry, settlement & built development, mineral working, tourism, recreation, infrastructure, climate change and severe weather events (eg. flood/drought). Assess management needs of landscape character area
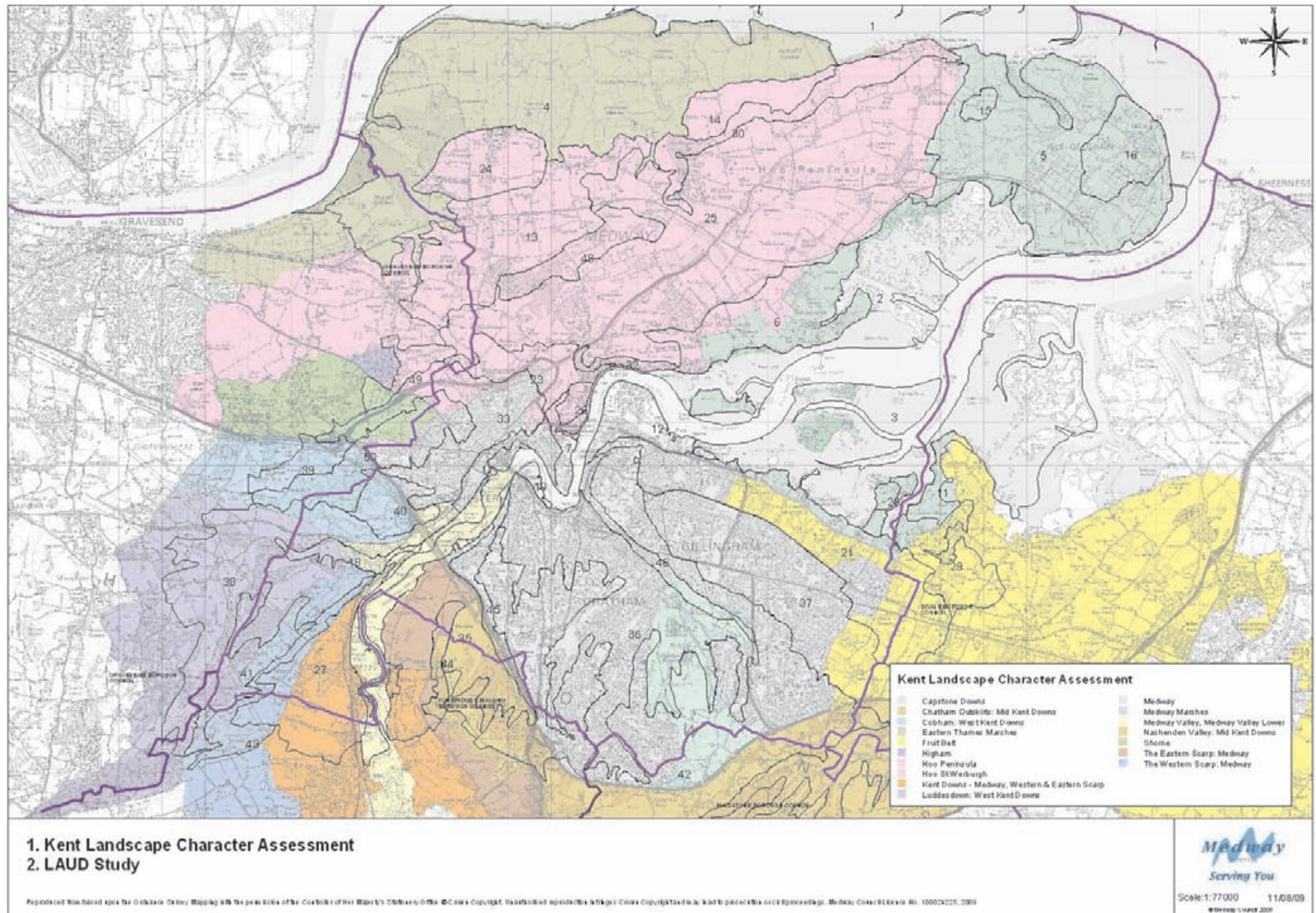
* Screening military areas – bldgs + excavations
* Retain open character
* Strengthen woodland edge in views from A289 + lower Hoomarsh valley

