

# SAMUEL PALMER'S EARTHLY PARADISE

## THE DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

### LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

#### PART 1 – THE SCHEME PLAN | PART 2 - PROJECT SUMMARIES

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# LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

SAMUEL PALMER'S EARTHLY PARADISE – THE DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

## INTRODUCTION

The Darent Valley landscape is a survival story. Indelibly entwined with the work of the visionary Victorian landscape artist Samuel Palmer, to the casual observer its natural and cultural qualities have remained relatively unscathed over the last two centuries. This is despite its location on the outskirts of London, and the pressures a rapidly expanding capital have placed on a largely rural area.

At its closest point, the Darent Valley is just fourteen miles from Big Ben (Figure 1). It is contained largely within the county of Kent, but landscape character dictates that parts of the scheme area fall within Surrey and Greater London. And yet, well over half is within the protected designation of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Kent Downs and Surrey Hills). Leaving London by train, or travelling along some of the busiest sections of motorway in the country, the valley is revealed as a microcosm of archetypal, traditional rural England as the surrounding suburbs melt away.

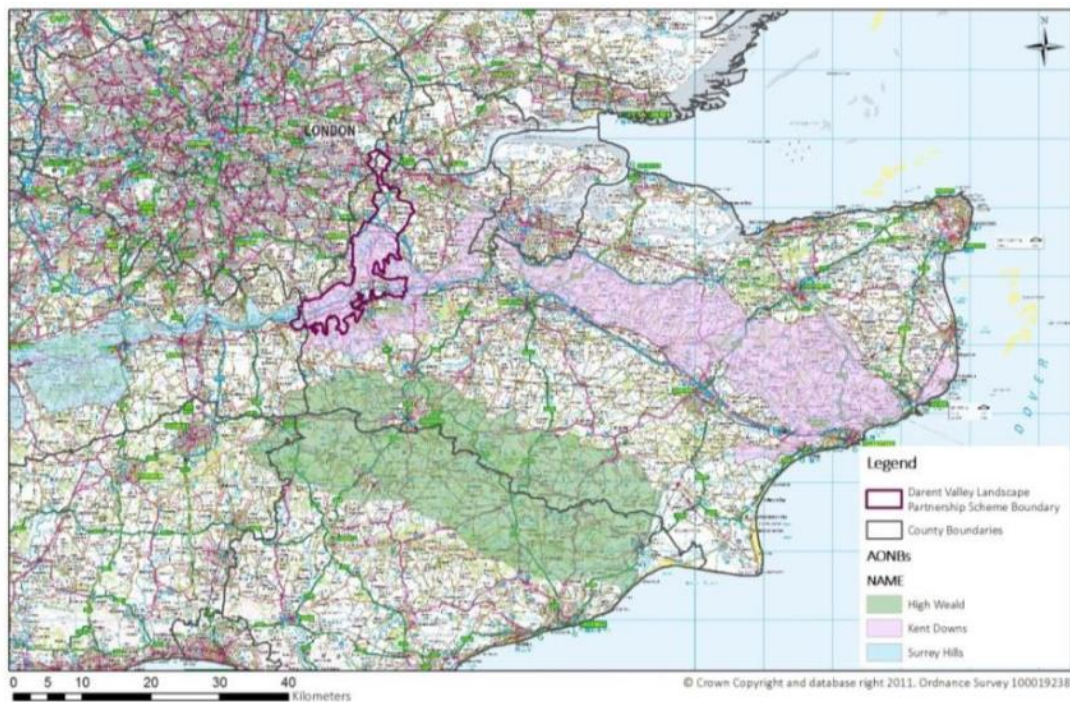


Figure 1 Location of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme area

The chalk stream that is the River Darent defines this landscape. It has played a fundamental role in attracting the original settlement by humans, creating fertile land for farming, providing transport into London, and generating power to work the many mills along its length. It has also shaped the form of the land, rising from a series of springs on the Greensand Ridge, flowing eastwards at the base of the scarp slope of the North Downs, before turning northwards at the town of Sevenoaks and cutting a sharply incised valley through the chalk landscape. These valley slopes gradually widen and relax, before stretching out onto the open marshland beyond the town of Dartford and beside the Thames Estuary. It is the river and the valley sides that clearly define the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme area (Figure 2).



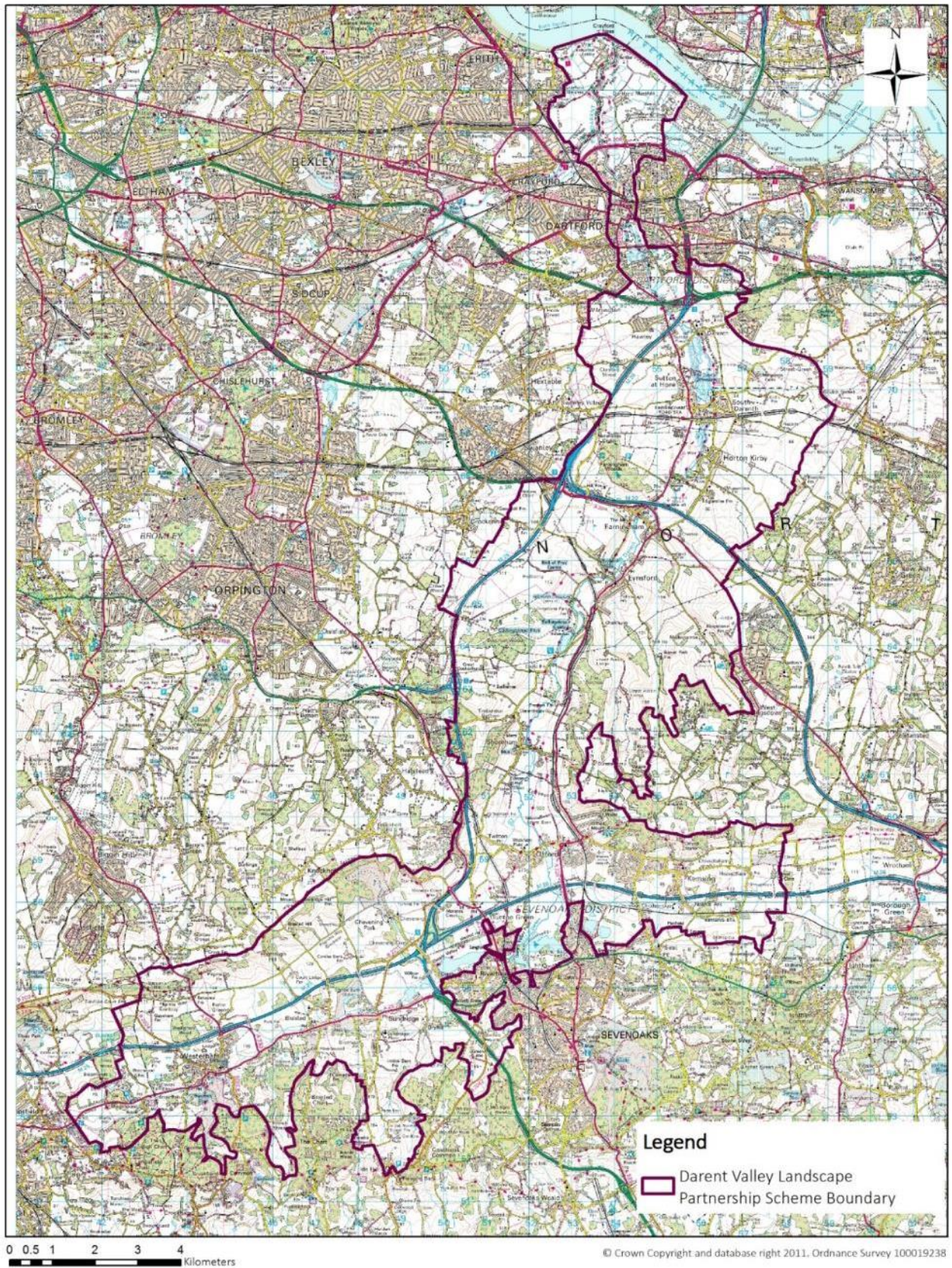


Figure 2. The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership area



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## ESTABLISHING THE PARTNERSHIP

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The Darent Valley has long been a focus for activity associated with landscape, biodiversity and heritage conservation. Organisations such as the North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NWKCP) have fulfilled a need for community-led conservation work since 1984, being one of the first countryside management projects in Kent. Its establishment was largely a reaction to the urban-fringe pressures on the countryside of this area and received the support of the boroughs of Dartford, Sevenoaks and Gravesham along with the London Borough of Bexley. From 1993 to 1998 NWKCP hosted the Darent Valley Enhancement Programme (DVEP). Funded by the National Rivers Authority, the DVEP delivered small-scale biodiversity and access projects along the River Darent to compliment broader work being undertaken to reduce water abstraction from the chalk aquifer that had had a highly detrimental impact on water levels.

More recently, Kent Wildlife Trust's Darent Triangle Living Landscape has been a focus for landscape scale biodiversity conservation. Established in 2005, it has concentrated on the mainly chalk grassland areas bound by the M25, M26 and M20 where many of the Trust's important reserves are located. This has resulted in grazing being introduced to several key sites and the establishment of a Darent Triangle Ecology Group.

Recent years have seen significant investment in the Darent Valley Path, running from Sevenoaks to the Thames, by Dartford Borough Council. With funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, problematic sections of the path through Dartford town were upgraded to a high standard in 2007. Unfortunately, the investment was not sufficient to extend the improvements any further south than Brooklands Lakes on the outskirts of the town. However, Dartford Borough Council is keen to see this gateway to the rural Darent Valley and the Kent Downs AONB enhanced.

With a rich cluster of heritage sites in the valley, there has been significant concern about the condition of several. In 2014 the Archbishop's Palace (in the ownership of Sevenoaks District Council) was returned to Historic England's Heritage at Risk register (Figure 3). One of the most significant heritage assets in south-east England, it galvanised the local community, local archaeological and history groups, and Sevenoaks District Council to seek a sustainable solution to its retention and restoration.



*Figure 3 The remaining tower of the Archbishop's Palace at Otford*

In terms of a landscape approach, the Kent Downs AONB Unit has maintained a policy in all three iterations of its management plan since 2004, for *'The development of strategic landscape action plans for Landscape Character Areas or Local Character Areas of the AONB which are most at threat or where greatest opportunity lie will be supported and pursued'*. With the Darent Valley identified as one of these areas most at threat, strong impetus was present from the Kent Downs AONB to lead a landscape-scale approach. This provided the catalyst for the formation of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership in 2012. The initial meeting demonstrated significant enthusiasm across a broad range of organisations active in the valley and local communities to work together in a more joined up way to address the many issues that the landscape was facing.

The Landscape Partnership subsequently met several times to develop a structure for a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Landscape Partnerships Programme. The Partnership was allowed to develop as a wide-ranging group including all organisations and individuals with an interest in landscape and heritage conservation in the Darent Valley. Ahead of this bid, the Partnership contributed to the development and production of a Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (SLEP) with funding from Kent County Council. This determined and justified the scheme area, identified the key threats and risks to the landscape and its heritage, and informed the interventions and actions required to address these. The Landscape Partnership has been the key mechanism for developing the scheme rather than a smaller Partnership Board, and has enabled a wider input than might have otherwise been achieved. Today, the Landscape Partnership has grown considerably in size and remains an important forum for developing and guiding the work of the scheme and will feed directly into the advisory role of the Partnership Board (on page 44).

The Kent Downs AONB has led the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership from its inception and was responsible for preparing and submitting the Stage 1 application to the HLF. The AONB Unit has a strong track record having developed and delivered the successful Valley of Visions LPS in the Medway Gap from 2007 and leading the development of the Up on the Downs LPS from 2010. The AONB currently chairs the Partnership Board for the latter.

Following a near miss from a Stage 1 application to HLF in 2013, the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership succeeded with a second arguably more ambitious application in 2014. Subsequently, the formation of the Partnership Board has been an important requisite and this has been established to inform the Stage 2 application. This is a smaller and leaner group that will provide an efficient mechanism for guiding and advising the work of the Partnership. It is constituted to represent the delivery partners, funding partners, key stakeholders and all the interest areas for the scheme.

This LCAP has been prepared on behalf of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership by Rick Bayne, the Kent Downs AONB's Landscape Partnerships Manager. Rick previously led the delivery of the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme between 2007 and 2012, and was responsible for preparing the stage 1 application for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. He has been supported by Jennifer Smith, the Kent Downs AONB's Interpretation and Community Engagement Officer, and all the partners in the Landscape Partnership.

## THE LANDSCAPE AREA, ITS HERITAGE AND ITS PEOPLE

### THE LANDSCAPE

Samuel Palmer and his visionary works of landscape art inspired the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership. Palmer resided in Shoreham in the heart of the Darent Valley almost 200 years ago, at a time when the area was considered deepest rural Kent. Such was the beauty of the valley that it motivated Palmer to produce what are widely considered to be his most creative and greatest works.

Palmer painted and sketched the landscape around him to convey both the physical and spiritual connection between people and the land. It fully embodied the modern definition of landscape by the European Landscape Convention as *“An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors”*. This was a time just before the Industrial Revolution when mechanisation was beginning to threaten the livelihoods of rural workers, and Palmer was passionate in his defence of rural communities and their close links to the land on which they worked.

It is remarkable that the Darent Valley remains genuinely rural in nature despite being located immediately on the outskirts of Greater London (Figure 4). During Palmer’s time, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the capital was home to one million people with ten miles of open countryside between it and the Darent Valley (Figure 5). In the one hundred years that followed, there was a rapid expansion as the population grew to 6.7 million by 1900 (Figure 6). Urban growth saw the expansion of London’s reach as it loomed on the horizon. By the Second World War in 1939, the population peaked at 8.6 million bringing the suburbs of London to within a few miles of the valley. Although the Capital’s population then dipped in the post-war period, house building continued particularly in the outer suburbs. Today, the urban areas of Bromley and Bexley abut the Darent Valley, and London’s population has again reached 8.6 million (Figure 7). By 2033 London’s population is projected to reach the 10 million mark.



Figure 4 View of Canary Wharf from above Sundridge

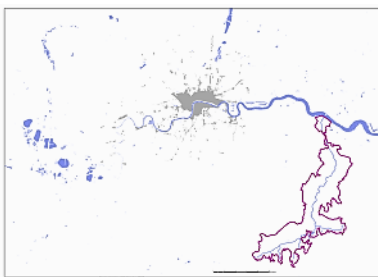


Figure 5. Extent of London in 1800

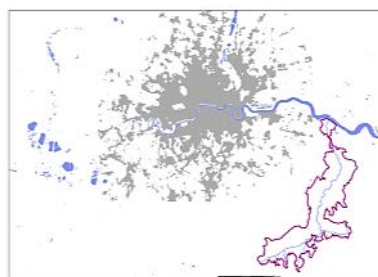


Figure 6. Extent of London in 1929

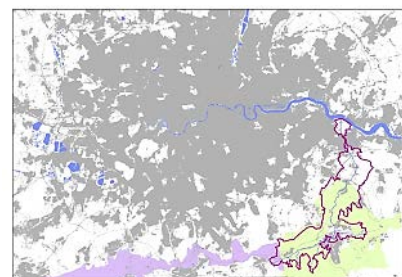


Figure 7. Extent of London today



The fact that the Darent Valley has survived largely intact with much of the area remaining farmed or covered in woodland is a testament to the effect of the Metropolitan Green Belt. It would not be an unfair observation to say that if Samuel Palmer were to return to the valley today he would recognise many of the qualities that motivated him to describe it as his ‘earthly paradise’.

However, whilst the pressures of development have been largely resisted, hints of the impact of nearby London are obvious even to the casual observer. The London Outer Orbital, the M25, skirts the edge of the valley, and the main thoroughfares of the M20, M26 and A2 carry freight and domestic traffic across the valley and down to the ports of Dover and Folkestone. Several golf courses catering for the leisure demands of resident and nearby populations sit a little uncomfortably in the landscape, and many of the small picturesque villages struggle with inundation by visitors, particularly during the summer months. Traffic congestion is substantial and growing, and the surrounding country lanes regularly become choked with a plethora of flytipping.

The landscape of the Darent Valley itself is highly distinctive and recognised as such by the communities that live within. Taken at a national level, the valley appears to defy the classification of National Character Areas (NCAs), crossing through four:

- Greater Thames Estuary
- North Kent Plain
- North Downs
- Wealden Greensand

However, NCA’s represent a “*broad analysis of each area’s characteristics and ecosystem services*”, and at a local level landscape character may be defined by other features such as river valleys. This is reflected in local landscape character assessments where these finer details are revealed. In the case of the Darent Valley, the river has created a distinctive landform that also reflects historical cultural features and economic activity through the ages. This has been recognised within the Landscape Assessment of Kent, the Sevenoaks Countryside Character Assessment and the Kent Downs AONB’s own Landscape Character Assessment. These assessments have since been consolidated and justified through the Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan for the Darent Valley produced for the Stage 1 submission to HLF and attached in Appendix 1.

Approximately 65% of the DVLPS landscape falls within the Kent Downs AONB (with a small section within the Surrey Hills AONB). As such, chalk is the dominating geological influence. However, the River Darent rises from a series of springs along the Greensand Ridge to the



Figure 8. View across the Holmesdale Vale to the Greensand Ridge

west of Sevenoaks (Figure 8). This is supplemented (particularly during periods of high rainfall) from winterbourne streams running off the chalk scarp. The upper reach of the River Darent flows from west to east along the Holmesdale Vale where the Wealden Greensand to the south and the chalk of the North Downs to the north meet. This is the Upper Darent Valley (West) Landscape Character Area. The sandstone that typifies the Greensand Ridge means that the south valley side differs markedly from the north with springs flowing down open parkland valleys surrounded by sessile oak woodland. The northern valley side is typified by open arable fields rising steeply to the scarp top. The valley bottom is dominated by gault clay where the embryonic Darent flows alongside the A25 passing through the villages of Westerham, Sundridge and Brasted.

At Sevenoaks, the river valley widens out to a broad flood plain just before it breaches the scarp slope of the North Downs. Here, mineral extraction has created several flooded gravel pits or brickwork quarries that are now either used for recreation or have been utilised to create important wildlife habitats. The M26 is an obvious feature here as it stretches across this open landscape splitting Sevenoaks from Otford. Here the minor tributary, the Honeypot Stream joins from the east having flowed along the base of the chalk scarp to the south of the villages of Kemsing and Heaverham (Figure 9).



*Figure 9. View south from Kemsing Down*

As the Darent turns to the north, it flows through a gaping break in the scarp slope of the downs. Created millennia ago when the river carried the significant headwaters that now flow into the Medway, the erosional force cut through the soft chalk and created the wide gateway in to the Central Darent Valley seen today.

As the river passes through the attractive village of Otford, the landscape takes on the identity of a typical chalk river valley. Within the Central Darent Valley, the landscape is typified by a broad valley bottom with former watermeadows and open pasture land. The valley sides rise with arable farming of conventional cereals along less common crops such as lavender which add vibrant colour to the landscape (Figure 10). Amongst these, several golf courses interrupt the flow of the scenery, and infrastructure such as overhead power lines, the road network and the railway jar slightly. On the



steepest slopes, chalk grassland is the dominant feature. In varying condition from open grassland, to encroaching scrub and developing secondary woodland, it is a defining feature of the central valley. The scarp tops are typified by extensive woodland providing almost a protective cloak around the valley. However, the M25 hugs the western side of the valley, and whilst it isn't visually intrusive, the drone of tyre and engine is a constant reminder of its presence.



*Figure 10. Lavender and poppy fields below the chalk scarp near Shoreham*

On the eastern side three smaller 'dry valleys' connect with the main valley (Figure 11). Historically these would have been winterbournes, a typical chalk landscape feature where seasonal streams would have formed during periods of high rainfall, often in the winter. Whilst distinct from the main valley they share many of its landscape features. As the Darent continues its course through the central valley, it passes through the villages of Shoreham, Eynsford and Farningham. Each has its distinct identity and is inextricably connected to the river itself.



*Figure 11. Dry valley at Magpie Bottom east of Shoreham*



As the valley passes beneath both the A20 and M20 the landscape shifts in character imperceptibly. However, the road corridor forms a clear boundary between the central Darent Valley and the lower Darent Valley. It also forms the northern boundary of the Kent Downs AONB. At this point the valley broadens and the slopes slacken creating a less distinct valley feel as it passes through the North Kent Plan National Character Area. The river is still a defining feature, marked out by a tree-lined thread through the valley floor (Figure 12). The landscape here is dominated much more by arable farming and market gardening, and is more open. This provides expansive views, but also means that infrastructure associated with the M25 motorway and National Grid power lines has a much more dominant impact. The junction of the M25 and A2 is the main feature in the landscape.



Figure 12. The open valley near South Darent

Sand and gravel extraction has resulted in several lakes on the valley floor, and these assert themselves right into the town of Dartford culminating with Dartford's Central Park. The Darent flows immediately adjacent to the town centre, but is a very different entity here. To speed water through the town and into the Thames, and control the devastating floods that affected the town in the 1960s (Figure 14), the river has been encased in pour concrete banks (Figure 13).



Figure 14. Flooding of Dartford Town Centre in 1968



Figure 13. Concrete-lined River Darent, Dartford

As the river emerges from the north side of Dartford and completes its journey to the Thames, its identity and surrounding landscape changes once more. Here the Darent becomes tidal and the valley sides are all but lost as it crosses the open marshes of the Thames. This is the Estuarine Darent Valley SCA.

Consisting of the Dartford Fresh Marshes, Dartford and Crayford Marshes, the river marks the boundary between Kent and the London Borough of Bexley. It has a sense of dereliction and of being a forgotten landscape, but is an oasis of space and quiet where it is possible to experience a sense of isolation. The wide expanse emphasises the development on the edges of London and Dartford, and Littlebrook Power Station and the QE2 Bridge rise on the eastern side dominating the skyline (Figure 15). Essex is also clearly visible to the north behind the Dartford Flood Barrier that now prevents the marshes from being inundated by rising water of the Thames.



*Figure 15. Dartford and Crayford Marshes with Littlebrook Power Station and the QE2 bridge on the horizon*

This is the only significantly sized area of marshland to the west of Gravesend on the south bank of the Thames, and its landscape importance is demonstrated all too clearly to motorists passing over the QE2 Bridge. Whilst its landscape character differs considerably from those SCAs upstream, it directly links and is a constituent part of the Darent Valley landscape, only being artificially cut off by the growth of Dartford.

## THE DARENT VALLEY'S HERITAGE

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### 1. PREHISTORY

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The human settlement of the Darent Valley dates to more than 400,000 years ago. On the outskirts of the scheme area, the remains of the so-called 'Swanscombe Skull' were discovered close to Dartford. These were identified as being from a woman in her early twenties, and were dated as being some 300,000 years old. They are amongst the earliest human remains to be found in Europe. However, primitive stone axes found at Swanscombe provide evidence that a Clactonian tribe was present here even earlier and used it as an elephant butchery site (Dartford Grammar School, 2009).

Other Palaeolithic (500,000 BC to 10,000 BC) finds include a hand axe at Farningham Woods, one near Otford Mount and another near Sutton-at-Hone. Extensive remains of humans, woolly rhinoceros, wild horse and woolly mammoth were discovered at the former Redlands Pit (now the Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve) (Kent County Council, 2016).

With the extensive major infrastructure works of motorways and major roads, a considerable amount of evidence has been built up to demonstrate prehistoric settlement of the valley. Mesolithic (10,000 to 5,000 BC) evidence is substantial with many stone tools found along the valley. These include 16,000 worked flints at Darenth Gravel Pit, a pick near Eynsford, and multiple small flint flake finds throughout the valley (Andrew Simmonds, 2011).

The Neolithic period saw the establishment of organised farming communities in the Darent Valley, and resulted in the clearance of woodlands and vegetation transforming the landscape. Numerous examples of carefully worked flint tools including scrapers, axes and arrowheads have been discovered throughout the valley including some finely worked examples close to the centre of Dartford.



*Figure 16. Flint arrowhead (Dartford Museum)*

Bronze Age (2,350 BC to 701 BC) activity is present with sites such as a bowl barrow at Otford Mount and a ditched prehistoric trackway at Lullingstone (Kent County Council, 2016), however there is generally considered to be an underrepresentation of evidence for this period (Weller, 2014).



*Figure 17. The Hulbury billhook (Dartford Museum)*

The same cannot be said for the Iron Age with a plethora of sites and finds throughout the valley. Iron age pottery, agricultural implements and brooches have been found in and around the Dartford area (Dartford Grammar School, 2009), and a farmstead at Farningham Hill and two significant hill-forts from this period exist at Lullingstone Park and at Goodley Stock on the Squerryes Estate. The former is associated with the finding of the Hulbury billhook (Figure 17).

### 2. ROMAN HERITAGE

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The River Darent and hence its surrounding valley was an important feature in Roman Kent. Archaeologists are already aware of at least eight Roman villas along the valley, but this is a rather incomplete picture of its occupation during Roman times. The best known and most notable example



is the villa at Lullingstone which is in the ownership of English Heritage and is a popular tourist attraction within the valley.



Figure 18 - Mosaic of Europa by Jupiter at Lullingstone Villa (English Heritage, 2016)

Lullingstone Roman Villa represents a remarkable survival, both in terms of the preservation of some structural elements of the main villa-house, but also, and more significantly, with respect to the evidence for Romano-British Christianity that it produced. Built perhaps as early as the AD 80s, Lullingstone Villa reached the peak of luxury in the mid-4th century when its spectacular mosaics were laid. It is also important for its possible imperial associations, as well as the enigmatic nature of the wider site and the challenges that presents to our interpretation and understanding (English Heritage, 2016).

The River Darent was an important Roman supply route, probably carrying grain downstream and possibly bringing back materials for construction and other purposes. The peak of Roman activity in the valley was probably between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, when probably all the known villa sites were operating at the same time. There may have been as many as thirteen Roman sites between Dartford and Kemsing, although all may not have been villas. These include:

- Dartford – Tenter’s Field
- Wilmington
- Darenth
- Horton Kirby
- Farningham – possibly three villas
- Eynsford
- Lullingstone
- Shoreham (Preston Farm)
- Otford (Progress)
- Kemsing
- Otford (Church Field)

Surprisingly, awareness of many of these sites is poor. Several of the excavations date back to around a century ago, and with one exception, the last excavation of a Roman site was 26 years ago. However, a new group, the Discover Roman Otford Project (DROP) was established in 2016 and is carrying out research into the Roman occupation of the Darent Valley. It was born out of the West Kent Archaeological Society (WKAS) and is working on a five-year project (started in 2015) to investigate the Churchfield and Progress villas in Otford using archaeological methodology (Fromings, 2016).

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### 3. ANGLO-SAXON

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Little is known about the siting, size and nature of Saxon settlements in the Darent Valley. Any traces of their sunken-floored huts made from timber, wattle and thatch have long-since disappeared. A few occupation sites have been identified in the local area, some of these were sited close to former Roman villa sites. Some of the largest or most interesting Saxon cemeteries in Kent have been found in and around Dartford - at Dartford, Riseley (Horton Kirby), Horton Kirby, Darenth, Farningham and Polhill.

In the absence of other archaeological evidence, cemeteries (such as the example located at Darenth Country Park) offer conclusive proof that there were people living in and around the Darent Valley in Saxon times. Grave-goods buried with the dead are an important indicator of the status, wealth, culture, beliefs and lifestyle of the population. Most of the archaeological evidence from local sites suggests that there was a significant influx of Saxon settlers into the Dartford area between the fifth and seventh centuries A.D.

Small Saxon settlements evolved into larger and more permanent villages as time progressed. The modern-day names of many of the villages around the Darent Valley contain elements characteristic of the Saxon language thus proving that they already existed before the Norman Conquest in 1066. Wilmington, Sutton-at-Hone, Horton Kirby, Farningham, Lullingstone and Eynsford were all founded in Saxon times.

Entries in the Domesday Book compiled by the Normans in 1086 demonstrate that the Saxons settlements, which evolved over a period of five hundred years or more, were well administered and organised, with an emphasis on agriculture and animal husbandry (Dartford Grammar School, 2009).

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### 4. MEDIAEVAL

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Probably the most significant heritage feature in the valley from this period is Eynsford Castle. This is a rare survival of an early Norman 'enclosure castle', which remained unaltered by later building work. Begun by William de Eynsford I in the late 1080s, the castle was later the subject of a hotly disputed inheritance, which reached a climax in 1312 when one of the claimants broke in and vandalised it. Soon afterwards the castle was abandoned, and by the 18th century many of the buildings had fallen into disrepair, being used only as stables and kennels for hunting dogs (English Heritage, 2016).



*Figure 19. Eynsford Castle*

Another site of note is St John's Jerusalem at Sutton-at-Hone just south of Dartford. Located on an island within a moat supplied by the River Darent, a small rectangular chapel built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century can be found. It was originally constructed as a monastery belonging to crusading knights and was a Commandry of the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. The site did once contain many buildings to house the people that lived and worked there as well as possibly a hospital. Now owned by the National Trust it is a scheduled monument (National Trust, 2016).

Several mediaeval churches are also found throughout the valley and include the very attractive example of St Botolph's Church in the grounds of Lullingstone Castle dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1301, Dartford had become a small town, but its population was no more than 1,000. It was located on the (originally Roman) main road from London to the Kent coast (now the A2). This was an important pilgrimage route from London to Canterbury, and Dartford was just a single day's walking from the capital. Despite this, a proper pedestrian bridge over the Darent was not constructed until the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, and prior to this a ford was used by carts whilst passengers needed to be ferried across. The landscape around Dartford was dominated by orchards, fields and gardens, and these reached right into the heart of the town maintaining a very rural feel. In addition, the landscape to the north of the town would have been dominated by extensive salt and freshwater marsh (Dartford Grammar School, 2009).

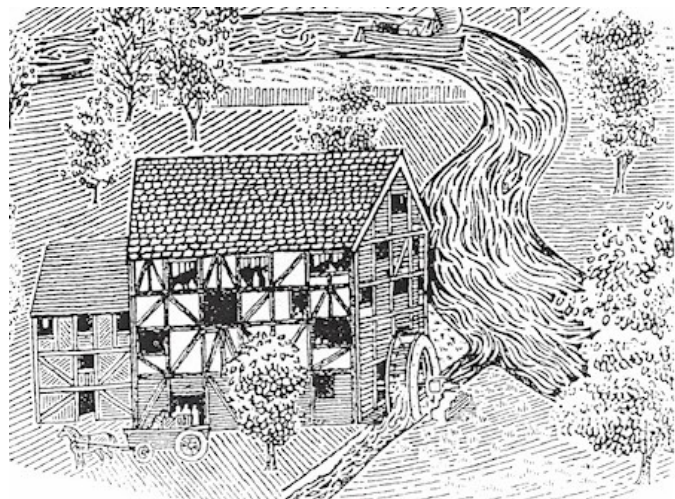
Elsewhere in the valley, most of the villages would have been well established by this period, albeit at a much smaller scale. The large number of mediaeval buildings and homes that survive are testament to this. These include notable examples such as Filston Hall and Castle Farm near Shoreham.

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## 5. EARLY MODERN

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The period from around 1500 onwards brought about significant change to the Darent Valley. Dartford developed into a market town, benefiting from the relatively close proximity of London. The reliable source of water power from the River Darent supported the valley's own 'Industrial Revolution'. The first commercially successful paper mill was established just upstream of Dartford by John Spilman who was Court Jeweller to Elizabeth I and James I. The mill made good quality white paper that was considered the finest ever produced in England at that time.



*Figure 20. Contemporary representation of Spilman's paper mill (Dartford Grammar School)*

However, Spilman's Mill was not the only one present on the Darent. Some 38 mills are considered to have operated along the Darent and its tributaries and included other paper mills, corn and flour mills, gunpowder mills, iron slitting and brass mills, breweries and a cotton mill. These all provided local employment, expanding the villages and in turn enabled the exploitation of natural resources. The result was that the River Darent itself was manipulated and its course much changed to provide the heads of water to supply the mills. It also enabled the land beside the river to be used in new ways and consequently shaped the valley's landscape. However, quality of the Darent's waters



remained extremely good and warranted a mention in Edmund Spenser's second book of *The Faerie Queen* in 1596:

*"The Still Darent, in whose waters cleare  
Ten Thousand fishes play and decke his pleasant stream"*

The valley's population remained largely an agricultural community during this period, but saw the establishment of notable buildings. Foremost amongst these was Otford Palace, established in 1514 by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, William Warham. An earlier building existed on the site from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but it was the Tudor building (of which only a tower and gallery remains) was the most impressive. Similar in style to Hampton Court Palace, it rivalled and possibly exceeded it in both size and grandeur. The palace was visited by Henry VIII and his entourage on his journey to France and was so coveted by him that Archbishop Cranmer was forced to transfer ownership to him in 1537. Its remains are now a scheduled monument.

Other important buildings from this period include Lullingstone Castle. The present building was started in 1497 and is said to have provided inspiration for Otford Palace. Both Henry VIII and Queen Anne were regular visitors, and the silk farm that was later established here provided silk for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation gown. The house was associated with an extensive parkland estate on the western side of the valley, established on a mediaeval deer park.

Similarly, other large estates were formed at this time and played a significant role in shaping the landscape. These included the 17<sup>th</sup> century Squerryes Court manor house and its surrounding parkland at Westerham; Combe Bank near Sundridge built in 1721 along with surrounding 60 ha parkland; Chevening House built in 1620 and its 280 ha parkland within a 1,400 ha estate; and Frank's Hall near Farningham built in 1591 and its associated parkland. All of these sites are on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

The importance of the valley at this time as a transport route, and the prosperity provided by its natural resources is summed up by Daniel Defoe (Defoe, 1724):

*"From hence, crossing still the roads leading from London into Sussex, keeping on east we come to Westerham, the first market town in Kent on that side. This is a neat handsome well-built market-town, and is full of gentry, and consequently of good company. All this part of the country is very agreeably pleasant, wholesome and fruitful...and is accordingly overspread with good towns, gentlemen's houses, populous villages, abundance of fruit, with hop grounds and cherry orchards, and the lands well cultivated..."*

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## 6. LATE MODERN

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The Darent Valley remained an idyllic rural setting well into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as illustrated by Samuel Palmer's paintings of the time. The villages would have been recognisable as the settlements we see today, and the landscape would have looked very familiar. However, during this period the towns of Dartford and Sevenoaks began to grow, the former particularly in relation to the advent of the Industrial Revolution. London also began to exert a greater influence on the valley.

The valley remained a popular area for the rich and wealthy to set up home, due not only to the attractiveness of the landscape, but also due to its proximity to London. William Pitt the Younger lived temporarily in Westerham, and later Sir Winston Churchill set up residence at Chartwell just beyond the valley. It was also during this period that the parkland sites in the valley would have dominated the landscape and added to the grandeur of the setting.

However, with the introduction of the Enclosure Acts and the arrival of the Industrial Revolution a substantial change began to appear in the countryside of the Darent Valley. Mechanisation led to increased poverty for rural workers due to an over-supply of labour. During his time in Shoreham, Samuel Palmer was increasingly concerned about the plight of these workers, and his paintings demonstrated his support for them. He was also sympathetic towards the Swing Riots that broke out in Kent during 1830. It was during this time that the landscape we see in the valley today was shaped.



*Figure 21. The Orient Express crossing the Eynsford Viaduct in 2005 (David Glasspool)*

The opening of the Swanley to Sevenoaks Bat & Ball railway line in 1862 through the valley transformed access to and from London for both passengers and goods. This led to significant structures in the landscape such as the viaducts at Eynsford (built in 1859) and Horton Kirby (built in 1858). Additionally, the Westerham Valley Branch line (now subsumed under the M25) was constructed in 1881 and ran from the Bat & Ball station.

Industry grew rapidly. The mustard factory of Saunders and Harrison opened in 1842 and was described as “perhaps the largest in the kingdom”. This was followed by the Dartford Paper Mills in 1862. Elsewhere along the valley, the various water-powered mills became more sophisticated and increasingly efficient at harnessing hydro-power. The Horton Kirby Paper Mill was built in 1820, today leaving the legacy of its 70m high brick chimney. The gunpowder mill, just south of Dartford on Powdermill Lane and powered by the Darent operated from 1732 through to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the powder magazines at Dartford became the most extensive in the country (Dartford Grammar School, 2009).

To aid navigation and drainage, the channels of the Darent and Cray through Dartford and Crayford Marshes were straightened and ‘improved’ significantly, reducing flood events and making the area more suitable for grazing and other uses.





Figure 22. Changes made to the Darent and Cray between 1801 (left) and today (right) (Dartford and Crayford Marshes Heritage Review)

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## 7. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

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Whilst the effect of the Industrial Revolution was profound, substantial change continued into the twentieth century. London continued to grow and its impact on the communities, industry and landscape was significant. Dartford and the lower reaches of Dartford were enveloped by the Capital's expansion, and brought urbanisation to the very edge of the rest of the valley. Flooding was a major issue, particularly for Dartford, Darenth, Farningham and Eynsford when in 1900 snow melt further up the valley caused a 'great flood'. These continued right up to 1968.

The small pox epidemic towards the end of the 19th century also had an impact on the landscape of the Darent Valley into the following century. Converted ships were moored in the Thames at Long Reach off the Dartford Marshes. As these neared the end of their life, Joyce Green Hospital was built (in 1903) and the establishment of a tramway from the Long Reach pier to the hospital was constructed (Figure 23). This enabled small pox victims brought out of London on ambulance ships to be transported safely to the hospital. A cemetery was established at what is now Temple Hill just to the south-east of the hospital, where 1029 bodies were buried in 292 graves... 80% of which occurred in just one year in 1902 due to a severe small pox epidemic in London (Payne, 2016).



Figure 23. Tram sheds with 'trambulances' and horses (Francine Payne)

The hospital and its associated Orchard Hospital were significant features in the landscape until the 1980s. Since then, they have been subsumed by the new 'Bridge' development.

This period was also significant for aviation history in the Darent Valley. In 1896, Percy Sinclair Pilcher experimented with flying his 'Gull' and 'Hawk' gliders from a location known as the 'knob' at Upper Austin Lodge near Eynsford (Figure 24). The open downland landscape and steep slopes provided perfect conditions for the test flights. These flights involved successful glides of up to 300 yards and occurred seven years before the Wright Brothers achieved manned powered flight in 1903 (Littledyke, 2010).

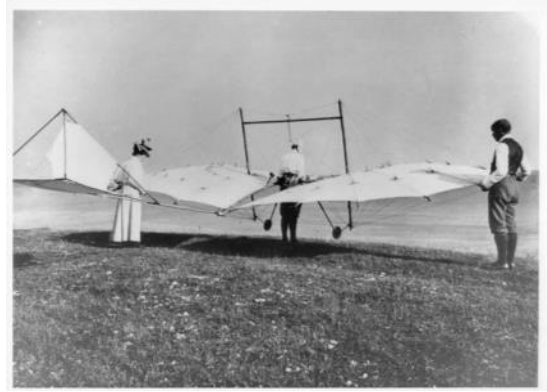


Figure 24. Percy Pilcher on 'The Knob' at Eynsford (Eric Littledyke)

Just over a decade later Messrs Vickers Ltd became more active in the new field of aviation. The Vickers airfield was located at Dartford Marshes just east of Joyce Green Hospital and was used for testing prototype aeroplanes. However, Vickers did not construct a proper runway, preferring to board over the numerous drainage ditches across the marsh (Beard, 2006).

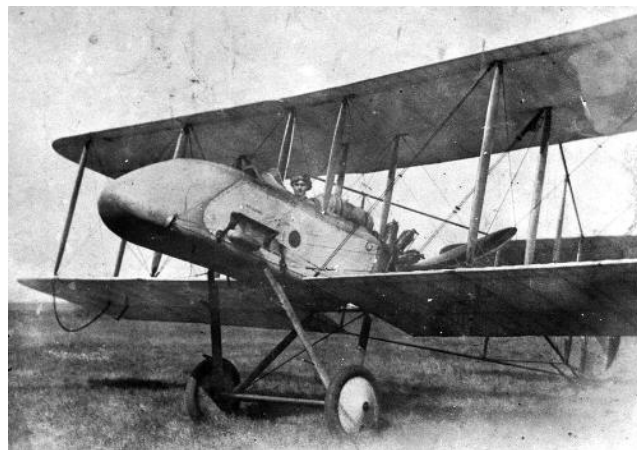


Figure 25. Vickers FB9 at the Joyce Green testing ground c.1916 (Dartford Museum)

The two world wars had a major impact on the valley. The First World War for the first time brought the threat of aerial bombardment from enemy airships and planes. This was particularly the case for Dartford, but also subsequently left its mark in the Darent Valley villages. The hillside above Shoreham is marked with a white memorial cross dug in 1920 to remember the local men killed in action.



Figure 26. 'Height of the Battle' (Geoff Nutkins)

However, it was the Second World War that had the most profound impact on the landscape of the Darent Valley. Bombing raids killed 150 and injured 700 people, leaving 13,000 homes damaged in Dartford alone. With the valley en-route to and from London, it was subject to stray bombs as well as those jettisoned as the enemy planes retreated towards the Channel. These have left a legacy of pockmarks across the valley landscape.

Consequently, the skies above the Darent Valley were a major battleground during the Battle of Britain. On 15 September 1940, a force of about 100 German bombers approaching London was challenged by nine RAF squadrons over Shoreham. A series of individual 'dogfights' resulted and a Dornier Do 17Z was shot down and made an emergency landing at Castle Farm (Figure 27). Parts of the plane are held at the Shoreham Aircraft Museum and the event has been brought to life by local 'aviartist' Geoff Nutkins (Figure 26).



*Figure 27. The dismantling of the Castle Farm Dornier*

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## 8. ART AND CULTURE

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As explained in detail later on page 68, the Darent Valley is most associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape artist Samuel Palmer. Palmer first came to Shoreham when just 19 years old, and the surrounding landscape inspired him to create his best work. He was one of a small group of artists, largely inspired by the visionary poet and artist William Blake who rejected the values associated with increasing industrialisation and turned back to what they saw as a Golden Age of pastoralism. This group called themselves 'The Ancients' and its core members were Palmer, George Richmond and Edward Calvert. Although not a member of The Ancients, John Linnell (who later became his father-in-law) was also closely associated with the group (Kent County Council, 1997).

Palmer influenced the work of later artists including F.L. Griggs, Robin Tanner, Graham Sutherland, Paul Drury, Joseph Webb, Eric Ravilious, the glass engraving of Laurence Whistler, and Clifford Harper. He also inspired a resurgence in twentieth-century landscape printmaking, which began amongst students at Goldsmiths' College in the 1920s.

Similarly, Dartford Marshes has strong cultural associations with maritime painting. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the landscape of the southern shore of the Thames formed the setting for the work of important artists such as Isaac Sailmaker and William van de Velde, younger and elder. Later there was also an association with painters such as Alexander Maitland, Charles Dean and William Wyllie



and in more recent years with the work of the Wapping Group of painters (Kent County Council, 2004).

Other important cultural associations include:

- Octavia Hill; founder of the National Trust, who spent her later years at Crockham Hill near Westerham;
- Jeffery Harrison; the pioneering conservationist who masterminded the first example of the creation of a wetland nature reserve from a gravel extraction site at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve;
- Sir Winston Churchill; former prime minister, artist and writer who resided at Chartwell near Westerham from 1920 until his death;
- Peter Warlock; British composer and music critic who lived in Eynsford in the 1920s and was notorious for his scandalous lifestyle;
- Arthur Mee; writer and educator who lived in Eynsford in the early twentieth century and wrote 'The Children's Encyclopaedia' and other works on subjects of history and the countryside;
- Peter Blake; from Dartford and one of the best known British pop artists and responsible for the sleeve design of the Beatles album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.
- William Blake; an inspiration to Samuel Palmer, he visited him in 1825 and has been suggested that 'Jerusalem' was written in Shoreham, and that "...our clouded hills" referred to those of the Darent Valley.

Today, the villages through the Darent Valley are still centres for creative work, with many independent artists, writers and musicians. Dartford has an active and growing arts network, and groups such as the Westerham Fine Arts Society, Darent Valley Youth Music and the Sevenoaks District Arts Council are dedicated to promoting arts in the valley.

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## 9. NATURAL HERITAGE

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It is perhaps the natural charms of the Darent Valley that create the beguiling nature of its landscape. A perfectly balanced mix of open expanse and closed-in woodlands, with the defining meandering course of the river as it seeks its way to its ultimate destination, the Thames. The topography of the valley also offers up numerous far-reaching views that only serve to add to the landscape's attractiveness.

The slowly changing character from source to saltmarsh, but always held together by the presence of the Darent itself, is what makes the valley a special place.

At a landscape scale, a large proportion of the valley is designated as one of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and inherently recognises



Figure 28. Fly Fishing in Darent c.1834 from *Fishing and Shooting-Buxton* (1902)

its natural heritage. However, this is a combination of parts, and the individual habitats that make up the Darent Valley's varied natural heritage.

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### THE RIVER

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Until the late 1800s the Darent was considered one of the finest trout chalk rivers in the country. Revered for its bountiful supply of fish and popular amongst fly fishermen through the centuries (Figure 28), it not only created this landscape, but continues to define it. The fortunes of the river have changed over time, and abstractions to meet the supply of a growing London population meant that during natural periods of drought between 1976 and 1991, parts of the river dried up



*Figure 29. Darent dry riverbed at Eynsford in 1977 (Jan Wilkes)*

completely. Since then, and following the initiation of the Darent Action Plan by the National Rivers Authority in 1992, the river has recovered substantially, and is now beginning to recover some of its past glory. Key species such as otter and water vole are present on the river, and macrophytes (aquatic plants) such as water crowfoot are well established.

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### STANDING WATER

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Mineral workings along the entire length of the valley have created many 'natural' sites. The majority have been flooded to create significant areas of standing water, but variable in the capacity to support a rich biodiversity. Foremost amongst these is the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve which is considered one of the leading early examples of the successful restoration of former gravel workings. Now designated a SSSI it supports a wide variety of important species including little ringed plover and sand martins.

Other sites such as Chipstead Lake, Lullingstone Lake, Horton Kirby and Sutton-at-Hone Lakes and Brooklands Lake are used and managed for a variety of amenity uses including angling, sailing and general recreation, but do also support biodiversity.

## WET GRASSLAND

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Whilst not as extensive as it would have once been due to improved drainage and water management, pockets of riverside grassland still exist within the valley but are far less extensive than they used to be. Regular flooding does occur on some former watermeadows and floodplain grassland principally upstream of Horton Kirby, and is seldom used for anything other than grazing land. Some of these sites, such as the Laundry Field at Lullingstone do (or have the potential to) provide a rich assemblage of species where management is less intensive.

## OPEN MARSH

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The only true open marsh exists to the north of Dartford, where the 'fresh marshes' can be tucked between the river and Temple Hill, and the remaining Dartford Marshes to the north of University Way (A206) and Crayford Marshes on the west side of the river. Dartford Marshes (including the freshwater marshes) total some 240 ha in size, with Crayford Marshes adding another 200 ha.



*Figure 30. Looking across Crayford Marshes towards Erith*

Dartford Fresh Marshes has outstanding water beetle assemblages enhanced by good water quality, recent grazing management and an absence of invasive non-native species. The wider marshes are of variable quality, but still support important species such as water vole, grasshopper warbler, marsh harrier and nightingale. In addition, the divided sedge, annual beard-grass and dittander - plant species from the Kent Rare and Scarce Species Inventory have all been found on the site in the last six years (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2016).

This area of open marsh is the last remaining extensive area of open marsh that exists between London and Gravesend, and as such is of great ecological and landscape importance.



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## AGRICULTURE

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Agriculture and farming form a significant part of the natural heritage. Whilst intensive farming probably precludes itself from this definition it does still have an influence. However, the less intensive forms of agriculture and land within agri-environment schemes contribute significantly to the valley's heritage landscapes.

The farming within the lower valley is considerably more intensive and strongly associated with market gardening. What hedgerow network there once was, is now largely lost as the large fields are valued for their efficiency. However, the working of the land is influential in shaping the landscape. The central and upper valley has a relatively rich hedgerow network, and in places relics of the once extensive hop fields remain including at Castle Farm and Horton Kirby.

New crops such as lavender and vineyards are appearing, and with the impact of climate change and suitable 'terroir' are likely to have a more permanent place in the valley's landscape.

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## CHALK GRASSLAND

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The valley is most noted for its chalk grassland resource. Concentrated along the scarp slope from Kemsing to Eynsford on the eastern side, and Polhill to Shoreham on the western side, small pockets do exist elsewhere, particularly in the dry valleys to the east of Eynsford with sites such as Magpie Bottom. The quality of these are recognised by a plethora of designations, almost all being either SSSIs or Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs). Having survived due to their steep slopes and therefore being suitable only for grazing, chalk grassland downs have been an ever-present landscape feature in the valley for centuries.

Whilst they have in some cases been dotted with scrubby growth, and reduced in size due to encroaching woodland, the diversity of species present is outstanding. They include such rarities as Kentish milkwort, man orchid, musk orchid, dodder, dropwort and juniper. Many sites are also extremely important for invertebrates with at least 24 species of butterfly recorded including dingy skipper, grizzled skipper and dark green fritillary.

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## HEATHLAND

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Unusual for a location within a chalk landscape, pockets of heathland are also occasionally found at the tops of the valley side. Foremost is Farningham Wood, a SSSI located close to junction 3 of the M25. Thanet Sands, and Woolwich and Blackheath Beds cap the chalk here not only giving superb views to the north, but provide the perfect geology and soils for heathland to flourish. Whilst much of the site is wooded, extensive clearings and wide rides allow for this habitat to exist in unusual circumstances.

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## PARKLAND

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Historic parkland and wood-pasture is a dominant landscape feature and habitat existing predominantly in the upper reaches of the Darent Valley between Westerham and Eynsford. The generally large estates survive in various states with some such as the Chevening Estate and Frank's Hall surviving as formal and managed grounds, to wood-pasture that is no longer grazed and has slowly reverted to dense woodland (as in the case of Lullingstone Park), and others such as Combe Bank which have been broken up and sold off with only some elements remaining. Many are on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, and all retain at least something of their previous identity – even if it has been assimilated into new uses such as golf courses or public recreation. The majority however retain important heritage features including veteran and notable trees which make their

past uses recognisable. In particular, Lullingstone Park has one of the most significant collections of veteran and ancient trees (and especially oaks) in the world.



Figure 31. Brasted Park

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## WOODLAND

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Whilst the extent of woodland has probably increased slightly within the valley in the last sixty years as it has extended from the valley tops and slowly smothering previous chalk grassland, woodland cover has changed little in the last 200 years. Tree cover frames the valley, generally sitting on the valley tops where the deeper nutrient-rich soils are to be found. Several are designated as Local Wildlife Sites and contain important species such as wild service tree, butcher's broom and woodland orchids including white helleborine, broad-leaved helleborine and greater butterfly orchid.

As with many woodlands in the South East, there was considerable damage caused by the great storm of 1987. Whilst it did open up areas of continuous woodland, it also caused sycamore regeneration to accelerate resulting in it becoming dominant in many woodlands. In addition, ash is also a dominant tree but is likely to be affected by the outbreak of *Chalara* Ash Dieback.

Farningham Woods differs somewhat from other woodland sites in the valley due to the acidic soils, and is the only SSSI woodland within the scheme area. Here sessile oak and hornbeam are present and there is also a colony of the nationally scarce Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*). Much of the woodland (as with many in the valley) consists of sweet chestnut coppice, and unfortunately the oriental chestnut gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) was discovered here for the first time at a UK site. If it becomes established, it can decimate commercial sweet chestnut coppice. Consequently, a rapid and complete programme of coppicing was introduced at Farningham Woods with the branch and tree-top material ground into small fragments to destroy the pest. The consequence is that it has had a significant and somewhat detrimental effect on the woodland as both a landscape feature and its biodiversity.



Other deliberately created or encouraged woodlands are also present. Nine Hole Wood near Eynsford was planted on a former golf course in 1997, and Oxenhill Shaw between Kemsing and Otford was allowed to regenerate next to the M26 on former arable land.

## THE DARENT VALLEY’S PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Current audiences in the Darent Valley include residents and visitors as well as nationally identified ‘under-represented groups’ of Black and Minority Ethnic people, young people, people with disabilities, families, elderly (65+) people and deprived communities. Other groups include educators (primary, secondary and tertiary education providers), community groups (parish councils, village societies), specialist interest groups, farmers and landowners, local businesses and conservation volunteers.

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### DVLPS AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION

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The DVLPS development team commissioned consultants to undertake audience development work between October 2015 and April 2016. This consisted of a desktop study, on-site face to face interviews at locations within the Darent Valley and south east London and an online survey. It also utilised the scheme’s strong following on social media to collect data in an innovative manner. Establishing a baseline data of how current audiences use, value and perceive the Darent Valley means that comparison with future consultation of Darent Valley audiences can be undertaken to assess whether the scheme has been successful in achieving its outcomes (See Appendix 2).

Analysis of answers from the 842 respondents by question type, survey type and audience group has revealed that a multitude of individuals and audiences already engage with the heritage of the Darent Valley, yet barriers do exist for some people across multiple audience groups. In addition to residents and visitors, detailed analysis was undertaken for young people, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) respondents, people over the age of 65 years, disabled people, families and deprived communities (Swanley, Dartford – DA1 postcode and Lewisham).

Audience group	Number of survey respondents	% of total survey respondents
Residents	152	18%
Visitors	518	62%
BAME groups	96	11%
Young people (17 – 24 years)	22	3%
People with disabilities	60	7%
65+ years	218	26%
Families	43	5%
Deprived communities – Swanley	40	5%
Deprived communities – Dartford	70	7%

\*NB some individuals fit the criteria for more than one audience group so this data will be used more than once.

Figure 32. Number of survey respondents from DVLPS audience consultation by audience group

General findings from the survey were:

- The Darent Valley's natural beauty is highly appreciated and valued. Its heritage is valued but to a lesser extent than natural beauty yet there is much interest to know more about the area's heritage.
- The central section of the Darent Valley (between Farningham and Shoreham) is the most popular area to undertake visits to by all audience groups, with this section being most perceived as 'the Darent Valley.' The Westerham section was the area perceived the least as being part of the Darent Valley.
- The vast majority of visits undertaken are with others indicating that visits are a socially orientated experience.
- By car is the main mode of travel to the Darent Valley by far. Nearly half of residents visit on foot and travel by train was highest among visitors from south east London.
- Fresh air, health and exercise and to relax and unwind were the main motivations for visiting.
- Walking was the most popular activity but other activities - watching wildlife, spending time with family and friends and to enjoy local history/heritage site - were also popular.
- Arts activities, horse riding, fishing and field sports, geocaching, photography, practical projects and cycling were far less popular activities among many audience groups.
- Awareness of Samuel Palmer was low yet half of residents that were surveyed were familiar with him.
- Website was by far the most popular method among multiple audience groups to find out more about the Darent Valley. Leaflet and Facebook were also of high preference among audience groups.
- The same five activities to find out more in the Darent Valley were shared by all audience groups, with varying preference – places to visit, nature areas and wildlife, circular walks, history / heritage, self-guided walks.
- Not knowing where to go is the main barrier to visiting the Darent Valley among those that currently do not visit. Other barriers including transport, health and too busy were often mentioned by many audience groups yet with varying degrees of impact.

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## RESIDENTS

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There are approximately 160,000 residents living within the DVLPS boundary yet many more live in communities adjacent to the area. The vast majority (90%) of residents are White British yet in Dartford, the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population is 12.6% (12,295 people), compared to 6.3% in Kent (ONS, 2011). In general, the DVLPS area has above average levels of employment, housing etc. However, pockets of deprivation do exist within Dartford (Joyce Green, Temple Hill, Littlebrook and the Brent) and Swanley which lies adjacent to the DVLPS boundary.

The Darent Valley's natural beauty, tranquillity and views are highly valued and appreciated by residents as is its heritage, yet to a slightly lesser extent. Residents undertake most of their general countryside visits in the Darent Valley itself with 77% visiting more than once a week and 43% visit on foot. Sites and attractions within the central section of the Darent Valley was the most frequently visit section of the Darent Valley and fresh air was residents' main motivation for visiting.

Residents value the area's heritage and do have an awareness of it (although with a relatively small sample size, the survey may not be fully representative of the extent of awareness among all residents). Appreciation of the area's heritage is likely to be higher among those with an interest in the subject and awareness greater among those living in communities where the assets from the area's past can still be seen.

68% of residents were aware of Samuel Palmer, yet this is unlikely to be the situation across the wider Darent Valley as it is more likely that residents living in and around the Shoreham area (where Palmer lived) have the greatest awareness of him and his work. There is a high level of concern among many residents, particularly those in the Farningham – Shoreham area, that the landscape is under threat and that it is a busy area, because of high visitor numbers at riverside locations, particularly during summer months.

Residents indicated that they would like to know more about nature areas and wildlife, circular walks, history and heritage, self-guided walks and places to visit.

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## VISITORS

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The Darent Valley, the central section in particular, is an area enjoyed by many visitors. Due to the proximity of London and the high population density of North West Kent, the potential visitor audience to the Darent Valley is huge. 508,870 people live within a 5km area of DVLPS project area increasing to 1.3 million within 10km (includes some London suburbs) and 3.2 million within a 10-mile radius.

Yet responses to the survey revealed that only half of visitors who lived in south-east London had heard of the Darent Valley, compared to those visitors that lived in adjacent communities who were much more familiar with, and visitors to, the Darent Valley. With idyllic rural villages, antique shops, tearooms and riverside pubs with a backdrop of rolling chalk hills, it is understandable as to why the central section of the Darent Valley is so popular among visitors. Many visitor attractions including Lullingstone Roman Villa, Eynsford Castle and Lullingstone Country Park are also congregated in this central section and will continue to remain a popular destination by visitors from near and far.

Whilst most survey respondents from south-east London undertook visits to the countryside, most did so to more local countryside areas as even among those that had heard of the Darent Valley, many did not visit with the main barrier being not knowing where to go. Many survey respondents from south east London expressed an interest in visiting the Darent Valley if they knew where to go; not knowing where to go was the main barrier they experienced when asked what stops them visiting the Darent Valley. Too busy at work/home was an additional barrier for many, as was health and transport but affecting fewer individuals overall.

Although there are many heritage attractions that are popular with day visitors, visitors' awareness of the area's heritage and particularly its extent, is low. However, the desire to learn more about the Darent Valley's heritage is evident as it was one of the top five aspects all audience groups including visitors want to know more about.

Many visitors having a desire to visit if they know where to go. Current infrastructure through direct and frequent train links from London to the central section of the Darent Valley, means south-east London visitors may make up a large proportion of future visitors to the Darent Valley traveling in this way. Due to their proximity to the Darent Valley and infrastructure links into the area, visitors within 5km and those living near train stations in south-east London are a focus for the DVLPS.

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## UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS

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The audience development survey revealed that under-represented groups exist within the Darent Valley; young people, deprived communities, families, older people, people with disabilities and people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. However, the number of responses received from these groups was low so although analysis may not be statistically robust, it provides a likely indication of the potential wider situation across the DVLPS area. Analysis of survey data

revealed that under-represented groups do not explicitly experience the barriers to visiting the countryside identified through national research, but experience a range of barriers that other groups do too.

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#### DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES – DARTFORD (DA1 POSTCODE)

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The 2011 census revealed that 50% of Dartford households are classified as deprived. There are wards within Dartford (DA1 postcode) that have a high level of deprivation and include Littlebrook, Joyce Green, Temple Hill and Brent.

Respondents with a DA1 postcode tended to visit sites within the central section of the Darent Valley but also more local areas within the Dartford section; Darent Country Park, Dartford Creek and Horton Kirby. Most visits were undertaken by car with a fifth visiting on foot with very few using public transport to visit areas within the Darent Valley. Popular activities include walking, to have a picnic, to spend time with family and friends, to watch wildlife and to enjoy local history. Awareness of Samuel Palmer was low. Respondents are keen to learn more about the Darent Valley, particularly where to go and opportunities available to explore and learn about nature areas and wildlife, self-guided and circular walks and the area's history and heritage.

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#### DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES – SWANLEY

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Although just outside the DVLPS area, Swanley with a population c.16,200 is an area with higher than average levels of deprivation, yet with direct and quick train links into the Darent Valley.

Respondents valued the landscape and tranquillity of the Darent Valley and the majority felt the landscape is under threat, and half said the area was busy. 75% of Swanley residents surveyed had heard of the Darent Valley yet almost half did not visit due to not knowing where to go, yet did express an interest in visiting. Visits were undertaken to sites within the central section to walk, have a picnic, watch wildlife and enjoy local history. Even though this central section is directly accessible by train from Swanley, nearly all visitors travelled by car. Awareness of Samuel Palmer was low but Swanley residents wanted to learn more about places to visit, circular walks, history and heritage and nature areas and wildlife.

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#### PEOPLE FROM BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

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10% of survey respondents were non-White British. The landscape and its heritage are highly valued and this group expressed a desire to learn more about the area's heritage along with places to visit. Less than half of BAME respondents had heard of the Darent Valley (42%) and only one third of this figure visited, with half stating not knowing where to go as the reason for not visiting. Walking was the most popular activity along with spending time with family and friends, enjoying local history, having a picnic and watching wildlife. Nearly all visits were undertaken with others and to the central section of the Darent Valley.

From analysis of responses received, barriers to visiting the countryside and Darent Valley did not fully reflect the national picture of barriers to this group, with the same barriers also experienced by other audience groups; too busy, not knowing where to go, transport and cost. Fear of discrimination from not fitting in and concerns for safety were only stated by very few people.

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#### PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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10% of survey respondents self-reported a disability. The Darent Valley's landscape, scenery and heritage were highly valued among respondents who stated to have a disability, with enjoying local history being the second most popular activity (to walking) undertaken. Heritage was the most

popular reason for visiting the Darent Valley with 80% agreeing that the area has an interesting history and the landscape is attractive and worth protecting. 87% of people with a disability surveyed had heard of the Darent Valley with most undertaking visits to various sites throughout the Darent Valley and often with others. The main barrier for those that did not visit the Darent Valley was not knowing where to go, experienced by 15% of respondents, yet other barriers of health and transport existed too. History and heritage featured highly among what people with disabilities wanted to know more about along with nature areas and wildlife and self-guided walks.

People with disabilities valued, used and perceived the Darent Valley like many other audience groups and barriers experienced to visiting the Darent Valley and wider countryside were not exclusive to this audience group.

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#### YOUNG PEOPLE

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Half of young people surveyed had heard of the Darent Valley yet only a few visits were undertaken and those that did, visited the central section of the Darent Valley with others. Heritage was not stated as a reason to visit so this suggests a low awareness and desire to learn about the area's heritage. Awareness of Samuel Palmer was very low at 5%. Yet young people expressed an interest in knowing more about what there is to do in the Darent Valley as not knowing where to go was the main barrier for not visiting. Other barriers experienced by young people according to national research such as peer pressure and cost, were not found from the DVLPS audience consultation.

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#### PEOPLE OVER 65 YEARS

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Respondents within the 65+ years group were found to be present in the Darent Valley and were not an under-represented group. Findings among this group were like those of others in terms of activities undertaken, valuing the landscape and heritage and ways to find out more.

The majority of the 218 respondents had heard of the Darent Valley with most undertaking visits to it. For those that did not visit, not knowing where to go, transport and health were barriers. Landscape, tranquillity and heritage of the Darent Valley were highly valued and those that visited the Darent Valley and wider countryside, primarily did so for fresh air and health and exercise. Sites throughout the valley were visited but the majority were within the central section. Although walking was the most popular activity undertaken by this group in the Darent Valley, a range of other activities were experienced too including enjoying local heritage. Compared to other groups, awareness of Samuel Palmer was relatively high at 56%. This group wanted to know about similar activities to that of other audience groups; nature areas and wildlife, places to visit, circular walks, history and heritage and self-guided walks.

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#### FAMILIES

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Families are an underrepresented group in the Darent Valley with only 30% having heard of the area and of the 26% that visited, visits were only done so once or twice a year. Not knowing where to go was the main barrier to this group. Yet heritage was highly valued with 80% agreeing the area had an interesting heritage and enjoying local history/visiting a heritage site the most popular activity undertaken. This group also expressed an interest in learning more about history and heritage along with circular walks. Families tended to visit the central section but a range of locations throughout the valley were stated.

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## EXISTING INTERPRETIVE PROVISION

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There is a range of existing interpretation both on and off site about the Darent Valley including panels, self-guided trail leaflets, events, noticeboards showing the route of the Darent Valley Path and websites (reference current provision in interpretation strategy). Yet on-site interpretation is predominantly site-based and only at a handful of sites with wildlife the dominant topic. With off-site interpretation, websites promote the Darent Valley as a destination and online information about the area's heritage is lacking. The length, content and quality of interpretive provision of leaflets to accompany waymarked trails varies considerably but some do offer information on heritage features to be found along routes.

Consequently, current interpretive provision is not adequate in fulfilling the desires of residents and visitors to learn more about the heritage of the Darent Valley and is likely to be a significant factor in current low levels of awareness among all audience groups about the extent of the area's heritage.

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## TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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Public transport infrastructure, both train and bus, do exist within the DVLPS area. However, infrastructure provision is not consistent across the whole area so engaging with the Darent Valley's heritage via public transport can be challenging and not possible in some sections.

The central section between Eynsford and Sevenoaks with seven train stations is well served by direct and frequent links to and from London. There are no train links into the western section of the DVLPS area to Westerham or to the north between Farningham and Dartford. Dartford has good public transport links, both rail and bus, but train links run east – west to London and Gravesend (and beyond) so visiting the Darent Valley between Dartford and Farningham by rail is not possible.

Bus routes utilising the main A225 trunk road that runs north – south through the length of the Darent Valley, provide provision for exploring the DVLPS area by bus. Yet changes between routes are required to travel the length of the Darent Valley and services are significantly limited on weekends and in evenings.

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## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS

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The DVLPS area has a good provision of public rights of way, providing opportunities to engage with the Darent Valley's heritage on foot. There are more than thirty existing circular and linear walking routes that use public rights of way. Most of these are focused around the central and western section of the area, meaning the opportunity exists for visitors from south east London to travel to the Darent Valley by train and then continue to explore the area on foot. Areas to the north and west of the central section currently lack circular and linear walks yet have much heritage to share with visitors.

The Darent Valley Path runs for 19 miles between Dartford and Sevenoaks and is an important sustainable access 'artery'. It provides visitors with a means to explore this section of the Darent Valley and experience the area's heritage. In addition, the North Downs Way National Trail passes through the upper Darent Valley (Kemsing, Otford and Chevening) and across the adjoining Surrey border at Tatsfield, providing further opportunities to explore and engage with the area's natural and cultural heritage.

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## THE LANDSCAPE AREA BOUNDARIES

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### DEFINING THE SCHEME AREA

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In the early meetings of the Darent Valley Partnership Group, several iterations of the scheme area emerged. Originally, as a starting point for consultation the proposed area focused on what was considered as the ‘archetypal’ Darent Valley; namely the section of the valley between Dartford and Sevenoaks. This was later borne out during the audience development work that demonstrated that visitors (approximately 38%) perceived the area between Eynsford and Otford as what they considered to be the Darent Valley.

However, during subsequent discussions, there was a strong case put forward by the communities of Westerham, Brasted and Sundridge that they considered themselves to also be part of the Darent Valley, particularly related to the strong association of the villages to the river. This was also supported by the Kent Downs AONB’s own landscape character assessment which included the upper valley within its Darent Valley Landscape Character Area.

Considerable debate surrounded the inclusion of the Dartford and Crayford Marshes within the definition of the Darent Valley’s landscape. It was agreed that there is a significant and notable difference in the character of the valley as the floodplain opens out as the Darent reaches the Thames. However, the case was put forward that this difference is exaggerated by the presence of Dartford spanning across the river and creating what is essentially an artificial delineation in landscape character. Several representatives on the Partnership from the heritage sector felt strongly that the marshes and the full extent of the river contributed to the story of the landscape and linked many of the aspects that made the Darent Valley special. The argument was that to leave out this part of the valley would mean that a component part of the Darent Valley landscape would be missing. Its inclusion was subsequently agreed unanimously by the Partnership and supported by the Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (see below).

The marshes’ inclusion was supported by the later production of the Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan that was commissioned to support the stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### SPECIFYING THE BOUNDARY

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Specifying the precise boundary for the scheme was undertaken by consultants commissioned to produce the Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (SLEP). The production of the SLEP had two key objectives:

1. Review the existing Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) and present recommendations for a single coherent ‘Darent Valley’ Landscape Partnership Scheme area based on landscape character in line with HLF guidance.
2. Take account of the existing landscape character and historic landscape character assessments of the area, and propose integrated and deliverable enhancements that will enhance the landscape and historic landscape character of the Darent Valley. These should be in line with HLF guidance and draw on broad actions identified within LCAs, but be more specific and address the missing historical element.



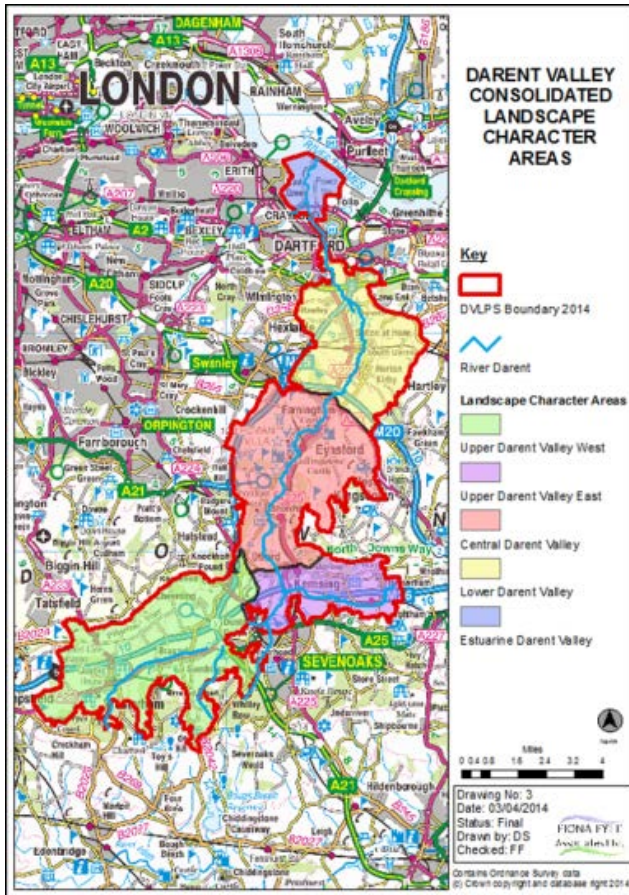


Figure 33. Consolidated landscape character areas

Whilst using existing landscape character assessments presented a solid evidence base for defining the area, the situation was complicated by only one covering most of the valley and this being somewhat dated (Landscape Assessment of Kent, 2004). In addition, whilst the majority of LCAs had contiguous boundaries, this was not always the case. The SLEP provided a methodology and evidence base for defining the boundary of the scheme area and demonstrating that it was a coherent landscape in its own right. In addition, it was helpful to identify sub-character areas to describe the differences and a smaller scale. The SLEP also independently supported the communities' wish to include the Dartford Marshes and Upper Valley in the scheme area.

Five sub-character areas (SCAs) were identified and specified as part of this process, reflecting the changes in character and the differing issues and threats that require addressing (Figure 33). These consolidated sub-character areas complement the pre-existing landscape character assessments and are an additional layer to inform subsequent actions:

## 1. UPPER DARENT VALLEY (WEST) SUB-CHARACTER AREA



### SUMMARY

At the start of the River Darent's journey, springs bubble up at the base of the greensand, before flowing down the valley sides and joining the ever-widening stream in the valley floor. Nestled between the chalk scarp to the north and the greensand scarp to the south, this is an intimate and relatively enclosed landscape. Estates, parkland and historic villages combine to create a strong sense of time-depth, which is enhanced by the irregular pastoral fields on the steep valley sides. Long views can be experienced within the valley, and there are panoramic views from both the northern and southern scarps.



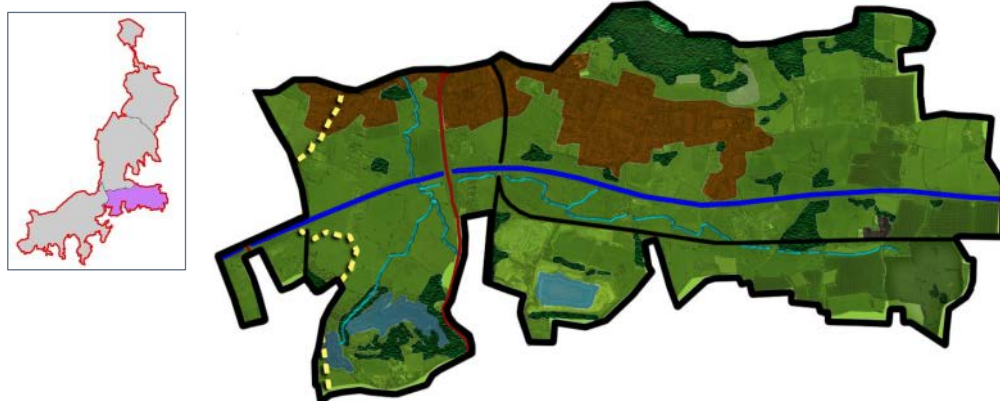
## VISION

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A new network of traffic-free routes links the villages, the River Darent and viewpoints on the scarp slopes, enabling people to enjoy and experience this rich and diverse landscape. The important built heritage of the area is enjoyed by all, with minimal impacts on its character from traffic, traffic calming and inappropriate development. Historic landscape features such as estate parklands, ancient woodlands, and rural lanes are well-managed, visited and appreciated by the public. Habitats such as chalk grassland, woodland, streams and wetlands benefit from active and coherent management at the landscape scale.

## 2. UPPER DARENT VALLEY (EAST) SUB-CHARACTER AREA

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## SUMMARY

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The River Darent widens and is joined by its largest upper tributary, the Honeypot Stream. This SCA is visually dominated by the steep chalk scarp which forms its northern edge. The rough textures and varied colours of the scarp's chalk grassland and woodland contrast with the patchwork pattern of fields in the valley below. A series of historic villages, rich in archaeological sites and historic buildings, nestle at the foot of the scarp. Panoramic views from the top of the scarp encompass the upper reaches of the Darent, as well as the more recent built development and transport routes within and adjoining this SCA. The valley here contains a rich diversity of wetland habitats in former mineral workings.

## VISION

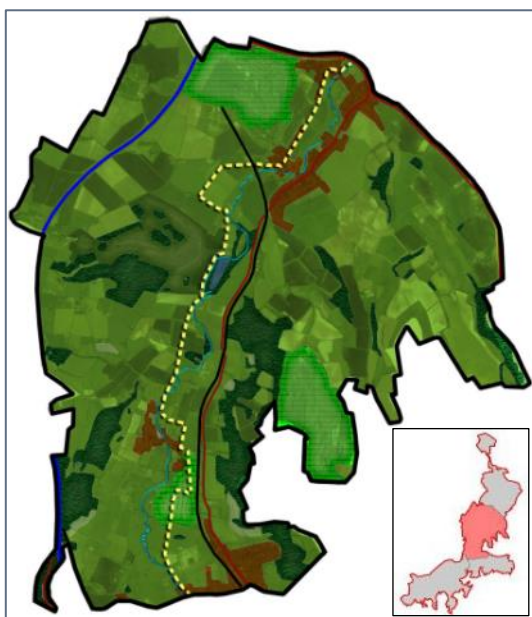
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Local communities are easily able to reach and enjoy the unique landscape on their doorsteps, understanding and accessing its rich and varied cultural heritage and natural environments. Habitats, archaeological sites and historic buildings are in good condition, and managed in an integrated way. Rivers and streams are accessible features in the landscape, with a new gateway and riverside path from Sevenoaks to Otford. Historic and modern settlements are integrated into their surroundings and respect local vernacular character and form. The landscape impact of the M26 motorway is reduced.

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### 3. CENTRAL DARENT VALLEY SUB-CHARACTER AREA

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#### SUMMARY

In the central part of its journey, the river Darent flows past the Roman villa at Lullingstone, spectacular mediaeval castles, and the picturesque villages painted by Samuel Palmer; the river Darent forms a chain linking a series of popular and nationally-significant archaeological and historical sites. Steep chalk scarps (with spectacular dry valleys) enclose the valley to the east and west and form a distinctive backdrop and setting to sites and views. The tree-lined river meanders through fields, and past quintessential Kent scenery of farms, oast houses and historic villages with arched bridges and fords.

#### VISION

Visitors are welcomed to nationally-significant archaeological sites within an intact historic landscape setting. Existing and new attractions are linked by a network of attractive routes which also connect with public transport. The River Darent is easily accessible, valued for its ecology and cultural heritage features. Historic villages retain their local character and traffic flows smoothly. Many different species of animals, plants and birds thrive in the variety of well-managed and linked habitats. Views across the Darent Valley inspire drivers on the M25, but the motorway has minimal impact on the landscape.

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### 4. LOWER DARENT VALLEY SUB-CHARACTER AREA

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#### SUMMARY

As the river Darent nears the final stage of its journey, its valley broadens and becomes less distinct. The Darent forms a tree-lined thread through the valley and creates a focal point and sense of identity within this landscape. A chain of lakes glitter on the valley floor, and above them on the sloping valley sides, fields stretch to the horizon. The valley contains a rich concentration of Roman remains and later industrial heritage. Expansive views of the area can be experienced from the roads and railway lines which cross the valley on a series of viaducts and bridges; themselves distinctive features of this landscape. Within the town of Dartford, the Darent is the focus for a series of breathing spaces.

#### VISION

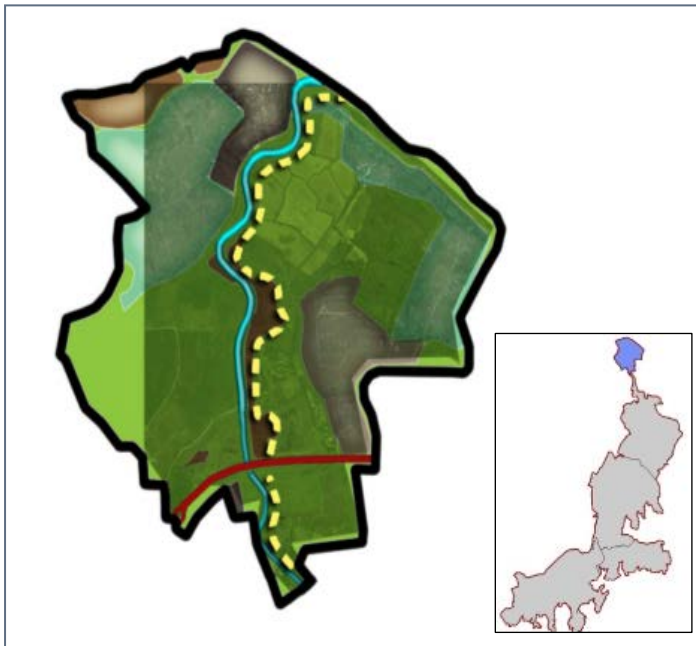
The River Darent is transformed from being a hidden and forgotten feature into a valued and accessible part of the landscape. Physical and perceptual barriers

separating urban populations from the countryside on their doorstep are broken down. The SCA becomes a gateway to the rest of the Darent Valley, but is also appreciated and valued in its own right. Urban fringe pressures are minimised, and settlements and transport routes are integrated into the landscape. The structure and biodiversity value of the landscape is enhanced through programmes of hedgerow replanting, and woodland and wetland management.

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## 5. ESTUARINE DARENT VALLEY SUB-CHARACTER AREA

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### SUMMARY

On the final part of its journey, the River Darent wends its way to the Thames estuary through an evocative and seemingly empty landscape dominated by sky. Beneath the shadow of adjacent industry, mudflats glisten at low tide, and birds call across the marshes. A network of creeks separate fields and grazing marshes, with occasional sculptural willow trees along their banks. Development on the edges of London and Dartford is visible on the horizon, with Littlebrook Power Station and the QE2 Bridge dominating the skyline. Essex is visible beyond the Thames to the north. Parts of the

Darent and Crayford Marshes have a sense of dereliction and of being a forgotten landscape, but the area remains an oasis of space and quiet where it is possible to experience a sense of isolation.

### VISION

Local public perception of the marshes is transformed into a positive impression of the landscape and its ecological habitats. The landscape has greater accessibility and becomes a valued resource for both the existing (and mainly deprived) communities, and the new developing neighbourhoods nearby, to visit and enjoy. Rare ecological habitats and networks are enhanced and strengthened, and returned to positive management. Surrounding development is integrated with the landscape, and the appearance of industrial areas is improved. Derelict land is turned to positive use which enhances the character of the landscape and its biodiversity value. Cultural and historical associations are promoted, well-communicated and celebrated.

## CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN STAGES 1 AND 2

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After the stage 1 pass and the production of the SLEP, the boundary was reviewed to test for any anomalies and inconsistencies. This included 'ground-truthing' the boundaries during site visits and through discussions with partners. This exercise proved to be extremely useful, and confirmed that the outcomes from the SLEP were sound and accurate. However, because of these visits a few minor changes were made (see Figure 34).

These changes are:

- A widening of the section through Dartford at the meeting point of the Estuarine Darent Valley SCA and the Lower Darent Valley SCA. The justification for this is that it recognises the connection with the surrounding communities and reflects the hidden heritage within what are now urban areas. It also includes a small section of the Temple Hill estate in north-east Dartford due to the historic connection between Joyce Green Hospital on the Dartford Marshes and hospital cemetery within the estate.
- Slight realignment of the boundary on the west side of the Central Darent Valley SCA. This is to ensure that the whole of the Shoreham Woods Country Park is included within the scheme area where it had previously been bisected by the stage 1 boundary.
- Removal of small extraneous section to the north of Westerham on the Surrey border that is on the plateau above the scarp slope.
- Slight changes to open valleys around the supply springs on the Greensand Ridge within the Upper Darent Valley (West) SCA. The stage 1 boundary did not fully reflect the open nature and visual connectivity with the valley.
- Minor changes at the eastern end of the Upper Darent Valley (East) SCA to ensure that the River Darent channel is included where it flows through the urban areas on the north side of Sevenoaks.
- Extension of the area at the north-eastern edge of the Upper Darent Valley (East) SCA to include a spring supplying the Honeypot Stream.
- Slight extension at the top of the dry valleys on the eastern side of the Central Darent Valley SCA where the stage 1 boundary did not reflect the true extent of these features.
- Inclusion of junction 3 of the M25 where it meets the M20.
- Inclusion of small area of open land to the south of Darent Country Park.

These changes do not constitute a major alteration in the scheme area, and has increased it by 5 km<sup>2</sup> to a total of 137 km<sup>2</sup>. In addition, it has maintained better compatibility and integration with other HLF funded projects including the recently successful Old Chalk New Downs to the east, and the Greensand Commons project to the south.

It should however be noted that the DVLP recognises the need for some flexibility and that the boundary is not considered absolutely fixed. Many issues, threats and opportunities cross the identified scheme boundary and will necessitate working across and in some cases outside the scheme area to ensure the activities are achieved successfully.

In addition, the boundary only refers to physical activities and not to the people and target communities of the scheme. Here the reach of the DVLPs is considerably larger and stretches to the communities of south-east London.



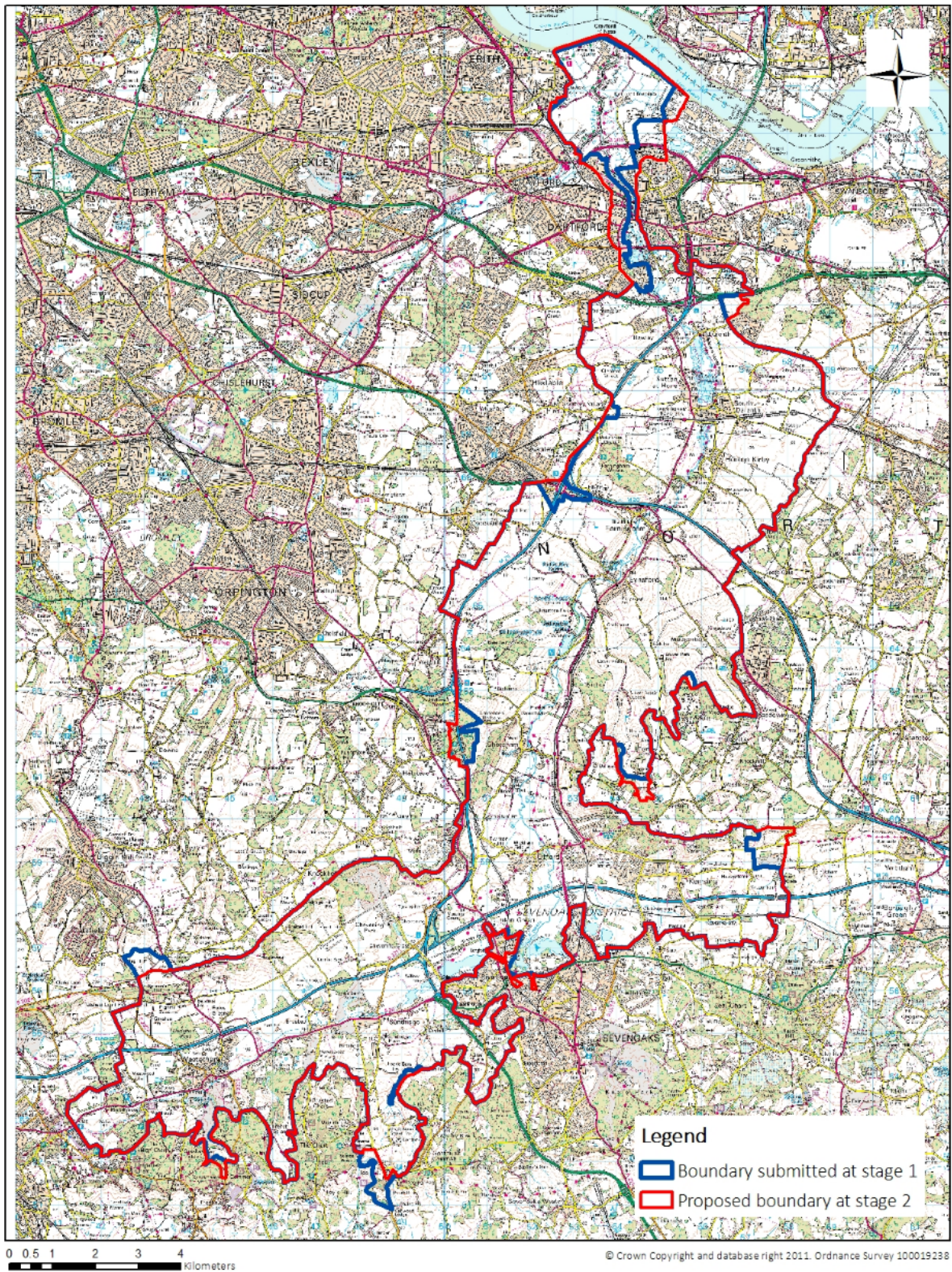


Figure 34. Changes to the DVLP area between stages 1 and 2





## MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Management of the scheme will follow a relatively conventional format adopted by many other landscape partnership schemes. However, this has been adapted slightly to enable a more participatory approach to decision making, as well as utilising technology to enhance communication. The management structure is shown in Figure 35.