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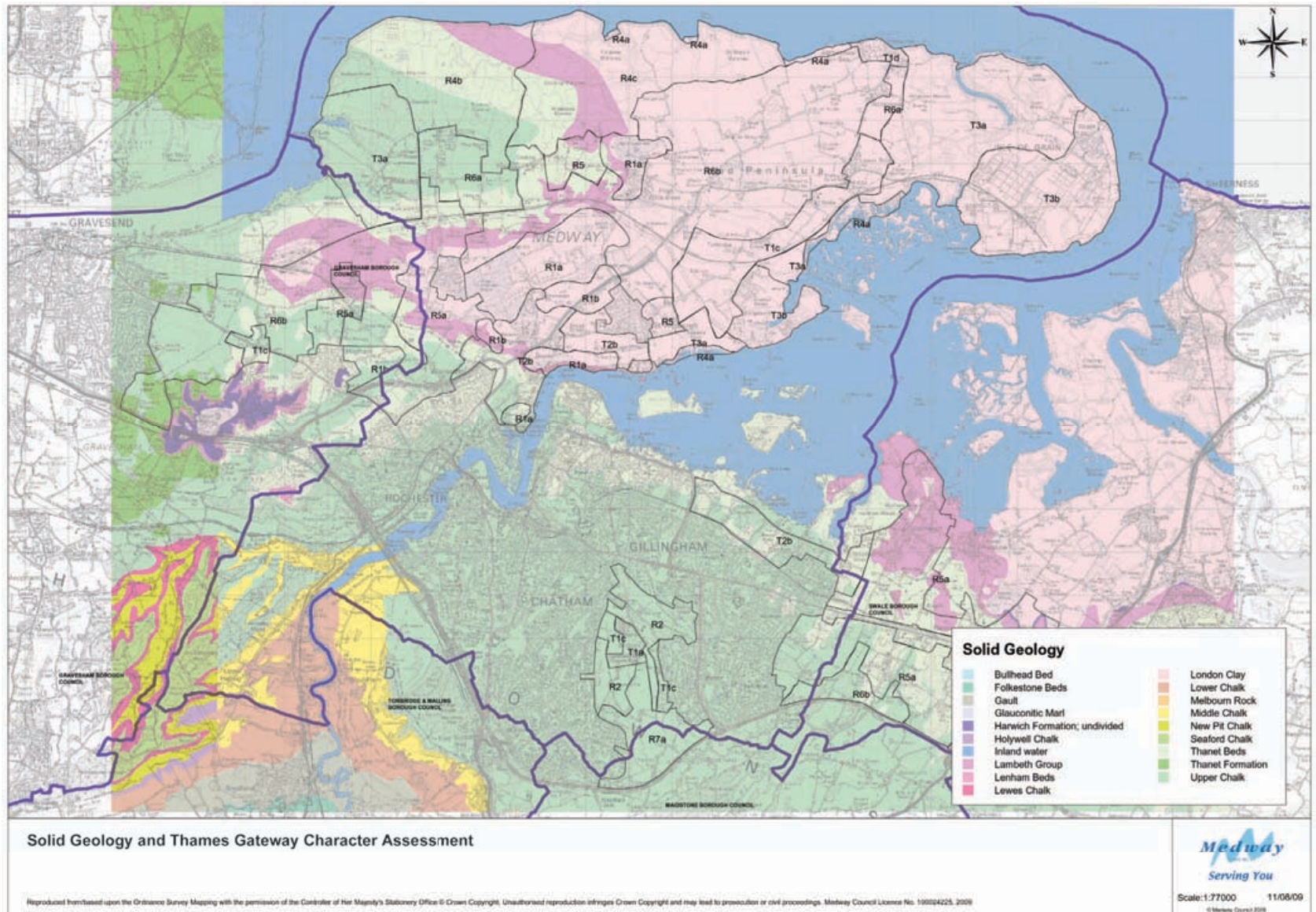
Appendix E: Analysis mapping