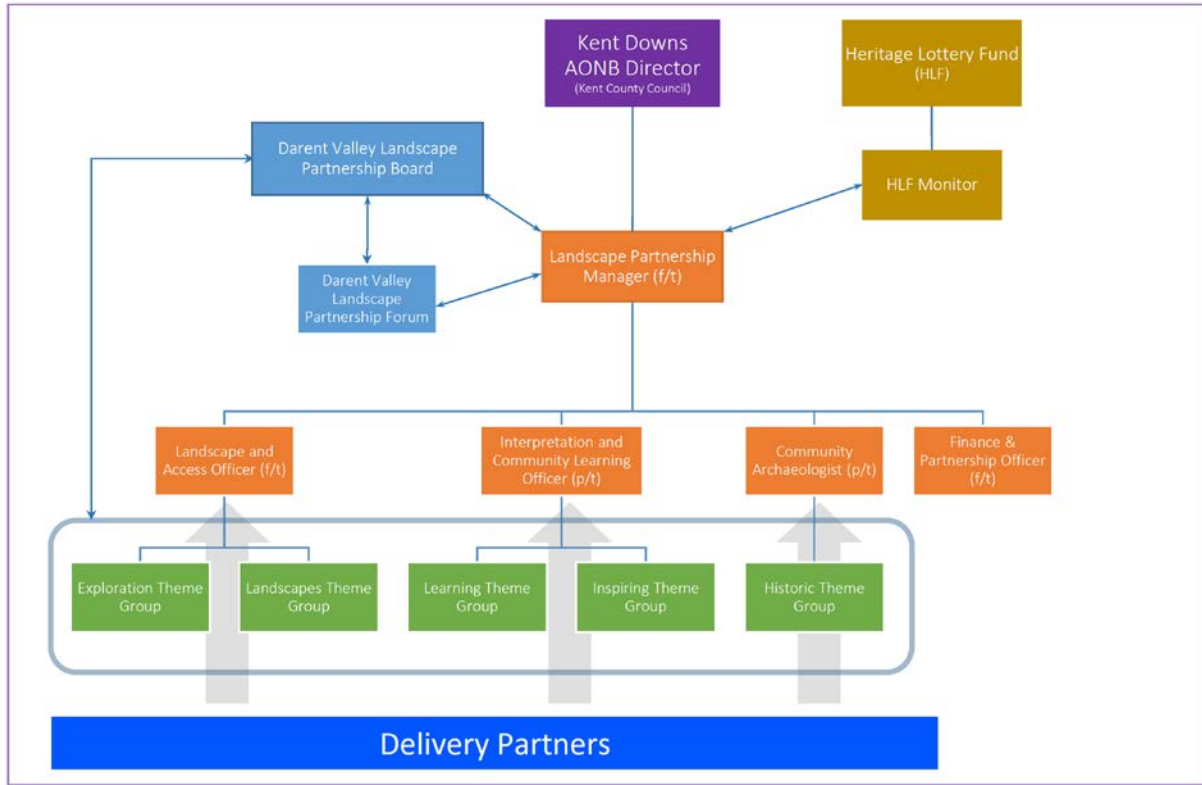


Figure 35. Management structure of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership

Each of the roles outlined in the management structure has specific responsibilities to support the delivery of the DVLPS. These are:

### EMPLOYING AND HOST AUTHORITY

The Kent Downs AONB Unit acted as the lead applicant at stage 1 and remains so at stage 2. Kent County Council (KCC) acts as the host authority for the Kent Downs AONB Unit and will therefore be the employing organisation for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme and will be ultimately responsible for the financial management and ongoing liability of the scheme. The Kent Downs AONB Unit sits within the Environment, Planning and Enforcement Division of the Growth, Environment & Transport Directorate, with its director Katie Stewart ultimately representing KCC's interests within the scheme. The scheme will adhere to KCC's procurement procedure (attached in Appendix 3) unless HLF's requirements have lower limits.

The DVLPS delivery team will become part of the Kent Downs AONB Unit and line management for them will be provided by the Director of the Kent Downs AONB, Nick Johannsen.



## DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The aim of the Partnership Board has been to ensure that partners, the local community and stakeholders are all able to play a significant role in influencing and steering the decisions that the Partnership takes.

Organisation	Innovation	Heritage	Access/ Transport	Landowners & farming	Local communities	Arts & Culture	Education	Water	Landscape	Biodiversity
Ashmolean Museum	•	•			•	L	•			
Connect Plus/ Highways England		•	•	•	•			•	•	•
Darent Valley Community (Mid & Lower)	•	•	•	•	L	•	•	•	•	•
Darent Valley Community (Mid & Lower)	•	•	•	•	L	•	•	•	•	•
Darent Valley Community (Upper)	•	•	•	•	L	•	•	•	•	•
Dartford Borough Council	•	•	•		•	•		•		
Environment Agency				•				L	•	•
Kent County Council (Country Parks and CMPs)	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
KCC Heritage		L			•	•	•		•	
Explore Kent			L	•	•					
Kent Downs AONB Unit	L	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	L	•
Kent Wildlife Trust				•	•		•	•	•	L
NFU/Landowners			•	L	•			•	•	•
Southeastern Trains			•		•					
Sevenoaks District Council	•	•	•		•			•	•	•
Wide Horizons		•			•	•	L		•	•

Figure 36. Partnership Board representative organisations and areas of interest (L indicates a lead organisation)

From the outset, the DVLP has been keen to establish a board of organisations and individuals that is dynamic and not only reflects all the aspects and themes of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership, but is also able to represent other organisations with similar interests to their own. The intention has been to achieve the fine balance of reflecting the scheme’s wide range of activities, whilst at the same time ensuring that the Partnership Board remains relatively lean to aid effective decision-making.

There are sixteen representatives on the Partnership Board to ensure coverage of all interests within the scheme. The organisations represented are shown in Figure 36 as well as their interests. In addition, a lead organisation has been identified for each theme area of the Partnership’s work. The role of each of the leads is to ensure that they represent all the interests of other organisations and groups in that theme at the board meetings, and not just their own, as well as liaising with them to gain views and opinions.

The diversity of the Partnership Board is something that all partners are very proud of, and adds an extremely interesting dynamic to the work of the scheme. The mix of scholarly institutes such as the Ashmolean Museum, commercial organisations such as Connect Plus and Southeastern, charities such as Wide Horizons and Kent Wildlife Trust, statutory organisations, local authorities and strong community representation; has already made for interesting discussions and exchange of knowledge and interests. This is a particular strength of the Partnership, and one that it is keen to maintain.

The key responsibilities of the Partnership Board are:

- Advising the Kent Downs AONB Unit on the management of the scheme;
- Undertaking periodic scheme progress reviews;
- Advising the Kent Downs AONB Unit on amendments to the scheme and reallocations of the budget;
- Approving reports on the Scheme for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- Advising the Kent Downs AONB on the co-ordination of the activities of the delivery partners to ensure the due progress of the scheme;
- Approving any press releases and other publicity about the scheme.

The Partnership Board will meet every four months or at any other time when appropriate at the request of any of the partners.

## DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP FORUM

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The Landscape Partnership Forum is an expansion and development of the original Landscape Partnership that shaped the stage 1 application. This will be maintained as an open forum for all groups and individuals participating in the scheme and will be by open invitation. The Forum will be a liaison group, to enable the reporting of work progress, discussion of forthcoming work, and develop an ongoing legacy for the Scheme. It is intended to enable a two-way exchange of information and opportunity to input into project delivery.

The Landscape Partnership Forum will meet at least once a year and is anticipated to have large numbers attending. It will be chaired and led by the Landscape Partnership Manager who will feed back the outcomes and comments to the Partnership Board to support its decision-making.

In its previous form, the Landscape Partnership met at Lullingstone Castle and was over-subscribed. At that last meeting, there was palpable excitement, particularly around the opportunity for integrating arts and landscape conservation. Considerable momentum was built at that event, and several new local partnerships established as well the overarching one for the Darent Valley.

## DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY TEAM

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The direct delivery team will be a team of five individuals with complementary skills to enable delivery of all aspects of the scheme. These five roles are:

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### 1. LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

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To manage and develop the DVLPS team, establish partnerships and work with partners to deliver the potential of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. The role will ensure that projects are integrated and delivered on time and to budget, using influence and experience to promote the Scheme and work with partners and team members to further develop programmes and secure the financial arrangements for the later years of operation. A key part of the role will be to look beyond the five years that HLF have funded this programme to secure a legacy and future for the DVLPS.

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## 2. INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNITY LEARNING OFFICER

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To lead on the ‘Inspiring Darent Valley’ and ‘Future Skills and Learning’ programmes as well as support the integration of interpretation across all programmes working closely with colleagues in the DVLPS team, delivery partners, contractors, partner organisations and local communities. Support the Landscape Partnership Manager in the development of the legacy for the scheme.

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## 3. LANDSCAPE AND ACCESS OFFICER

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To lead on the ‘Darent Valley Exploration’ and ‘Natural and Historic Landscapes’ programmes as well as support the integration of linked works across all programmes working closely with colleagues in the DVLPS team, delivery partners, contractors, partner organisations and local communities. Support the Landscape Partnership Manager in the development of the legacy for the scheme.

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## 4. COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

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To lead on the ‘Historic Darent Valley’ programme as well as support the integration of historic and cultural heritage elements across all other programmes working closely with colleagues in the DVLPS team, delivery partners, contractors, partner organisations and local communities. Support the Landscape Partnership Manager in the development of the legacy for the scheme.

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## 5. FINANCE AND PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

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To work closely with each member of the DVLPS delivery team and scheme partners to make sure that the finance and project monitoring is carried out in a proper and verifiable manner. The role will also lead on the preparation of claiming and reporting to the scheme funders, and provide an important support role to the Landscape Partnership Manager, Partnership Forum and the Partnership Board in providing the secretariat.

The full job descriptions for these roles can be found in Appendix 4.

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## DELIVERY PARTNERS

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The strength, breadth and diversity of the Partnership is impressive, and the partners are excited about working closely together to achieve shared, coherent objectives. Several have been identified delivery partners for undertaking specific projects within the DVLPS. These organisations will deliver projects on behalf of the scheme with an allocated budget. A third-party agreement will be used to clarify and specify the arrangement for this with project specifications, budget breakdown, expected outputs and outcomes and financial and reporting arrangements. The projects will be monitored through liaison meetings between the assigned DVLPS officer and the delivery partner representative, with reporting back to the Partnership Board. The agreement will also outline the arrangements for when problems with delivery occur. A specimen version of this agreement is attached in Appendix 5.

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### KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

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Kent Wildlife Trust will be responsible for the delivery of several principally biodiversity and landscape projects within the scheme area, along with some educational work. These include the important ‘Jewels in the Downs’ project (4A.2) delivering chalk grassland restoration and the ‘Wildlife for the

People’ project (4C.1) at the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. They are an organisation highly experienced in the delivery of projects through landscape partnerships being a successful delivery partner in both the Valley of Visions LP and the Up on the Downs LP and have a good, close working relationship with the Kent Downs AONB. They are also the lead for the forthcoming Fifth Continent LP on the Romney Marsh.

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#### SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Sevenoaks District Council will be responsible for the delivery of the scheme’s flagship built heritage project at the Archbishop’s Palace in Otford (2D). In addition, they will directly deliver on several of their own sites including Shoreham Woods Country Park as part of the ‘Gateways to the Valley’ project (3B) and at Oxenhill Shaw and Meadow as part of the ‘Sustainable Woodlands’ project (4B). They have been an ardent supporter of the development of the DVLPS, right up to Chief Executive level, and has been enshrined within their Community Plan.

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#### DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Dartford Borough Council (DBC) will be responsible for the delivery of the project at Joyce Green Orchard (2H) on the Dartford Marshes. This is the first LPS that DBC has been involved in, but is a proactive local authority looking to expand its participation in heritage and art projects.

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#### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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Kent County Council (KCC) and specifically its Country Parks team will be responsible for delivering projects at its country park sites at Lullingstone Park and Preston Hill (4A and 4D). The Country Parks team are in the same directorate as the Kent Downs AONB, and with KCC being the lead for both DVLPS and the successful Valley of Visions LPS, is very experienced in the delivery of LPS projects.

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#### NORTH WEST KENT COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

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The North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NWKCP) has been active in the Darent Valley leading on community-led small-scale countryside management projects since 1984. It is part of a successful and long-running family of countryside management partnerships (CMPs) that operates from within Kent County Council and has extensive experience of delivering through landscape partnership schemes. NWKCP has an excellent track-record for delivering a wide range of projects and will be responsible for the upper catchment elements of the ‘Restoring the Darent’ project (4C).

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#### WIDE HORIZONS

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Wide Horizons was formed in 2004 from of a joint initiative on the part of the London boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham. They are now an independent charity which continues to serve Greenwich and Lewisham, but have also expanded to include many other London boroughs and Walsall. Their vision is that all children should have access to adventure as part of their education and development and have an education centre in the heart of the Darent Valley at Horton Kirby.

Wide Horizons is a dynamic charity at the forefront of delivering outdoor and environmental learning, has extensive experience of working in partnership and has previously been involved in HLF projects. It will lead on the Landscape Adventure Learning for All project (5A).



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#### OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Otford Parish Council is an active and extremely supportive parish council, have a deep interest in the heritage of the valley and are actively involved in the conservation of the many heritage features present around the village. They will be responsible for delivering the Otford Quarry element of the Landscape Adventure Learning for All project (5A).

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#### CONNECT PLUS SERVICES

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Connect Plus Services (CPS) is a joint venture between Balfour Beatty, Atkins and Egis Road Operation UK and has a 30-year contract with Connect Plus on behalf of Highways England to maintain and operate the M25 motorway network, along with all adjoining trunk and slip roads (including the M26, M20 and A2 through the DVLPS area). This includes the 'soft estate' which covers the verges and other Highways England owned land covered in vegetation. Due to the nature of this land and for safety and security reasons, any work on the soft estate needs to be led and delivered by Connect Plus. Connect Plus has taken a very enlightened position with DVLPS and has been extremely open to working in partnership and exploring where they can provide added value. This is a new and unique partnership that to our knowledge has not been undertaken before. They will be responsible for delivering most elements within the 'On the Verge' project (4E).

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#### UK POWER NETWORKS

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UK Power Networks (UKPN) is a distribution network operator for electricity covering South East England and the East of England. They will be responsible for delivering the electricity power line undergrounding element of the 'Framing the View' project (1E). UKPN has an existing partnership with protected landscapes in their area to identify sites for undergrounding and deliver subsequent projects. This has been extremely positive, and they have been very supportive in being willing to explore how their activities can be integrated into other landscape conservation works and provide additionality.

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#### DARTFORD ORIENTEERING KLUBB

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Established in the early 1970s, Dartford Orienteering Klubb (DFOK) is a thriving and energetic orienteering club based in North West Kent and South East London. It is a volunteer-led organisation with members ranging from ages 3 to 85, and varying between families looking for an excuse for great days out at weekends in unspoilt and hidden countryside, to competitive athletes who train several times a week. DFOK will deliver the 'School Run – Reading the Landscape' project (5C).

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#### THE QUADRANGLE TRUST

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The Trust is a not-for-profit social enterprise and although it is not a registered charity it has charitable aims: to secure a sustainable future for the Quadrangle site in Shoreham both for the preservation of its architectural heritage and the conservation of the natural and manmade environment of its setting, seeking to develop and nurture appropriate, inclusive relationships with the local and wider community. The Trust will lead on the 'Quadrangle Forest Garden: A Community Permaculture Project (5A.4).

## THEME GROUPS

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Theme groups will be established to support the actions being undertaken in each of the five programmes. The intention is that these will provide for more focused activity areas and enable organisations and individuals to provide direct input to project delivery. These groups will be administered by the relevant scheme officers, and whilst they will meet on occasions, it is anticipated that much of the discussion will occur in a virtual environment. This will be supported using the DVLPS's new IT system which will utilise Microsoft SharePoint to enable effective collaborative online working and forum discussions in a secure intranet environment.

The theme groups are a key method for maintaining local community support and involvement in the scheme and allowing individual projects to react and change in a more dynamic and inclusive way.



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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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This section explains what is important about the range of heritage in the Darent Valley, to whom and why. Whilst 'The Landscape Area, its Heritage and its People' section on page 9 explains the heritage that exists within the scheme area, this section elaborates and explains why it is special.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

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The majority of the scheme area (approximately 65%) is within the protected designation of the Kent Downs and Surrey Hills Areas of Outstanding National Beauty. AONBs are part of a global family of protected areas recognised and classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). AONBs, National Parks and Heritage Coasts in England and Wales fall into Category V – Protected Landscapes. These are areas that have been moulded by centuries of human activity, where there is a diversity of land use with a 'sense of place'. Equivalent areas in other countries include the French Parcs Naturels Régionaux.

Despite its name, within the Darent Valley the Kent Downs AONB designation also takes in the Greensand Ridge. Of equal importance to the chalk landscape this is a predominantly sandstone landscape that forms the southern half of the upper valley.

In addition to the AONB designation, several Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) were first identified in the Kent Structure Plan in 1977. These non-statutory designations served to highlight particularly important features of the countryside that should be considered in planning decisions. Within the Darent Valley, the North Downs SLA borders the Kent Downs AONB along its northern edge and reaches up the valley to Horton Kirby and South Darenth including such areas as Farningham Woods and Frank's Hall.

Areas of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI) were also identified within the Sevenoaks District Council Local Development Framework. These are smaller and more confined areas of local landscape adjoining Special Landscape Areas. The significance of these local areas is four-fold:

- they contribute to the rural character of the area;
- they offer a visual contrast to the built-up areas;
- they contain the spread of development; and
- they frequently provide access for passive recreation.

The ALLIs in Sevenoaks covered the areas to the east of Darenth and the open flood plain between Sevenoaks and Otford.

However, both designations and policies were removed in the most recent iterations of Dartford Borough Council's and Sevenoaks District Council's core strategies in 2011 and replaced with all-encompassing policies for Green Space (CS14) in the former and for The Countryside and the Rural Economy (LO8). Therefore, whilst no longer existing, these former designations reflect the value and importance of the Darent Valley landscape.





Figure 37. Word cloud showing most popular words associated with the Darent Valley (Darent Valley Audience Development Plan)

Most members of the community that live within the valley recognise that they live within an AONB, and there is notable and justifiable pride that they do. Figure 37 shows a word cloud illustrating the results of an online consultation asking people “What comes to mind about the Darent Valley?” Words indicating natural beauty of the Darent Valley (countryside, beautiful, scenery, lovely, views) when taken together, were mentioned most often. Others reflecting tranquility, peace and relaxation also featured highly.

When asked if they agreed with the statement “The Darent Valley landscape is attractive and worth protecting” (on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being ‘strongly disagree’ and 5 being ‘strongly agree’, the median response from 512

responses was 4.8. This demonstrates a considerable appreciation of the qualities of the landscape, and a willingness to protect its special character.

## SCIENTIFIC: BIODIVERSITY AND GEOLOGY

A summary of the natural heritage of the Darent Valley can be found on page 24. However, it is important to emphasise why these natural features are so important.

At a strategic level, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) were established to provide a framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act ‘Habitats of Principal Importance’, i.e. Priority habitats will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) demonstrate the importance and potential for biodiversity. In Kent, the 2015 BOA maps are a spatial reflection of the county’s Biodiversity Strategy. They indicate where the delivery of Kent Biodiversity Strategy targets should be focused to secure the maximum biodiversity benefits. The BOA maps also show where the greatest gains can be made from habitat enhancement, restoration and recreation, as these areas offer the best opportunities for establishing large habitat areas and/or networks of wildlife habitats.

The DVLPS area includes sections of four BOAs: Central North Downs, Greensand Heath & Commons, Thames-side Green Corridors and a small part of the Limpsfield Heaths (see Figure 38):

### CENTRAL NORTH DOWNS BOA

- Important chalk grassland sites on the scarp on the North Downs and on the sides of the Darent Gap.
- Nationally important woodland and wood pasture, as well as many small ancient woodlands, and veteran trees in a variety of habitats across the landscape.

- The River Darent and its floodplain form an important landscape element. Key species include otter, crayfish, adder, dark green fritillary, chalk hill blue, early gentian, Deptford pink and juniper.

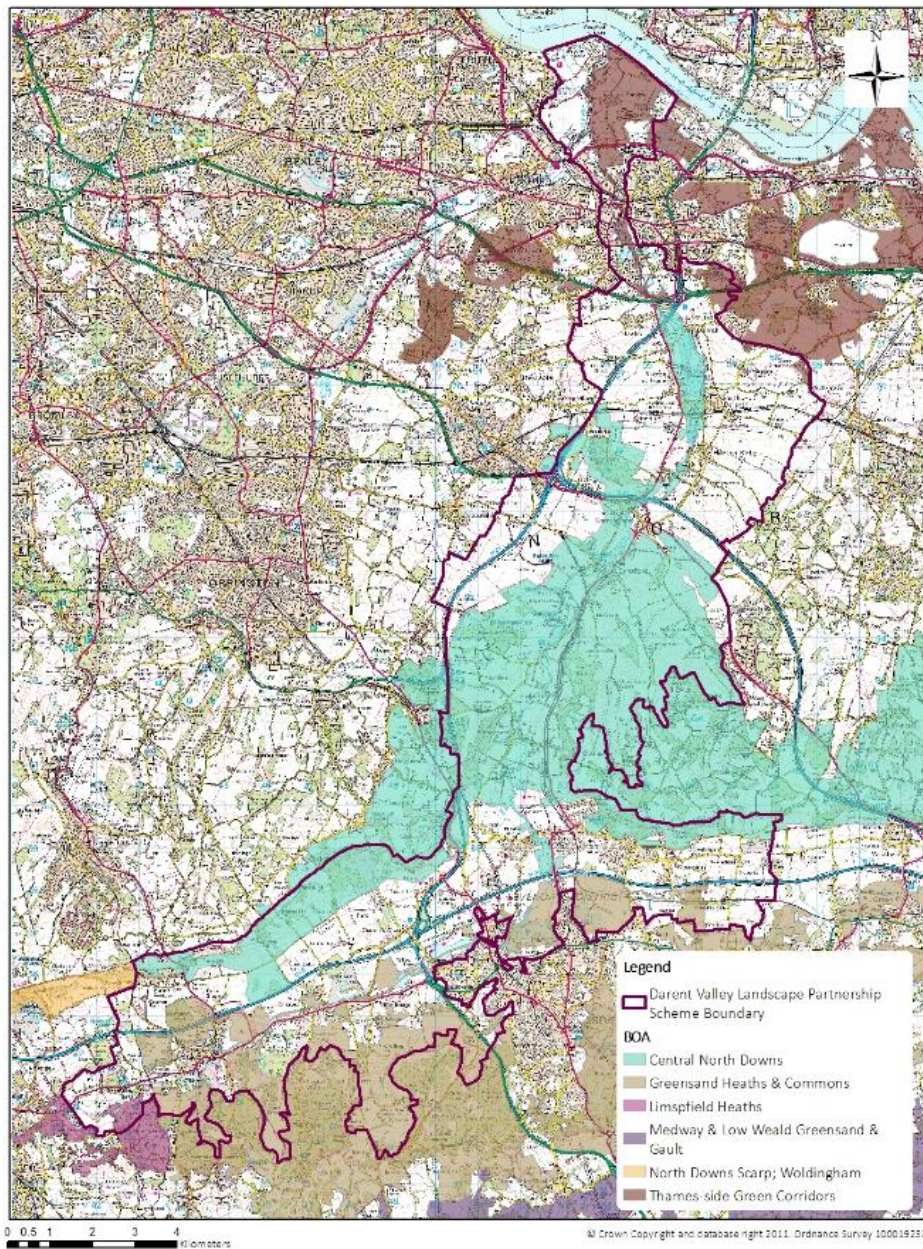


Figure 38. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in relation to the DVLPS area

### GREENSAND HEATHS AND COMMONS

- Large and important blocks of woodland and wood pasture on acid soils.
- Important acid grassland sites.
- Important for species of acid woodland and heathland which are otherwise scarce in Kent. Woodlands and wood-pasture are noted for their veteran trees, fungus flora and invertebrate assemblages. The area is important for bats, adder and Red Data Book bird species, and could be important in the future for woodlark.



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## LIMPSFIELD HEATHS BOA

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The Limpsfield BOA is a Surrey BOA but is essentially an extension of Kent's Greensand Heaths and Commons BOA. Thus, the importance placed on it is very similar. The priority habitats that can be found here include heathland, acid grassland and mixed deciduous woodland. Priority species include olive earthtongue (a fungus), small heath (butterfly) and several bird species such as bullfinch, nightjar, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, tree pipit and yellowhammer.

Reptiles and amphibians include adder, common lizard, grass snake, slow-worm, common toad, great crested newt; along with priority mammal species such as brown long-eared bat, common dormouse, hedgehog, noctule bat, soprano pipistrelle bat.

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## THAMES-SIDE GREEN CORRIDORS

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Key biodiversity of relevance to the Darent Valley LPS area:

- Intertidal habitats and coastal grazing marsh, forming a significant part of the wildlife corridor formed by the River Thames.
- Some chalk grassland, and important brownfield sites.
- Key species include brown hare, water vole, reed bunting, adder, shrill carder bumblebee *Bombus sylvarum*, the brown-banded carder bee *Bombus humilis*, the picture-winged fly *Dorycera graminum*, and the weevil-hunting wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata*.

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## SITES DESIGNATED FOR THEIR BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT IMPORTANCE

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The Darent Valley LPS area contains several important sites designated for their habitat and biodiversity interest. These include a Nature Improvement Area (NIA), eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and are supplemented by twenty-three Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) of county importance (see Figure 40). In addition, two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and four Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) exist throughout the valley. These are listed in Appendix 6.

These designations include a wide range of habitats. These include several Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats at both the national (18) and county (14) level (See Appendix 6). As a result of the range of habitats present, the biodiversity is remarkably rich. However, it is probably the unimproved chalk grassland that is for many the essence of natural beauty in the Kent Downs landscape across the Darent Valley, with its flower-rich, scented springy turf and profusion of insect life. Orchids and butterflies of chalk downland are symbolic of this habitat and the Darent Valley supports populations of some of the country's rarest chalk species such as the early gentian (Figure 39 and Figure 45), important and scarce orchid species such as the fragrant, man, fly and lizard orchids. One of the most significant lizard orchid populations (Figure 41) can be found on the Lullingstone Park Golf Course.



Figure 39. Early Gentian © (Jackson, 2013) Reproduced under the [Creative Commons Licence](#)



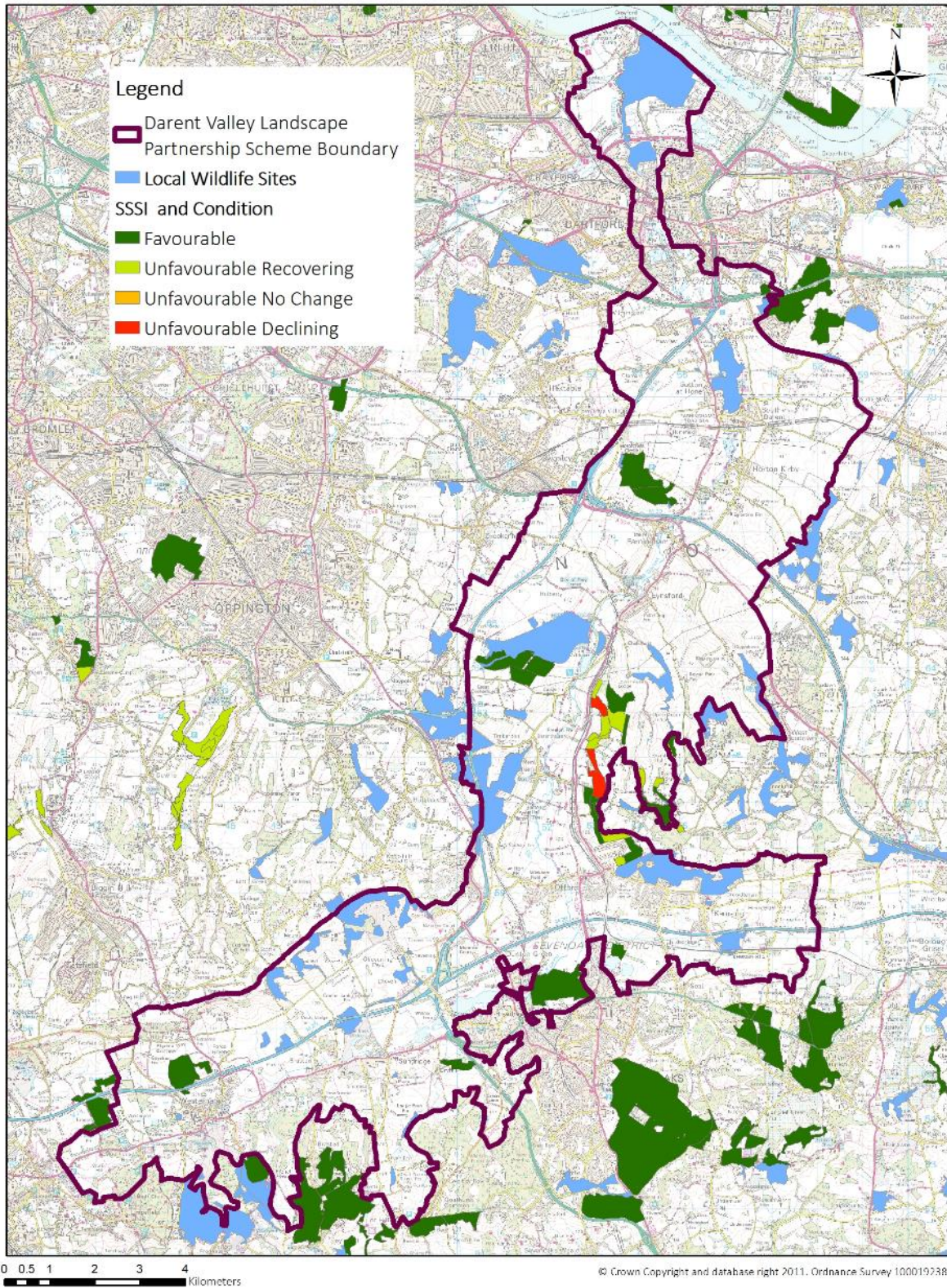


Figure 40. Sites designated for nature conservation value





Figure 41. Lizard Orchid (Natural England) Reproduced under the [Creative Commons Licence](#)

The Kentish milkwort is found at several locations in the Darent Valley, but there are only three known sites in the UK – all in Kent. It is believed to be a distinctive subspecies of the dwarf milkwort and has a ‘Vulnerable’ Red List Status. It is at a very high risk of extinction due to habitat loss and numbers being too low to self-propagate. Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* is also present at Kemsing Down, its only Kentish location west of the River Medway (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2013).

Kemsing Down also supports a rich bryophyte flora with more than sixty species recorded. These include scarce and at-risk species associated with unimproved chalk grassland such as *Thuidium abietinum* ssp. *hystricosum*, *Neckera crispa*, *Weissia longifolia* var. *longifolia* 3, *Aulacomnium androgynum*, *Tetraphis pellucida*, *Orthodontium lineare*, *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Leiocolea turbinata*.

However, it is not just plant species for which this habitat is so important. Amongst the nationally scarce species present are moths: plumed prominent *Ptilophora plumigera* which feeds on field maple and *Eudonia delunella* which feeds on lichens and mosses on the trunks

of ash, apple *Malus* species and occasionally on elms *Ulmus* species. A scarce hoverfly *Cheilosia soror* is present, found on the chalk downs visiting umbels in glades of woods. It has been reported to breed in truffles (Natural England, 2016).

Chalk grassland is an internationally important habitat, with over half the world’s resource found in England. This habitat is one of the most valued features across the whole of the Kent Downs. For many rare species in the Darent Valley it is the warm, sunny south-facing chalk slopes which are important.

A significant proportion of the designated sites are chalk grassland and these are predominantly concentrated on the scarp slope of the North Downs in the upper valley and the central valley sides. There are however also important sites at Magpie Bottom and Darent Country Park. Some of the SSSI sites, most notably at Preston Hill and White Hill are classified as being in unfavourable condition. In some cases, this is unfavourable but recovering, but there are some which are continuing to decline in condition. These are shown as red in Figure 40.

Of the other habitats, historic parkland and wood-pasture is extremely well represented. In particular, there is an outstanding assemblage of veteran and ancient trees throughout the valley. Lullingstone Park is considered ‘amongst the top 100 sites for concentrations of ancient European oaks on the planet’ (Green & Butler, 2000). In addition, Lullingstone’s most magnificent oak has been calculated to be over a



Figure 42. Satin Lutestring (Urtica Ojango) Reproduced under a [Creative Commons licence](#)

millennium in age, and on a world scale one of the top 50 oaks in the world for its size, age and wildlife value.

These trees support their own individual ecosystems and are often associated with a huge diversity of species, some of which are extremely specialised and scarce. At Lullingstone alone, over 340 beetles have been recorded, including over 30 nationally scarce and two nationally rare species: a fairy-winged beetle *Ptenidium gressneri*, and a scirtid beetle *Prionocyphon serricornis*. More than 270 moths and butterflies are known to occur; the many scarce moths present include the barred hook-tip *Drepana cultraria* and the satin lutestring *Tetheella fluctuosa* (Figure 42). A scarce moneyspider *Porrhomma microphthalmum* and the scarce Roman snail *Helix pomatia* also occur. Several invertebrates found at Lullingstone have not been recorded anywhere else in Kent.

Over 500 species of fungi have been recorded at this site including a species that was unknown to science before it was found here in 1981: The Unexpected Guest *Lepidella Amanita inopinata* (Fraiture & Di Giangregorio, 2013). In addition, over 60 species of epiphytic lichen (growing harmlessly on plants) have been recorded and Lullingstone is renowned for the variety growing here.



Figure 43. The Unexpected Guest *Lepidella Amanita inopinata* (Guido Van Boeckel)

Although not quite as impressive as Lullingstone, important concentrations of veteran trees can be found elsewhere in the valley on the Chevening Estate, Squerryes Park, Brasted Lodge, Combe Bank and Franks Hall.

Elsewhere, the Dartford and Crayford Marshes represent the largest remaining areas of marsh within the Inner Thames estuary close to London. Dartford Marshes are 240ha in size (including the freshwater marshes) and have a vast array of fragmented habitats due to land-use, which have their own unique ecological interest. Crayford Marshes on the west side of the river are designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.<sup>1</sup> These are a further 92 hectares in size and make up a complex of habitats which are essential for the large numbers of birds, bats, water vole and invertebrate species that utilise the Thames corridor. The site's continuity with the Essex marshes is probably of increasing significance, and some rare plants such as dittander have been found. Wetter parts of the Dartford Marshes at Dartford Fresh Marshes (south of University Way) have outstanding water beetle assemblages, largely due to good water quality, lack of invasive non-native species, and the grazing that has until recently kept a mosaic of open water habitats.



Figure 44. View across Dartford and Crayford Marshes

Along with Erith Marshes and the Inner Thames SSSI, Dartford and Crayford Marshes form the last significant undeveloped area of the Thames floodplain and grazing marsh habitat within the M25 and are part of the Greater Thames Marshes NIA. Important breeding bird species include redshank, lapwing, yellow wagtail, skylark, turtle dove, nightingale, grasshopper warbler and corn bunting. Whilst non-breeding species such as short-eared owl, long-eared owl, hen harrier and marsh harrier have all been recorded here (Bexley Council, 2016).

Water voles were recorded at Dartford Marshes in 2016 and the area is a potential long-term stronghold for populations of this species. The site also holds three other species from the Kent Rare and Scarce Species Inventory: Divided Sedge, Annual Beard-grass and Dittander (Kent Wildlife Trust, 2016).

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<sup>1</sup> Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation are sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London. They are of the highest priority for protection. The identification and protection of Metropolitan Sites is necessary not only to support a significant proportion of London's wildlife, but also to provide opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment.



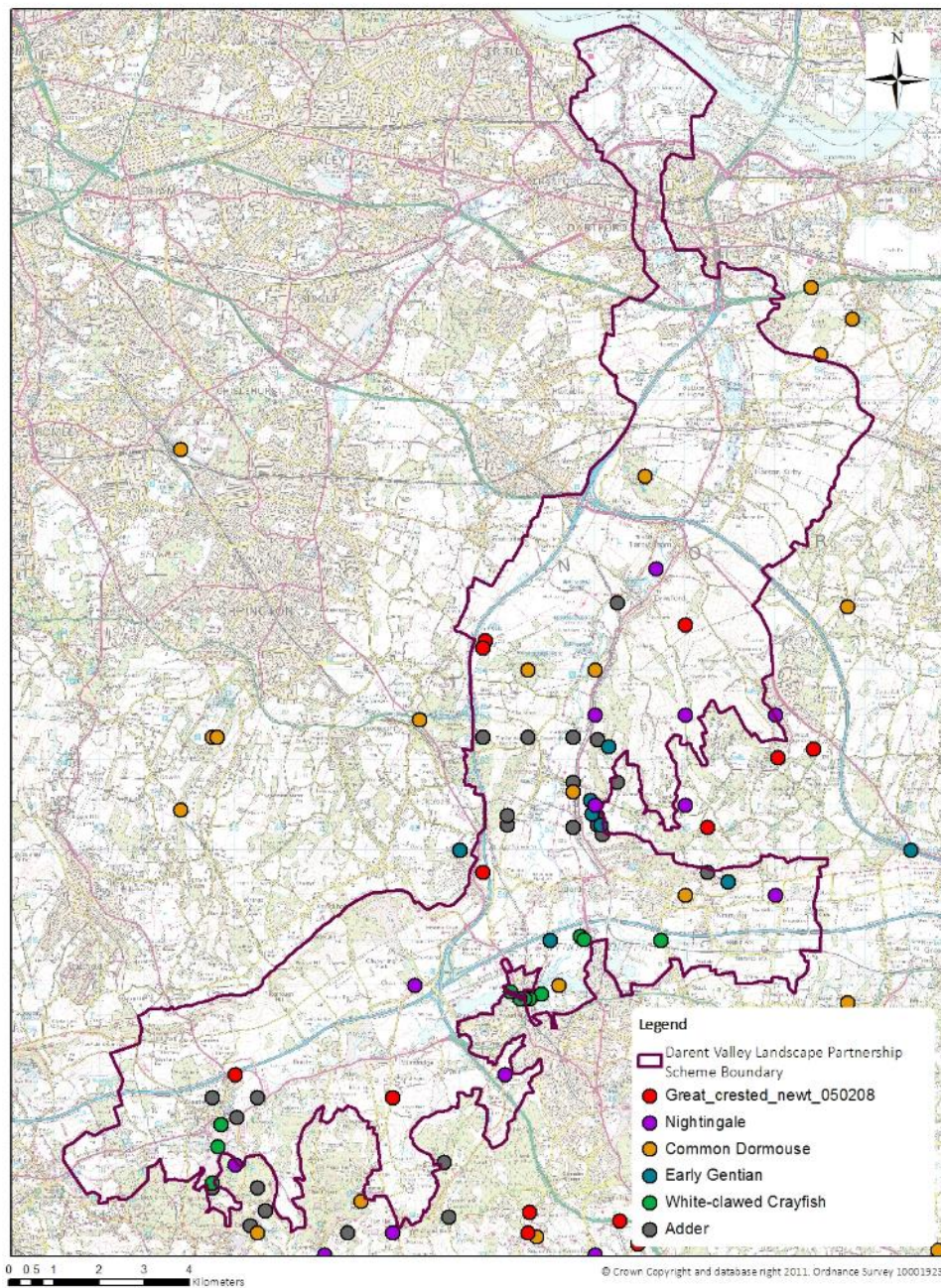


Figure 45. Selected BAP priority species in the DVLPS area (Kent County Council)

Chalk rivers are important both nationally and internationally. They are a priority habitat within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (having recently been amalgamated into an overarching ‘rivers’ habitat) and are a key habitat within the Kent BAP. The River Darent is a typical chalk river between Otford and Dartford. It has in-channel plant communities characterised by the river water crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus var pseudofluitans* and starworts *Callitriche obtusangula* and *C. platycarpa*.

All chalk rivers receive a major proportion of their water from chalk groundwater aquifers. This provides alkaline water that provides good chemical quality, very clear watercourses that remain relatively stable in terms of temperature and flow. Whilst the latter feature has not always been the case for the Darent (as explained on pages 25 and 73), it has made a remarkable recovery. In 2011,

the Environment Agency named the Darent as one of top ten most improved rivers in England and Wales, partly due to 35 million fewer litres per day being taken from the aquifer.

The Darent once contained a healthy population of the native white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* (Figure 46), and was one of only a few isolated crayfish populations in Kent in recent times. Unfortunately, the population crashed due to the arrival of the fungal crayfish plague which was introduced with the American signal crayfish and the Turkish swamp crayfish by commercial crayfish farmers (Environment Agency, 1999). Some small residual populations may remain, possibly around the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve area and in the Squerryes Estate, and therefore will be highly important (Figure 45).



Figure 46. White-clawed crayfish (© Natural England/Jenny Wheeldon) Reproduced under a [Creative Commons licence](#)

The European otter does occasionally occur along the river having returned in the 1990s, but these are likely to be transient individuals. Whilst evidence of breeding is not yet apparent, there is anecdotal evidence that otters are using the river whilst passing through, and the increase in bankside buffer strips may be making the area more attractive.

Whilst a high proportion on the woodland sites in the valley are commercial sweet chestnut coppice, there are several important woodland sites. These include Lullingstone Park which has developed into a woodland site (the importance of which has been described on page 56). However, several other important sites are found at Westerham Wood, Farningham Woods, Shoreham Woods and woodlands around Kemsing and Otford.



Figure 47. Bird's-nest orchid (Kentish Plumber) Reproduced under a [Creative Commons licence](#)

Westerham Wood is a SSSI that is wet in nature with several ponds, a rich ground flora and outstanding breeding bird community. Management as traditional coppice-with-standards can be traced back to the late eighteenth century, and ancient woodland indicator species such as green hellebore *Helleborus viridis* opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* are present. In addition, 77 bryophyte species (mosses and liverworts) and over 300 species of fungi have been recorded (Natural England, 1986).

Species such as the scarce Deptford pink and the bird's-nest orchid are found at Farningham Woods, and in common with many of the other woodlands in the Darent Valley has an impressive range of invertebrate species.



Standing water is an important feature within the valley, and the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve provides the most notable in the valley. Many water birds breed including great-crested grebe, kingfisher, moorhen and coot. Wintering and passage wildfowl include pochard, shelduck, teal and shoveler, and passage waders are also attracted including greenshank and green sandpiper. The uncommon little ringed plover is a regular breeding species here.



Figure 48. Little ringed plover (Andy Morffew) Reproduced under a Creative Commons licence

The woodland and reed beds support a typical range of song birds including whitethroat, reed, and sedge warblers. There is also a sand martin colony in a sand face in the south of the site. Sand martins have undergone a major fluctuation in population levels in recent years and this face supports one of the few significant colonies in West Kent.

The botanical and entomological interest of the site is also known to be developing. Thirteen species of *Odonata* (dragonflies) are present including the locally-distributed downy-emerald dragonfly *Cordulia aenea*. Plants of note include small cud-weed *Filago minima*, dwarf elder *Sambucus ebulus*, and slender bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus angustissimus*.

Whilst the other standing water sites lack the diversity of habitats provided and therefore don't have the same range of species present, they are important features in the Darent Valley landscape. Chipstead Lake is used regularly for watersports and has less graded banks, but does still support wintering wildfowl. Sutton-at-Hone lakes has extensive and varied marginal vegetation supporting a wide variety of invertebrates including several dragonfly species. In addition, this site also supports bird species such as jack snipe, green sandpiper, little ringed plover, lapwing, woodcock, turtle dove and black redstart.

Geological interest within the DVLPS area is considerable. Dryhill Country Park is designated a SSSI for its geological interest. The site is a former quarry and provides a classic and nationally significant



Figure 49. Dryhill Country Park (Explore Kent)

exposure through the 'rag and hassock' facies of the Aptian-aged Hythe Beds. This facies exhibits characteristic sedimentological features including sediment silicification and the early development of chert nodules. The site is also famous for its rich and diverse fossil brachiopod and bivalve fauna which is crucial for palaeoecological studies and international correlation of the Aptian Stage. Dryhill is a famous and well-documented Aptian site, which is of undoubted national significance for its sedimentological and palaeontological features and stratigraphical interest (Natural England, 2016).

Similarly, Greatness Brickworks is a SSSI and is designated as it is considered a classic Cretaceous ammonite site and has been vitally important for biostratigraphic research on the Gault of the Weald. It contains a rich collection of ammonite fossils (Natural England, 2016).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL

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The range of archaeological and historical features in the valley is quite remarkable (see Figure 51). No less than 24 scheduled monuments are found within the DVLPS boundary and there are 597 listed buildings, 15 of which are Grade I and 36 which are Grade II\*. On an area basis, this means that the valley contains 50% more listed buildings per square kilometre than the national average. Furthermore, it has 89% more of the most important listed buildings (Grade I and II\*) than the national average.

Some of the scheduled monuments are extremely well-known, such as Lullingstone Castle gatehouse, Eynsford Castle, St John's Jerusalem and Lullingstone Roman Villa and are promoted as tourist destinations. However, the majority remain hidden away, are in poor condition or are just not known about by the general public.



*Figure 50. The Grade II\* listed Lullingstone Castle with its scheduled and Grade I listed Gatehouse in the foreground (Explore Kent)*



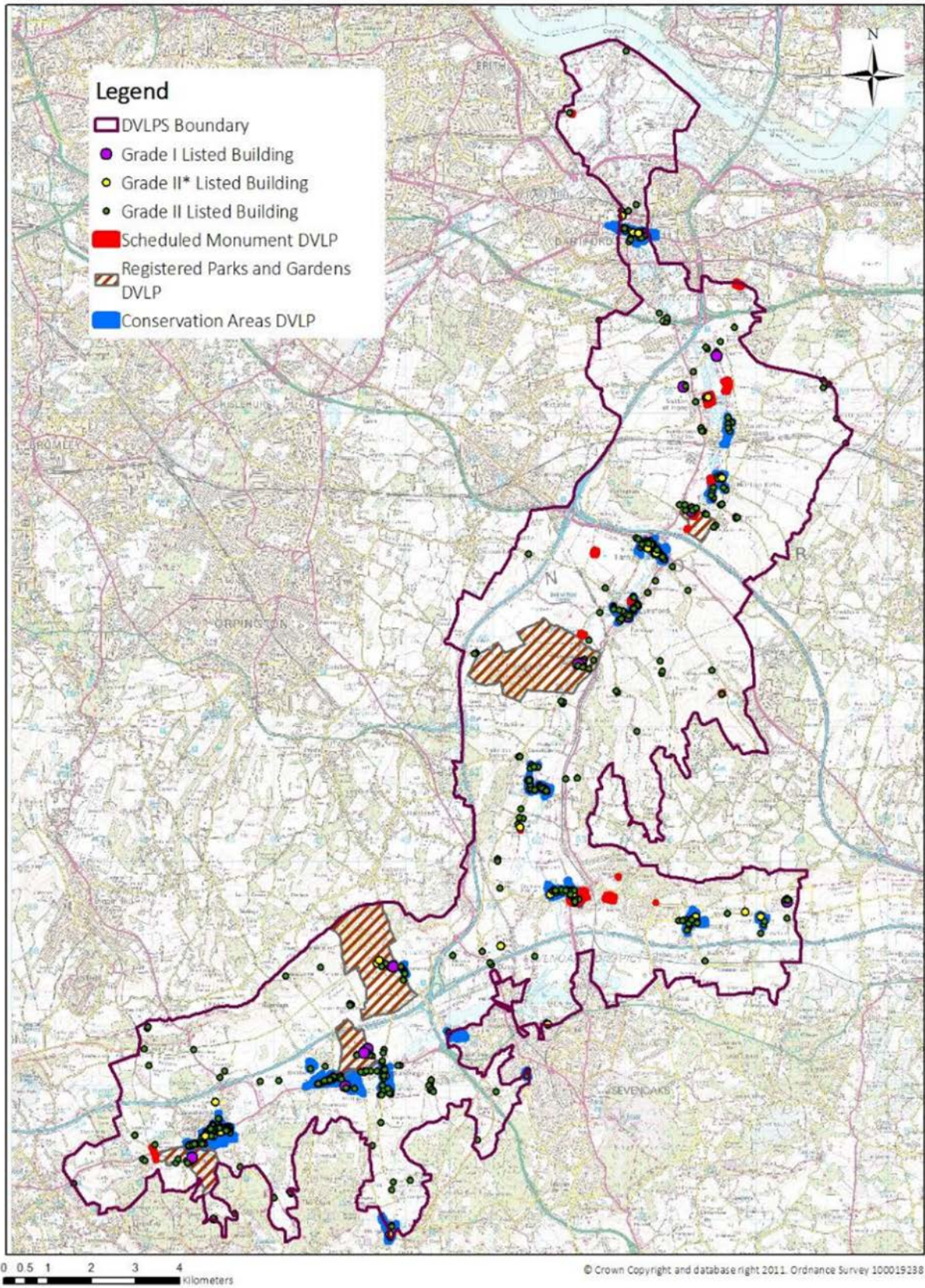


Figure 51. Designated heritage features within the Darent Valley



The Lullingstone Castle Gatehouse (Figure 50) is well known by walkers of the Darent Valley Path. This Tudor gatehouse was built around 1490 and is a precursor for the design of the Archbishop's Palace at Otford, sharing many of its features. Built by Sir John Peche who was prominent in the court of Henry VIII, it is likely that the King visited the castle several times.

Originally built in c. AD 75, Lullingstone Roman Villa (Figure 52) was not re-discovered until 1949. The villa is significant due to the importance of the Christian evidence from the site. The excellent preservation and features such as the raised floor also suggest the importance of the building and status of the owner. There have been suggestions that the owner may have been Publius Helvius Successus, and this is supported by one of two busts found at the site. He was a Senator and Governor of Britannia in AD 185-6, and went on to become Emperor for just 87 days in AD 193. The site averages around 30,000 visitors per annum.



Figure 52. Lullingstone Roman Villa (@SouthEastern Star) Reproduced under a [Creative Commons licence](#)

However, what is peculiar about the Darent Valley is the fact that there is heritage of such value hiding in the landscape that the general public is not aware of. This is perhaps encapsulated by the Archbishop's Palace at Otford. The original palace when built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century covered an area of approximately 134m by 67m and included an inner and an outer courtyard divided by a central hall. Whilst all that visibly remains is the north-west polygonal tower, one side of the gatehouse and the connecting northern range of the outer court, there is much below ground archaeology and earthworks, many within the grounds of houses in the surrounding village.



Figure 53. Archbishop's Palace remains in 1885 (otford.info)

Despite its significance, the palace is not really known about beyond the village of Otford, even though it is of great national importance. The Archbishop's Palace in Otford was one side of the physical expression of rivalry between two of the most powerful men in the country in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. William Warham was the Archbishop of Canterbury and former Lord Chancellor of England, whilst Cardinal Wolsey was the current Lord Chancellor and close confidante of Henry VIII. Warham began building his palace at Otford in 1514, and later in the same year Wolsey began work on his equivalent, Hampton Court Palace. The similarities in design are very noticeable and the rivalry continued over many years.

In the letter written by Warham to Wolsey in the winter 1522, he tells Wolsey he is unable to travel to see him on the grounds of ill health. Warham also thanks him for his advice that he should live on high, dry ground rather than at Otford (which was damp and wet) and additional for his offer of accommodation at Hampton Court (Walshe, 2016). The inference was that Hampton Court was superior due to its location, and to this day it is unknown why Otford Palace was constructed so close to the River Darent.

Henry VIII visited Otford Palace with his court in 1519, from where he went hunting. A year later he returned with his wife Catherine of Aragon with the royal court to stay at the palace *en route* to France where he was to meet Francis, King of France at the Field of Gold. The court that accompanied Henry was believed to have been over 3,000 people, and would have therefore been an impressive sight.

However, the Darent Valley's heritage is about far more than just these flagship heritage sites. Many of the scheduled sites are related to the Roman occupation of the valley. For instance, the Roman villa at Darenth Court Farm was one of the largest in the country covering 2.3 ha (Figure 54). It was located immediately beside the river and at its peak had fifty rooms and a hypocaust heating system. Today the Darent Valley Path runs immediately next to the site.

Other important and scheduled Roman sites include a villa at Otford (currently being excavated); a Romano-British Villa also situated on the banks of the Darent near Franks Hall at Horton Kirby (and associated with a possible Iron Age farmstead); and a granary, possibly associated with another villa near Horton Kirby.

Being either buried or with no access and limited interpretation, very little is known of these sites by the general public.



Figure 54. Excavation of Darenth Court Farm Roman Villa in 1894 (*Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol.22 1897)



Conversely, other important heritage is in plain view, but its importance is perhaps not recognised. The scheduled 17<sup>th</sup> century bridge over the River Darent at Eynsford (Figure 55) remains in plain view and is enjoyed aesthetically for adding to the ‘quaintness’ of Eynsford. However, hundreds of vehicles pass over it every day without possibly realising its importance.



Figure 55. Eynsford Bridge (James Stringer Reproduced under a [Creative Commons licence](#))

Other heritage features hidden in full sight include a milestone on the Pilgrims Way at Kemsing, dated from at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Darenth Country Park, and the Bronze Age bowl barrow at Otford Mount.

On the boundary of the DVLPs area on the west side of the valley, at the top of the scarp slope of the downs, sits Fort Halstead. Located to the west of Otford and overlooking Sevenoaks, this is one of fifteen late 19<sup>th</sup> century mobilisation centres and interspersed with entrenchments. Fort Farningham, also in the DVLPs area and located on the Pedham Place Golf Course also formed part of this protective ring which had the purpose of defending London in the event of an invasion (Figure 56).



Figure 56. Fort Farningham 1948 (©Historic England)

These forts were intended to act as central nodes to supply volunteer forces with equipment and ammunition to defend the capital. Fort Halstead even had the capacity to mount machine guns in emplacements.

Both forts are scheduled monuments and represent the lack of confidence there was in the Royal Navy’s ability to defend the country from invasion at the time.

Fort Halstead went on to be a defensible ammunition store during the First World War, playing an important role in the London anti-invasion stop-line. It later became the top-secret High Explosives Research headquarters with the responsibility for developing Britain’s first atomic



bomb. When atomic weapons research relocated to Aldermaston in Berkshire in 1955, Fort Halstead continued to operate as a government defence research establishment specialising in explosives. In 2015, planning permission was given for 450 new homes and a hotel to be built on the site.

The valley also has five parkland sites on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (see Figure 51 and Appendix 6). Two of these, Chevening and Combe Bank are graded II\*. All five, along with other historic parks not registered, form a significant area of the valley and have many important historic features. It is possible (but unsubstantiated) that Capability Brown had a hand in designing the park and gardens at Chevening, whilst Combe Bank has many fine surviving features in its grounds, including a derelict Victorian lido fed by the Darent that was used until the 1950s (Figure 57). However, the park is now on the Heritage at Risk register mainly due to fragmentation of the estate.



*Figure 57. The Brasted Lido at Combe Bank (unknown source)*

These parks are associated with fine heritage buildings. Chevening House is Grade I listed and reputedly designed by 17th century British architect Inigo Jones. It is currently the official residence for the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and Secretary of State for International Trade.

Combe Bank (now Radnor House) is also a Grade I building being a five bay Palladian villa. It is now home to a private school. Three further Grade I buildings include Franks Hall built in 1591, Squerryes Court near Westerham built in 1681; and Brasted Place built in 1784 and home to Prince Louis of France (later to become Napoleon III) in 1840.

Of course, landscape heritage is not defined just by the protected and scheduled features, but a combination of these and smaller features that contribute to a whole story describing the time depth of the area. Plotting of Kent's Historic Environment Record on a map shows a distinct concentration of records through the valley, demonstrating the richness of the heritage here and evidencing its settlement and use by man for millennia.

## CULTURAL AND HUMAN

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Whilst the cultural associations with other notable figures has been described on page 23, it is Samuel Palmer's association with the Darent Valley that defines the valley's artistic charm and cultural roots. Palmer provides the inspiration for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, giving it its overarching emphasis and core objectives.



*Figure 58. A Cornfield by Moonlight with the Evening Star; Samuel Palmer; British Museum*

However, beyond those with a predilection for landscape art, this association is not well known or understood. Colin Harrison, Senior Curator of European Art at the Ashmolean Museum is one of the foremost experts on Samuel Palmer, and explains why the link between Palmer and the Darent Valley is so important:

The Darent Valley is indelibly associated with one of the greatest of English Romantic artists, Samuel Palmer. For a brief period, the landscape inspired some of the most intense paintings in the history of British art, so original that Palmer's contemporaries laughed; but they are now recognised as uniquely personal expressions of a vision of England much closer to that of William Blake than the more traditional views of J.M.W. Turner and John Constable.

Few landscapes in England are so closely associated with a single artist. The only comparable example is the Stour Valley in East Anglia, where Constable, who was born at East Bergholt, captured the rivers and farmhouses, the gentle hills and varied vegetation, in a succession of naturalistic paintings from the beginning of his career to the late 1820s. The area quickly became known as 'Constable Country', its charms impossible to separate from his paintings.

Palmer, however, was almost an outsider when he settled in the village of Shoreham in 1826. It is likely that he had known the Darent Valley for some years, from his visits to a grandfather. His move, prompted by ill-health, coincided with a period of extraordinary creativity, following the decisive meeting with William Blake in autumn 1824. Having shown little promise as a landscape painter,

Palmer immediately began to work in a wholly individual manner, inspired by Blake's technique, by Old Master prints, and above all, by the possibility of experiencing in the Darent Valley the visions of ideal landscape, of paradise, that he had been seeking. For Palmer, like Blake, believed that the second Coming of Christ would take place in England, not in the 'dark Satanic mills' of the north, but in the land of 'mountains green, 'pleasant pastures, and 'clouded hills'. In a sense, Palmer found in the Darent Valley the epitome of 'England's green and pleasant land' as described by Blake.

Many of the subjects Palmer painted during his 'Shoreham period', between c. 1824 and 1835, are immediately recognisable. The earliest is the *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* (Ashmolean Museum), painted in the winter of 1824-5, in which the Holy Family is seen resting in Shoreham Paddock. Other religious subjects, such as *Ruth returned from the Gleaning* (V&A) continue in this vein, with a biblical figure firmly installed in the Darent Valley. As well as these visions, Palmer began on the recommendation of his future father-in-law, John Linnell, a series of more naturalistic drawings showing the hills, river, church spires, barns, and cottages of the Darent Valley. Such subjects as *The Bridge at Shoreham* (Met. Museum, New York) owe less to the picturesque tradition of the 18<sup>th</sup> century than they do to the peculiarities of the local landscape and Palmer's extraordinarily individual manner of observing it. Among other subjects, Ivy Cottage (where he occasionally lodged), Sepham Barn (now destroyed), the orchards and hop gardens of the Darent Valley were all transformed by Palmer's vision. He reserved a particular affection for the ancient trees in Lullingstone Park, making three almost hallucinatory drawings (one in National Gallery of Canada, one at Yale, one in New York) of their twisting branches and almost monstrous girth. Palmer also made many drawings of the general topography, the sweep of the valley as the river passes through it, the close identification of human habitation with the natural landscape and timeless agricultural activity, and, above all, the strange and sophisticated effects of the ridges and folds of hills seen by twilight and moonlight.

Although the Darent Valley was never the centre of an artistic movement, Palmer's friends the Ancients, including George Richmond and Edward Calvert, found the surroundings sympathetic to their visionary inspiration, and their idol, William Blake, visited the valley shortly before his death. Shoreham and its surroundings have thus become associated with one of the most intense periods of inspiration in English art, the years between c. 1826 and 1835, when all three artists were working in a uniquely individual style. In 1827, Palmer explained to Richmond the effect of the landscape at Shoreham:

*"I have beheld as in the spirit, such nooks, caught such glimpses of the perfumed and enchanted twilight – of natural midsummer, as well as, at some other times of the day, other scenes, as passed thro' the intense purifying separating transmuting heat of the soul's infabulous alchymy, would divinely consist with the severe and stately port of the human, as with the moon thron'd among constellations, and varieties of lesser glories, the regal pomp and glistening brilliance and solemn attendance of her starry train."*

The landscape of the Darent Valley is still largely unspoilt, and it is significant that in the mid-1970s, when it was proposed to drive the M25 straight through Palmer's Shoreham, a public outcry forced the planners to change the route. Its association with one of the most admired and most popular of English artists deserves to be celebrated.

*Colin Harrison, Senior Curator of European Art; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*



## HOW THE DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE IS VALUED BY LOCAL PEOPLE

Local people who live within the Darent Valley are proud of their landscape and value it immensely. In the last two years, part of the Shoreham Woods Country Park was put on the market by Sevenoaks District Council, and Kent County Council sought to sell two of their country park sites in the valley. The consequence was a local community that quickly mobilised to express its concern and anger at the potential of losing important heritage sites within the valley. Whilst the partial sale of Shoreham Woods continued, Kent County Council withdrew its intentions to sell Preston Hill and Dryhill country parks.

In a similar manner, it is the local community that has been very proactive with the repair and conservation of the Archbishop's Palace at Otford. With the support of the DVLP, the community and the owners, Sevenoaks District Council are working together to find a sustainable future for the palace remains.



Figure 59. Word cloud for responses from people within the Darent Valley

The Darent Valley's People and Communities has already been discussed on page 29 and what is important to both residents and visitors. The Audience Development Plan reveals some important evidence suggesting how the landscape is valued by local people. Figure 59 demonstrates the responses from people on-site when asked what they associate with the Darent Valley.

Most people are aware of the Darent Valley, but as expected, this awareness declines with distance people live from the valley. Whilst two-thirds of valley residents are aware of Samuel Palmer and his important association with the valley, only one-third of visitors travelling from 5km away, and a mere one in six people from south-east London knew of the famous artist.

Being a rural area, most people visit the Darent Valley to go walking with the purpose of enjoying local history and heritage sites, watching wildlife and spending time with friends and family. The valley's natural landscape is highly valued, and important elements such as its heritage and tranquillity are rated highly.

It is interesting to note that whilst the Darent Valley is not strongly viewed to be a landscape under threat by visitors, it is by over two-thirds of residents. This is presumably because residents see the changes and impacts on the landscape over time and are more likely to be aware of the negative influences that exist. Visitors are most likely to visit and see a 'snapshot' of the valley.

Many of the responses received during the consultation emphasised the value that local people put on the Darent Valley, and there is a genuine fear that many of the qualities it possesses are being eroded away. Below are a small sample of the responses that the DVLP development team received.

*"Samuel Palmer has always been my favourite artist, by the way. The valley is a most beautiful place, packed full of history and interesting places, lovely countryside and it feels so good. It's home."*

*"Preserve this special place and keep from being over exploited and built on."*

*"I strongly believe the beauty and relative tranquillity of this area so close to London must be preserved."*

*"It is a wonderful place to visit to restore your soul."*

*"I hope it will remain as rural as it is now and will not be encroached upon by unwanted development."*

*"There have been two lots of dumping in our road this week. It's a problem to know how to prevent it."*

*"Keep it as it is. Near enough but far enough away (from London!)"*

*"It's beautiful, and I tell people about it and they never knew it existed!! Then they go and fall in love. A hidden gem."*

*"Many areas I would like to visit more often but find it difficult because of the lack of a decent bus service linking the towns along the Darent Valley. Many people still rely on public transport to get about."*

*"Dartford Creek needs more people knowing about it. I lived in Dartford for 40 years and only just found out where it is although it's only a stone's throw from Dartford station."*

*"Hopefully more walks and keep it as it is peaceful and quiet."*

*"A wonderful resource which needs careful management."*

*"Please protect it for future generations to enjoy."*

*"It must be preserved for future generations. It is unique to this part county."*

*"I would not want it all to be turned into an equivalent of a town park"*

*"It's a special area so close to London and therefore needs protecting against the expanding conurbation."*

*"Would be good to have more information easily accessible about where the valley is and what is on offer."*

*"It should be made much more accessible by public transport. I have a car but know lots of people around here who do not have a car and have never been anywhere near the Darent Valley."*

*"We must not forget the area where it joins the river Thames, this needs a lot of work to bring its standard up. It may not be picturesque but it is part of the story."*

*"It's now only a shadow of what it was 60 years ago."*

*"Cyclists on the narrow roads could be at peril - otherwise it is a perfect day's outing from London for cyclists. DVP needs upkeep along its length."*

*"It is an oasis on the edge of south-east London - somewhere for those of us who yearn for the countryside but can't live in it!"*

*"The area between Central Park, Dartford and the Thames is under appreciated and not recognised as part of the Darent Valley."*

*"How do I access the best walks? Is there a Palmer trail?"*



Figure 60. View across the Darent Valley from Fackenden Down





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## THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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The Darent Valley has an immediate simple beauty which is accessible easily to those who visit or live there. Underpinning this is an extraordinary combination of natural, cultural and historical heritage which makes it a place of inordinate importance. This combination of character and qualities is facing significant threats, which in combination could significantly diminish one of our most precious landscapes. With every threat comes an opportunity, the DVLPS seeks to address many of the threats and put in place a strong legacy to ensure the future resilience of the heritage.

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### CLIMATE CHANGE

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Climate change will affect the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP 09) identifies likely impacts of a series of emission scenarios and the UK Climate Risk Assessment assesses these for several key landscape characteristics and qualities. Headline changes include hotter, drier summers and warmer wetter winters with greater rainfall intensity. A key issue, which generally creates more change, is the impact of greater uncertainty and extremes such as drought and flood, which are predicted to become more frequent.

The Darent Valley is vulnerable to changes in the natural environment being generally a dry and free-draining landscape, and located in one of the driest parts of the country where predicted climate change will be most strongly felt. A 2009 pilot study carried out by Natural England for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB showed a likely 2080 climate similar to Lisbon today; if anything, the impacts in the Kent Downs AONB and the Darent Valley are predicted to be more severe. A changing climate will affect all characteristics and qualities of natural beauty in the Darent Valley and mitigation and adaptation have the potential to have a substantial impact on landscape qualities.

The Darent Valley is sensitive to gradual changes in climate and to more abrupt changes caused by extreme weather events. Both are predicted. The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment also identifies key risks to Kent Downs biodiversity.

Elsewhere in Kent, there has been a recent upturn in orchard planting including walnuts and fruits such as apricots, and the extent of vineyards is increasing in the Darent Valley. This could increase significantly if the predicted climate changes take place.

Climate change puts a special focus on the woodlands of the Darent Valley. The Forestry Commission has identified a series of key impacts which include declining tree health and limited mortality, changes to ground flora, loss of drought sensitive species particularly on shallow soils, damage from extreme events and the likelihood that forests and woodland will be increasingly seen as a cool shady refuge for healthy exercise. However, public access to forests may be interrupted by closures due to storm damage, and roads and paths being washed away.

The Woodland Trust report 'Adapt or Die' suggests that beech will no longer be viable in the Kent Downs (and by extension the Darent Valley) by as soon as 2050 if the high carbon emissions scenario occurs. Sweet chestnut, prevalent in many of the valley's woodlands and being a species of Southern Europe, is likely to be well adapted to the predicted conditions and coppicing is thought to be a way to make the woodland ecosystem more resilient to these changes. However, the relatively single species nature of many chestnut woodlands makes them potentially less resilient to the predicted impacts of climate change and disease, as the recent occurrence of the oriental oak gall wasp at Farningham Woods demonstrates.

The expected increase in water demand for public use and irrigation in an already over-abstracted catchment (see Figure 61 – Darent catchment in NW corner) presents major challenges for water resource management and potentially the installation of significant new water infrastructure in the landscape. The Darent experienced the impact of this directly from the 1970s, and whilst it is still recovering, it is likely that its response to future climate change can be better understood and mitigated against. However, the predicted increase and volume of flooding events does present a significant risk as demonstrated by the flood events in the upper Darent in 2014, and there is a danger that responses to this do not respect the landscape character and heritage of the valley.

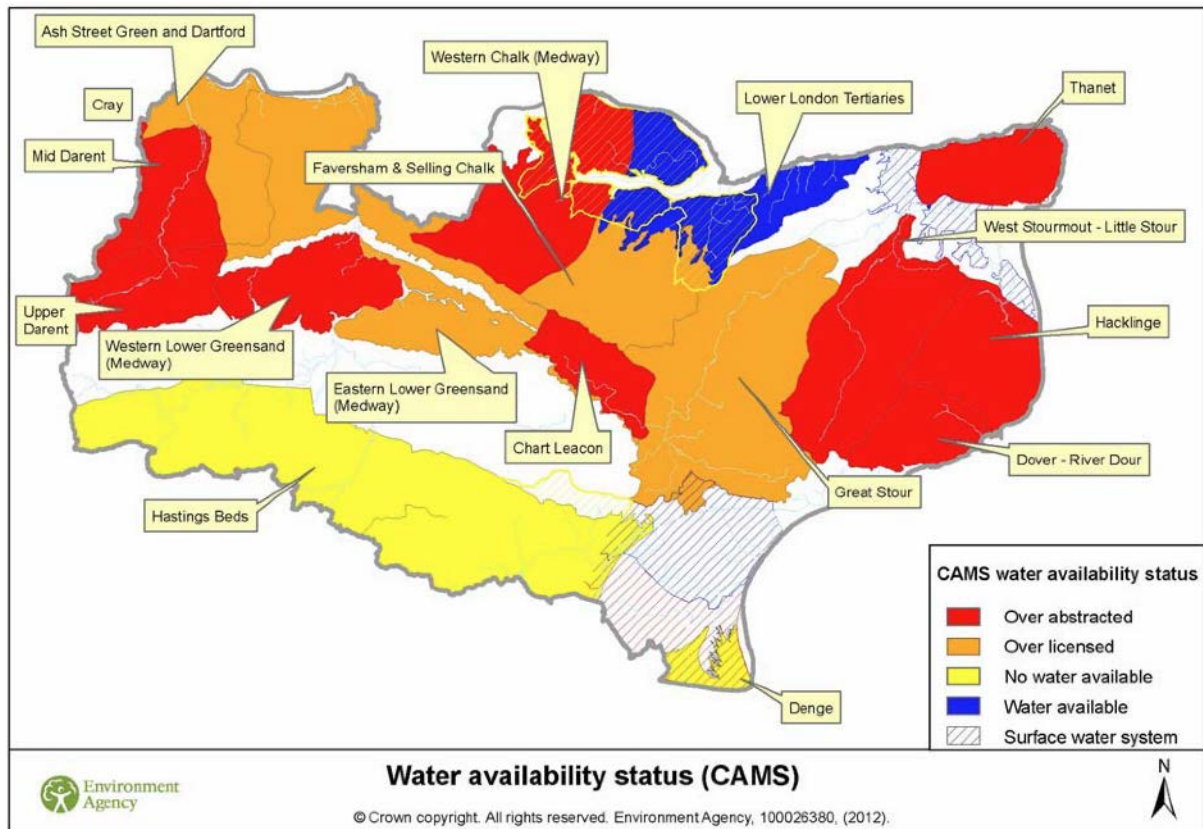


Figure 61. Water Availability Status (Environment Agency, 2012)

Climate change does present a major risk to the landscape of the Darent Valley. However, there is recognition of the area’s sensitivity, and with significant funding having been made available to tackle the issues it brings, it presents an opportunity to demonstrate how a landscape-scale response can be put in place.

## BROADER POLITICAL ISSUES AND POLICY CHANGES

Following the UK’s recent decision to exit the European Union, the country is entering a period of considerable uncertainty. The impact on landscape conservation is unclear and extremely complex. However, one of the outcomes of Brexit will be the requirement of the UK to develop its own policy towards agriculture and rural land to replace the Common Agricultural Policy. Whilst this uncertainty and likely change does present a high degree of concern, there are many that argue that it presents an opportunity.

Professor Ian Hodge of the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge suggests that the development of the new policy should reflect a move to an ecosystem approach with the potential to have a British Ecosystem Service Policy rather than a British Agricultural Policy. He also advocates landscape partnerships as being a mechanism for delivering this at the local level (Hodge, 2016).

Such a move could be extremely positive, but regardless of this, there will be change. The DVLPS is likely to be operating through the two-year transition period once Article 50 is triggered, and will be in place as the subsequent recalibration inevitably occurs. There is the potential for DVLPS to influence and advise with whatever will replace Countryside Stewardship, and take advantage of any opportunities that may arise, even if they are unforeseen now.

- Potentially, the UK will no longer be governed by EU environmental legislation, and could choose to weaken or strengthen its current laws. Recent UK government policy has tended to favour deregulation and competitiveness over environmental regulation, so leaving the EU would result (in the immediate term at least) in considerable uncertainty for wildlife, and for business investment in green infrastructure (Institute for European Environmental Policy, 2016).

In addition, much of the UK's environmental legislation has been generated through European law. Whilst Brexit may mean that the UK is no longer beholden to the EU, the principles and aims of the likes of the Habitats Directive are embraced in domestic law and therefore extrication is more difficult. However, a significant risk exists.

Similar concern exists around the European Landscape Convention (ELC) where the UK could decide to withdraw from the treaty. Although unlikely, the uncertainty that Brexit brings may generate concerns over the UK government's commitment to the principles laid out in the ELC.

Finally, the next UK general election will be no later than May 2020 in line with the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011. This may again bring reduced confidence in the future at a time that the UK will be finding its feet in a post-Brexit era, and may create further uncertainty for landscape and heritage conservation.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES

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### DEMOGRAPHICS

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Being located so close to the UK's capital and largest urban area, there is a tremendous demographic range. Communities within the DVLPS area include some of the least deprived in the UK (Figure 62). House prices, particularly in the mid and upper valley are amongst the highest in the country, and this is typical London commuter belt country.

However, communities towards the northern end of the scheme area around Dartford include some that are amongst the most deprived. When this is extended to just 5km from the DVLPS boundary, deprived communities within Erith, Thamesmead, Swanley and St Mary's Cray are included. Further afield, some of London's most deprived communities are within only a short distance of the valley. Access to green space is a key factor in calculating deprivation and the Darent Valley presents an opportunity to fulfil that role.



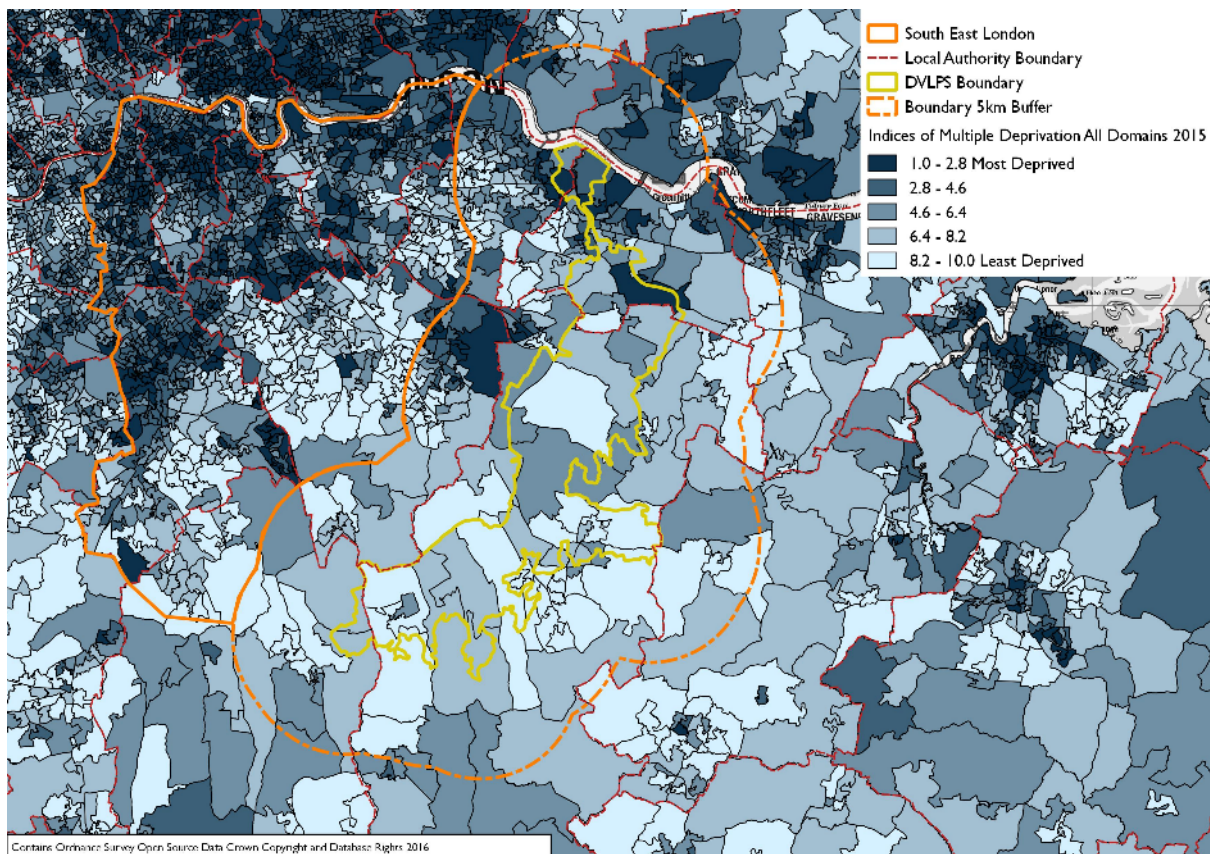


Figure 62. Visual representation of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation in and around the Darent Valley

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## DEVELOPMENT

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In addition, the community around the valley is likely to change substantially over next decade. Principle amongst these is the creation of the Ebbsfleet Garden City 5km to the east of the scheme area (Figure 63). Over the next fifteen years, up to 15,000 homes will be built across the Ebbsfleet site. This will lead to a significant increase in the population on the edge of the valley.

Closely linked to this development is the planned building of a new theme park called London Paramount located on the Swanscombe Peninsula immediately to the north of the garden city. The new 110-hectare entertainment complex is planned to open in 2022. Both developments will result in significant transport infrastructure improvements to the A2. In addition, communities within the valley are concerned about the increase in local traffic with the potential to cause increased congestion particularly along the A225 which runs through the heart of the valley.

Whilst a significant proportion of visitors are expected to be international (London Paramount is expected to rival Disneyland), there will be large numbers of domestic visitors. Once opened, the theme park anticipates 50,000 visitors a year, and along with over 30,000 new residents living in the garden city, there may be considerable pressure from increased numbers looking for an attractive visit to the English countryside. This may be exacerbated by the poor public transport links from Ebbsfleet and Swanscombe into the valley.



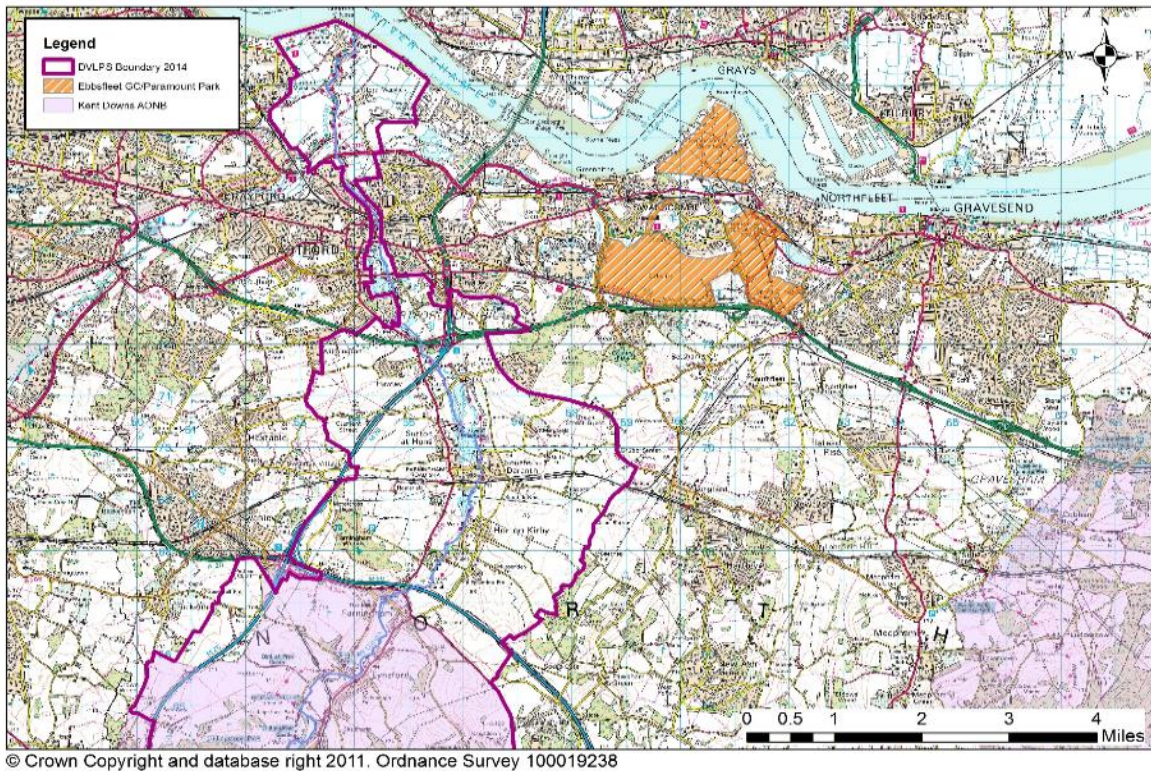


Figure 63. Location of the Ebbsfleet Garden City and London Paramount in relation to DVLPs area

The development of London Paramount will also result in the loss of some of the marshland habitat on the Swanscombe Peninsula. This substantially increases the importance of Dartford Marshes as the only substantial remaining fragment of this habitat locally.

Whilst the threats posed by these developments are tangible, they do also present an opportunity. The developers are actively considering their impact on the wider landscape and how proposals might fit with other local initiatives. The emerging landscape plan (Figure 64) illustrates the concept of linking the developments through green corridors and access links. The Kent Downs AONB has had some early discussions with the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and the DVLP will look to extend these once the scheme is up and running.



Figure 64. Emerging Landscape Plan for Ebbsfleet Garden City and London Paramount



Other identified development areas within the scheme area include the Dartford Northern Gateway. This site is 90 ha in size and includes former industrial sites as well as the Dartford Fresh Marshes. The site has been identified in DBC's Local Development Framework for a mix of housing and commercial use whilst the Fresh Marshes will be retained as a green space.

This development is likely to have an impact on the landscape character as a backdrop to the marshes, although this may be a positive impact if undertaken sympathetically.

It also provides an opportunity to integrate positive improvements with regards to the improvement of the Darent Valley Path which runs through the centre of the area, for the positive management of the Fresh Marshes, and the conservation and interpretation of the heritage associated with it. These improvements have been identified in the Northern Gateway Supplementary Planning Guidance (Dartford Borough Council, 2012) and both s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies may be available to deliver enhancements.

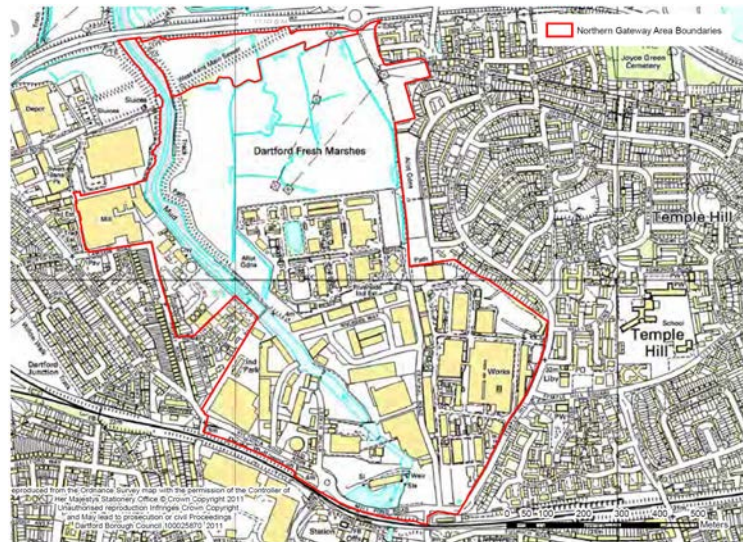


Figure 65. Dartford Northern Gateway (Dartford Borough Council)

As already discussed on page 67, Fort Halstead to the west of Otford and on the boundary of the DVLPS area was given planning permission for 450 new homes within the Kent Downs AONB and overlooking the valley. Whilst on existing developed land, this is a high-profile location which increases the visitor pressure on the valley.

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#### FLYTIPPING

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Another issue that appear to be more prevalent include flytipping. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the main issue is that those committing the crime generally originate from the London suburbs. The small and secluded lanes leading down into the valley along with several motorway underpasses provide easy opportunities for quick dumping of materials and waste. The issue is obviously not confined to the Darent Valley, but its effects are exacerbated by the close interface between urban and rural landscapes. Whilst the amount of waste is comparatively minor, the damage that results to landscape character is considerable and was highlighted by local communities as one of the factors that had the greatest negative impact on the landscape.

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#### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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Approximately 40km (25 miles) of motorway runs through the scheme area. The M25 is the busiest motorway in the UK and amongst the busiest in Europe. With approximately 50 million crossings each year, the section between junctions 4 and 1 is often very congested. In addition, the M26 runs along the Holmesdale Vale through the upper Darent Valley, and the M20 crosses through the valley just to the north of Farningham. The A2 also has an impact crossing east to west just to the south of Dartford.





*Figure 66. Junction of the M25 and M26 in the Darent Valley*

Since it was built in the early 1980s, the M25 has had a negative impact on the landscape of the Darent Valley. However, original proposals were to take the motorway along the bottom of the valley, and it was only through the vociferous objections from the local communities that this was avoided. Although the route of the M25 is now on the valley side and largely hidden from view on the central valley it, along with the M26, is more visible in the upper valley. However, in the lower valley, with its more open landscape, the motorway infrastructure is all too obvious.

Issues around noise, air and water pollution, damage to heritage features and fragmentation of habitats are all well understood, but with such high levels of use and increased congestion near the Dartford Crossing, these have the potential to increase.

Despite this, for the Darent Valley there is cause for optimism. Highways England and their contractor Connect Plus Services, have positively engaged with the landscape partnership and are represented on the Partnership Board. There is an appetite to contribute in a way that enhances what the DVLP will be doing, and to mitigate against some of the negative impacts that the presence of the motorways inevitably cause.

The potential introduction of a Lower Thames Crossing to the east of Gravesend (whilst having a negative impact on open marsh and the AONB there) may be beneficial to the Darent Valley. Traffic use may reduce, or at least not increase any more, and remove the need for widening of the motorway between junctions 4 and 1.

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#### PRESSURE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

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The impact of water abstraction has already been discussed on page 73, but it is important to note that with the anticipated growth of London in the coming years, and the building of new communities

in and around the valley will only apply more pressure to water supplies and the chalk aquifer that provides it.

## ATTITUDES AND UNDERSTANDING

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There is a juxtaposition of two views of the Darent Valley. To generalise considerably, there are the residents that live within the valley who observe the slow, inexorable changes happening to the landscape and are growing increasingly concerned by the pressures being applied to the valley. They see the gradual erosion of the qualities that make the Darent Valley a special place, and feel that the source of this is largely from the north-west; from London. Development, visitor pressure, flytipping, road congestion and low river flows can all be traced back to the expansion of the capital.

For those living outside of the valley and particularly from London the Darent Valley is a green oasis, rural Kent right on their doorstep and easy to drive to. It is an important greenspace, a 'green lung' where they can escape from the urban environment to rejuvenate and refresh their soul. They feel fortunate to have a place of such history and natural beauty right on their doorstep.

In addition, a third view can be added to these: those that are unaware of the valley and its qualities. The audience development work undertaken during the development of the scheme suggests that there are many of these.

Together, these views create a dilemma. The threats imposed by London will not recede and it is inevitable that they will increase as the capital's population follows its projected growth. For the Darent Valley to retain its special character against these tides of pressures, there needs to be a will to protect it, and for that will to exist the landscape needs to be valued. Then, when these risks emerge and there is a call for an activity or action that threatens the valley, there is a strong balancing voice putting the case forward for protecting the landscape's special and historic character.

The valley's heritage is strongly valued by those that live within it, but even so, many residents aren't aware of the full breadth of heritage present. Furthermore, whilst potential visitors from south-east London may have heard about the Darent Valley (although many associate it with the hospital) most know little about it. Therefore, there is a strong argument for developing this awareness so that there is a much louder voice standing up for retaining the valley's landscape.

The consultation undertaken throughout stage 2 indicated that the public perception is that the core of the valley is the Central Darent Valley SCA. This is understandable as it contains some of the most important heritage features and is an attractive landscape within the Kent Downs AONB. However, this perception is flawed because it places less emphasis on other parts of the valley. This is particularly so for the Lower Darent Valley SCA and Estuarine Darent Valley SCA. These areas have arguably greater pressures, but are generally less protected by designations. The consequence is that they have sometimes become the forgotten parts of the valley.

Dartford and Crayford Marshes are remarkable areas, and perhaps don't have the aesthetic charm of the landscape further up the valley. However, there is growing recognition of their qualities and value. A challenge for the DVLPA is to harness this interest and raise the profile of these less loved areas, as they require more work, greater input and increased involvement. Similarly, the lower valley where it extends out of Dartford has received less investment and attention when as an important gateway to the rest of the valley, it is perhaps the most deserving of attention.

From the audience development work that was taken during the development stage of DVLPS, the largest proportion of visitors that did not visit the countryside were young people (35%) and those from minority ethnic backgrounds (30%). The reasons provided for this were 'being too busy', followed by transport difficulties, health, cost and 'not knowing where to go'. The sample size was not large and therefore it is difficult to ascertain clear trends, but these results do indicate where barriers to engaging with the heritage of the Darent valley may exist.

## LOCAL ISSUES

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### LACK OF RESOURCES

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A recurring theme during the development of the DVLPS has been a shortage of resources to undertake the management required to conserve and protect the heritage, biodiversity and landscape of the valley. This has become increasingly acute for all types of landowners and managers, but has been most noticeable for local authorities. Principally brought about by the reduction of the central government grant, the result has been that all the main three local authorities in the DVLPS area have needed to reduce spending.

Sevenoaks District Council has adopted a model of becoming financially independent of central government funding and achieved this in 2016 (Salman, 2016). To reach this goal, it has introduced several strategies including efficiency initiatives, maximising external income and an emphasis on statutory rather than non-statutory services (Sevenoaks District Council, 2016). One of the secondary effects of this that had an impact for the landscape of the Darent Valley is the sale of agricultural fields that formed part of Shoreham Woods Country Park.

Whilst the physical impact of this on the management of the landscape is unclear, it does demonstrate the pressures that local authorities are under. Large capital restoration projects are practically impossible without external funding, and ongoing management must be seen to be cost-effective. With local authorities owning several key sites in the valley, it is very important to support these to enable sustainable management and bring them back on an 'even keel'.

This also has an impact on heritage sites such as Otford Palace (also owned by Sevenoaks District Council) where planned restoration needs to be seen in the context of likely ongoing management and maintenance costs.