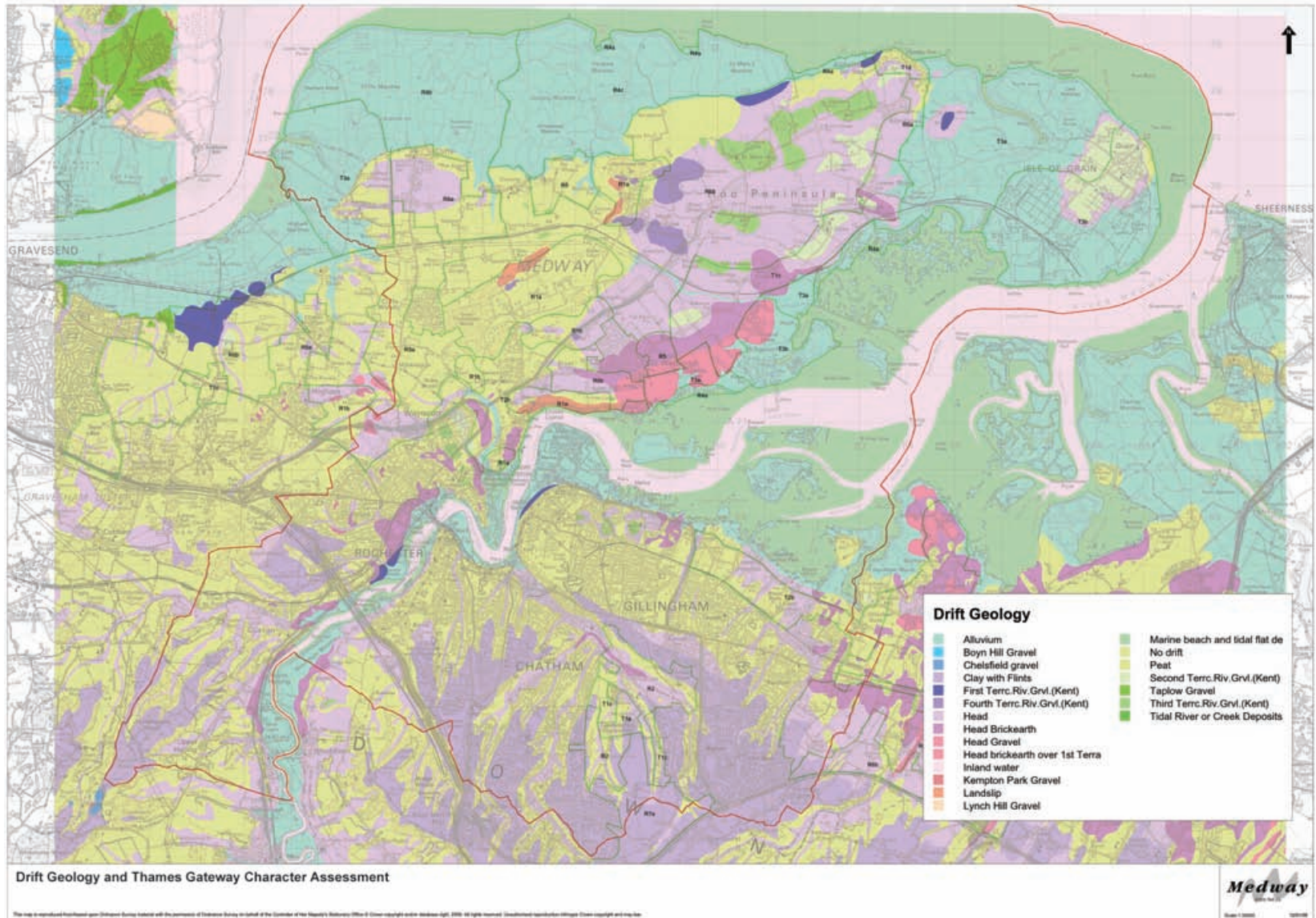1. Kent Thames Gateway Study and Kent Landscape Character Assessment

1. Kent Landscape Character Assessment
2. Thames Gateway Landscape Character Assessment

1. Kent Landscape Character Assessment
2. LAUD Study

Solid Geology and Thames Gateway Character Assessment

Solid Geology

- Bullhead Bed
- Folkestone Beds
- Gault
- Glauconitic Marl
- Harwich Formation; undivided
- Holywell Chalk
- Inland water
- Lambeth Group
- Lenham Beds
- Lewes Chalk
- London Clay
- Lower Chalk
- Melbourn Rock
- Middle Chalk
- New Pit Chalk
- Seaford Chalk
- Thanet Beds
- Thanet Formation
- Upper Chalk

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4. Kent Thames Gateway
Study and Drift Geology

Drift Geology and Thames Gateway Character Assessment

Drift Geology

Alluvium
Boyn Hill Gravel
Chelsfield gravel
Clay with Flints
First Terrc.Riv.Grvl.(Kent)
Fourth Terrc.Riv.Grvl.(Kent)
Head
Head Brickearth
Head Gravel
Head brickearth over 1st Terra
Inland water
Kempton Park Gravel
Landslip
Lynch Hill Gravel

Marine beach and tidal flat de
No drift
Peat
Second Terrc.Riv.Grvl.(Kent)
Taplow Gravel
Third Terrc.Riv.Grvl.(Kent)
Tidal River or Creek Deposits