Similar pressures apply to conservation organisations and charities that are increasingly working within an environment where donations and contributions are difficult to maintain at a constant level. Core funding and grants are less secure, and it is difficult to maintain a presence when all activities are project funding led.

## NEED FOR LONG TERM MANAGEMENT

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In its early chapters this LCAP explained the multiple pressures that threaten the Darent Valley's landscape and heritage. There is no one single overriding element, but instead it is an aggregation of multiple pressures that is having an impact. By providing a high quality and well-constructed LCAP



with a strong legacy element, the DVLP seeks to avoid a sticking plaster approach, and instead generate a coherent partnership based response to the threats.

It is relatively simple to undertake a restoration project, whether it is the clearance of encroaching scrub on a chalk grassland or the stabilisation of a decaying heritage building. These can be easily achieved with the investment provided by a landscape partnership scheme. What is needed is the capital investment to provide the restoration and the establishment of long-term and sustainable management. This is the case with many of the heritage assets in the Darent Valley, and the five-year period that the scheme will operate is seen as a starting point for ongoing action.

Some of the locations and heritage features that the DVLPs will be focusing on have been present for over a thousand years. Whether it is millennia-old oak trees or five-hundred-year-old palaces, the DVLPs will be here for a mere blink of an eye. For the DVLPs to make a difference, it needs to and will consider actions far beyond 2022.



*Figure 67. Dartford Marshes with the QE2 bridge in the background*

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## PARTNERSHIP VISION

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The vision represents our aspiration for the landscape in 2022 when the work in this LCAP has been completed. It is aspirational, but achievable, and a vision that the whole Partnership can work towards. It is supported by five aims that have been identified by the Partnership.

### THE VISION

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Using the inspiration of Samuel Palmer, our unique partnership of organisations has worked with and empowered local communities to ensure the survival and flourishing of an exceptional landscape and its heritage.

Through them, the Darent Valley's natural and cultural heritage is being sustainably conserved, current threats are mitigated, and the landscape is more resilient to future threats. The communities that live within and around the valley feel emotionally and physically reconnected with their landscape, and there is a sense of pride and strong will to protect it for future generations.

A clear plan exists for the landscape's ongoing conservation and enjoyment; and organisations, communities and individuals have the skills, knowledge and ability to deliver it over the coming years.

### AIMS

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1. A deeper understanding of the value of the Darent Valley landscape has been rejuvenated in the communities in and around the Darent Valley as was conveyed by poets, writers and painters of the past. We have instilled in them an appreciation for the forces and influences that created the landscape, and their emotional connection is enhanced along with a greater personal investment in securing its future.
2. Our community-led approach has revealed a complex interwoven story, and ensured that it is not lost to future generations. Our partners have ensured the long-term protection and resilience of the valley's iconic built heritage features and communicated how they relate to the wider landscape. Innovative techniques have engaged new and wider audiences.
3. Sustainable and integrated access exists throughout the valley and is enabling greater appreciation and interaction with the landscape and heritage by a wider audience. The pressure of high visitor numbers has been dissipated and is being managed in a sustainable manner.
4. The key natural components of this landscape are in good condition and in positive long-term management with a clear strategy for the future. They are more resilient to the effects of climate change and better connected across the landscape. Local people understand and appreciate these important habitats, and are actively involved in identifying and recording habitats and species at risk.
5. Local communities, professionals, and delivery partners are actively participating in the conservation of the Darent Valley's heritage, and their new skills and knowledge are enabling them to care for the landscape and communicate its importance in the future.

## OBJECTIVES

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The five aims identified on page 83 are reflected in five themes under which individual project proposals fall. These themes reflect the aims of the scheme and provide greater detail for what the scheme will achieve during its five years of delivery. They are simple and descriptive in their definition.

### 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

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- 1.1 People, communities and visitors see the Darent Valley as a coherent whole focused around, but not only specifically about, the river.
- 1.2 They have developed a sense of place for the valley and learned to appreciate all aspects of it, not just the well-known and most aesthetically pleasing areas.
- 1.3 They feel a connection for the landscape's past and what has shaped it into the place it is today.
- 1.4 They understand and empathise with the emotions that Samuel Palmer felt when he recreated the valley through his works of art.
- 1.5 Communities celebrate the valley's past, present and potential future landscape and want to share it with others.
- 1.6 People, communities and visitors communicate their feelings and connection with the Darent Valley through many forms of art and media to create a present-day archive of why it is special to them.
- 1.7 A measure of tranquillity for the Darent Valley and how it is perceived by different groups and communities has been taken, and is used to intelligently inform decision-making and gauge future changes.
- 1.8 Those elements that have the greatest negative impact on the valley's landscape have been tackled and removed.
- 1.9 People feel inspired to become involved and work to protect and conserve 'their' landscape.
- 1.10 Communities and individuals are proud of their landscape, willing to stand up and protect it when it is threatened, and convey eloquently why it is so valued.

### 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

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- 2.1 People and communities from within the valley along with visitors and those from further afield have contributed to revealing new heritage and have a better and clearer understanding of the history of the valley.
- 2.2 They have been directly involved in the study and exploration of important cultural and built heritage in the valley.
- 2.3 Some of the most iconic built heritage features in the Darent Valley have been recorded, explored, interpreted and where appropriate restored or conserved to ensure that they are understood and remain for decades and centuries to come.
- 2.4 Communities have celebrated their heritage and take an active role in caring for them for the future, and proudly show them to visitors.



- 2.5 Where it has been appropriate, communities have taken ownership of heritage features and found sustainable ways of maintaining and using them.
- 2.6 New audiences from communities within the valley and visitors from neighbouring areas such as the London suburbs have been introduced to the valley's heritage, and it is recognised as a place of great time-depth.
- 2.7 New interpretive techniques have revealed this heritage in exciting and engaging ways, and has generated excitement and greater participation in its conservation.
- 2.8 People and communities have developed new skills, and contributed to recording, conserving and raising the profile of the valley's heritage. Their skills and engagement mean that they can maintain a legacy for the work that has been undertaken over the last five years.



Figure 68. Horton Kirby Paper Mill

### 3. DARENT VALLEY EXPLORATION

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- 3.1 Visitor pressure has been reduced by encouraging visitors to explore areas away from traditional 'honey-pot' sites and by offering alternative sustainable ways of exploring and providing better information on places to visit.
- 3.2 The Darent Valley Path has been developed as a high-quality route from the Thames and Dartford to Sevenoaks and has been extended to the source of the Darent in Westerham.
- 3.3 Travelling by train, bus, walking and using the bicycle are considered attractive ways to travel in the valley, reducing some of the pressures previously caused by increased car use.
- 3.4 Bicycles are now able to ride on traffic-free paths that follow or are adjacent to the Darent Valley Path and provide a popular and attractive way to explore the valley's landscape. This has also reduced traffic pressure and benefited local businesses
- 3.5 The important gateway sites of, Shoreham Woods, Lullingstone, and Darent Country Parks, along with Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, act as an introduction for visitors to the heritage of the Darent Valley. They provide safe areas of countryside that are well cared for and managed, and provide a starting point for exploring the wider landscape independently.
- 3.6 The links between the Darent Valley Path and the North Downs Way National Trail have been strengthened. The North Downs Way through the scheme area is in excellent condition, and those walking the trail enjoy and understand the views across the valley.

- 3.7 There has been an increase in the number of visitors from London who have learned to appreciate and value a wonderful piece of English countryside on their doorstep. They travel out by train and visit attractions and enjoy walks that are near the stations. Circular routes and walks between stations have been provided to enable them to maximise their enjoyment of the valley.
- 3.8 An integrated and carefully considered interpretation strategy has been delivered that explains the special character of the Darent Valley and delivers the information in a coherent, understandable and engaging way. It uses new interpretive techniques and delivers them in a way that is respectful of the landscape and surroundings.
- 3.9 Local communities have been actively involved in improving access around their villages and through their local landscapes. They have developed new skills and used their own knowledge to improve the signing and quality of the rights of way network, create new paths and circuits, and develop interpretation so that they can pass on their knowledge of the Darent Valley.



*Figure 69. Eynsford Viaduct*

#### 4. DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

- 4.1 The important chalk grassland sites found along the scarp slopes on the valley sides are in positive management with the threats of issues such as the encroachment of scrub and lack of management removed. Capital works have been undertaken that not only restore the sites' landscape and biodiversity importance, but also ensure that they can be managed appropriately in the future. The managers of these sites work together and share resources to ensure that their sites are better connected and considered at a landscape scale. Volunteer numbers have grown and are actively involved in the practical management and monitoring of the sites.
- 4.2 Woodland sites are being managed proactively and are recognised for their landscape importance in the valley and the role that they play in water management. Access to them has been improved and they are explored and enjoyed by greater numbers.
- 4.3 The River Darent is more resilient to the current and future risks of climate change, abstraction and inappropriate management. A landscape-led approach has been taken to reduce the issues of extreme event flooding and periods of drought. The upper reaches have been used to demonstrate how natural flood measures can be delivered and respect landscape character. In the lower reaches, an approach has been piloted to show how landscape management can be undertaken to improve water management. These approaches have been shared with and influenced by UK and European partners, and has been guided by volunteers on the Darent Catchment Improvement Group.

- 4.4 The value of historic parkland in the valley is recognised, and the actions that were needed to ensure that they remain for future generations have been put in place. The concentration of great veteran trees at Lullingstone Park have been recorded and measured, and appropriate management undertaken to ensure their health and longevity.
- 4.5 Local people have been trained to recognise health issues with the trees and are involved in identifying risks from pest species. Lullingstone and other parkland sites are prepared if there is an outbreak to ensure that the important heritage and veteran trees have the maximum likelihood of survival.
- 4.6 Historic parks with heritage at risk have taken steps to ensure that their important features are recorded, and have identified how they can be conserved and restored for the future. Landowners are working together to deliver these through a partnership conservation plan, and priority landscape features have been restored through the scheme.
- 4.7 Golf clubs in the valley recognise the potential impact they have on landscape character and have been assessed to determine how their managed can be changed to better integrate the courses into the landscape, respect heritage and improve their impact on water management, biodiversity conservation and heritage conservation.
- 4.8 A new and exciting partnership has been established with the organisations responsible for the management of motorway, road verges and railway embankments. Projects have been undertaken that reduces the impact of this transport infrastructure on landscape, biodiversity and heritage and integrates its management with that of the wider landscape of the Darent Valley.



*Figure 70. The Upper Valley near Westerham*

- 4.9 A local landscapes grant scheme has enabled local communities to identify and deliver small-scale projects that help to deliver the objectives of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. These have been led by the community and been delivered by local



volunteers providing their time. These projects have been extremely varied and compliment the more structured projects delivered elsewhere in the scheme.

- 4.10 A comprehensive hedgerow survey has been undertaken throughout the entire valley, identifying lost networks, poor condition hedgerows, and areas where there is the potential for the creation of new networks that will establish a new and appropriate landscape character. The survey has been undertaken by volunteers trained through the scheme and supported by partner conservation organisations. Projects identified through the scheme, have been taken forward either through the appropriate agri-environment scheme or directly through the Landscape Partnership.

## 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

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- 5.1 Great emphasis has been placed on reconnecting the younger generation with the landscape and having more 'wild time'. Exciting activities have provided exciting opportunities for children to enjoy outdoor adventures in the Darent Valley.
- 5.2 Children for schools in inner-city London, and particularly those from areas defined as 'deprived' have been provided with organised activities and transport within the valley. These children have developed a link and connection with the valley, considering it a place of adventure and excitement. They have returned with their families to experience it in their leisure time and are growing up with an appreciation of its qualities.
- 5.3 Children and their families from one of the most deprived areas of Kent have developed the use of their only natural greenspace area and important heritage site as a Forest School. Teaching staff will have received training and the local community are active in restoring and conserving the site.
- 5.4 All the primary schools in the valley have had the opportunity to have their school grounds mapped for orienteering and had an orienteering course devised for them. Children have learnt map-reading skills and starting exploring permanent orienteering courses in the valley. A school orienteering league has been established, and family orienteering events have enabled families to gain new skills and confidence in exploring the countryside.
- 5.5 An educational and therapeutic 'forest garden' has been created in the heart of the rural Darent Valley. Teaching the principles of permaculture to a wide variety of groups, individuals and schools, it has also provided opportunities for residential stays where groups of children from the local community and disadvantaged groups such as refugees, victims of torture and community rehabilitation programmes to reconnect with the natural landscape.
- 5.6 A collaborative advisory service has been provided to landowners in the valley to support them as the UK transitions through the process of leaving the EU. It has helped to maintain good environmental management of the valley's farmed areas and guided landowners through an unclear period to ensure that land has remained managed appropriately within the restrictions of the new guidelines and funding.
- 5.7 A broad range of training courses and learning experiences have been provided to partners, communities and volunteers who therefore had the knowledge and ability to deliver the projects within the scheme with confidence. Many of these learning experiences were identified at the beginning of the scheme, but further needs were identified as the scheme progressed and were provided as needed.

- 5.8 Several successful apprentice opportunities have created well-trained young people that have developed a wide range of conservation and other skills that has both supported the delivery of projects with partners, and developed their own skills to enter a career in heritage, landscape or biodiversity conservation.
- 5.9 A full and engaging range of walks, talks, plays, workshops and events have enthused both existing and new audiences in the heritage of the Darent Valley. There is a much greater knowledge of the special and unique characteristics of the area, and people and communities feel they can explore further on their own. Local people have played an active role in these activities, conveying their knowledge of the local area.
- 5.10 The DVLPS web-site has been the backbone of communication with people, communities and visitors. It has evolved over the five years to provide up-to-date information in an engaging and easy to understand manner, and has been integrated with a dynamic social media presence. Events and walks have been streamed on-line and all aspects of the project's work have been made available on the web.



*Figure 71. Surveying of veteran trees at Lullingstone Park*





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## FUNDING OF THE SCHEME

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In addition to the significant cash contribution provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, match funding needed to be sought from several other sources to provide the partnership combined 'pot'. During the stage 2 development considerable time and effort has been dedicated to this by partners and KDAONB staff, with the scheme close to securing the necessary funds.

The other main sources (not including volunteer contributions or ongoing management costs) are listed below. In some cases, this has meant that projects have needed to be adapted or altered slightly to accommodate the requirements of these alternative funding sources. However, the scheme remains faithful to its original objectives, and these new sources have strengthened the scheme.

### INTERREG 2 SEAS

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The DVLPS has been successful in securing a significant amount of funding from the Interreg 2 Seas Programme. Running from 2014 to 2020, it is a European Territorial Cooperation Programme covering England, France, the Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders). The Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and has a total of €241m ERDF to co-finance projects in the 2014 - 2020 period.

The overall objective is to develop an innovative, knowledge and research based, sustainable and inclusive 2 Seas area, where natural resources are protected and the green economy is promoted. The Kent Downs AONB made four submissions with European partners of which three have been confirmed as successful, and one rejected. Each of these Interreg 2 Seas projects must deliver against one of the programmes specific objectives.

Whilst Britain's exit from the European Union does represent a risk with these sources of match funding, SCAPE and Triple-C were both confirmed and signed off before the UK Government's Autumn Statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. This provides a level of certainty following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement that projects "will be fully funded, even when these projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU".

This funding encourages cross-border co-operation and there is an exciting opportunity to learn from continental partners as well as share the landscape approaches to heritage conservation that are developed through landscape partnerships. This has already begun with the DVLPS projects supported by Interreg and has allowed for improvements and enhancements to be made to those submitted at Stage 1 to HLF.

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### SCAPE

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Shaping Climate change Adaptive PlacEs is a project led by Stad Oostende in Belgium and delivers against the 2 Seas programme priority of 'Adaptation to climate change' and towards the specific objective to *'Improve the ecosystem-based capacity of 2 Seas stakeholders to climate change and its associated water-related effects'*.

The overall objective is:

"SCAPE will develop Landscape Led Design solutions for water management that make coastal landscapes in the 2 Seas area better adapted and more resilient to climate change. SCAPE will

work with the key stakeholders to increase the cost effectiveness of water management applications and will deliver pilots to test innovative tools/solutions that among other effects reduce floods. The project will bring together water managers, planners and architects from across the partnership to jointly develop an approach that uses the landscape to tackle water management problems in rural/urban/fringe coastal areas.”

The Darent Valley forms one of the pilots where this approach will be tested and will contribute to many of the elements being delivered through Programme 4 (Darent Valley Natural and Historic Landscapes) focusing on the central and lower reaches of the valley between Sevenoaks and the Thames.

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#### TRIPLE-C

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Similarly, Climate resilient Community-based Catchment planning and management (Triple-C) delivers against the same programme priority and specific objective as SCAPE. It is led by Somerset County Council and has the overall objective to:

“...implement a set of cost- effective, innovative actions to reduce flooding. A new participative approach to problem solving and implementation with landowners will be developed. Upstream implementation of the water retention and erosion control measures will reduce flooding and associated issues further downstream.”

The DVLPS will deliver measures to achieve this objective in a way that respects and enhances landscape character in the upper catchment of the valley between Westerham and Sevenoaks and will contribute principally to projects 4C, 4D, 4E and 4G.

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#### ICARES

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Innovation Cluster Accelerating Remote Sensing (ICARes) is a project led by Gemeente Woensdrecht (Municipality of Woensdrecht) in the Netherlands. It delivers against the ‘Technological and social innovation’ programme priority and against the specific objective to ‘*Improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation*’. It will run for 39 months with the overall objective to:

“...develop a cross border cluster and create the necessary conditions for innovation in the field of remote sensing and advanced data communication and processing, based on needs of priority sectors nature, agriculture and water and infrastructure. This will lead to following benefits: cross border cooperation in these sectors to come to aggregation of demands, acceleration of creation of innovative remote sensing products & services, substantial use of remote sensing and improved business operation in these sectors.”

The DVLPS contribution to ICARes focuses on the use of LiDAR and drone technology to reveal and communicate information about heritage and its management. Consequently, the emphasis will be on the ‘Peeling Back the Layers’ project (2A), other projects within Programme 2 (The Historic Darent Valley), Programme 4 (Natural and Historic Landscapes) and project 5G (Engaging New Audiences).

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## HIGHWAYS ENGLAND ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATED FUND

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A successful bid was made through Connect Plus Services for funding from the Highways England Environment Designated Fund. Designated funds have been created by the Government to address a range of issues over and above the traditional focus of road investment. The Environment Designated

Fund has the aim of providing a range of specific environmental enhancements on or around its network.

A substantial amount has already been allocated towards feasibility work and subsequently will secure additional funds for delivery. The funding will focus on:

- Landscape Integration and Visual Screening
- Ecological Connectivity & Biodiversity Enhancement - M25 Verge Chalk Grassland Creation
- Noise Important Area Mitigation
- Cultural Heritage Asset Enhancement - Otford Palace, Chevening, Lullingstone Castle, and Franks Hall Historic Landscape Improvement
- Flooding Hotspot Mitigation
- Ecological Connectivity and Biodiversity Enhancement - Polhill Chalk Grassland Creation and Grazing
- Cultural Heritage Asset Enhancement - Coombe Bank Historic Park and Garden Improvement

## LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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The DVLPS falls principally within three local authority areas: Kent County, Sevenoaks District and Dartford Borough. All three will benefit from the investment that the DVLPS provides and consequently are making financial contributions to the partnership 'pot' as well as contributions 'in kind'. This investment focuses principally on sites owned by the respective local authorities, but Sevenoaks DC are also making a contribution towards flood prevention work being undertaken through 'natural flood measures' being delivered as part of project 4C (Restoring the Darent).

Dartford Borough Council are investigating the potential for contributing to schemes through the Community Infrastructure Levy where justified and in accordance with agreed priorities.

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS

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The majority of parish councils with a significant part of their parish within the DVLPS area were requested to consider making a small annual contribution to the scheme. As key partners and beneficiaries of the scheme's work, they have responded extremely positively, confirming annual contributions in the region of £1,000-2,000 per annum each. This provides a constructive local buy-in to the scheme and builds a strong partnership with local communities.

## KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

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Kent Wildlife Trust has confirmed the contribution of a legacy left for the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve for the DVLPS. This cash contribution secures a considerable investment into the reserve and supports the long-term plans for the site.

## NORTH DOWNS WAY NATIONAL TRAIL

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The North Downs Way National Trail through its Trail Partnership, receives funding from Natural England and several other sources to deliver against the principle focuses of all National Trails:



- Experience - enable as many people as possible to enjoy a wide variety of walking and riding experiences along National Trails and through the English landscape
- Enhancement - make constant improvement to the Trail and its associated routes. Contribute to the enhancement of the landscape, nature and historic features within the trail corridor.
- Engagement - build and sustain a community of interest in caring for the Trail and the landscape through which it passes.
- Economy - creates opportunities for local businesses to benefit from the use of Trails.

These objectives integrate well with programme 3 of the DVLPS (Darent Valley Exploration). Consequently, DVLPS and the North Downs Way will work together closely within the National Trail corridor between Westerham and Kemsing, with an annual cash contribution from the Trail Partnership's budget.

## INNOCENT DRINKS

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Until 2016, Innocent Drinks held their Innocent Unplugged music festival near Kemsing. With an unconventional theme of unplugging from technology and being in a beautiful landscape for the weekend meant that there was considerable synergy, and in 2016 Innocent contributed all the proceeds from the ticket sales to the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership. This substantial amount of money has been held by the Kent Downs AONB to provide match funding for the scheme.

## SOUTHEASTERN TRAINS

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Southeastern sit on the Partnership Board and are currently investigating how they will be able to contribute to the scheme. At the time of submission though this had not been confirmed and a response is awaited from their Corporate Social Responsibility representatives.

## LANDOWNER CONTRIBUTIONS

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Where individual landowners are receiving landscape enhancements as part of the scheme's work, there is an expectation that they will make a cash contribution to release the HLF (and other funds). Consequently, a significant number of landowners are providing cash contributions to DVLPS.

## UK POWER NETWORKS – IN-KIND

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As referred to on page 48, UKPN will be undergrounding sections of 11Kv cable where they have a negative impact on views and landscape in the AONB sections of the valley. This will be part of the allowance provided to them by OFGEM, and will be carried out as an in-kind contribution. These sites will in turn be integrated with other landscape improvement works.

## UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER – IN-KIND

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The University of Winchester is providing staff time, guidance and support as an in-kind contribution towards delivering the 'Rediscovering Tranquillity' project. This will utilise the peer-reviewed 'Broadly Engaging with Tranquillity Project' and provide training for a community-led approach to determining differing perceptions of tranquillity.

## EVALUATING THE DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

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The Heritage Lottery Fund places significant emphasis on the evaluation of Landscape Partnership Schemes. In addition, sources of funding to match the HLF grant have their own requirements for monitoring and evaluation. The purpose of evaluation is to demonstrate how and whether or not the scheme has delivered its stated outputs and outcomes and how these relate to HLF's stated outcomes for landscape partnerships. It serves to demonstrate value-for-money, the lasting changes made by the scheme and provides an opportunity to learn from successes and failures in order to inform other landscape partnerships and future projects.

Within the full project plans in part 3 of the LCAP, the outputs and outcomes are identified along with how the Partnership intends to measure them. These are also summarised in part 2 of the LCAP in the project plan summaries along with which HLF outcomes these relate to.

The DVLP has allocated funds for an independent evaluation to be undertaken of the scheme. By consulting other landscape partnerships, having an external organisation undertake the evaluation has proven to be a positive experience by providing some distance for those that are undertaking the delivery of the scheme. A mid-term evaluation will also be included, as again the independent input allows for some reflection and opportunity to learn from the first 2½ years of delivery and change approaches if required.

The end of scheme evaluation will be completed so that it is able to support the development of the scheme's ongoing legacy. A draft brief for the scheme evaluation has been included in Appendix 7.



*Figure 72. Lavender fields at Castle Farm*





## PLANNING THE LANDSCAPE'S LEGACY

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*Figure 73. Project planning for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme*

From the beginning of scheme development at stage 1 and the production of proposals for individual projects, the emphasis has been on the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme forming the first step of a much longer process. The DVLPS will make a significant change in its five years of delivery, but in defining what it would achieve, the Partnership was keen to ensure that each element contributed towards a legacy for the Darent Valley.

In many ways, that legacy has already been created. The formation of such a diverse group with different interests coming together with a common vision is new for area. New working relationships have already been formed, and these are generating new projects beyond the remit of the DVLPS.

In selecting the projects for inclusion in the scheme, the vetting process included careful consideration of whether the outputs and outcomes could be maintained and what resources were required to achieve this. Partners were asked to consider what they needed in terms of resources, physical changes, and skills and knowledge to ensure that what was delivered could be sustained and maintained well beyond the operational life of the scheme. If these are required, the partnership has looked to ensure that provision is made for them. If these could not be provided, or there was no evidence how the projects would be maintained, the difficult decision was made to not include them.

Each project plan in part 3 includes a section on legacy, and the mechanisms to ensure that the positive work undertaken are explained. The Darent Valley is fortunate that it has many active groups, organisations and existing partnerships that are well placed to support a legacy. However, there is recognition that in many cases they need to increase capacity, ensure that they have the skills and knowledge, and develop the relationships with other partners to ensure that they can fulfil this role.

One such organisation is the North West Kent Countryside Partnership which has maintained a presence in the Darent Valley for almost 30 years. It is well placed to continue to support the communities, landowners and organisations to continue and maintain the good work that will be undertaken over the next five years. This period will also be used to develop the new skills required to support areas of the scheme's work where they do not have sufficient experience.

As the lead organisation for the DVLPS, the Kent Downs AONB will retain a presence in the valley (in the entire scheme area, and not just the protected landscape) and will continue to provide support.

It is anticipated that the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership will exist as a body beyond 2022. This may be in the form of the Partnership Board, Partnership Forum, or the individual theme groups. However, this will be determined later in the life of the scheme and will be informed by both the mid-term and end of scheme evaluations, and how efficiently the various groups function.



## PART 2 –PROJECT PLAN SUMMARIES

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### INTRODUCTION

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This section of the Landscape Conservation Plan provides a summary of the individual projects that make up the plan. It allows the reader to quickly access the general objectives of individual projects, where they fit into the scheme and how they contribute to the vision, objectives and aims. If further information is required, the reader is directed to part 3 of the LCAP where the full and detailed information for each project can be found.

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### CHANGES BETWEEN STAGE 1 AND STAGE 2

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The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme has remained faithful to the application that was submitted at stage 1. Some minor changes have been made, but all the projects remain in the scheme in some form. The key differences are:

The scheme budget has grown from the original £3.65 million to £4 million. This is partly due to the success that the partnership has had in attracting additional funding, but also as a consequence of some exciting new projects that have been revealed since the stage 1 submission through local consultation. No request has been made for an increase in the grant from HLF, and the increase will be covered by other sources of funding. The budget changes by theme are:

Theme	First Round	Second Round
1. Inspiring Darent Valley	£400,760	£253,951
2. Historic Darent Valley	£456,110	£483,455
3. Darent Valley Exploration	£623,000	£596,450
4. Darent Valley Natural and Historic Landscapes	£681,400	£973,046
5. Darent Valley Learning and Future Skills	£341,600	£476,840
Staff and overheads	£843,250	£978,583
Contingency and inflation	£233,977	£245,956
HLF grant	£2,109,047	£2,109,047
HLF grant percentage	57.8%	52.62%
Total Budget	£3,649,597	£4,008,280

### CHANGES TO PROJECT 1C INSPIRED PALMER LANDSCAPES

Project 1C has been expanded to take in the elements of three other projects declared at Stage 1: 'Restoring Landscape and Vision', 'Then and Now – Remembering a Changing Valley' and 'In Hop Picker's Footsteps'. This has allowed a much more integrated project to be developed that will be led



by a community arts organisation and pulls together the landscape art and celebration projects in a much more coherent way.

#### EXPANSION OF PROJECT 4A – UNCOVERING THE HERB-SCENTED SCARP

During Stage 2 development, several new projects arose that necessitated the need for expansion. The outputs from this project will now deliver substantial outputs for chalk grassland restoration and provide greater habitat connection along with integration with the outputs being delivered through the adjacent 'Old Chalk New Downs' HLF funded project.

#### EXPANSION OF PROJECT 5A – LANDSCAPE ADVENTURE LEARNING FOR ALL

At Stage 1 it was declared that this was one of the most important projects within the scheme. During Stage 2 development, several exciting projects came forward from partners that would reinforce and further strengthen this area of the scheme's activities. These projects include 5A.3: The Enchanted Woodland located in one of the area's most deprived communities; 5A.4: The Quadrangle Forest Garden which uses landscape and nature to build links with 'at-risk' groups; and 5A.5: Otford Chalk Pit Nature Area which provides resources for an established Forest School project. These have required an increase in investment, but provide excellent value for money.

#### CHANGES TO STAFF TIME AND OVERHEADS

Due to the Partnership's success in attracting funding from the European Union, the staff resource has needed to be increased to aid delivery and reporting. This has required the need for both the Landscape and Access Officer, and the Finance and Reporting Officer to start earlier than was previously identified at Stage 1. This is principally because the elements that are match-funded from European Union sources are front-loaded (this funding runs until 2020 or 2021). Inflation has also been increased to 3% per annum to mitigate against the impact of Brexit and the anticipated increase in inflation in the next few years.

### DELIVERY OF HLF OUTCOMES

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The summary project plans on the following pages describe the outcomes and outputs they will deliver, and the HLF outcomes that they will contribute to. These are referenced as follows:

**H1** Heritage will be better managed  
**H2** Heritage will be in better condition  
**H3** Heritage will be identified/recorded

**P1** People will have developed skills  
**P2** People will have learnt about heritage  
**P3** People will have volunteered time

**C1** Negative environmental impacts will be reduced  
**C2** More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage  
**C3** Your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit

## THEME 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 1A. IN SEARCH OF THE BRIGHT CLOUD – A SAMUEL PALMER TRAIL

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To introduce people to the life and work of British watercolourist Samuel Palmer and his close connection with the landscape of the Darent Valley.</p> <p>Focusing on the years he spent in Shoreham it will take visitors on a journey following in Palmer’s footsteps along a waymarked trail, drawing on the inspiration he gained from the surrounding countryside 200 years ago. Creative interpretation using audio and visual media will bring Palmer’s experiences to life and raise awareness of him amongst both visitors and residents.</p>		<p><b>Location:</b> Landscape and countryside around the village of Shoreham.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Both local residents and visitors. It is anticipated that the Trail will also attract visitors from further afield who have a specialist interest in Samuel Palmer, but the target audience will be those that have little or no awareness of him.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New 8km of trail created.</li> <li>• 30 waymarker posts installed.</li> <li>• 12 Bluetooth beacons installed.</li> <li>• Interactive audio-visual interpretation created.</li> <li>• 2,000 copies of Palmer Trail leaflets printed.</li> <li>• 20 volunteer days contributed.</li> <li>• 250 people using the trail per annum.</li> <li>• 100 attendees.</li> <li>• 10 local groups contributing to launch event.</li> <li>• 10 curated guided walks provided.</li> <li>• 200 attendees.</li> <li>• 250 engaged via social media.</li> <li>• 200 downloads of pdf version of leaflet.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater awareness of Samuel Palmer and his importance to the landscape of the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Increased exploration of the Darent Valley by foot.</li> <li>• Increased pride in the association of Shoreham and the Darent Valley with Samuel Palmer.</li> <li>• Improved access provision.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the importance of rural landscape and what has formed them.</li> <li>• A closer connection and valuing of the Darent Valley landscape.</li> <li>• An increase in the way the Darent Valley landscape is valued for its natural and heritage assets.</li> <li>• Increased participation in promoting the heritage that is Samuel Palmer’s association with the valley.</li> <li>• Improved knowledge of Samuel Palmer amongst local residents and consequential dissemination to the wider community.</li> <li>• An increase in the way the Darent Valley landscape is valued for its natural and heritage assets.</li> <li>• A detailed understanding of Samuel Palmer’s legacy and connection to the landscape.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of Samuel Palmer and his importance to the landscape of the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• An increase in the way the Darent Valley landscape is valued for its natural and heritage assets.</li> <li>• A broader geographical spread of those that have an awareness of the Palmer-Darent Valley connection.</li> <li>• A younger demographic learning about Palmer and landscape.</li> <li>• An increase in the way the Darent Valley landscape is valued for its natural and heritage assets.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P2, C2, C3</p>	
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £19,030</p>	

## THEME 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 1B. SAMUEL PALMER'S RETURN

**Project Description:**

To return some of Samuel Palmer's paintings of his Darent Valley period for an exhibition within the scheme area alongside other more contemporary pieces of art inspired by his and the scheme's work.

This will be a celebration of people's appreciation and connection with the valley's landscape and an exciting opportunity for local people to have their own interpretations displayed alongside those of one of the country's most visionary landscape artists.

Ultimately, it will inspire a new generation of artists to interpret the Darent Valley landscape for themselves and introduce a new audience to landscape art so that they develop an appreciation for themselves.

**Location:** To be confirmed

**Audience:** The audience will be extremely broad, but this project will particularly target communities that don't normally have an involvement in the arts or don't have the opportunity.

Whilst an exhibition of some of Palmer's works will undoubtedly attract his aficionados, the aim will be to engage new audiences, and the opportunity to have this exhibition within the urban communities of Dartford, Bexley and Lewisham will do that.

Conversely, it will also target those from an art background to make a more physical connection with the landscape that inspired Palmer.

**Lead:**

DVLPS  
Delivery  
Team

**Outputs**

- 6 museum partner organisations involved.
- 2,000 hits on the website.
- 1,000 visitors to gallery space.
- 1,000 with increased awareness of Samuel Palmer's links to the Darent Valley.
- 1 conference event held.
- 50 attendees.
- 50 live views of the conference.
- 250 subsequent views on the DVLPS website.
- 30 large-scale Palmer images posted in and around the landscape of the Darent Valley.

**Outcomes**

- Increased awareness of Samuel Palmer and his relationship and appreciation of landscape, and particularly the Darent Valley.
- A broader awareness of the qualities of the Darent Valley landscape amongst national and international visitors.
- The introduction of the concept of landscape art to new audiences, particularly amongst non-traditional target demographic groups.
- Raised awareness of the location and qualities of the Darent Valley amongst residents in Lewisham and Dartford.
- Increased interest and involvement in landscape art activities associated with the Darent Valley.
- A new generation of artists inspired to interpret and communicate the Darent Valley landscape.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H3, P1, P2,  
P3, C2, C3

**Cost:**  
£38,375



## THEME 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 1C. INSPIRED PALMER LANDSCAPES

#### Project Description:

The Inspired Palmer Landscapes project plays a key role within the entire scheme. It will work across all the communities within the valley to explore, reveal and celebrate the stories of individual places and local landscapes.

Engaging 'Talk the Walk' events will draw together communities and individuals of all ages to investigate the history that has shaped the Darent Valley and created the sense of place for their part of it. Drawing on the experience of the Thurrock 100 project on the other side of the Thames, these stories will be communicated through pieces of poetry, prose and artwork, inspired by Samuel Palmer's connection with the valley.

This will then be celebrated through a Samuel Palmer Walking and Talking Festival, to enable the wider community enjoy and learn about the Darent Valley's heritage and celebrate their own heritage connections to the landscape.

**Location:** Valley-wide.

**Audience:** The focus will be on enhancing community pride and joint-working between the individual settlements that are located within the valley. It will be a celebration of the communities, land and how interaction created the distinctive landscape of the Darent Valley.

The project intends to be entirely inclusive, and provide opportunities for all sections of the individual communities to be involved from school children to adults.

Whilst the immediate focus is on those settlements within the valley, it will also work with communities adjacent to the valley.

**Lead:**

DVLPS  
Delivery  
Team

#### Outputs

##### Establishment of Inspiring Theme Group

- 1 x advisory theme group established.
- 20 x members of theme group recruited.
- 5 x theme group meetings during life of the project.
- 1 x Virtual meeting point and discussion area created.

##### Links with art and culture partners established

- 3 x main art and culture partners involved.
- 30 x local groups recruited to contribute to the project.

##### Adoption of Airstream caravan

- 1 x Airstream caravan renovated and kitted out for touring.
- Attend 50 events and locations as part of engagement activity.
- Visited by 2,500 people during life of project.

##### Talking History, Landscape Learning & Stories sessions

- 10 x sessions held.
- Attended by 200 people.
- 20 x volunteers recruited.
- 40 volunteer days contributed.
- 10 x Landscape Learning walks delivered.
- Attended by 300 people.
- 10 x Stories Sessions held.
- 250 participants.
- 100 stories recorded.

##### Creative writing, drawing and art workshops

- 25 x ½ day school workshops held.
- 25 x schools participating.
- 10 x whole-day workshops for adults
- 100 x adults participating.
- 10 x celebration art sessions held.
- 200 x people participating.

##### Walking Festival and Stories Books

- 1 x training session held.
- 20 x participants.
- 1 x festival held.
- 10 x individual walks.
- 500 participants.
- 1 x Stories Book published.
- 1000 copies produced.

#### Outcomes

- Improved understanding of the heritage that shaped the communities and landscape around them.
- Greater awareness of Samuel Palmer and his relationship with the landscape and the Darent Valley.
- Local people will have developed new skills such walk curation and leadership.
- Close community bonds between the individual settlements of the Darent Valley.
- Local people have a stronger connection (emotionally and physically) with their landscape.
- An even greater sense of pride in the valley and its heritage.
- Local people will have explored parts of the valley that they were previously unaware of.
- A legacy will have been established for future celebrations.
- Children and adults will have developed new artistic skills and be able to better communicate their own personal connection with the landscape.
- Links will be established with neighbours in Thurrock, along the Thames and in India along the Hooghly River, through connections with the Thurrock 100 and Silk River projects.

#### HLF Outcomes:

H3, P1, P2, P3,  
C2, C3

**Cost:**  
**£124,745**

## THEME 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 1D. FRAMING THE VIEW

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To work with UK Power Networks (UKPN) to relocate 11kV electricity lines underground where they impede important views, have a negative impact on landscape character and detract from important sites in the Darent Valley. These undergrounding projects will be complemented by other landscape enhancements to provide additionality and maximise the impact of the undergrounding operation.</p>		<p><b>Location:</b> Preston Hill, Shoreham</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> This project does not target a specific audience, and instead will benefit all residents and visitors in the vicinity of the undergrounding sites. The project at Preston Hill will be integrated with the work being undertaken in project 4A.1 which will provide better (but understated) access for a site that is surprisingly rich in both cultural and natural heritage. As a country park, the site is publicly owned with open access and is also highly likely to feature on the Samuel Palmer Trail as part of Project 1A.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> UK Power Networks</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2km of line removed and placed underground.</li> <li>• 18 poles removed.</li> <li>• 1 key viewpoint restored.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater appreciation of the natural heritage and landscape character for visitors to Preston Hill Country Park.</li> <li>• Restoration of a valley view as would have been enjoyed by Samuel Palmer 200 years ago.</li> <li>• Improved setting for landscape, access and biodiversity enhancements undertaken by other DVLPS projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, C1, C3</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> No cost to DVLPS but worth in the region of <b>£350,000</b></p>	

## THEME 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 1E. FINDING THE EARTHLY PARADISE – BROADLY ENGAGING WITH TRANQUILLITY

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To investigate locally specific views on tranquillity and non-tranquillity by engaging and consulting with local communities from which visual models and maps of tranquillity will be created through a Geographical Information System (GIS). This visual depiction of local definitions of tranquillity will enable the results of the consultation to be easily communicated to all audiences. The benchmark of tranquillity created also acts as a management indicator over coming years, and will contribute to enhance future planning and management decisions in the Darent Valley.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The principle audience or end user of the outputs of this project will be local authorities, AONBs, Wildlife Trusts and conservation organisations that have an input to or make planning decisions. However, it also forms the basis for supporting and informing practically all the projects within the DVLPS and acting as a measure of the impact of threats in the valley and how these will change over time.</p> <p>The measurement of tranquillity through this project differs in that it actively considers the varied and often subjective view that communities have depending on their location, demographics and background. Local communities will therefore take an active role in participating and contributing to the project.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 20 volunteers trained to undertake consultations and surveys.</li> <li>• Running of 3 consultation workshops.</li> <li>• In total minimum of 700 members of the public expressing views on tranquillity.</li> <li>• Production of a model for measuring tranquillity within the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• An endorsed and high quality measure of tranquillity for the entire Darent Valley and a baseline against which future change can be measured.</li> <li>• The report is adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document by two local authorities (Sevenoaks DC &amp; Dartford BC).</li> <li>• 1 x workshop provided for officers from planning authorities.</li> <li>• 15 planning officers attended workshop (at least one from each Kent district and the London boroughs of Bexley and Bromley).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater awareness and understanding amongst visitors and residents of the importance of tranquillity to landscape character and quality.</li> <li>• Deeper appreciation of the qualities of tranquillity and what detracts from it.</li> <li>• Improved management of areas to conserve and protect tranquillity.</li> <li>• Greater awareness amongst agencies, authorities and partners of where tranquil areas exist.</li> <li>• Repeat surveys show trends and impact of projects undertaken by the DVLP and others.</li> <li>• Planning decisions consider tranquillity.</li> <li>• Model adopted elsewhere outside of the DVLPS area.</li> <li>• Uniting discourse amongst urban and rural planners.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C1, C2, C3</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £49,551</p>



## THEME 1. INSPIRING DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 1F. RESTORING THE CANVAS

<p><b>Project Description:</b></p> <p>A community partnership approach will be established to address the rapidly growing issue of flytipping in the valley. Building on existing relationships between local authority partners, a combination of approaches will be used to increase the likelihood of offenders being caught, encouraging faster reporting and expediting the clearance of tip events. Local communities will be provided with clearer advice on reporting mechanisms and photo evidence collection. A ‘Duty of Care’ campaign will communicate the actions being undertaken and provide a high-profile deterrent to offenders.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The audience for this project falls into three main categories: the enforcers, the communities, and the offenders. Each of these categories will be influenced, supported or communicated with in a different way to reduce the impact of flytipping in the valley.</p> <p>The enforcers include Kent County Council (waste enforcement and community wardens), London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, Dartford Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The communities are divided between those that live in the valley and therefore are the recipients of the negative impacts of the flytipping, and those that live outside the valley and may be the unwitting suppliers of the waste tipped (and are also likely to be visitors to the valley).</p> <p>The offenders are those that undertake the flytipping, and recent convictions suggest that the majority originate from the Kent Thameside area (Dartford to Gravesend), and from the London boroughs.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <p>DVLPS team working closely with local authority partners from Dartford, Sevenoaks, Bexley, Bromley and Kent.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordination Group established.</li> <li>• 6 local authorities involved.</li> <li>• 10 meetings held.</li> <li>• Baseline of incidents established against which progress can be measured.</li> <li>• 30% reduction in flytipping incidents from baseline by the end of the scheme.</li> <li>• Provision of 5 new surveillance systems.</li> <li>• 30 x enforcement action taken because of new surveillance systems.</li> <li>• Equipment sharing protocol established between partner organisations.</li> <li>• Clarified reporting protocol established.</li> <li>• 2 x functionality enhancements made to the Country Eye app*.</li> <li>• 1000 downloads across platforms*.</li> </ul> <p>* depending on decision of Co-ordination Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20,000 individuals targeted with publicity regarding duty of care.</li> <li>• 5,000 views of promotion of flytipping prevention in the Darent Valley on social media platforms.</li> <li>• 20 press articles published regarding actions being taken and successful enforcement action.</li> <li>• 1 x apprenticeship opportunity created working with local authority partners.</li> <li>• 5 x individual watch groups established.</li> <li>• 50 people trained in collecting intelligence.</li> <li>• 50 active community volunteers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local communities perceive that flytipping has reduced and has less of a negative impact on landscape character.</li> <li>• Local communities feel that they are taking an active role in preventing the issue of flytipping.</li> <li>• Local authorities operate in a more co-ordinated way.</li> <li>• Perception that those flytipping in the Darent Valley are more likely to be caught.</li> <li>• A model is established that can be replicated in other areas.</li> <li>• The rural nature of the Darent Valley landscape is restored.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of how to effectively report flytipping.</li> <li>• Commercial and domestic waste producers have greater awareness of their duty of care and legal requirements with waste disposal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b></p> <p>H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C1, C2, C3</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b></p> <p><b>£39,405</b></p>

## THEME 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 2A. PEELING BACK THE LAYERS

<p><b>Project Description:</b> In many respects the Darent Valley is a complex and intricate landscape. It has been an aspiration of local groups such as the West Kent Archaeological Society to have detailed data to be able to interrogate and explore. This project will commission a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey early in the delivery phase to provide this information and support better understanding of the landscape and layers of history.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The reach of this project will be extensive. As a web-based tool, and the global interest in the use of LiDAR, it will be an opportunity to have a very broad audience. Whilst it intends to generate considerable input from experts and amateurs in archaeology, this project will also target members of the public and local communities with perhaps only a passing interest in heritage.</p> <p>LiDAR is a visual tool and in the same manner as aerial photography, generates curiosity and interest. The expectation is that it will draw in new audiences to explore the valley's landscape using the images created, with a percentage being recruited to act as 'landscape investigators' and ground-truth features identified through the online portal.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One survey undertaken covering approx. 200 square km.</li> <li>• Digital Surface Model, Digital Terrain Model and Vegetation Height Model produced.</li> <li>• 1 x training course provided to staff in use of LiDAR data.</li> <li>• 10 individuals trained in use of data.</li> <li>• Online interactive mapping portal made available on DVLPS website.</li> <li>• &gt;1,000 hits per year on mapping portal.</li> <li>• &gt;200 comments/interactions per year.</li> <li>• 20 volunteers recruited as landscape investigators.</li> <li>• 10 children recruited as junior landscape investigators.</li> <li>• 1 x training course provided in ground-truthing and use of ArcGIS Collector.</li> <li>• 20 individuals trained.</li> <li>• 250 heritage features investigated, assessed and recorded.</li> <li>• Data and images added to online portal.</li> <li>• 250 volunteer days contributed by investigators.</li> <li>• 100 features added or quantified for the Historic Environment Record.</li> <li>• 1 drone and monitoring equipment acquired.</li> <li>• 4 x staff trained in use of drone</li> <li>• 20 sites recorded and monitored</li> <li>• 5 sites scanned/recorded.</li> <li>• Presentation of outputs on social media and DVLPS website.</li> <li>• 20 short films posted on DVLPS Vimeo site.</li> <li>• 1,000 hits on website, Vimeo and social media outlets.</li> <li>• Delivery of two demonstration workshop for partners in the UK, Netherlands, France and Belgium showing the use of remote sensing in nature and heritage conservation scenario.</li> <li>• Historic Landscape Characterisation of the valley undertaken.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local community that is more engaged and involved in caring for and recording the heritage in their landscape.</li> <li>• People are more aware of the quantity and variety of heritage in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• People over a much larger geographic area are aware of the heritage in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• People who don't live in or visit the valley very frequently have the opportunity to contribute to protecting, recording and being involved in the Darent Valley's heritage.</li> <li>• Exchange of knowledge and skills between experts and amateurs.</li> <li>• Exchange of approaches and techniques between remote sensing professionals to support better recording, understanding and management of heritage features and landscapes.</li> <li>• Increased understanding of the formation of the Darent Valley landscape.</li> <li>• An effective and dynamic way of interpreting and introducing people and communities to the types of heritage found in the Darent Valley</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, C1, C3</p> <p style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;"><b>Cost:</b> No cost to DVLPS but worth in the region of <b>£143,900</b></p>





## THEME 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 2C. THE SURVIVING CASTLE – EYNSFORDS HIDDEN TREASURE

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To open Eynsford’s Norman ‘enclosure castle’ to a wider audience by improving signage and providing additional interpretation to complement existing English Heritage boards on site. Provide opportunities for further archaeological investigation in the surrounding fields to reveal further information about the castle and allow local people and visitors to participate in finding out more about the site.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Eynsford Castle. <b>Audience:</b> To many people that visit the Darent Valley, the location of Eynsford Castle is something of a mystery. It is often found by accident whilst walking the Darent Valley Path from where it can be viewed across the river. However, for many, even if they wish to visit, it is very difficult to find. The current audience tends to be local people and those making a specific visit and having researched its location. It is a site that is deserving of a much wider audience, and particularly those that have travelled from further afield. It is within easy walking distance of Eynsford Station (just over 1km), and can be included in a short diversion off the Darent Valley Path. Consequently, the target audience is principally visitors from south-east London, outside of the valley and walkers of the Darent Valley Path.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New entrance signage installed.</li> <li>• New brown tourist sign installed.</li> <li>• Directional signage installed along entrance lane.</li> <li>• Aerial footage of Eynsford Castle recorded and narrated to provide alternative interpretation of the site.</li> <li>• One Bluetooth Beacon installed to ‘capture’ visitors.</li> <li>• Audio interpretation recording scripted and made available on-line created.</li> <li>• 1 local community group involved.</li> <li>• Two volunteer days contributed for recording.</li> <li>• Record of website hits and downloads.</li> <li>• Link to English Heritage web page for Eynsford Castle.</li> <li>• 1 interpretation panel installed at Nine Hole Wood.</li> <li>• 4 outdoor events held within the curtain wall to reveal the history of the castle.</li> <li>• 4 local groups involved.</li> <li>• 20 volunteer days contributed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More people are aware of the heritage that is Eynsford Castle.</li> <li>• An increase in the number of visitors able to find the castle.</li> <li>• More people engaged with the site and understanding its significance.</li> <li>• Walkers using the Darent Valley Path understand what Eynsford Castle is and why it is located there.</li> <li>• Local groups and organisations participate in celebrating and communicating the heritage of Eynsford Caste and the surrounding landscape.</li> <li>• People and communities from outside the Darent Valley are aware of Eynsford Castle and are encouraged to visit it to explore.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> <b>£21,458</b></p>

## THEME 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 2D. THE HIDDEN PALACE – OTFORD’S OWN HAMPTON COURT

<p><b>Project Description:</b></p> <p>As one of the most significant heritage features in the Darent Valley, the remaining north-west Tower will be stabilised to ensure that no further degradation of the building’s structure will occur. Further restoration will be undertaken to enhance the heritage features of the Tower. This will ultimately lead to the removal of the Archbishop’s Palace Tower from Historic England’s At Risk Register.</p> <p>A sustainable future for the building will be sought that involves and engages with the local community in order for it to be appreciated for the important status it has in the valley. This use will respect the building’s heritage importance and sensitivity and be an important component of ensuring that it does not fall into a state of disrepair again.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Otford Palace</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The site of the Archbishop’s Palace has been of particular importance to the people of Otford. However, despite it being a building of great importance, knowledge and awareness is surprisingly low. Anecdotally, many Darent Valley residents have no knowledge of the Palace, or if they do, are not aware of its former scale or relevance. The DVLPS presents an opportunity to address this and open it up to a much wider audience.</p> <p>Whilst there is limited parking, the Palace is located less than 200m from to the North Downs Way National Trail and less than 700m from the Darent Valley Path. It is also an easy five-minute walk from Otford train station with its direct link to the central Darent Valley, Sevenoaks and central London.</p> <p>Therefore, with appropriate engaging interpretation and profile-raising, the audience for the Tower could be extremely broad, introducing many new visitors to the heritage of the Darent Valley by encouraging them to visit via sustainable transport modes. This may also influence future use and management of the Tower itself.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <p>DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otford Archbishop’s Palace removed from the Heritage at Risk register.</li> <li>• Phase 3 of restoration works completed.</li> <li>• Historic England approve of work undertaken.</li> <li>• Phase 4 works identified and funding sought.</li> <li>• Options appraisal identifies a viable future ownership/management model.</li> <li>• Sevenoaks DC and the Archbishop’s Palace Conservation Trust (APCT) are supported in delivering the first stages of this model.</li> <li>• Viability and development of the APCT is supported with training for trustees and supporters.</li> <li>• Support provided for attracting further funding.</li> <li>• 125 volunteer days (skilled) contributed by trustees.</li> <li>• 1x learning visit for 10 volunteers to Hampton Court Palace.</li> <li>• 1 x drone video and digital reconstruction created and made available on Vimeo and DVLPS website.</li> <li>• Audio interpretation walk created around the site and village (2 x volunteer days).</li> <li>• Platform interpretation installed at Otford Station with download facilities for guided audio walk.</li> <li>• Signage and waymarking installed for links to North Downs Way and Darent Valley Path.</li> <li>• Promotion programme delivered with Southeastern and the North Downs Way.</li> <li>• 15 guided/animated walks and talks delivered with 450 participants.</li> <li>• 1 x re-enactment/celebration event.</li> <li>• Additional geophysical survey/exploratory excavation undertaken.</li> <li>• 1 x botanical survey undertaken.</li> <li>• 1 x revised management plan produced.</li> <li>• Reseeding and wildflower plug planting.</li> <li>• 50 volunteer days contributed (unskilled)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration by the local community of the significance of an important piece of Britain’s heritage.</li> <li>• Direct community involvement in the protection and care for the Archbishop’s Palace.</li> <li>• The local community has gained new skills in conserving and potentially being responsible for a piece of important heritage.</li> <li>• A new alternative future use for the Palace has been found.</li> <li>• People who live within, outside and visit the valley are aware of and understand the importance of the Palace.</li> <li>• A long-term plan for the Palace’s future has been established.</li> <li>• The condition of the Palace has been fully recorded for future records.</li> <li>• Further research has been undertaken by local archaeological and history groups to reveal more about the Palace’s past</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b></p> <p>H1, H2, H3, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b></p> <p><b>£123,290</b></p>

## THEME 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 2E. ROYALTY AND SILK – LULLINGSTONES CASTLE’S BURIED SECRETS

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To undertake the investigation, exploration and interpretation of two heritage features at Lullingstone Castle through the delivery of a community archaeology project. Building on a geophysical resistivity survey completed in 2011 that revealed a possible sunken Tudor kitchen garden, further investigatory work and potential excavation will be undertaken as a community archaeology project. This will be complemented by research into and the cultivation of the plants that would have been grown at the time the garden existed. A magnetometry survey will also be completed for the estate to provide more information on the inner moated gatehouse which no longer exists. In addition, a condition survey will be undertaken of the flint bath-house located next to the River Darent, with a view to potential restoration work being undertaken to prevent its future collapse. Access will be improved to this and the adjacent ice house for visitors to view and learn about.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Lullingstone Castle.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Lullingstone Castle and the World Garden is a popular tourist attraction within the valley. Along with Eagle Heights, Lullingstone Roman Villa, the lavender fields at the Hop Shop and Lullingstone Country Park it forms a cluster of popular sites in the heart of the area. In 2008 it received 20,000 visitors, and its location immediately adjacent to the Darent Valley Path makes it a popular stopping off point. The catchment for visitors is extensive, and it is a popular destination for people travelling from across the south-east of England, and receives a large number of overseas visitors. Whilst visitors will benefit from learning more about the heritage around Lullingstone Castle, participation in the project will target people from local communities and those just outside, such as Swanley.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magnetometry survey undertaken across the Lullingstone Castle gardens.</li> <li>• Archaeological excavation of Tudor garden.</li> <li>• 20 archaeological community volunteers participating in excavation.</li> <li>• 40 volunteer days contributed.</li> <li>• 1x interpretation panel installed.</li> <li>• Archaeological works viewed by 1,000 visitors.</li> <li>• 1 x kitchen garden reconstruction undertaken.</li> <li>• 1 x condition survey and stabilisation plan undertaken.</li> <li>• Bath house structure secured and condition maintained.</li> <li>• 1 x interpretation panel installed.</li> <li>• Bath house viewed by 6,000 people following completion of conservation work.</li> <li>• 300m of path surfaced to achieve disability standards for a rural path.</li> <li>• New signage installed.</li> <li>• 20m of steps installed.</li> <li>• 10 volunteer days contributed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New information gathered on important heritage features at Lullingstone Castle to improve knowledge of the evolution of the site.</li> <li>• Increased participation from the local community in practical archaeology.</li> <li>• Greater awareness amongst visitors of the range of heritage present at Lullingstone Castle.</li> <li>• An important heritage feature (bath house) surveyed, recorded and made available for people to understand and enjoy.</li> <li>• Heritage made available to people of all abilities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C2.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £68,600</p>

## THEME 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 2F. GUNPOWDER AND PAPER – REMEMBERING A WORKING RIVER

<p><b>Project Description:</b> Working with Dartford Museum and Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Society, research, record, restore, conserve and interpret the remaining features of the Dartford Powder Mills and trace their history back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Dartford Gunpowder Mill.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The ruins of Dartford Gunpowder Mills are usually discovered by walkers of the Darent Valley Path as they are leaving or entering Dartford. There is nothing to indicate what the obviously industrial remains are, except for the road name of Powder Mill Lane. Brooklands Lake immediately to the north of Powder Mill Lane is frequented by fisherman, dog-walkers and families spending leisure time going for a short walk (often having walked through the tunnel from Central Park). However, only a few continue south along the Darent Valley Path as it involves crossing the road through an industrial estate. Consequently, this is an important piece of Dartford’s heritage that many local people are unaware of or don’t understand.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership of local organisations and interested individuals brought together.</li> <li>• 3 x local schools/colleges involved in the project.</li> <li>• 90 children involved with the project.</li> <li>• 30 volunteers actively participating with the Gunpowder Volunteers.</li> <li>• 1 new volunteer group established</li> <li>• 1 x Level 1 Heritage Site Survey undertaken.</li> <li>• Record of heritage features and their condition updated.</li> <li>• On-line and document research concerning the site’s history undertaken.</li> <li>• Volunteers trained in heritage research skills.</li> <li>• 10 volunteer days of research contributed.</li> <li>• 1 x ecological survey of the site undertaken.</li> <li>• Record of natural heritage features of the site made.</li> <li>• 1 x detailed restoration and conservation plan produced for the site.</li> <li>• Heritage conservation undertaken on an area of 0.2 ha.</li> <li>• 6 x industrial heritage features restored and returned to good condition.</li> <li>• Access improved to 1 heritage site.</li> <li>• 40 volunteer days of practical work undertaken</li> <li>• 1 x interpretation plan produced.</li> <li>• 2 x interpretation panels installed.</li> <li>• 1 x audio interpretation created.</li> <li>• 1 x visual interpretation and web page created.</li> <li>• 400 downloads of audio interpretation.</li> <li>• 500 views of audio interpretation.</li> <li>• 1 x management plan produced</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of hidden heritage site increased.</li> <li>• Local participation in the conservation and restoration of Dartford’s industrial heritage.</li> <li>• Local children have learnt about local heritage and are actively involved in its conservation.</li> <li>• The heritage of the Dartford Gunpowder Mills has been recorded.</li> <li>• Local people have learnt new skills to contribute to the recording, understanding and conservation of their heritage.</li> <li>• The Gunpowder Mills are a more attractive and inviting location to enjoy and understand heritage.</li> <li>• The future of the Dartford Gunpowder Mills is secured for the foreseeable future.</li> <li>• Visitors passing by on the Darent Valley Path understand the purpose of the structures and why they are special.</li> <li>• Local people have taken responsibility for their local heritage.</li> <li>• There is a greater appreciation for Dartford’s rich heritage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> <b>£64,870</b></p>



## THEME 2. HISTORIC DARENT VALLEY

### PROJECT 2G. DARTFORD MARSHES - ORCHARD HOSPITAL NATURE PARK AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD

<p><b>Project Description:</b></p> <p>It is the long-term aspiration of both Dartford Borough Council and the Bridge Housing Association to manage the site as a community orchard with the fruit being made available for harvesting for local people. The Kent for Orchards Project will provide support to the Residents Association by providing free advice on the management of the orchard and will provide an expert that will be able to identify the different varieties of fruit that are growing on the site. In addition, the Bridge Residents Association will develop links with Brogdale Collections (the home of the National Fruit Collection) by accessing facilities such as their free fruit advice service.</p> <p>The project will contribute to the aims of the DVLPS by promoting joined up management and partnership working to revive long lost skills (traditional orchard and meadow management). This will be done by empowering local communities and promoting a deeper understanding, appreciation and sustainable conservation of a lost natural and cultural heritage site.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Dartford Marshes.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Residents (particularly from the new Bridge development located partly on the former Joyce Green Hospital site (The Bridge Housing Association) and from the Temple Hill Estate and wider Dartford. Local community groups including the Friends of Dartford Marshes and other conservation and historical groups. Schools (specifically targeting Dartford Bridge Community Primary and Temple Hill Primary), colleges, universities within the Darent Valley and beyond. The site also lies alongside the Darent Valley Path and will therefore have a wider audience from across Kent and south-east London.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership of local organisations and interested individuals brought together.</li> <li>• 3 x local schools/colleges involved in the project.</li> <li>• 90 children involved with the project.</li> <li>• 30 volunteers actively participating with the Gunpowder Volunteers.</li> <li>• 1 new volunteer group established</li> <li>• 1 x Level 1 Heritage Site Survey undertaken.</li> <li>• Record of heritage features and their condition updated.</li> <li>• On-line and document research concerning the site's history undertaken.</li> <li>• Volunteers trained in heritage research skills.</li> <li>• 10 volunteer days of research contributed.</li> <li>• 1 x ecological survey of the site undertaken.</li> <li>• Record of natural heritage features of the site made.</li> <li>• 1 x detailed restoration and conservation plan produced for the site.</li> <li>• Heritage conservation undertaken on an area of 0.2 ha.</li> <li>• 6 x industrial heritage features restored and returned to good condition.</li> <li>• Access improved to 1 heritage site.</li> <li>• 40 volunteer days of practical work undertaken</li> <li>• 1 x interpretation plan produced.</li> <li>• 2 x interpretation panels installed.</li> <li>• 1 x audio interpretation created.</li> <li>• 1 x visual interpretation and web page created.</li> <li>• 400 downloads of audio interpretation.</li> <li>• 500 views of audio interpretation.</li> <li>• 1 x management plan produced</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of hidden heritage site increased.</li> <li>• Local participation in the conservation and restoration of Dartford's industrial heritage.</li> <li>• Local children have learnt about local heritage and are actively involved in its conservation.</li> <li>• The heritage of the Dartford Gunpowder Mills has been recorded.</li> <li>• Local people have learnt new skills to contribute to the recording, understanding and conservation of their heritage.</li> <li>• The Gunpowder Mills are a more attractive and inviting location to enjoy and understand heritage.</li> <li>• The future of the Dartford Gunpowder Mills is secured for the foreseeable future.</li> <li>• Visitors passing by on the Darent Valley Path understand the purpose of the structures and why they are special.</li> <li>• Local people have taken responsibility for their local heritage.</li> <li>• There is a greater appreciation for Dartford's rich heritage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> <b>£46,168</b></p>

## THEME 3. DARENT VALLEY EXPLORATION

### PROJECT 3A. THE HEART OF THE VALLEY – THE DARENT VALLEY PATH

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To improve the standard of the Darent Valley Path (DVP) so that it is befitting of a county promoted route. Where possible make provision for cyclists to either use the path or an alternative parallel route, and enhance links to train stations along the route to encourage sustainable travel. Waymarking and interpretation along the route will be improved and updated to provide a better understanding of the heritage features and will include the launch of Google Trekker street view images of the entire route. The path will be extended from Chipstead to Westerham to provide a 'complete' Darent Valley experience.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The path is a popular route, and at its current length, just about walkable within a day. However, it is currently mainly used in sections by recreational walkers with some particularly favoured parts. Kent County Council currently promotes a series of circular walks off the Darent Valley Path and these have proven very popular. This project will expand that audience, by promoting access links with train stations and encouraging visitors from outside the valley to reach it by public transport rather than the car. This project will make it easier for novice walkers by improving signage, information and path surface, with a focus on visitors from London who live close to stations that run directly to the Darent Valley. The provision of improved cycle access will also expand the audience to enable greater exploration of the valley without the use of the car.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5km of path surface brought up to good condition.</li> <li>• 1.8km made suitable for shared use.</li> <li>• 1.8km of path surfaced.</li> <li>• 9km of new path created.</li> <li>• 40km of path waymarking brought up to condition.</li> <li>• 500 waymarker posts installed.</li> <li>• 40 fingerposts installed</li> <li>• 10 stiles replaced with kissing gates</li> <li>• 10 motorcycle inhibitors installed</li> <li>• 1 new bridge installed</li> <li>• Links to 7 stations enhanced</li> <li>• 150 volunteer days contributed</li> <li>• 10 replacement information panels replaced.</li> <li>• Redesign and print Darent Valley Path Guidebook</li> <li>• 2,000 copies of guidebook distributed.</li> <li>• 15 Rail Trail leaflets designed and produced.</li> <li>• 5,000 copies of Rail Trail pack produced and distributed.</li> <li>• Bluetooth beacons installed at 8 stations in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Promotional interpretation installed at 8 stations in the Darent Valley.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem sections of path have been enhanced and enables year-round use.</li> <li>• Public transport and the DVP become a viable and attractive alternative to transport by car in the valley.</li> <li>• A new longer Darent Valley Path created providing access to new parts of the countryside, the river and its heritage.</li> <li>• People can experience a larger part of the valley.</li> <li>• Better linked and co-ordinated rights of way in the upper valley.</li> <li>• Better access to tourist attractions from train stations without using motor transport or travelling through villages.</li> <li>• Increase in public transport usage reducing carbon emissions associated with leisure and tourism travel.</li> <li>• Confidence for visitors in London to know where they can go and what they can do in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• The heritage of the valley is better communicated and understood by a wider audience.</li> <li>• Local businesses that support the leisure industry and tourism in the valley are engaged with what the landscape offers and are aware of the potential it provides.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C1, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £297,370</p>

## THEME 3. DARENT VALLEY EXPLORATION

### PROJECT 3B.1 SEVENOAKS WILDLIFE RESERVE – WILDLIFE FOR THE PEOPLE!

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To improve the wildlife potential and physical access to the iconic Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve as a gateway to exploring the natural landscape of the Darent Valley. It forms an integral part of Kent Wildlife Trust’s plan to provide an enjoyable wildlife experience for families and experienced wildlife watchers alike.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The site is visited by many thousands of people throughout the year from families new to visiting wildlife sites to experienced and regular birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts. The reserve currently receives around 50,000 visits per year but at present no data exists on how these numbers are made up. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that a significant proportion come from Sevenoaks and out of London as well as across Kent. Its location close to mainline train stations enhances the reserve’s potential as a gateway site for new visitors from the capital. In August 2016 KWT commissioned Resources for Change to produce an Audience Development Plan which will provide additional data.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Kent Wildlife Reserve</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppicing of alder and willow, to increase marginal and other wetland habitats and enhance and maintain as follows:</li> <li>• Enhance condition of 10-15(number) of 50m sections/year lakeside sections.</li> <li>• Enhance condition of 10-15(number) of 50m riverside sections.</li> <li>• Enhance condition of 800m ride management around new paths.</li> <li>• Enhance condition of 10 Veteran trees managed/pollarded.</li> <li>• Maintain extent of 2ha of successional post-industrial habitats 2-3 new breeding pairs of reed bunting.</li> <li>• Creation of 1300m@£35 per meter +VAT 1.5m wheelchair accessible path.</li> <li>• Creation of 250m@£42 per meter+ VAT Vehicle and wheelchair accessible paths.</li> <li>• 10,000 people using the new path (increase from 500).</li> <li>• Upgrade 400m of path</li> <li>• 50% reduction in number of unauthorised access events.</li> <li>• Ten new islands with a total cumulative area of 5000 square metres in size created near the visitor centre.</li> <li>• 1-2 new pairs of breeding Little Ringed Plovers.</li> <li>• 1-2 new pairs of breeding lapwing.</li> <li>• 10% increase in aquatic and marginal habitat.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved species and habitat diversity.</li> <li>• Vistas and views of wildlife will be made more accessible to a wider range of people in more areas of the reserve.</li> <li>• The reserve and its habitats are maintained and enhanced and will continue to provide positive wildlife experiences for casual visitors and more knowledgeable naturalists alike.</li> <li>• Improved access and experience for all visitors including those using wheelchairs, prams and mobility vehicles.</li> <li>• Improved access and experience for all visitors including those using wheelchairs, prams and mobility vehicles.</li> <li>• Reduction in unauthorised access and vandalism.</li> <li>• Improved biodiversity and nesting opportunities.</li> <li>• Improved visitor experience close to the existing visitor centre.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P3, C1, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £203,700</p>

## THEME 3. DARENT VALLEY EXPLORATION

### PROJECT 3B.2 SHOREHAM WOODS - THE DARENT VALLEY'S HIDDEN GATEWAY

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To enhance the Shoreham Woods Country Park as a key gateway to the wider landscape of the Darent Valley, particularly for nearby urban communities in South East London, by improving the visitor experience and creating a welcoming and safe countryside site. Existing walking routes will be upgraded, improved interpretation provided, and links with surrounding communities (particularly Shoreham) through the development of new additional events.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Shoreham Woods Country Park</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Shoreham Woods Country Park is the most 'London facing' of the more formal countryside sites in the Darent Valley with its entrance close to junction 4 of the M25. Therefore, a significantly higher proportion of both existing and potential visitors are from the London suburbs such as Orpington or further afield.</p> <p>However, there are a significant number of visitors from Darent Valley communities, particularly Shoreham. These tend to be regular visitors and often dog-walkers who know the site well. New target audiences will be individuals and groups that perhaps lack some confidence in exploring the countryside and are looking for a safe but rural site to begin exploration of the valley.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Sevenoaks District Council</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 360m of path cleared and waymarked with 5 posts.</li> <li>• Two flights of steps built; at eastern end to road level and at northern end of woods on existing path.</li> <li>• 230m of path cleared and waymarked with 5 posts.</li> <li>• Two flights of steps built to west and east sides of SR20 on Footpath SR5.</li> <li>• Four interpretation boards provided at woodland entry points.</li> <li>• Six benches purchased and installed at view points and path intersections.</li> <li>• Paths prioritised and worst surfaced with loose bound stone.</li> <li>• 700m surfaced each year for 3 years.</li> <li>• Revised and improved leaflets produced for three circular walks.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves safety of visitors and users of the country park by avoiding a dangerous road.</li> <li>• Supports greater exploration of the park and improved views of the wider landscape.</li> <li>• Increases confidence in users of the park.</li> <li>• Formalises new access and enables greater exploration of the park.</li> <li>• Provides an improved experience of the Darent Valley landscape.</li> <li>• Improves safety of visitors and encourages exploration out of the park and into the historic village of Shoreham.</li> <li>• Improved understanding and appreciation of the Darent Valley landscape and heritage.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of how the site fits in the wider landscape.</li> <li>• Visitors encouraged to rest, enjoy views and be more adventurous when walking.</li> <li>• Improved visitor experience, and encourages visitors to spend time contemplating their surroundings and appreciating the tranquillity.</li> <li>• Physical access improved, visitors encouraged to walk greater distances, not deterred by muddy and uneven surfaces.</li> <li>• Greater awareness and valuing of the site's natural heritage.</li> <li>• Wider exploration of the park.</li> <li>• An increase in the number of visitors to the park.</li> <li>• An overall increase in visitors from nearby London suburbs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> £31,200</p>



## THEME 3. DARENT VALLEY EXPLORATION

### PROJECT 3C. TELLING THE DARENT'S STORY

<p><b>Project Description:</b> Informed by the DVLPS Interpretation Strategy, the story of the Darent Valley will be completed through a comprehensive range of interpretation. Both on and off-site throughout the DVLPS area, interpretation will be delivered through an engaging and appropriate range of interpretive media as specified in the Interpretation Strategy including audio, self-guided trails and Bluetooth Beacons. Using a main theme with a series of linked sub-themes to develop a connected and coherent message across the area, new interpretation will communicate with audiences and help them to appreciate, learn about and connect to the interwoven heritage of the Darent Valley landscape.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Considerable work has been undertaken through the development of the Audience Development Plan which has identified key target groups and what their needs are when it comes to information and communication. Key target audiences identified will be engaged through the interpretation; including residents, visitors within 5km, visitors from South East London, young people, Black and Minority Ethnic people, people with disabilities, families with young children, landowners, deprived communities from Dartford, Swanley and Lewisham.</p> <p>A specific audience may be the focus for interpretation based at a site depending on who the site is trying to engage with. Each interpretive project, both site-based and scheme-wide off site interpretation, has identified target audiences. These are identified in section 9 of the Interpretation Strategy to ensure interpretive media and content are the most appropriate for the target audience group(s). Audience groups may have specific requirements or experience barriers to engaging with a site and its interpretation, and this has been considered in the strategy's recommendations, but will be considered during subsequent planning and implementation.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of benches with inspiring words</li> <li>• Downloadable audio information at locations throughout the Darent Valley</li> <li>• Electronic Bluetooth Beacons installed</li> <li>• Info point installed at Lullingstone Country Park</li> <li>• Shoreham Aircraft Museum interpretation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A greater awareness of the landscape, wildlife, habitats and heritage of the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• People are more aware of the quantity and variety of heritage in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• People are aware of other sites outside of the central section of the Darent Valley by which to visit and explore the area.</li> <li>• People over a much larger geographic area are aware of the heritage in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Promotes awareness and encourages people to take pride in their landscape and value it for the future.</li> <li>• Local people will have explored parts of the valley that they were previously unaware of.</li> <li>• People will have shared stories and memories of the Darent Valley area.</li> <li>• A vivid interpretation of the valley during the Second World War.</li> <li>• People will have a deeper understanding of the impact the Second World War had on the Darent Valley and the scars it left on the landscape.</li> <li>• People will remember the sacrifice that 'The Few' made during the Battle of Britain.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £27,450</p>

## THEME 3. DARENT VALLEY EXPLORATION

### PROJECT 3D. REDUCING THE PRESSURE - COMMUNITY LOCAL LANDSCAPE TRAILS

<p><b>Project Description:</b> Local communities are the ones that know their landscapes most intimately and there are many parts of the valley that are under-explored and contain hidden heritage. The DVLPS will support all the local communities in the valley to improve access to these areas by undertaking projects that make improvements to rights of way, create new permissive paths and develop circular local landscape trails that help introduce others to the heritage of the Darent Valley. These will be accompanied by appropriate interpretation that will encourage visitors to explore the valley away from the traditional 'hot-spots' close to the river and in the villages, to disperse the visitor pressures felt in these areas.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> This project will target the local communities to plan and create the trails themselves. These may be parish or town council led, but there will be an expectation that there is the participation and involvement of the wider community. Alternatively, a local community group may be willing to lead the project. In both circumstances. A small informal Local Landscape Trail working group will be established to spearhead the individual projects.</p> <p>The use of the trails will include the local communities themselves, and visitors from elsewhere within the valley, or from outside the scheme area. The trails will provide the opportunity for people to learn about the local stories that are otherwise missed by the communities, or are not included in other projects within the DVLPS.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 new self-guided circular trails created.</li> <li>• 60km of new self-guided circular trails created.</li> <li>• Series of 10 Local Landscape Trail leaflets created (paper and downloadable).</li> <li>• 200 new waymarker posts installed.</li> <li>• 250 volunteer days contributed (200 unskilled, 50 skilled).</li> <li>• The signing and waymarking of 100km of rights of way is improved.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local communities take a leading role in developing improved access in their area.</li> <li>• Local communities and visitors have clearly waymarked trails and rights of way network and feel more confident about exploring the countryside.</li> <li>• Greater awareness and understanding of the heritage immediately around the areas that people live.</li> <li>• Local people will have developed new skills in heritage research and rights of way improvement.</li> <li>• Visitors are encouraged to explore a wider area and reduce pressure on visitor hotspots.</li> <li>• Visitors have a greater understanding of the heritage of the Darent Valley.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P1, P2, P3, C1, C2, C3.</p> <p style="background-color: #fff9c4;"><b>Cost:</b> £60,000</p>

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4A.1 JEWELS IN THE DOWNS

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To improve the connectivity and quality of chalk grassland and woodland habitats on Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) managed sites in its Darent Triangle Living Landscape area and improve connectivity to sites not under KWT control. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of proximity and links between the sites and common links between these and the wider landscape. The biodiversity, management, access and interpretation across the sites in this project will be improved, whilst reducing the potential negative impact of this work on the supply of water to the River Darent</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Fackenden Down and Meadow, Green Hill, Otford, Polhill Bank, Kemsing Down Nature Reserve, Goss Bank, Green Hill, Kemsing.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The sites in this project are a suite of well-used sites between Otford and Shoreham with public footpaths and some of the most notable views in the Darent Valley. Whilst the general public and KWT members (mainly local walkers and wildlife enthusiasts) are the current main audience, there is considerable opportunity to raise the profile of these important reserves amongst visitors from further afield.</p> <p>The proximity to the local train stations make many of these sites ideal for short circular walks for those travelling out of London. In addition, they also have a close link to Samuel Palmer's residence in the valley and will figure on the Samuel Palmer Trail (Project 1A) providing interest amongst many who are looking to explore the cultural links.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Kent Wildlife Trust</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30ha chalk grassland managed by effective grazing (across 3 sites).</li> <li>• 1.5ha of invasive scrub removed (across 3 sites).</li> <li>• 2.5km of stock fencing installed (3 sites).</li> <li>• c.850 volunteer days of chalk grassland (3 sites) management/ restoration (£50/day).</li> <li>• 20 volunteer days of biological monitoring and recording (3 sites).</li> <li>• The establishment of at least one additional colony of Kentish Milkwort to add to only three existing sites.</li> <li>• 2 stiles replaced with kissing gates (Fackenden).</li> <li>• Management and visitor parking area installed (c. 10 – 15 cars) Fackenden Meadows).</li> <li>• Interpretation boards installed.</li> <li>• Number of boards will depend further specific research and consultation. Alternative media will be used in some areas. (5 sites).</li> <li>• 5 guided walks held (3 sites).</li> <li>• 100 people attending walks.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of historic landscape character.</li> <li>• Traditional grazing management re-introduced.</li> <li>• Improved biodiversity and connectivity.</li> <li>• Local people involved in the conservation of their heritage.</li> <li>• Change in quality of vegetation over time measured.</li> <li>• Kentish Milkwort brought back from the brink of extinction.</li> <li>• Physical access improved, local people involved in improving access to heritage.</li> <li>• Improved management for management access and parking guided walks etc.</li> <li>• Improved understanding of the heritage.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of understanding of the importance of the landscape and heritage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C1, C3.</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> <b>£169,162</b></p>

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4A.2 PRESTON HILL - THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY PARK

**Project Description:**

Provide resources for restoring and conserving an important SSSI chalk grassland, country park and rich military heritage site to expedite its return to favourable condition. Capital works will be undertaken that will ensure that future management is easier, cheaper and more efficient to support in an anticipated low budget future. Access will be improved and more people will be able to enjoy and understand the site and its heritage resource in a sustainable manner without damaging its special characteristics.

**Location:** Preston Hill Country Park

**Audience:** The site has principally been enjoyed by local people mainly from Shoreham and Eynsford, as well as others from further afield who have a particular interest in wildlife or heritage. Although part of the country parks network, it does not have the infrastructure to support large numbers of visitors. This is mainly due to no car park or on-site staffing. It is therefore much more an informal site. The A225 Shoreham Road is also a significant barrier for those trying to reach it from the nearby Lullingstone Country Park or Shoreham Station. There is an opportunity to expand the reach and audience for the site, but it is important that this is done in a way that does not threaten the tranquillity and ambience of a secluded and special place.

**Lead:**

Kent County Council and DVLPS Delivery Team

**Outputs**

- 3200m of stock fencing installed.
- 170.1 hectares of chalk grassland achieved favourable condition (45.9 ha – Castle Farm Field; 94 ha – Range Field; 30.2 ha – Preston Farm Field).
- 4 x rain-harvesting livestock shelters installed.
- 4 x water troughs installed.
- 10 x mobile metal stock hurdles acquired.
- 2x fully meshed field gates installed.
- 1 x livestock trailer acquired.
- 1 x pedestrian gate installed.
- 3.7ha of scrub cleared on former chalk grassland.
- 68.2ha of regenerated scrub cleared from chalk grassland.
- 150 volunteer days contributed.
- 2 x access points from A225 Shoreham Road signposted.
- 3,289m of permissive path made navigable.
- 8 x kissing gates installed.
- 1 x new circular route created.
- 25 x waymarker posts installed.
- 1 x condition assessment of rifle range features.
- Rifle target mechanisms restored and conserved.
- 6 x shooting position features restored.
- 3 x interpretation panels designed, created and installed.
- 1 x electronic audio file created.
- 2 x volunteer days (skilled) contributed to recording.
- 1,000 downloads of audio file.
- 8 guided walks provided (2 per year from year 2).
- 100 participants.
- 1 x new walk leaflet produced.
- 10 x volunteer days (skilled) contributed to biodiversity monitoring.
- Baseline evidence of important species established.
- Populations of target species show increase in spread and numbers.

**Outcomes**

- Public awareness of the Preston Hill site raised.
- Visitors feel more welcomed to the site and understand where they can go.
- Increased knowledge about the heritage importance of the site.
- Greater understanding for KCC of the value that local people place on the Preston Hill site.
- Improved connectivity of habitats within the site.
- Improved partnership working between active conservation managers and landowners.
- Greater public involvement in the conservation and interpretation of Preston Hill.
- Sharing of equipment and knowledge between managers of chalk grassland sites in the Darent Valley.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, P3,  
C1, C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£100,168**



## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4A.3 FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLY - WHITE HILL RESERVE - SHOREHAM

**Project Description:**

The issues with rampant scrub encroachment across the chalk grassland and loss of valuable habitat will be overcome by supporting the volunteers of the local Butterfly Conservation branch. Solutions for manageable and sustainable management will be provided, establishing new partnerships with other organisations tackling similar problems. Improved connectivity with the neighbouring Fackenden Down and Meadow sites will also be delivered.

**Location:** White Hill, Fackenden Lane, Shoreham

**Audience:** The reserve is somewhat hidden and generally not well known except by those who have an interest in butterflies and moths. However, it is less than 300m from Shoreham Station and within easy walking distance of the village and is therefore frequented by local residents. There is the possibility to use the site to communicate the importance of chalk grassland for butterflies and moths and highlight the work that the Kent Branch of Butterfly Conservation is undertaking. In addition, it is very easy to imagine Samuel Palmer walking from Shoreham and walking up the path that passes the reserve during his many perambulations through the valley. The route of the Samuel Palmer Trail is likely to pass the reserve and it is therefore likely to be opened to a much wider audience.

**Lead:**

Butterfly Conservation and DVLPS Delivery Team

**Outputs**

- New partnership management arrangement and restoration plan developed between 4 organisations.
- 1 x restoration plan devised.
- 1038m stock fencing installed.
- 4 hectares secured and grazed by livestock.
- 4 hectares of chalk grassland achieving favourable condition.
- Populations of target chalk grassland butterfly species achieve an average increase over life of the scheme.
- 1.4 hectares of scrub regrowth cleared each year.
- New flight path established to Fackenden Down to improve connectivity for butterflies.
- 25% increase on volunteer numbers from 2016 figures.
- 50 volunteer person days contributed per year.
- 10 x volunteers trained in brush cutting, lookering and ID skills.
- 1 x new site interpretation leaflet produced.
- New signage at entrance to reserve.
- Management plan revised to reflect restoration and infrastructure work undertaken.

**Outcomes**

- Increased awareness of the White Hill Reserve and its natural heritage.
- Increased community participation in management of the reserve.
- Improved connectivity with neighbouring sites.
- Butterfly Conservation better placed to maintain better long-term management of the site.
- Improved supportive partnership between conservation managers.
- Sharing of equipment and knowledge between managers of chalk grassland sites in the Darent Valley.

**HLF Outcomes:**

H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C1, C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£44,850**

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4B. ENHANCING OXENHILL SHAW AND MEADOW

**Project Description:**

To support the community led management and improve the visitor experience of a young woodland on a former arable site adjacent to the M26 motorway. This will be achieved by enhancing the paths and rides, introducing and improving interpretation, and developing knowledge and awareness of the site's importance amongst surrounding communities and an engaging series of events and activities.

**Location:** Oxenhill Shaw and Meadow, Otford and Kemsing

**Audience:** The principle audience is the communities of Kemsing and Otford, for whom this is an important green space and recreation area. Whilst wider awareness of the area will be encouraged, car parking facilities are poor and there is no intention to improve this as it is anticipated that this will have a detrimental impact on the site.

**Lead:**  
Sevenoaks District Council

**Outputs**

- 300 metres of path cleared.
- 700 metres of path surfaced.
- Approximately 3km of path waymarked.
- 2 x benches installed.
- Eight interpretation boards installed.
- 1 new site leaflet produced.
- 2 events run each year.
- 1 new permanent orienteering course.
- Orienteering map produced for the site.
- 20 new control posts installed.

**Outcomes**

- Physical access improved and links between villages. Visitors encouraged to walk greater distances.
- Visitors not deterred by muddy and flooded surfaces.
- Visitors encouraged to rest, enjoy views and be more adventurous when walking.
- Improved accessibility for those using sustainable transport options.
- Improved understanding of landscape and heritage.
- Improved local engagement.
- Better understanding of site, its heritage and its management.
- Increased participation in ecological surveying of the site.
- Linkage with other projects in the scheme.
- Greater use of the site.
- Improved accessibility.
- Wider range of visitors to the site.

**HLF Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, P3,  
C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£29,742**

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4C. WHERE TEN THOUSAND FISHES ONCE PLAYED - RESTORING THE DARENT

<p><b>Project Description:</b> In partnership with organisations across the UK and north-west Europe (Belgium and the Netherlands), a landscape approach will be developed and implemented to make the River Darent more resilient to the impact of climate change. This includes both low flows and increased extreme flood events, and will be delivered in a series of integrated projects that respect landscape character, enhance the biodiversity value and protect the heritage features associated with the river and adjacent land. It will share best practice with partners, involve local stakeholders and directly engage with landowners and management of their land to find new solutions.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> The River Darent through the entire scheme area.</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The audience for this project is broad involving several groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European and UK partners engaged in tackling similar issues to DVLPS including:</li> <li>• Local communities affected by climate change issues on the River Darent, particularly with respect to flooding, but also with the aesthetics and attractiveness of the river and its landscape character.</li> <li>• Landowners and conservation organisations that directly influence the management of, and land adjacent to, the river.</li> <li>• Recreational and user groups, and particularly the many angling clubs that use the river.</li> <li>• Visitors to the Darent Valley, for which the River Darent is a component part of the landscape and adds to its attractiveness.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x revised strategy incorporating landscape-led approach to water management.</li> <li>• Approach shared with seven partners.</li> <li>• 1 x network of landowners established in Upper Darent.</li> <li>• Network of 8+ landowners working together to deliver integrated NFM approach.</li> <li>• 4 x workshop hosted for European partners to demonstrate approaches being taken in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Contribute to 12 x partner workshops.</li> <li>• Attend 16 steering group meetings.</li> <li>• 20 NFM run-off attenuation features installed.</li> <li>• 9,200m3 of extra water retention capacity created that is sympathetic to landscape character.</li> <li>• 1,300 ha of catchment with improved adaptation capacity through natural measures that retain landscape character.</li> <li>• 45 homes protected through the implementation of Natural Flood Measures.</li> <li>• New habitat and biodiversity enhancement features created (numbers to be confirmed)</li> <li>• 8 river structures removed or adapted to enhance fish passage and aquatic habitat connectivity.</li> <li>• 3km of chalk river with enhanced habitat.</li> <li>• Improved climate change resilience for 32km of river.</li> <li>• 8.5km of marshland ditch system improved.</li> <li>• 240ha of marshland habitat and landscape brought into condition.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice approach to achieving water resource management that respects landscape character established.</li> <li>• New partnerships established across international borders.</li> <li>• Application of new approaches learnt from Europe.</li> <li>• Partners within the DVLPS will have learnt new skills and knowledge for applying elsewhere within Kent.</li> <li>• Natural flood measures demonstrated as being an effective alternative to hard flood measures.</li> <li>• Demonstration to decision-makers involved in flood prevention the benefits and financial value of implementing NFM.</li> <li>• Fewer low flow incidents on the River Darent than would have otherwise occurred.</li> <li>• Model of how to undertake landscape conservation work without detrimental impact of water resource management.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, P1, C1, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> <b>£266,635</b></p>

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4D.1 SAMUEL PALMER'S GREAT VETERANS OF LULLINGSTONE PARK

**Project Description:**

To protect, sustain and manage the great veteran and notable trees of Lullingstone Park to ensure that their longevity is maximised and awareness of their importance raised by visitors and residents alike. To highlight the link with Samuel Palmer and his paintings and sketches of the trees from two hundred years ago.

**Location:** Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford

**Audience:** Lullingstone Country Park receives over 125,000 visitors every year (2014/15 figures from KCC) and is a popular destination for those that live in and outside the valley. The facilities located at the visitor centre along with plentiful parking opportunities mean that it is popular with families. A Parkrun is held every Saturday morning which has been attended by over 750 separate individuals from across Kent, and a permanent orienteering course attracts other runners and walkers. The golf course car park at the western end of the park is particularly attractive for visitors from Crockenhill, Orpington and the London suburbs. The golf course itself is a public course and attracts a significant proportion of its clientele from South East London. Most of the veteran trees are found on and immediately around the golf course. Approximately 1,400 schoolchildren also use the site every year.