5. Kent Thames Gateway Study and Agricultural Land Classification

Agricultural Land Classification and Thames Gateway Character Assessment

Topography & Thames Gateway Landscape Assessment

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Medway
Serving You
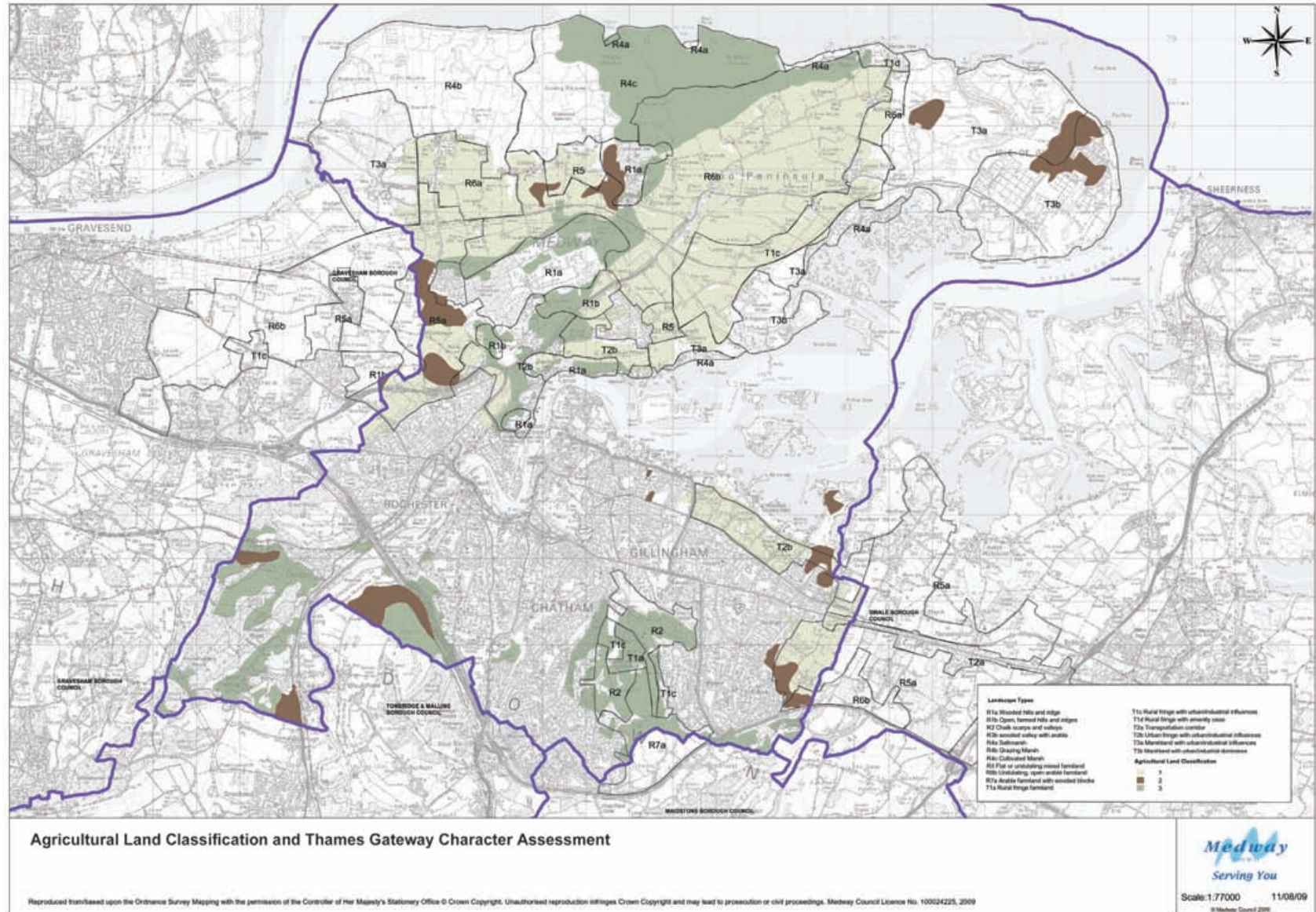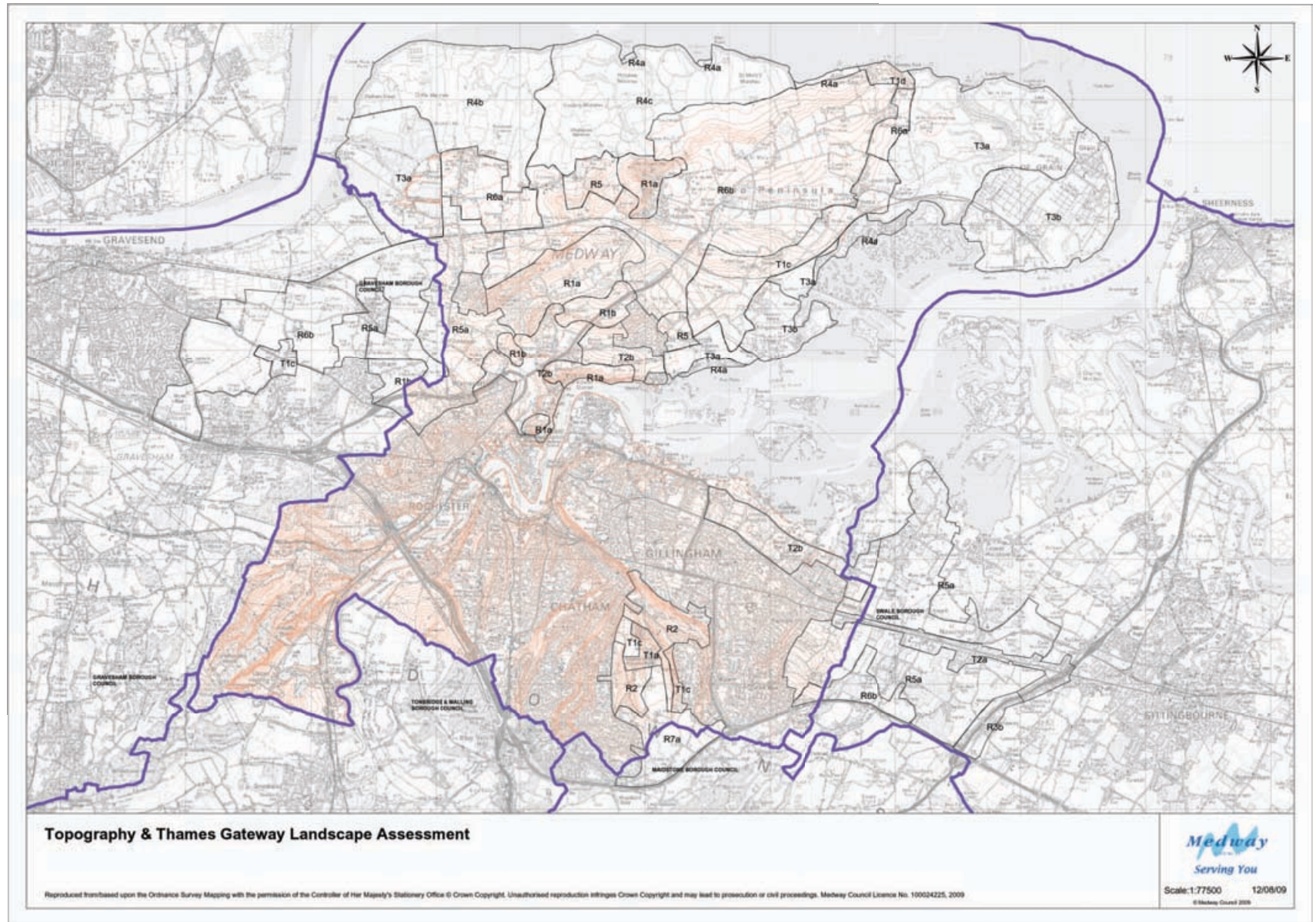
Appendix F: Common Terms