**Lead:**

Kent County Council Country Parks

**Outputs**

- Entire green moved away from ancient oak.
- Good condition of ancient tree secured
- 20m of protective low rail fencing installed.
- 1 x complete survey of veteran trees at Lullingstone undertaken.
- >20 trees added to the database.
- 1 planned record of works for 300 trees.
- 1 x current associated species list of flora & fauna produced.
- 300 recorded trees marked with ID tags.
- 5 volunteers trained in veteran tree surveying.
- 5 vols contributing 50 hours to surveying trees.
- 2 KCC staff trained in tree climbing, mobile platform use, aerial chainsaw use, and use of chainsaw from a mobile platform.
- 1 x bat roost survey on managed trees undertaken.
- Stabilising and clearance works undertaken on 50 trees.
- 10 volunteers undertaking 350 hours of practical conservation work.
- 10 scarce/rare lichen species future secured.
- 186 ha of parkland in good condition.
- 1 new trail 4km in length created.
- 1 interpretation panel designed and installed.
- 1 new walk leaflet designed and produced.
- 10 guided walks held with 200 attendees.
- 1 x web-based audio-visual interpretation provided – 1,000 downloads.
- Establishment of OPM Working Group.
- 6 parkland sites prepared for an OPM infestation.
- 1 x OPM Contingency Plan produced
- Effective OPM monitoring system established in the Darent Valley.
- 2ha of chalk grassland maintained in favourable condition.
- 1 x Power Scythe purchased
- 1 x replica Iron Age Roundhouse constructed.
- 1 x new educational facility provided.
- 700 children per year benefit from use of structure.

**Outcomes**

- Amenity organisation (Sencio) positively engaged in conservation of internationally significant natural heritage asset.
- Profile and awareness raised of an important tree.
- Improved soil condition around the base of tree.
- General threats to tree health identified.
- Increased awareness and future management needs of the health of the veterans.
- Local community participation in monitoring veteran tree population.
- Life of veterans prolonged.
- Security of replacement trees that are likely to become the veterans of the future.
- A new sustainable management system introduced that provides greater certainty for continued management of the trees.
- Well-trained and knowledgeable staff involved in the management of the veteran trees.
- Local community taking an active role in conservation management with greater awareness of the trees' importance.
- An increase in people's awareness of Samuel Palmer's link with Lullingstone Park.
- Visitors explore deeper into the park and experience new parts and heritage.
- Greater awareness of understanding of the importance of the parkland landscape and heritage has for the Darent Valley.
- Better preparedness for the impact of an OPM infestation.
- Closer links between the owners and managers of parkland within the Darent Valley.
- Sharing of best practice around the country and between the managers of concentrations of veteran trees.
- Increase in target species on chalk grassland.
- Improved educational resource and children have a better understanding of the history of the park.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, P3,  
C1, C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£104,706**



## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4D.2 LANDSCAPE ON COURSE - INFLUENCING GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

<p><b>Project Description:</b> The four golf courses in the valley will be engaged to advise how they can adjust land management to respect the landscape character of the Darent Valley. This will be achieved using the certification process associated with the Golf Environment Organisation to provide an industry standard mechanism for engaging clubs and achieving all-round benefits for the landscape, communities and golf.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Pedham Place Golf Centre; Darent Valley Golf Course; Lullingstone Golf Course; Westerham Golf Club</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Golf courses represent an alternative use of the landscape and also an alternative audience. As they tend to cover a significant amount of land, the impact they have (whether it is good or bad) can be substantial. The principal audience is the golf clubs themselves, so that an understanding can be developed as to how the landscape impact can be improved and enhanced. Secondly, the users of the golf courses themselves will be targeted. Many are visitors from outside the valley with a high proportion coming from the London suburbs as well as the urban centres of Sevenoaks and Dartford.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 x courses in the Darent Valley visited and advised.</li> <li>• Improved sustainability credentials and environmental management of four courses.</li> <li>• Improved water management and reduced impact on the River Darent from pollution and chemical use.</li> <li>• 4 x courses achieve accreditation from the On Course programme.</li> <li>• Training provided to green-keeping staff from four courses (8 participants).</li> <li>• Habitat enhancements identified and implemented (to be specified upon completion of advisory visits).</li> <li>• Interpretation provided to inform golfers of importance of the courses within the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater awareness of the impacts that golf courses have on the landscape and how these can be reduced.</li> <li>• Improved sustainability in the way the golf courses in the Darent valley are run.</li> <li>• Pride in the accreditation received by the golf clubs, and an active promotion on websites and literature.</li> <li>• Champions identified within each golf club, prepared to carry on the work achieved during the scheme delivery period.</li> <li>• Reduced impact of the golf courses on landscape character.</li> <li>• Golfers understand and appreciate the qualities of the landscape around them.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, C1, C3.</p> <p style="background-color: #f9e79f;"><b>Cost:</b> £20,400</p>

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4D.3 COMBE BANK – THE DIVIDED PARK

**Project Description:**

To put in place a co-ordinated conservation plan to restore the landscape of a registered park lying between Brasted and Sundridge. Bring together the multiple landowners to identify how by working together, they can ensure that the important heritage features and parkland landscape can be protected for the future and prevented from deteriorating any further so that it can be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.

**Location:** Combe Bank Park, Sundridge

**Audience:** Combe Bank is an important parkland landscape but does not have any public rights of way across it. However, it is enjoyed by pupils at the school, members of the fishing club, and the Sundridge Recreation Ground is frequently used by the public for recreation and sports. It is intended that the extension of the Darent Valley Path will be routed along the southern part of the parkland, and this will open the opportunity for it to be enjoyed by a much wider audience of residents and visitors.

**Lead:**

DVLPS  
Delivery  
Team

**Outputs**

- Bring together 8+ landowners and stakeholders to form a ‘parkland partnership’ and develop a co-ordinated and integrated plan for restoration and management of the parkland and grounds.
- 1 x historic parkland conservation management plan produced.
- Identification of clear actions to be taken to achieve agreed objectives for Combe Bank.
- Combe Bank removed from the Heritage at Risk register.
- Outputs will depend on the objectives determined through the management plan process, but are likely to include at least some of:
- Restoration and partial reconstruction of Brasted lido features.
- New access with new path through southern section of the park (delivered through project 3A).
- Biodiversity and heritage survey of Combe/Combebank Woods to determine if appropriate management can be re-introduced.
- Assessment of veteran and specimen trees, and subsequent management and planting of future replacements.
- Conservation of heritage garden features.
- Restoration of traditional boundary features.
- Interpretation of heritage features where new access has been provided.
- 5 x guided walks (1 per year) to enable the local community and visitors to enjoy and experience the heritage of the parkland.
- Develop learning opportunities for pupils at the school to understand and interpret the heritage of Combe Bank.

**Outcomes**

- Increased awareness of the parkland amongst the local community and landowners of its history and the issues it faces.
- Improved partnership working between landowners, stakeholders and the local community to achieve heritage objectives.
- Future and legacy secured for the park, with a clear direction for future management.
- Connect Plus Services and Highways England engaged in a positive conservation project.
- An enhanced record of the heritage within the parkland has been developed

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£49,050**

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4D.4. SQUERRYES ESTATE PARKLAND - THE SOURCE OF THE RIVER DARENT

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To clarify and improve access provision to Squerryes Park by undertaking surface treatment, improved waymarking and clarification of permissive paths. A circular trail will be created around the park with new interpretation to bring the heritage of the park to life.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Squerryes Park, Westerham</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The park is currently principally a resource for local people who live within 5km of its boundary. However, Westerham is a popular tourist destination as an attractive market town located on the A25 with many antiques shops and cafes. This project hopes to expand the current audience and encourage visitors to explore the outstanding surrounding landscape and learn about its heritage. It will also take in part of the National Trust's Westerham to Chartwell Trail that passes through the park.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 waymarker posts installed.</li> <li>• 1 x new fingerpost installed.</li> <li>• 30 x volunteer days contributed</li> <li>• 1 x new circular route</li> <li>• 5km of new self-guided route created</li> <li>• New walk leaflet produced.</li> <li>• Audio interpretation created.</li> <li>• 1 x Bluetooth beacon installed</li> <li>• 530m of path surfacing completed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved understanding of the heritage of Squerryes Park.</li> <li>• More confidence for walkers that they are accessing permitted areas.</li> <li>• Reduction in issues where public access interferes with farming practices.</li> <li>• Improved safety for visitors.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P2, P3, C2, C3.</p> <p style="background-color: #f9e79f;"><b>Cost:</b> £17,586</p>

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4E. ON THE VERGE - INTEGRATING ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT INTO THE LANDSCAPE

<p><b>Project Description:</b> Through an innovative partnership with Connect Plus Services, deliver new approaches to management of the soft estate beside the motorway network of the M25, M26, M20 and A2 within the Darent Valley to enhance and better integrate with the area's landscape character, provide improved natural habitat, conserve cultural heritage and enhance tranquillity with reduced noise pollution.</p> <p>In addition, working with Kent Wildlife Trust, support management and extension of key roadside nature reserves to connect important habitats and provide important biodiversity areas.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> M25 near Shoreham and A225 between Eynsford and Shoreham</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> All sites have some public access associated with them. The northern Highways England Site (referred to as the Shoreham Woods site) is designated open access land and has a public footpath running along its southern boundary. Being adjacent to the country park, there are extensive paths running from it.</p> <p>The southern Highways England site (referred to as the Polhill site) has a public bridleway running through it and passing through and underpass under the M25. With the valley side rising on the west side, it is a wide, highly visible site with over 100,000 vehicles passing along this section of motorway every day. Although many travellers do not realise it, except for Dartford Marshes, this is probably the most viewed part of the Darent Valley.</p> <p>The Shoreham Road RNRs are also highly visible to travellers, and the extensive colonies of pyramidal orchids are obvious in the summer months.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Connect Plus Service; and Kent Wildlife Trust</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p><b>Polhill site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey undertaken to assess the viability, cost and practicality of introducing management appropriate to the habitat and landscape character.</li> <li>• 12.6 hectares of chalk grassland restored.</li> <li>• 3.9km of fencing installed.</li> <li>• 7.5 hectares of scrub removed.</li> <li>• Grazing re-introduced to 12.6 hectares of grassland.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoreham Woods site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey undertaken to assess the viability, cost and practicality of introducing management appropriate to the habitat and landscape character.</li> <li>• Management proposals made for the site.</li> <li>• 10.8 hectares of grassland and scrub mosaic brought into good condition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoreham Road RNR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 450 metres of road verge restored.</li> <li>• 32 volunteer days for scrub clearance and cutting and raking restored grassland.</li> <li>• 20 volunteer days of biological monitoring and recording.</li> <li>• Create a safe path along road verge to enable physical access and enable future management and monitoring.</li> <li>• 3 guided walks held.</li> <li>• 10 people attending walks (maximum per walk).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity of the site recorded and assessed.</li> <li>• Biodiversity of site enhanced.</li> <li>• Site management appropriate to landscape character.</li> <li>• Appropriate land management in the valley seen by many people.</li> <li>• Traditional management introduced.</li> <li>• Unwanted activities reduced.</li> <li>• Innovative relationship with Connect Plus developed.</li> <li>• Greater awareness amongst partners of the need to integrate landscape character considerations.</li> <li>• Improved biodiversity and connectivity.</li> <li>• Local people involved in the conservation of their heritage.</li> <li>• Restoration of chalk grassland verge.</li> <li>• Physical access improved.</li> <li>• Local people involved in improving access to heritage.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of understanding of the importance of the landscape and heritage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P3, C1, C2.</p> <p style="background-color: #fff9c4; text-align: center;"><b>Cost:</b> <b>£67,072</b></p>



## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4F. LOCAL LANDSCAPES GRANTS

**Project Description:**

To provide a facility for the local community to deliver small-scale projects that contribute to the objectives of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, and deliver a mechanism to contribute new projects during the life of the scheme.

**Location:** Valley-wide

**Audience:** Local communities, community groups and other organisations.

**Lead:**

DVLPS  
Delivery  
Team

**Outputs**

- 20 small grants provided to achieve the objectives of the DVLPS.
- 20 projects delivering a variety of heritage outputs (to be specified when determined).

**Outcomes**

- Increased access to and learning about the Darent Valley’s landscape and heritage.
- Increased valuing of the Darent Valley’s landscape and heritage.
- Improved understanding of the local heritage and the need to conserve, protect and understand it.
- Local people and communities making decisions and taking positive action towards conserving the landscape’s heritage and conservation.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, P3,  
C1, C2, C3.

**Cost:**

**£104,200**

## THEME 4: DARENT VALLEY NATURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### PROJECT 4G. RESTORING THE HEDGEROW MOSAIC

<p><b>Project Description:</b> A team of volunteer hedgerow surveyors will be recruited, trained, deployed and managed by a consultant organisation. An analysis of the existing hedgerow network compared to the historical hedgerow network will be made along with an assessment of where additional planting might be undertaken to create, reinforce or enhance landscape character. This information will be used to determine where management advice, support for management and new planting can be undertaken, and will then subsequently be delivered.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Valley-wide</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The audience can be categorised into three groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Landowners and land managers who are responsible for field boundaries and their management.</li> <li>2. Local communities and students that wish to be involved learning new skills and participating in improving their landscape.</li> <li>3. Local communities and visitors who will enjoy a landscape with its character reinforced and quality improved.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 10 volunteers will be recruited and trained in hedgerow surveying.</li> <li>• All existing hedgerows in the DVLPS area will have been identified – numbers and length tbc.</li> <li>• Any historical hedgerows that have since disappeared will have been identified– numbers and length tbc.</li> <li>• At least 10 volunteers trained carry out surveys.</li> <li>• 90 volunteer days contributed to the project.</li> <li>• Every existing hedgerow in the DVLPS area will be surveyed.</li> <li>• Results of surveys will be recorded photographically, in tabular form and on a map.</li> <li>• A comprehensive report on the condition of the DVLPS hedgerows will be produced, with recommendations for improvements.</li> <li>• Outputs dependent on results of survey but anticipate:</li> <li>• 2km of hedgerow created/restored</li> <li>• 5km of hedgerow management improved.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people will have gained new skills.</li> <li>• Local people will have had the opportunity to join a team and feel less isolated as a result.</li> <li>• Local people involved in the conservation of their heritage.</li> <li>• A comprehensive record of all hedgerows of the DVLPS area will have been produced.</li> <li>• Volunteers will have gained a greater awareness of understanding of the importance of the landscape and heritage.</li> <li>• Volunteers will have benefitted both physically and mentally from volunteering outdoors and working as a team.</li> <li>• The state of DVLPS hedgerows will have been recorded.</li> <li>• The DVLPS team will be able to make an informed decision on what practical works to undertake on the area’s hedgerows.</li> <li>• Hedgerows will be protected and properly managed into the future.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £61,274</p>

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5A.1 ADVENTURE LEARNING FOR ALL AT WIDE HORIZONS

**Project Description:**

This project will engage, inspire and educate disadvantaged children and young people from London about the landscape and natural environments of the Darent Valley. Through Adventure Learning, it aims to address the disconnect between children and their environment and ensure that a new young generation has a genuine bond with the landscape of the Darent Valley. Wide Horizons will provide inspirational outdoor learning and adventure experiences linked to the natural and cultural heritage of Darent Valley. These sessions will connect children and young people with their local nature, inspire them to learn, and improve their social and personal skills.

**Location:** Wide Horizons Horton Kirby Centre

**Audience:** The project will engage with disadvantaged children (ages 3 to 11) by pre-dominantly working with schools from across the London Boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich. The aim of Wide Horizons is to make adventure accessible to all children, particularly those from deprived or disadvantaged communities who usually would not be able to afford to go away on educational or day trips.

**Lead:**  
Wide Horizons

**Outputs**

- A new accessible outdoor teaching space to include: minibeast hotels, a bird hide, allotment beds, and a raised pond area (approx. 2,000m2).
- 150 adventure learning sessions delivered on re-developed land each year.
- 
- Newly re-decorated classrooms and resource preparation area.
- 8,000 child visits (3 to 11) to the Darent Valley each year.
- 67 primary schools from London visit Darent Valley each year.
- 300 adventure learning sessions delivered in the Darent Valley.
- 20% of children who visit will be from low-income families each year (in receipt of free school meals).
- 3 Wide Horizons staff participate in training.
- Recruit and train 10 volunteers.
- 1,000 volunteer hours provided.

**Outcomes**

- Improved biodiversity of the land.
- Improved access to natural environments in Darent Valley leading to enhanced learning.
- Wider range of children will have engaged with the Darent Valley.
- Improved facilities and more enriching environment to learn.
- More children will have engaged with and learned about the Darent Valley's heritage.
- Children will have improved personal and social skills.
- More children will have engaged with and learned about the Darent Valley's heritage.
- Children will have greater awareness and skills of how to care for natural environments.
- Wider range of children will have engaged with the Darent Valley.
- Staff and volunteers know more about the natural environment.
- Staff and volunteers have increased skills to care for the natural environment.
- Staff and volunteers have increased skills and confidence to help others to learn.

**HLF Outcomes:**  
H1, P2, P3, C2.

**Cost:**  
£117,505

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5A.2 DESIGNING NATURE AT SEVENOAKS WILDLIFE RESERVE

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To enhance the knowledge and understanding of local communities about the wildlife on their doorstep and to promote awareness of biological diversity through a participatory design process for an accessible and iconic interpretation, observation and discovery structure. This structure will be designed by both disabled and non-disabled young people working with conservationists, architects and designers and will form the basis for a build project that will delivered as a separate element outside of DVLPS.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The anticipated audience for this project is significant. The design and development phase of the project will have an audience of a large number of visitors from across Kent and from South East London, as well as the direct involvement of students, visitors, schoolchildren and communities from nearby Sevenoaks.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Kent Wildlife Trust</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 full day meeting with project partners from Biotope, Design SE, University for the Creative Arts and teachers from schools’ partners where possible.</li> <li>• 4 schools engaged in educational activities and design.</li> <li>• 90 young people involved in educational activities and design.</li> <li>• 9 charrettes/workshops provided.</li> <li>• 3 field trips to Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve.</li> <li>• 1 exhibition held.</li> <li>• 4 schools participate in the exhibition.</li> <li>• 8700 people see exhibition within the centre.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed and well-designed programme of delivery in place to support the process of engaging local disabled and non-disabled children and young people.</li> <li>• Enhanced capacity to engage schools at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve.</li> <li>• Plan for enhanced facilities for disabled visitors and for people with pushchairs.</li> <li>• Enhanced knowledge of the environment and biodiversity amongst local disabled and non-disabled young people.</li> <li>• Enhanced knowledge of the environment and biodiversity amongst our partners.</li> <li>• Increased ownership of local children and young people of a local heritage site.</li> <li>• Increased connection amongst disabled and non-disabled young people to their local environment and landscape.</li> <li>• Local young people are able to celebrate their engagement with the project.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £28,369</p>



## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5A.3 THE ENCHANTED WOODLAND

**Project Description:**

To support a community and primary school led project create and develop a forest school location and enhance a community greenspace for the Temple Hill community to enjoy and care for. The rich and unusual heritage of the Enchanted Woodland and its links to Joyce Green Hospital and the Dartford Marshes will be revealed and communicated to visitors.

**Location:** Temple Hill, Dartford

**Audience:** The main audience is school children from Temple Hill Primary Academy and also from its partner school; Oakfield Community Primary School. Temple Hill Primary Academy serves an area rated amongst the 1% most deprived in the country. Over 23% of pupils are registered for free school meals, and 29% of the pupil’s first language isn’t English. The Enchanted Woodland also provides an important community greenspace for local residents in an area where little exists.

**Lead:**

DVLPS  
Delivery  
Team

**Outputs**

- New seating areas around the site.
- Forest School sessions delivered on site.
- Materials/equipment to deliver sessions such as magnifying glasses, binoculars, a large portable fire pit, wildlife id charts.
- Training provision – forest school training for other staff.
- 1 x amphitheatre created.
- Install log benches to provide additional seating.
- 3 x audio info of the site’s heritage via audio disc at two main entrances to site and near gravestone.
- 2 x seasonal activity trail (spring/summer and autumn/winter) about heritage of the site and flora and fauna to spot on the site (PDF download and printed copies to the school and St Edmunds Healthy Living Centre).
- Waymarking installed around the site.
- 4 x ‘Welcome to the Enchanted Woodland’ signage installed on other access points.
- 2 x ecological surveys undertaken.
- 1 x creating a natural boundary fence.
- 1 x site management plan produced.
- 1 x illustrated site map produced.
- 6 x family-orientated events delivered.
- 1 x surveyed orienteering map based on International (IOF) and British Orienteering (BO) guidelines for the site produced.
- 1 x geocache (potentially) installed at the site as part of the wider DFOK proposal of 20 new geocaches throughout the DVLPS area.

**Outcomes**

- School children directly engaged and experiencing the outdoors and in an area on their doorstep that they can visit with family outside of school hours.
- Amphitheatre available to use by other community groups.
- Area created for large group activities during forest school sessions.
- Local residents have a greater awareness of the site’s heritage and link to Dartford Marshes.
- Local community taking an active role in visiting the site and helping out with its conservation management due to greater overall awareness of the site.
- People will explore new areas and learn of the wildlife they may encounter on their visits.
- People will visit the Enchanted Woodland and learn about the site’s heritage and learn skills of outdoor activities that can be repeated with their families.
- Improved map reading skills and knowledge of orienteering maps amongst teachers and pupils.
- A greater understanding of landform and landscape and the identification of their features.
- Greater confidence to explore and access the landscape.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, P3,  
C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£21,429**

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5A.4 THE QUADRANGLE FOREST GARDEN: A COMMUNITY PERMACULTURE PROJECT

<p><b>Project Description:</b> This project will build a community of partners to develop The Quadrangle Forest Garden next to the River Darent near Shoreham. This will be an educational and therapeutic landscape resource for children, young people, adult groups, the local community and visitors to the Darent Valley. A productive forest garden based on permaculture principles will be created through the regeneration of a degraded field for food production. It is a project that will improve the microbiology of the soil and the biodiversity of the field and surrounding area. The resulting increase in the soil's capacity for water retention will benefit the river and reduce flooding risk.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> The Quadrangle Trust, Shoreham</p> <p>Audience: The project will have an outreach programme targeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurseries and Primary schools (North West Kent/Darent Valley).</li> <li>• Secondary Schools (Kent, South-East and London, specifically where they have restricted access to green space/outdoor education and eco-school programmes).</li> <li>• A wide range of further education institutions including agricultural colleges such as Hadlow College in Tonbridge.</li> <li>• Local communities in Shoreham, Otford, Eynsford and Sevenoaks and Dartford.</li> <li>• Local allotment and horticultural societies and interest groups.</li> <li>• University of the Third Age.</li> <li>• Community Rehabilitation programmes. i.e. working with West Kent Extra's youth, community and volunteer teams.</li> <li>• Refugee and victims of torture groups (through the Quadrangle's charity partners). The Trust has worked with the Refugee Council and the charity Refugee Youth for four years running residential programmes for young people.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> The Quadrangle Trust</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 volunteer sessions (5 a year).</li> <li>• 317 volunteer days contributed.</li> <li>• 0.8ha field converted to a forest garden.</li> <li>• 50 trees planted.</li> <li>• 10 2-day workshops provided (2 a year for general public and partner groups).</li> <li>• 100 people attending workshops.</li> <li>• 10 one-day events held to undertake planting and general maintenance work in the forest garden in return for teaching of the basis of permaculture.</li> <li>• 10 days of gardening in the forest garden offered to local businesses and charities</li> <li>• Design and construction of an outside oven in the forest garden.</li> <li>• Provision of a compost toilet in the forest garden.</li> <li>• Formation of a film making team to make an animated film of the life of a forest garden.</li> <li>• Put on DVLPS and Quadrangle website and offered to our partners, associated organisations and educational institutions.</li> <li>• Distributed to 20 schools and colleges.</li> <li>• Viewed by 1000 people.</li> <li>• On-line blog maintained and populated.</li> <li>• 500 hits on the blog.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased density of planting in forest garden. Herb layer planted.</li> <li>• Forest garden managed and supported.</li> <li>• Increased understanding of permaculture principles and its relation to landscape conservation.</li> <li>• Greater understanding of ecology, permaculture principles, mycorrhizal networks and the importance of our natural heritage and soil health.</li> <li>• Help with planting and maintenance in the forest garden.</li> <li>• Increased understanding of regeneration of land and sustainable food production.</li> <li>• Team building. Raising awareness of issues around food production. Bringing a sense of wellbeing and community.</li> <li>• Cooking for campers in the forest garden will bring sense of community and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Compost toilet enhances sustainability credentials of the site.</li> <li>• Enhances connection with the landscape and provides visitors with genuine outdoor experience.</li> <li>• An educational resource and teaching tool. Will be used in schools and colleges.</li> <li>• For all people interested in forest garden this will show how the creation of a forest garden improves the soil, increases biodiversity, produces food as well as being a tranquil and beautiful place.</li> <li>• Sharing knowledge and experience.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P1, P2, P3, C1, C2, C3.</p>
		<p><b>Cost:</b> £58,029</p>

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5A.5 OTFORD CHALK PIT NATURE AREA

**Project Description:**

Otford Chalk Pit is an area of green open space that lies at the heart of the village of Otford. Located next to the village railway station, the chalk pit lies immediately alongside the North Downs Way National Trail. It has been a long-term aspiration of the Parish Council to encourage local people, visitors and schools to enjoy and use the site for recreation and as an educational resource. The Parish Council, Otford Scout Group, Otford Primary School and North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NWKCP) have a shared vision to enhance the green space by making the wooded slopes of the site more accessible, whilst also creating wildlife features that can be utilised by the Primary School and Scout group for outdoor activities and as an education resource.

**Location:** Otford Chalk Pit, Shoreham Road, Otford

**Audience:** The principal audience for this are residents local to Otford. In particular, both Otford Primary School (who wish to use the site for a Forest School and other educational activities) and Otford Scout Group who intend to use it for outdoor activities. The local community is also likely to use it for recreational purposes. In addition, with its location close to Otford Station and the North Downs Way National Trail, a wider audience from South East London and elsewhere in Kent are anticipated to use the site.

**Lead:**  
Otford Parish Council

**Outputs**

- 1 x endangered species (Roman Snail) survey.
- 1 x botanical survey.
- 1 x bird survey.
- Approx. 2.6 hectares of former quarry having brought into good condition.
- 1 x wildlife pond created.
- Approx. 40 linear metres of native hedgerow created.
- Approx. 40 linear metres of palisade fencing installed.
- Approx. 20 sq. metres of wild flower meadow created.
- 80 volunteer days undertaken.
- Approx. 0.4 km of new routes created.
- 60 volunteer days.
- 1 x community event.
- 100 people attending event.
- Number of pupil visits – approx. 30 per visit = 360 pupil visits per year (1,440 pupil visits over 4 years).
- Number of sessions – 2 visits per term = 12 visits per year (2018 – 2022).
- Number of scout group visits – approx. 36 visits per year (144 visits over 4 years)
- Number of sessions – 36 per year.
- Production of 1 x management plan.
- On-site or audio interpretation provided.

**Outcomes**

- Greater awareness of nature heritage.
- Creation of natural heritage feature.
- Local people involved in the conservation of their heritage.
- Physical access improved
- Local people involved in improving access to heritage
- Greater awareness of understanding of the importance of the landscape and heritage.
- Promotes and celebrates the work delivered by the local community and DVLP scheme.
- Encourages young people to engage with their natural heritage and value it for the future.
- Encourages people to engage with their natural heritage and value it for the future.
- Promotes a greater understanding of the local natural and historical heritage.
- Ensures that the natural and historical heritage is managed in an appropriate and sustainable way in the future.
- An understanding of how and why the Chalk Pit was created, and the natural heritage found there.
- A closer connection with the landscape and an interest in the future of the pit.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
H1, H2, H3,  
P1, P2, P3,  
C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
**£18,286**

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5A.6 ENCOURAGING ADVENTURE PLAY REDUCING BARRIERS TO WILD TIME

<p><b>Project Description:</b> To provide guidance to parents, education establishments and education providers about how to develop a balanced and proportionate approach to play and risk in the outdoors. This will enable children to benefit from the element of risk that is an essential part of children’s development and to create a love and understanding of the outside environment.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> No location</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> Parents of children across and close to the Darent Valley, teachers at schools considering outdoor learning and Forest School activities and providers of educational services and outdoor activities.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A locally relevant toolkit provided free to all schools, education providers and formal green space areas.</li> <li>• The toolkit is adopted by 75% of the schools in the valley, and all the country parks.</li> <li>• 10 screenings of Project Wild Thing</li> <li>• 300 participants.</li> <li>• 5 x Adventure Family Days provided.</li> <li>• 100 families participate (150 adults, 180 children)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools and parents organise and participate in more adventure learning activities with a healthier approach to the balance of play and risk.</li> <li>• Parents are more proactive in helping their children engage with their natural surroundings.</li> <li>• Children (and parents) are more connected with the landscape and heritage of the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• The next generation values and is protective of the characteristics that make the Darent Valley special.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P1, P2, P3, C2.</p> <p style="background-color: #fff9c4;"><b>Cost:</b> <b>£13,750</b></p>



## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5B. SCHOOL RUN - READING THE LANDSCAPE

**Project Description:**

To utilise the outdoor sport of orienteering to enable schools and pupils to engage with and better understand the landscape of the Darent Valley, and to enable them to embed orienteering within the National Curriculum. During this time, pupils will have developed a better understanding and appreciation of their local heritage as well as a keen interest in a growing outdoor sport that uses the landscape as a canvas for its activities. It will also support a wide audience to engage in more challenging tests for navigation skills in the local countryside.

**Location:** Schools across the scheme area

**Audience:** Whilst this is primarily aimed at school children and teachers in both primary and secondary schools operating through their own school curriculums, the project will provide opportunities for parents, local residents and visitors to experience the heritage of the local countryside through the permanent orienteering courses and other activities. In addition, DFOK will also work with Wide Horizons to use orienteering to support project 5A. 'Adventure Learning for All' with its target audience of school children from south-east London.

**Lead:**

Dartford Orienteering Klubb

**Outputs**

- Provide an online information 'package' for schools about orienteering and how, as a model, it will assist in reading the local landscape.
- Hold 2 study sessions to inform teaching staff on the role of orienteering in the curriculum.
- 36 teaching staff from 18 schools attend study sessions.
- 5 DFOK members trained in the use of OCAD.
- 18 schools receive a surveyed orienteering map based on International (IOF) and British Orienteering (BO) guidelines.
- Advice on how to install a Permanent Orienteering Course (POC) within the school grounds.
- Training in how to use FREE software, Purple Pen, for drawing up their school courses.
- 18 school courses created.
- 2 'Teaching Orienteering Pt 1' Courses by BO Qualified Tutors.
- 36 teachers achieve certification.
- Establish a central resource of equipment in addition to the individual school resource.
- Develop an annual school league that utilises the landscape of the Darent Valley.
- 1 introductory course at Lullingstone Country Park.
- 18 teaching staff attend course
- 1 course within Eynsford village utilising key heritage features.
- Liaise with other partnerships to produce an interactive online program for the school intranet demonstrating how the valley was formed many years ago.

**Outcomes**

- Teaching staff will be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the landscape and its heritage and how this might be assisted by orienteering;
- Recognise the cross-curricular benefits of orienteering;
- Utilise their skills of organisation and delivery within curricular and extra-curricular settings.
- Promote safe introduction into the curriculum.
- Greater use of orienteering to teach skills across the curriculum.
- Improved map reading skills and knowledge of orienteering maps amongst teachers and pupils.
- A greater understanding of landform and landscape and the identification of their features.
- Increased use of school grounds as a learning resource.
- Greater confidence to explore and access the landscape.
- Teachers are able to apply acquired knowledge and skills required to undertake safe orienteering activities with their pupils.
- Teaching staff able to read maps with a greater understanding and ability.
- Schools work together more closely in utilising the landscape of the Darent Valley for orienteering.
- Sharing resources also enables skills-sharing and passing on of knowledge between teaching staff.
- School league encourages legacy and sustainability for outdoor learning.
- Appreciate an awareness of the surrounding natural landscape.
- Explore Darent Valley landscape in greater depth.

**HLF**

**Outcomes:**  
P1, P2, P3,  
C2, C3.

**Cost:**  
£26,985

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5C. SUPPORTING LAND MANAGERS IN A PERIOD OF CHANGE - A COLLABORATIVE ADVISORY SERVICE

<b>Project Description:</b> To provide land managers support, advice and guidance for environmental land management as the UK leaves the European Union. In a post-Brexit and Common Agricultural Policy, there is likely to be a lack of information and guidance for agri-environment schemes which DVLPS can address and support with a free expert service that will encourage joint working and protection of existing farmed landscapes.		<b>Location:</b> Valley-wide	<b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team
		<b>Audience:</b> All landowners eligible for agri-environment grants within the scheme area.	
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 landowners advised</li> <li>• 1 x workshop provided for land managers.</li> <li>• Other outputs as appropriate when outcome of Brexit is understood.</li> <li>• Turtle Dove population remains stable or increases.</li> </ul>	<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved understanding of any new agri-environment scheme introduced.</li> <li>• Land managers in the Darent Valley landscape are as well prepared as possible following Brexit.</li> <li>• Reduced likelihood of detrimental impact on landscape and heritage because of withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy.</li> <li>• Ongoing financial support for land management that supports the objectives of DVLPS, and projects delivered through it are more likely.</li> </ul>	<b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, H3, P2, C1, C3.	<b>Cost:</b> £23,100

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5D. FUTURE SKILLS EMBEDDING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS

<b>Project Description:</b> To ensure that partners, communities and those contributing to the objectives of the scheme have the skills and knowledge to ensure that projects are a success during the delivery period of the scheme and can be sustained after the DVLPS comes to an end in 2022.		<b>Location:</b> Valley-wide	<b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team
		<b>Audience:</b> 'Future Skills' is available to and targeted towards all communities, visitors and partner organisations working on projects being delivered through the scheme. In addition, the learning opportunities provided will be used to inform and disseminate knowledge and best practice gained during the delivery of the project. This will include UK and European partners working on the elements of DVLPS delivered as part of Interreg 2 Seas funding for the scheme, and for the wider family of Landscape Partnership Schemes and other organisations addressing similar issues and problems. The learning opportunities provided to support specific DVLPS projects will be targeted at the audiences identified in the dedicated project plans, but will be available to others involved with the project too.	
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 training courses/ learning opportunities facilitated during the scheme's delivery.</li> <li>• 400 people trained in skills required to deliver and sustain the work of the DVLPS.</li> </ul>	<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people have the skills and knowledge to help manage and care for the landscape and its heritage.</li> <li>• Increased knowledge and awareness of the heritage of the Darent Valley landscape, its importance and the threats facing it.</li> <li>• People encouraged to get more involved with their local heritage and its conservation.</li> <li>• Local people celebrate their local heritage.</li> <li>• Traditional heritage skills passed on for the future.</li> </ul>	<b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P1, P2, P3, C2.	<b>Cost:</b> £53,625

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5E. LANDSCAPE APPRENTICES TRAINING - THE NEXT GENERATION OF LANDSCAPE MANAGERS

<b>Project Description:</b> To provide an opportunity for two placements a year wishing to enter a career in landscape and biodiversity management to gain experience and new skills in a wide variety of projects with Kent Wildlife Trust. Each graduate will spend a year with the Trust working on reserves in the Darent Valley.		<b>Location:</b> Principally Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, and Kent Wildlife Trust nature reserves  <b>Audience:</b> This project is targeted at individuals who are currently undertaking or have recently completed an HND/degree in countryside management or equivalent, or have a proven interest in the environment and are actively seeking employment in this field.	<b>Lead:</b> Kent Wildlife Trust
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 individuals provided with apprenticeship opportunity.</li> <li>• 300 volunteer days (skilled) per year contributed.</li> </ul>	<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprentices gain new skills and knowledge to prepare them for a future career in landscape/biodiversity management.</li> <li>• The pool of skilled individuals is increased to support future biodiversity and landscape management.</li> <li>• Increased support for the management of sites within the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Greater understanding of the valley's heritage and its importance.</li> </ul>		<b>HLF Outcomes:</b> H1, H2, P1, P2, P3, C2, C3.
			<b>Cost:</b> £85,000

## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5F. ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES - WALKS, TALKS AND EVENTS TO INSPIRE AND LEARN

<b>Project Description:</b> To engage target audiences as identified in the Audience Development Plan (residents, visitors, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people, people with disabilities, young people, families with young children and deprived communities) to explore, enjoy and discover the heritage of the Darent Valley through an exciting annual events programme.		<b>Location:</b> Across the scheme area  <b>Audience:</b> The events programme will be delivered at multiple sites, greenspaces, attractions and community facilities throughout the DVLPS area. Where not already provided, land ownership permission will be sought in advance where it is required by either the DVLPS delivery team or the event leader.	<b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team
<b>Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 events run.</li> <li>• 3000 attendees or participants</li> <li>• 100 community and partner events are promoted alongside DVLPS events.</li> <li>• X 5 events booklet designed.</li> <li>• 2000 copies per annum of events booklet printed and distributed through local community outlets.</li> <li>• X 1 PDF of the events booklet available to download on the DVLPS website.</li> <li>• X 1 events booking system produced on the DVLPS website.</li> </ul>	<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A greater awareness of the landscape, wildlife, habitats and heritage of the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Barriers experienced to visiting the Darent Valley and engaging with its heritage will be reduced.</li> <li>• People are more aware of the quantity and variety of heritage in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• People are aware of other sites outside of the central section of the Darent Valley by which to visit and explore the area.</li> <li>• People over a much larger geographic area are aware of the heritage in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• People will consider travelling to events by sustainable means.</li> <li>• Learn of other sites to visit throughout the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• A greater understanding of DVLPS and what is delivering in the Darent Valley.</li> <li>• Promotes awareness and encourages people to take pride in their landscape and value it for the future.</li> <li>• Local people will have explored parts of the valley that they were previously unaware of.</li> <li>• Acts as a means to recruit new supporters and volunteers for DVLPS projects.</li> <li>• Members of the local community are equipped with new skills to lead guided walks.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of Samuel Palmer and his relationship with the landscape and the Darent Valley.</li> </ul>	<b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P2, C2.	<b>Cost:</b> £39,950



## THEME 5. DARENT VALLEY LEARNING AND FUTURE SKILLS

### PROJECT 5G. SPREADING THE WORD - AN ON-LINE RESOURCE

<p><b>Project Description:</b> Provide a comprehensive and up-to-date on-line presence through a variety of media to ensure that residents, visitors and others from further afield can remain informed of the scheme's work and progress and discover how to learn about, understand and enjoy the heritage of the Darent Valley.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> No location</p> <p><b>Audience:</b> The audience survey undertaken for the DVLPS Audience Development Plan found that for most people, the most favoured way of learning more about the Darent Valley was through a website. In addition, this was demonstrated across all target audience groups including those from older generations.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> DVLPS Delivery Team</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x website produced and maintained on-line during the life of the project.</li> <li>• Website hits will be measured with expectation of annual increase.</li> <li>• 2 x social media accounts maintained.</li> <li>• Increase in followers of 20% per year.</li> <li>• 30 events per year posted.</li> <li>• Number of views of videos will be measured.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reach in awareness of what the DVLPS is doing.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of the Darent Valley's landscape and heritage.</li> <li>• More people able to contribute to the work of the DVLPS.</li> <li>• A direct communication medium to target audiences.</li> <li>• Improved focus and targeting of audiences.</li> </ul>	<p><b>HLF Outcomes:</b> P2, C2.</p> <p style="background-color: #f9e79f;"><b>Cost:</b> £13,838</p>



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## Appendix 1 STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PLAN FOR THE DARENT VALLEY

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(Attached as a separate document)



## Appendix 2 DARENT VALLEY AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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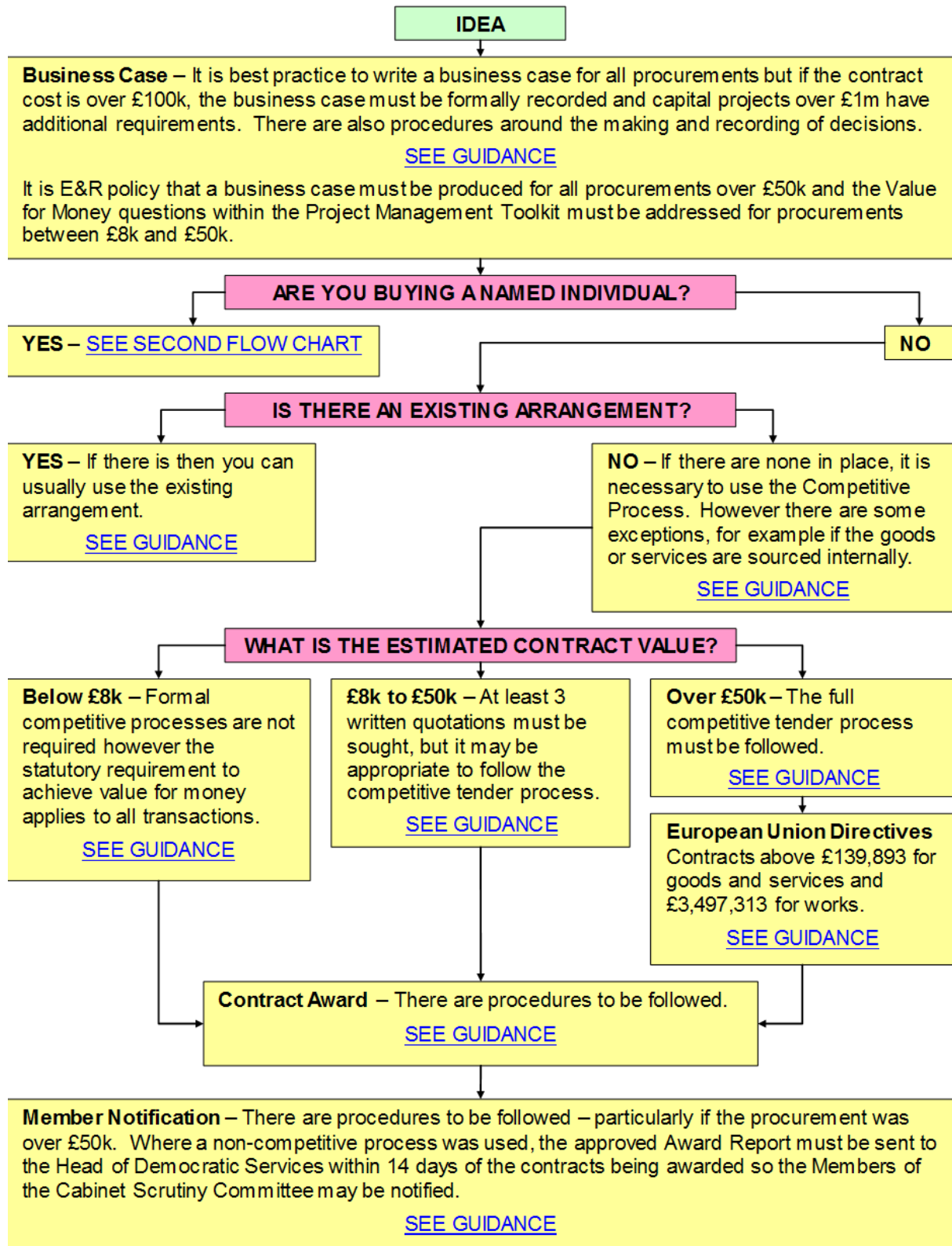
(Attached as a separate document)

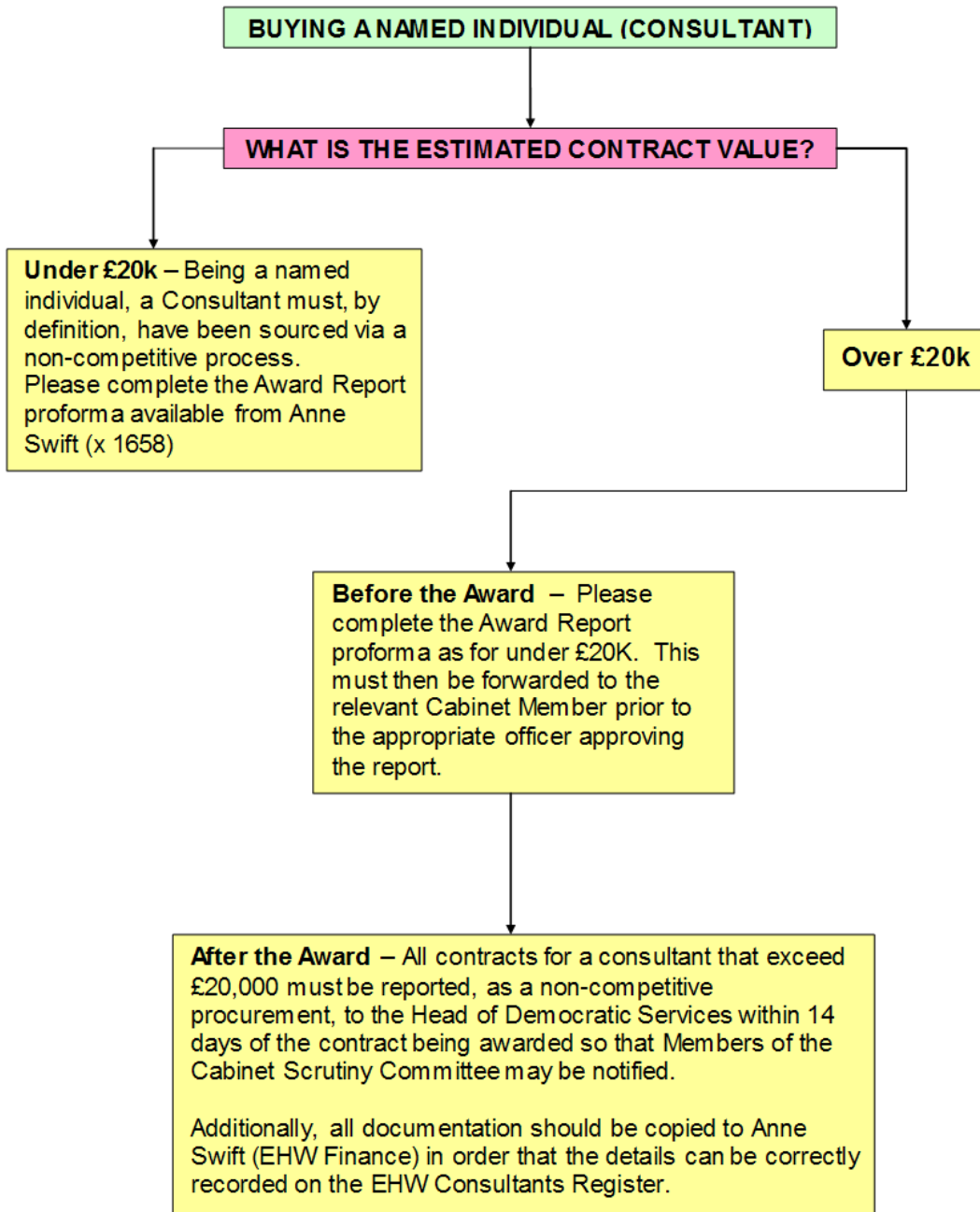




Appendix 3 SUMMARY OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

**Spending the Council's Money – a quick guide**





## Appendix 4 JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF DVLPS DELIVERY TEAM

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## Kent County Council

Environment, Planning and Enforcement Division

**DRAFT**

Job Description: **Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager**

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**Directorate:** Growth, Environment & Transport

**Unit/Section:** Kent Downs AONB Unit

**Location:** TBC

**Grade:** TBC

**Responsible to:** Director, Kent Downs AONB Unit

### **Purpose of the Job:**

This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the Darent Valley, a beautiful rural landscape rich in heritage lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). You will lead a dynamic team of four staff to deliver the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS).