AAP - Area Action Plan

ALLI - Area of Local Landscape Importance

AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

CROW - Countryside and Rights of Way Act

CTRL - Channel Tunnel Rail Link

DEFRA - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DCLG - Department for Culture and Local Government

DPD - Development Plan Document

EA - Environment Agency

ELS - Entry Level Stewardship

ESA - Environmentally Sensitive Area

EH - English Heritage

GI - Green Infrastructure

GIS - Geographical Information System

GG - Green Grid

GGKM - Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway

GHQ - General Headquarters

GLHP - Great Lines Heritage Park

HLS - Higher Level Stewardship

KCA - Landscape Assessment of Kent (2004)

KCC - Kent County Council

KTGCA - Kent Thames Gateway Landscape Assessment

KWT - Kent Wildlife Trust

LAUD - Medway Landscape and Urban Design Framework

LCA - Landscape Character Area

LDF - Local Development Framework

LDD - Local Development Document

LLD - Local Landscape Designation

LNR - Local Nature Reserve

LPA - Local Planning Authority

LTP - Local Transport Plan

LWS - Local Wildlife Site

MOD - Ministry of Defence

NE - Natural England

NNR - National Nature Reserve

PPS - Planning Policy Statement

PROW - Public Right of Way

RIGS - Regionally Important Geological Site

RSME - Royal School of Military Engineering

RSPB - Royal Society of the Protection of Birds

SAC - Special Area of Conservation

SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument

SMP - Shoreline Management Plan (EA)

SNCI - Site of Nature Conservation Interest

SLA - Special Landscape Area

SPA - Special Protection Area

SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

SPD - Supplementary Planning Document

TE2100 - Thames Estuary 2100 (EA)

TG - Thames Gateway

VoV - Valley of Visions

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The above reference list describes information available at time of publication of this document. Please check current status as regards updates, revises and final versions from publication source.