The DVLPS is an ambitious scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, EU Interreg 2 Seas programme and scheme partners that brings together a range of partners to promote, support and deliver an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape management. This will be achieved through advocacy, development of partnerships and delivery of an integrated suite of projects to enhance and protect the landscape and its heritage, improve access, raise capacity in partners and the local community, and increase community engagement.

Your role will be to manage and develop the DVLPS team, establish partnerships and work with partners to deliver the potential of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. You will ensure that projects are integrated and delivered on time and to budget, use your influence and experience to promote the Scheme and work with partners and team members to further develop programmes and secure the financial arrangements for the second and third year of operation.

A key part of your role will be to look beyond the five years that HLF have funded this programme to secure a legacy and future for this exciting initiative.

### **Main Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Assist with the recruitment of a new team to deliver the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme.

- Provide leadership and direction to the DVLPS delivery team of four posts.
- Provide leadership and direction to the DVLPS delivery partners.
- Develop and participate in partnerships to ensure successful delivery of the DVLPS objectives.
- Contribute to local strategies and initiatives to ensure that the scheme's aims and objectives for the Darent Valley are fully reflected.
- Oversee and ensure the reporting and out-turn of budgets and scheme milestones.
- Oversee and ensure proper financial procurement and health and safety arrangements for the scheme.
- Confirm and secure match funding arrangements with scheme partners.
- Work with partners to identify opportunities for securing funding for, and co-ordinating and targeting existing resources towards, securing the scheme's objectives for the Darent Valley.
- Update the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Board on progress and ensure partners are involved in scheme delivery and appraised and involved in further scheme development.
- Prepare a strategy to ensure the legacy of DVLPS activity beyond its initial five-year delivery period.
- Complete the claim, completion and evaluation reports and submit it to the Partnership Board, Heritage Lottery Fund, Interreg, and other funders on time.
- Ensure that the DVLPS team monitor and evaluate project activity - report and make changes to improve delivery.

### **Responsibility for Staff**

The Landscape Partnership Manager will line manage the DVLPS Project Officers and have responsibility for any apprentices and volunteers that support the work of the scheme.

### **Person Specification (Qualification, knowledge, skills and other):**

#### **Essential:**

- Degree or equivalent qualification, preferably in an environmental, heritage or countryside management related subject.
- Demonstrate successful experience of line management and building a team.
- Experience of reporting to a management board.
- Experience of business planning for a project team and complex delivery programme.

- Experience of developing successful and innovative projects and partnerships, and working with a wide range of different organisations and people including local authorities, private sector, voluntary organisations and local communities.
- Collating information, report writing and making recommendations for action, and reporting back on work progress.
- Providing accurate financial forecasts, budgets and accounts, and ensuring projects expenditure deliver on time and to budget.
- Knowledge and demonstrable experience of working with EU funding streams.
- Demonstrate successful experience working with communities and partnerships to deliver innovative landscape management and access involving a wide range of community groups.
- Experience or landscape and access management.
- Self-starter/high motivation - someone who will drive this exciting project forward.
- Supportive and assertive manager of people
- Good promotional and influencing skills, ability to network at a high level to achieve results.
- Strategic thinker with ability to look forward and secure a legacy for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- Excellent communicator willing to work in an integrated way beyond immediate programme delivery responsibilities.
- Good presentation and numeracy skills.
- Production of high quality work to agreed deadlines.
- Ability/ confidence to work with partners and, in particular communities and landowners.
- Ability to organise and co- ordinate different areas of work.
- Computer literacy (MS Office).
- Current driving licence.
- Excellent financial control and monitoring skills (particularly in a public sector environment)
- Experience of heritage management

## **Ways 2 Success**

- Team leadership and Vision
- Developing others

- Developing Creative thinking
- Managing performance

**Please note:**

- The details above may be adjusted to accommodate the needs of applicants with particular disabilities.
- The position is subject to CRB checking and disclosure.

**We welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee an interview to those who have the essential skills, experience etc. for the job. These can be found on the Person Specification. In addition to information in support of your application, you should state if you feel you are able to meet these requirements. If you have any specific requirements to enable you to attend interview, please detail them and we will make the necessary arrangements, for example wheelchair access, sign language interpreter.**



## Kent County Council

Environment, Planning and Enforcement Division

**DRAFT**

Job Description: **Learning & Interpretation Officer**

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<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	<b>Kent Downs AONB Unit</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>TBC (0.5 FTE)</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager</b>

### **Purpose of the Job:**

This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the Darent Valley, a beautiful rural landscape rich in heritage lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). You will be part of a dynamic team of five staff delivering 'Samuel Palmer's Earthly Paradise' the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS).

It is an ambitious scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, EU Interreg 2 Seas programme and scheme partners, that brings together a range of partners to promote, support and deliver an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape management. This will be achieved through advocacy, development of partnerships and delivery of an integrated suite of projects to enhance and protect the landscape and its heritage, improve access, raise capacity in partners and the local community, and increase community engagement.

Your role will be to lead on the 'Inspiring Darent Valley' and 'Future Skills and Learning' programmes as well as support the integration of interpretation across all programmes.

All officers employed by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme will be expected to work across and support all the programmes and projects within these plans in an integrated way.

### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

- Managing the targets, objectives and projects outlined in the above programmes.
- Managing the implementation of the innovative and integrated interpretation

strategy which spans across all other delivery programmes in the DVLPS.

- Promoting the training, learning and celebration elements of the scheme to target groups and enabling harder to reach groups to participate in the programmes
- Organisation of a wide range of events to deliver engagement with the Darent Valley's landscape including a launch event for the DVLPS.
- Oversee and support delivery partners in the delivery of scheme outputs and outcomes.
- Responsible for project managing web-site design, information management and promotion for the wider landscape partnership scheme
- Contract in and co-ordinate contracts with designers, artists and consultants.
- Chair and co-ordinate the 'Learning' and 'Inspiring' theme groups to enable partners and stakeholders to have a direct and focused input to DVLPS activity.
- Support the DVLPS Manager in the reporting to the Partnership Board of scheme progress and activity.
- Support the DVLPS Manager in the preparation of reporting, claims and evaluation to HLF and other funding partners.

## **Person Specification (Qualification, knowledge, skills and other):**

### **Essential:**

- Degree or equivalent qualification, preferably in an arts communication, community or interpretation related subject. Or considerable related experience at an appropriate level.
- Demonstrate successful experience working with communities and partnerships to deliver innovative celebration, interpretation and learning programmes involving a wide range of community groups.
- Experience in promoting and providing publicity and other information provision for projects and programmes.
- Experience of developing successful partnerships, and working with a wide range of different organisations and people including local authorities, private sector, voluntary organisations and local communities. Managing volunteers and contracted workers and consultants effectively to deliver project outputs - including tender preparation.
- Collating information, report writing and making recommendations for action, and reporting back on work progress.
- Providing accurate financial forecasts, budgets and accounts, and ensuring project expenditure deliver on time and to budget.
- Self-starter/high motivation outgoing.
- Excellent communicator willing to work in an integrated way beyond immediate programme delivery responsibilities.
- Good presentation and numeracy skills.
- Production of high quality work to agreed deadlines.
- Ability/ confidence to work and with partners and, in particular local communities and the media.
- Ability to organise and co- ordinate different areas of work.
- Networking and partnership skills.
- Computer literacy (MS Office).
- Current driving license.
- Knowledge and interest in developing innovative ways to interpret and engage communities in heritage.
- Interest in natural and historical heritage.
- Knowledge and experience of partnership working.

## **Ways 2 Success**

- Can do Approach
- Partnership Working
- Initiative
- Team working and cooperation.

### **Please note:**

- The details above may be adjusted to accommodate the needs of applicants with particular disabilities.
- The position is subject to CRB checking and disclosure.

**We welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee an interview to those who have the essential skills, experience etc. for the job. These can be found on the Person Specification. In addition to information in support of your application, you should state if you feel you are able to meet these requirements. If you have any specific requirements to enable you to attend interview, please detail them and we will make the necessary arrangements, for example wheelchair access, sign language interpreter.**



# Kent County Council

## Environment, Planning and Enforcement Division

**DRAFT**

### Job Description: **Community Archaeologist**

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<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	<b>Kent Downs AONB Unit</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>TBC (Part-time)</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager</b>

#### **Purpose of the Job:**

This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the Darent Valley, a beautiful rural landscape rich in heritage lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). You will be part of a dynamic team of five staff delivering 'Samuel Palmer's Earthly Paradise' the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS).

It is an ambitious scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, EU Interreg 2 Seas programme and scheme partners, that brings together a range of partners to promote, support and deliver an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape management. This will be achieved through advocacy, development of partnerships and delivery of an integrated suite of projects to enhance and protect the landscape and its heritage, improve access, raise capacity in partners and the local community, and increase community engagement.

Your role will be to lead on the 'Historic Darent Valley' programme as well as support the integration of historic and cultural heritage elements across all programmes.

All officers employed by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme will be expected to work across and support all of the programmes and projects within these plans in an integrated way.

### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

- Managing the targets, objectives and projects outlined in the 'Historic Darent Valley' Programme.
- To develop volunteer participation in the scheme through regular outreach and promotion of the scheme, guide volunteers and train them to both lead and carry out project work including research, survey, reporting and dissemination of their work.
- Oversee and support delivery partners in the delivery of scheme outputs and outcomes at key cultural heritage sites, including the Archbishop's Tower at Otford, Lullingstone Castle and Eynsford Castle.
- Liaise with key partners and stakeholders to access the heritage and integrate it into their future management and conservation plans.
- Formulate, implement and supervise with the support of volunteers a coordinated and sustained programme of research, archaeological and landscape survey projects and conservation management.
- Engage with and involve in the above programme local community groups and individuals, archaeological and historical societies, schools and youth organisations.
- Liaise with colleagues from the Kent Historic Environment Record to ensure that all findings from the scheme are entered into the HER and a landscape GIS is developed and maintained.
- Assist volunteers to develop their skills in archaeological post excavation / survey and reporting and ensure that all project work is fully written up and reports made available.
- Promote the Darent Valley heritage through a series of events, talks, exhibitions, open days, guided walks, web and social media.
- Contract in and co-ordinate contracts with consultants, contractors and other suppliers.
- Chair and co-ordinate the 'Historic' theme group to enable partners and stakeholders to have a direct and focused input to DVLPS activity.
- Support the DVLPS Manager in the reporting to the Partnership Board of scheme progress and activity.
- Support the DVLPS Manager in the preparation of reporting, claims and evaluation to HLF and other funding partners.

**Person Specification (Qualification, knowledge, skills and other):**

**Essential:**

- Good degree in archaeology or a related discipline, or equivalent relevant expertise.
- Demonstrable experience of managing and delivering community archaeology projects.
- Ability to manage volunteers, contracted workers and consultants effectively to deliver project outputs - including tender preparation.
- Relevant expertise in field archaeology and the ability to organize and supervise fieldwork projects.
- Experience of managing significant budgets effectively and efficiently.
- Providing accurate financial forecasts, budgets and accounts, and ensuring project expenditure delivers on time and to budget.
- Knowledge of the archaeology and heritage of Kent
- Good analytical skills
- An ordered and logical approach to work
- An ability to write clearly and concisely with excellent communication skills and willing to work in an integrated way beyond immediate programme delivery responsibilities.
- A well-motivated personality who is able to motivate others.
- An ability to work with, manage and develop the skills of volunteers in a partnership context.
- Ability to organise and co- ordinate different areas of work.
- Excellent team-working skills and an ability to work with other professions and members of the public
- An ability to work flexibly including weekend working and occasional evening work
- An ability to travel to remote locations or to locations in evenings or weekends.
- Current driving licence

**Ways 2 Success:**

- Communication and Customer Care
- Partnership working
- Initiative

**Please note:**

- The details above may be adjusted to accommodate the needs of applicants with particular disabilities.
- The position is subject to CRB checking and disclosure.

**We welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee an interview to those who have the essential skills, experience etc. for the job. These can be found on the Person Specification. In addition to information in support of your application, you should state if you feel you are able to meet these requirements. If you have any specific requirements to enable you to attend interview, please detail them and we will make the necessary arrangements, for example wheelchair access, sign language interpreter.**



## Kent County Council

Environment, Planning and Enforcement Division

### Job Description: **Finance & Reporting Officer**

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<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	<b>Kent Downs AONB Unit</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>TBC (0.5 FTE)</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager</b>

#### **Purpose of the Job:**

This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the Darent Valley, a beautiful rural landscape rich in heritage lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS) is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, EU Interreg 2 Seas programme and a number of scheme partners.

It is an ambitious project that brings together a range of partners to promote, support and deliver an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape management. This will be achieved through advocacy, development of partnerships and delivery of an integrated suite of projects to enhance and protect the landscape and its heritage, improve access, raise capacity in partners and the local community, and increase community engagement.

You will work closely with each member of the DVLPS delivery team and scheme partners to make sure that the finance and project monitoring is carried out in a proper and verifiable manner. You will also lead on the preparation of claiming and reporting to the scheme funders, and provide an important support role to the Scheme Manager, Partnership Forum and the Partnership Board in providing the secretariat.

### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

- Provide support to the Landscape Partnership Board by producing working papers, minutes and arranging meetings & venues.
- To act as the financial control officer for the Darent Valley LPS, monitoring budgets, preparing and monitoring a cash flow forecast, maintaining a project database, periodically reconciling records to the central general ledger, preparing invoices, expense claims and other documents for central payment, assist in the preparation of claims to HLF, Interreg and other funders, and support the Scheme Manager when reporting to auditors, the HLF, Interreg Joint Secretariat and the Landscape Partnership Board.
- Liaise with, and providing reports to the Kent Downs AONB Finance Manager and Kent County Council finance team on a regular basis.
- Report to Heritage Lottery Fund, Interreg Lead Partner and Joint Secretariat, and the Landscape Partnership Board on all financial aspects of the project.
- Monitor and report against the work targets and achievements for the whole Scheme.
- Provide general administrative support to the team and act as first point of contact for the project
- Supporting the health and safety, procurement and financial management responsibilities of all DVLPS team members.
- Contributing to the development of the team's profile, partnership and legacy.

### **Person Specification (Qualification, knowledge, skills and other):**

#### **Essential:**

- Association of Accounting Technician or equivalent qualification or experience
- Demonstrate 2 to 3 years successful experience working with partnerships and managing complex partnership finances.
- Experience or understanding of the need to monitor the success of projects and programmes, particularly within a local authority environment.
- Collating information, report writing and making recommendations for action, and reporting back on work progress.
- Producing accurate and timely financial reports, forecasts, budgets and accounts to

provide on-going management information.

- Experience of working with EU and HLF funding streams.
- Self-starter/high motivation.
- Methodical and organised.
- Excellent communicator willing to work in an integrated way beyond immediate programme delivery responsibilities and to initiate communications to ensure compliance with financial and procurement requirements.
- Excellent presentation and numeracy skills.
- Production of high quality work to agreed deadlines.
- Ability/ confidence to work with team and to a management board.
- Ability to organise and co- ordinate different areas of work.
- Networking and partnership skills.
- Computer literacy (MS Office, and in particular advanced Excel spreadsheet skills).
- Knowledge of financial management and project monitoring systems including IT applications
- Interest in natural and historical heritage.
- Knowledge and experience of partnership working.

### **Ways 2 Success**

- Can do approach
- Communications and customer care
- Team working and cooperation

### **Please note:**

- The details above may be adjusted to accommodate the needs of applicants with particular disabilities.

**We welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee an interview to those who have the essential skills, experience etc. for the job. These can be found on the Person Specification. In addition to information in support of your application, you should state if you feel you are able to meet these requirements. If you have any specific requirements to enable you to attend interview, please detail them and we will make the necessary arrangements, for example wheelchair access, sign language interpreter.**



**DRAFT**

Job Description: **Landscape & Access Officer**

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Directorate:	Growth, Environment & Transport
Unit/Section:	Kent Downs AONB Unit
Location:	TBC
Grade:	TBC
Responsible to:	Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager

**Purpose of the Job:**

This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the Darent Valley, a beautiful rural landscape rich in heritage lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). You will be part of a dynamic team of five staff delivering ‘Samuel Palmer’s Earthly Paradise’ the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS).

It is an ambitious scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, EU Interreg 2 Seas programme and scheme partners, that brings together a range of partners to promote, support and deliver an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape management. This will be achieved through advocacy, development of partnerships and delivery of an integrated suite of projects to enhance and protect the landscape and its heritage, improve access, raise capacity in partners and the local community, and increase community engagement.

Your role will be to lead on the ‘Darent Valley Exploration’ and ‘Natural and Historic Landscapes’ programmes as well as support the integration of linked works across all programmes.

All officers employed by the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme will be expected to work across and support all of the programmes and projects within these plans in an integrated way.



### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

- Managing the targets, objectives and projects outlined in the above programmes.
- Working with landowners and tenants to effect conservation measures to protect and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity and historical landscapes of the Darent Valley.
- Develop briefs, tender and manage work to deliver programmes with contractors and consultants.
- Advise, promote and assist in helping landowners towards sustainable long-term management of natural areas, including current or future agri-environment schemes.
- Work with landowners, local authorities and the Environment Agency to increase public access to the River Darent along the Darent Valley Path and to all parts of the valley linking closely with the Countryside Access Improvement Plan.
- Oversee and support delivery partners in the delivery of scheme outputs and outcomes.
- Integrate work with other programmes across the scheme and particularly support the Community Archaeologist in their work on heritage features.
- Chair and co-ordinate the 'Exploration and 'Landscapes' theme groups to enable partners and stakeholders to have a direct and focused input to DVLPS activity.
- Support the DVLPS Manager in the reporting to the Partnership Board of scheme progress and activity.
- Support the DVLPS Manager in the preparation of reporting, claims and evaluation to HLF and other funding partners.
- Ensure that all activities are carried out in a proper manner according to the financial and health and safety requirements of the HLF and County Council and provide delivery information to the Project Manager to allow regular reporting to HLF and the Partnership Board.
- Review and evaluate each programme on an annual basis develop initiatives to enhance delivery and effectiveness.

### **Person Specification (Qualification, knowledge, skills and other):**

#### **Essential:**

- Degree or equivalent qualification, preferably in an environmental, heritage or

countryside management related subject - or significant levels of relevant experience.

- Demonstrate successful experience working with communities and partnerships to deliver innovative landscape management, heritage and access involving a wide range of community groups.
- Experience of landscape and access management preferably in a chalk landscape.
- Experience of tender preparation and assessment.
- Managing volunteers and contracted workers, and consultants effectively to deliver project outputs - including tender preparation.
- Collating information, report writing and making recommendations for action, and reporting back on work progress.
- Providing accurate financial forecasts, budgets and accounts, and ensuring project expenditure delivers on time and to budget.
- Self-starter/high motivation.
- Excellent communicator willing to work in an integrated way to achieve beyond immediate programme responsibilities.
- Good presentation and numeracy skills.
- Production of high quality work to agreed deadlines.
- Ability/ confidence to work with partners and, in particular communities and landowners.
- Ability to organise and co-ordinate different areas of work.
- Networking and partnership skills.
- Computer literacy (MS Office).
- Current driving licence.
- Knowledge of countryside access and public rights of way management including access for all.
- Interest in natural and historical heritage and the role of communities in supporting and delivering conservation and enhancement programmes.
- Knowledge and experience of partnership working.

## **Ways 2 Success**

- Partnership working
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Can do approach
- Initiative.

**Please note:**

- The details above may be adjusted to accommodate the needs of applicants with particular disabilities.
- The position is subject to CRB checking and disclosure.

**We welcome applications from disabled people and guarantee an interview to those who have the essential skills, experience etc. for the job. These can be found on the Person Specification. In addition to information in support of your application, you should state if you feel you are able to meet these requirements. If you have any specific requirements to enable you to attend interview, please detail them and we will make the necessary arrangements, for example wheelchair access, sign language interpreter.**

## Appendix 5 SAMPLE OF DELIVERY PARTNER AGREEMENT

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DATED.....

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

and

.....

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AGREEMENT

relating to

Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme

Kent

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Legal & Democratic Services  
The Kent County Council  
Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1XQ

DX: 123693 MAIDSTONE 6  
TEL: 01622 694405  
FAX: 01622 694402  
WP REF:

FILE:

**DRAFT:**

**DATE:**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the                      day of                      2017  
BETWEEN:

(1)     **THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL** of Sessions House County Hall Maidstone Kent ME14 1XQ ("the Council") and

(2)     .....

(the Council and ..... together being "the Parties")

**WHEREAS**

(1)     The Council has entered into a Grant Agreement ("the Grant Agreement") dated 19 March 2007 between the Council and National Heritage Memorial Fund ("NHMF") in respect of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme

(2)     ..... has agreed to carry out certain of the obligations ("the Approved Purposes") contained within the Grant Agreement relating to ..... as set out in the Specifications annexed hereto.

**NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

**1.     Appointment**

1.1     Subject to the provisions of this Agreement the Council hereby appoints ..... to deliver the Approved Purposes in accordance with the Grant Agreement and in particular Condition 1 of the Grant Agreement and ..... agrees to do so for the term of this agreement

**2.     Term**

2.1     This agreement shall come into force from the date of the Grant Agreement and subject to the provisions of Clause 5 below shall continue for a period from that date expiring on 30 June 2012

**3.     .....'s Obligations**



- 3.1 ..... shall provide the following services to the Council during the term:
- (a) Carrying out of the Approved Purposes in a specified manner in accordance with the Grant Agreement
  - (b) Preparing in the name of the Council all necessary claims for funding to NHMF and lodging these with the Council in time for the Council to submit them to NHMF
  - (c) Undertaking the writing of all necessary reports in accordance with the Grant Agreement and (at the Council's discretion) either lodging them with the Council in time for the Council to submit them to NHMF or submitting them directly to NHMF and providing copies thereof to the Council for its information.
  - (d) Ensuring that all financial records are audited in such a manner as to be compliant with that required by the Grant Agreement
  - (e) In connection with any claim for payment (i) certifying (in such detail as the Council or NHMF may require) how the monies claimed have been expended and (ii) submitting to the Council all such additional information as the Council (or NHMF) may reasonably require in respect of that claim
  - (f) Transferring all habitat data and other data required by NHMF collected to the Council on a regular basis
  - (g) Complying with all other provisions of the Grant Agreement or (where appropriate and so requested by the Council) procuring that the Council be put in a position to do so
  - (h) Advertising any new posts externally and tendering the procurement of all goods and services obtained in connection with this agreement

- (i) Acknowledging publicly if required that the source of the Council's funding for the Scheme is from NHMF and providing to NHMF for their own use all photographs transparencies and digital images made in connection with this agreement
- (j) Ensuring that all tangible or intangible assets ("the Property") acquired or otherwise funded by the Grant is not disposed of without NHMF's prior written approval; is not sold other than at full market value; if sold a share of the net proceeds is paid to NHMF (as may be required by NHMF by the terms of the Grant Agreement) and is maintained in good repair and condition and kept in an appropriate and secure environment
- (k) Allowing the Council access at all reasonable times to view the work being undertaken by ..... under the Grant Agreement
- (l) Arranging for the public to have full appropriate access to the Property and providing on demand details of such access to NHMF

**4. .... 's Covenants**

- 4.1 ..... shall on completion of this agreement ring fence all NHMF monies and ensure they are spent in accordance with the Grant Agreement, this agreement and any particular instructions of the Council
- 4.2. If NHMF reclaim any monies from the Council in respect of both the execution of this agreement and the Grant Agreement as a result of
  - (a) ..... failing to achieve the Approved Purposes unless the failure shall be due to the action or inaction of a third party not under its control or other circumstances beyond its control or
  - (b) for any other reason attributable to the action or failure of .....

then ..... will forthwith repay to the Council such sums as the Council has repaid to NHMF

4.3 ..... confirms that if the budget is overspent such that the cost of carrying out the Approved Purposes is greater than the monies provided by the NHMF to the Council then ..... will pay such balance out of its own funds and complete the Approved Purposes

**5. Termination**

5.1 Either Party may terminate this agreement (without prejudice to its rights to seek compensation from the other Party in respect of breach of contract) with immediate effect by notice in writing to the other Party on or at any time after the occurrence of any of the events specified in Clause 5.2 below in relation to the other Party

5.2 The events are:

- (a) a material breach by the other Party of any of its obligations under this agreement which (if the breach is capable of remedy) the other Party has failed to remedy within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice in writing giving reasonable particulars of the breach and requiring the other Party to do so)
- (b) the winding up or bankruptcy of .....

**6. Force Majeure**

6.1 For the purposes of this agreement the Term "Force Majeure Event" means any event beyond the reasonable control of a Party including strikes labour disputes acts of God war riot civil commotion malicious damage compliance with any law or government order rule regulation or direction or any overriding emergency procedures accident breakdown of plant or machinery fire flood and storm

6.2 If either Party is prevented hindered or delayed from or in performing any of its obligations under this agreement by a Force Majeure Event then:

- (a) that Party's obligations under this agreement shall be suspended for so long as the Force Majeure Event continues to the extent that Party is so prevented hindered or delayed
- (b) as soon as reasonably possible after the Force Majeure Event commences, that Party shall notify the other Party in writing of the occurrence of the Force Majeure Event the date of its commencement and where possible the effects of the Force Majeure Event on its ability to perform its obligations under the Grant Agreement
- (c) the Parties shall use all reasonable effort to mitigate the effects of  
  
the Force Majeure Event upon the performance of their obligations under this agreement

**7. Assignment**

7.1 ..... shall not assign transfer or subcontract or purport to assign " transfer or subcontract all or any part of its rights and obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the Council

**8. Variation**

8.1 A variation of or amendment to this agreement shall be valid only if it is in writing and signed by an authorised representative of each of the Parties

**9. Law**

9.1 This agreement is governed by and shall be construed in accordance with English law and the Parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts

**Confidentiality and Freedom of information**

10.1 ..... shall treat as confidential all confidential information obtained from the Council under or in connection with this agreement and shall not disclose such confidential information other than to persons identified by the Parties as able to receive such information or as otherwise

required by law and shall not use any confidential information otherwise than for the purposes of the Grant Agreement.

10.2 ..... shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that all confidential information obtained from the Council under or in connection with this agreement is given to each member of staff and/or to any third party only to the extent necessary for that member of staff and/or that third party's activities in relation to the interpretation and execution of this agreement and is treated as confidential and not disclosed (without prior approval of the Council) or used by any member of staff or third party otherwise than for the purposes of this agreement. Where confidential information that is stored or recorded by whatever means is eventually disposed of, it must be disposed of in such a way as to retain the confidentiality required under this agreement

10.3 the provisions of this clause shall not apply to any information which is or becomes public knowledge (otherwise than by breach of this clause 10.3) which was in the possession of ..... without restriction as to its disclosure before receiving it from the Council which is received from a third party who lawfully acquired it and who is under no obligation restricting its disclosure.

10.4 in the event that ..... gives the Council prior written notice that certain information of .....’s is confidential information or is a trade secret or disclosure of that information would damage .....’s commercial interests, then the Council shall not disclose that information but nothing in this clause shall prevent the Council from disclosing any information obtained from ..... to any other department office or agency of the Council or to any person engaged by the Council in connection with this agreement provided that in disclosing the information the Council shall ensure that the information is treated as confidential including requiring confidentiality undertakings where appropriate and the Council shall not be prevented from disclosing such information to those who have a lawful right to make inquiries



of the Council including but not limited to auditors, the Local Government Ombudsman, Members of Parliament or Members of the European Parliament.

10.5 If ..... receives a request from a third party to disclose the contents of this agreement ..... must inform the Council in writing within one working day of receipt of such request in order to enable the Council to decide at the earliest opportunity whether or not such request is a request covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and for the purposes of this clause, time shall be of the essence.

10.6 On termination of this agreement (for whatever reason) ..... shall return to the Council any confidential information (without retaining copies thereof) provided solely for the purposes of this agreement. .... shall ensure that any parties it deals with or who are engaged by it for provision of services in connection with this agreement, shall have similar commitments as in the present clause in their appointments.

## **11. Dispute Resolution Procedure**

### 11.1 Referral of Dispute

In the event that the Parties dispute any matter relating to the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme the dispute shall be referred to the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Board for resolution, who shall use all reasonable endeavours to agree in good faith to a resolution of the dispute within 21 days of the reference to them.

### 11.2. Arbitration

In the event that the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Board cannot agree to resolve any dispute referred to them pursuant to Clause 11.1 within the timescale referred to therein or within such longer period as they may agree, any Party may refer such dispute to the arbitration of a single arbitrator conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 for the time being

appointed with the agreement of all the Parties or, in default of agreement, appointed on the request of any party by the President for the time being of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

**AS WITNESS** the hands of the duly authorised representatives of the parties the day and year first above written

SIGNED by

SIGNED by

Signature .....

Signature .....

Name:

Name:

duly authorised for and on behalf of **The Kent**

duly authorised for and on behalf of .....

**County Council** in the presence of:

in the presence of:

Name of Witness

Name of Witness

Address

Address

Occupation

Occupation



## Appendix 6 SCHEDULED AND DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN THE SCHEME AREA

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### IUCN CATEGORY V PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

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#### AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)

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2 areas:

- Kent Downs
- Surrey Hills

### NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS

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#### NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREAS

---

1 area:

- Greater Thames Marshes NIA

#### SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

---

9 sites:

- Darenth Wood
- Farningham Woods
- Lullingstone Park
- Otford to Shoreham Downs
- Magpie Bottom
- Greatness Brickworks (*Geological*)
- Sevenoaks Gravel Pits (now Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve)
- Dryhill (*Geological*)
- Westerham Wood

#### REGISTER OF HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

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5 sites:

- Franks Hall, Horton Kirby (Grade II) 1000325
- Lullingstone Castle, Eynsford (Grade II) 1001687
- Chevening (Grade II\*) 1000258
- Combe Bank (Grade II\*) 1000365
- Squerryes Court (Grade II) 1000223

#### SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

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24 Scheduled Monuments:

- Howbury Moated Site, Slade Green (1001986)
- Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Darenth Park, Darenth (1003126)
- Dovecote at Hawley Manor, Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley (1016495)
- A major Roman villa, an Anglo-Saxon settlement and prehistoric remains 600m SSE of Darenth Court Farm, Darenth (1012965)
- A receptor of the Knights Hospitallers, known as St John's Jerusalem, and an associated fishpond at Sutton-at-Hone (1009021)
- Icehouse at Clock House, Green Street Green (1016496)
- Roman granary 250yds (230m) W of St Mary's Church, Horton Kirby (1003600)
- Medieval moated site and associated fishpond, Franks Hall, Horton Kirby (1017537)
- A Romano-British villa and a possible Iron Age farmstead at Franks, Horton Kirby (1009024)
- Fort Farningham: a London mobilisation centre, Farningham (1019246)
- Eynsford Castle (1007462)
- Eynsford Bridge (1005170)
- Chapel, Maplescombe (1005134)
- Lullingstone Roman villa and Saxon church, Eynsford (1007463)
- Lullingstone Castle gateway, Eynsford (1005161)
- Medieval moated site, Filston Hall, Shoreham (1013133)
- Bowl barrow at Otford Mount, Otford (1007986)
- Otford Palace (1005197)
- St Thomas a Becket's Well, Otford (1005152)
- Otford Roman Villa (1005155)
- Milestone on Pilgrim's Way, Kemsing (1004215)
- Fort Halstead, Knockholt Pound (1004214)
- Montreal Park Obelisk, Sevenoaks (1005157)
- Linear earthwork 230m south west of Covers Farm, Westerham (1017523)

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#### LISTED BUILDINGS

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There are 597 listed buildings in the DVLPS area. This is 50% higher than the national average. There are also 89% more Grade I and Grade II\* buildings than the national average. They consist of:

- 15 Grade I
- 36 Grade II\*
- 546 Grade II

---

#### CONSERVATION AREAS

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16 areas:

- Dartford
- South Darenth
- Horton Kirby
- Farningham
- Eynsford
- Shoreham - Mill Lane
- Shoreham – High Street & Church Street



- Otford
- Kemsing
- Heaverham
- Chipstead
- Chevening
- Sundridge
- Brasted – High Street
- Brasted – Church Area
- Westerham

## LOCAL DESIGNATIONS

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### LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES (LWS)

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23 sites:

- DA02 St John the Baptist Churchyard, Sutton-at-Hone
- DA03 Sutton-at-Hone Lakes
- DA04 Dartford Marshes
- SE05 Austin Lodge Valley, Eynsford
- SE06 Magpie Bottom, Shoreham
- SE07 Lullingstone Park (additional to SSSI)
- SE08 Dalhanna Chalk Slope
- SE09 Woodlands West of Shoreham (Shoreham Woods Country Park)
- SE11 Meadows and Woods, Noah’s Ark, Kemsing
- SE12 Woods and Down above Kemsing
- SE16 Great Norman Street Farm, Ide Hill
- SE39 Crockham Hill Common
- SE41 Dryhill Country Park
- SE43 Knatts Valley, West Kingsdown
- SE44 St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Kemsing
- SE47 St Botolph’s Churchyard, Sundridge
- SE49 Chevening Estate
- SE50 Combe Wood, Brasted
- SE51 Laundry Field, Lullingstone
- SE53 St Mary’s Churchyard, Sundridge
- SE60 Grassland adjacent to Farningham Wood
- SE62 Hill Water Bottom Wood
- SE63 Farley Common
- M107 Crayford Marshes (Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation)

### LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

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2 sites:

- Dryhill Country Park

- Farningham Woods

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#### ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVES

---

4 sites:

- DA03 Joyce Green Lane, Dartford
- DA08 Station Road, South Darenth
- SE05 A225 Shoreham Road
- SE07 Pilgrim's Way, Westerham

---

#### COUNTRY PARKS

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5 sites:

- Darenth
- Lullingstone Park, Eynsford
- Preston Hill, Shoreham
- Shoreham Woods, Shoreham
- Dryhill, Riverhead

---

### BAP PRIORITY HABITATS IN THE DVLPS AREA

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#### UK BAP PRIORITY HABITATS

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There are 18 UK BAP priority habitats in the DVLPS area:

- Rivers
- Ponds
- Eutrophic Standing Waters
- Arable Field Margins
- Hedgerows
- Traditional Orchards
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland
- Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Meadows
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Lowland Heathland
- Reedbeds
- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Intertidal Mudflats

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#### KENT BAP HABITATS

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There are also 14 Kent BAP habitats within the DVLPS area:

- Cereal Field Margins
- Ancient and/or Species-Rich Hedgerows
- Native Woodland
- Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
- Built-up Areas & Gardens
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Heath
- Reedbeds
- Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Intertidal Sediment
- Lowland Meadow
- Chalk Rivers
- Standing Open Water
- Traditional Orchards



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## Appendix 7 DRAFT TENDER BRIEF FOR EVALUATION OF THE DVLPS

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### 1. Overall purpose and approach

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership invites tenders from suitably qualified and experienced organisations to support the Partnership in monitoring and evaluating the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LP) over the next five years.

The appointed contractor will subject the scheme to external scrutiny over this period, while also working with the Partnership to help us to integrate the monitoring of project outputs and outcomes into our project management system. This process will enable us to:

- Demonstrate to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), to other funders and to partner organisations what is being achieved
- Help us to maximise what we (and others) learn from the delivery of the LP. Embedding monitoring and evaluation into our scheme at this early stage means we can use this learning to improve the scheme, as well as build on this when we undertake new programmes of work in the future.

There will be three parts to the contract:

1. Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework
2. Mid-delivery review
3. End of scheme evaluation

Tenderers are invited to submit proposals for all three elements of work. Each element will be commissioned separately. Successful completion of Part 1 of this brief may lead to (but does not guarantee) a further commission to complete Part 2 and/or Part 3.

### 2. Background

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme is a £2.5 million Heritage Lottery funded project that is working with partners and local communities to conserve and celebrate the landscape and heritage of the Dover and Folkestone area.

The scheme commenced delivery in June 2017 and will run for 5 years until May 2022. The programme of work includes a wide range of projects dealing with different aspects of the area's heritage and people's engagement with it.

The Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for DVLPS can be found at *TBC*. This provides comprehensive information about the scheme. Some elements of the LCAP are of particular relevance to scheme monitoring and evaluation:

- The Scheme vision, its five aims and objectives, and the five programmes of work.
- The individual project plans, which identify for each project a number of outputs and outcomes



- Sections on scheme legacy and monitoring and evaluation, which will form one starting point for this contract.

The philosophy and approach of the UK-wide Landscape Partnership programme is detailed on the Heritage Lottery fund's website:

[www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/LandscapePartnerships.aspx](http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/LandscapePartnerships.aspx).

### **3. Challenges in evaluating a Landscape Partnership Scheme**

The Partnership recognises that the complexity of the scheme raises a number of challenges in terms of how it is to be monitored and evaluated:

- Tracking the different outputs and outcomes will require a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures
- The scheme is more than just a set of discrete projects, and it is important that we are able to demonstrate ways in which the scheme as a whole is delivering more than the sum of its individual projects
- Monitoring and evaluation activities must not take up a disproportionate amount of resource (in terms of either cash or staff time)

### **4. Part 1 of the Brief: Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework**

The deliverable for this first tranche of work will be a document which identifies how the scheme outputs and outcomes will be monitored, and will establish a system whereby those responsible for delivery of different elements of the scheme will collect appropriate data.

To set up such a system will require a detailed examination of targets presented in the LCAP (and in some instances may involve identification of additional targets in liaison with the scheme manager / delivery partners). Working with the programme team and delivery partners, the contractor will need to identify appropriate indicators and different types of evidence which will give us a reliable measure of the impact which is being made. The choice of indicators, or the type of evidence to be collected, will be governed by a number of factors, including the extent to which these provide reliable data, measurability and ease of collection, and the availability of existing baseline data against which change can be assessed.

The Monitoring and Evaluation framework will be developed over the next few months, and needs to be completed and in use by September 2017. Once the framework is in place data will be collected by project leads and submitted to the Scheme Manager on a six-monthly basis. Data will be sent to the appointed contractor for review / expert commentary, and will then be considered by the Partnership board.

### **5. Part 2 of the Brief: mid-delivery review**

During the winter of 2019/20 the Partnership plans to carry out a formal mid-way review of the Scheme. The purpose of this review will be to:

- Take stock of progress to date, providing a critical assessment which will be of value to funders and partners.
- Tighten up the Scheme's legacy ambitions and consider in more detail how these will be delivered. Legacy will need to be considered at both a scheme-wide level and in terms of individual projects.
- Ensure delivery plans / management systems for the second half of the scheme remain fit for purpose.

The consultant's role in the mid-delivery review will be to:

1. Produce an interim scheme evaluation

This will draw on:

- Quantitative and qualitative monitoring data collected over the preceding two years (in line with the monitoring and evaluation framework agreed during the summer of 2013)
- 'Output data' which the project team will need to compile to meet HLF's reporting requirements
- Project documentation – in particular relating to delivery targets.
- Interviews with a number of key individuals including funders, partners and volunteers
- Selected visits to project delivery sites

The interim scheme evaluation will:

- Confirm what has been achieved to date, identifying what has been particularly successful, difficulties which have been faced, areas where delivery has not been achieved in line with expectations, and an assessment of value for money
- Provide an assessment of the extent to which the scheme is contributing to wider HLF goals and the wider aspirations of partners and local communities (i.e. an assessment of whether the 'right' things are being done)
- Review the efficiency and effectiveness of scheme leadership and management, and of the role of the wider partnership
- Consider how the Scheme might have been managed differently during the first half of the scheme, presenting recommendations for any changes in delivery and management during the second half of the Scheme.

The interim evaluation report will be reasonably concise (no more than c. 30 pages), incorporating photographs and diagrams etc. and will include a 2-3 page stand-alone summary document.

## 2. Providing support in the production of a Scheme legacy plan

This will involve working with the Scheme Manager and his team, and with delivery partners, to identify and firm up legacy plans for individual projects and for the scheme as a whole. Such a plan will need to include a set of actions which need to be undertaken before the end of the scheme (2022) to ensure benefits of the scheme are taken forward.

## 3. Presentation to the Partnership Board

The contractor will be required to present their interim evaluation and the draft legacy plan to the partnership board for review and discussion.

## 6. Part 3 of the Brief: End-of-scheme evaluation

The principal deliverable for this final tranche of work will be an evaluation report in line with HLF's requirements (without which the final 10% of their contribution to the scheme will not be released).

### Purpose

The purpose of the end of scheme report is to summarise what has been achieved and what has been learnt during the implementation period. Its audience will be the HLF, Partnership Board, Partnership Forum, partners and stakeholders. The evaluation will:

- Tell the story of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Examine the extent to which the vision, aims and objectives have been realised, where the original ambitions and targets have been met (or exceeded), and where (and why) there may have been a shortfall
- Present an assessment of the longer term outcomes and impacts beyond the end of the scheme, and of the plans in place to ensure this legacy is carried forward.
- Review the process of scheme delivery: how effective have the governance and project management structures been?
- What has been learnt – should things have been done in a different way?

### Approach to be adopted

The evaluation report needs to provide an honest assessment of the scheme, being open both to successes and failures. A collaborative approach with the project team and the partnership board will be needed in preparing the report. The final evaluation can draw on:

- The mid-delivery review
- A wide range of written materials including the original bid document to HLF, the LCAP and supporting documents
- Monitoring data collected throughout the scheme delivery period, as outlined above
- Additional information and insights gathered by the consultant during the end of scheme evaluation period (Feb. – May 2022). This might include additional stake-holder surveys (using for example ‘Survey Monkey’), focus groups and key informant interviews (with delivery partners, project beneficiaries and other stakeholders, the HLF monitor / case officer etc.).
- Visits to sites around the scheme area

### Deliverables

The evaluation process provides an opportunity to celebrate the Partnership’s achievements and should be written in an upbeat style to convey this. We require a report of no more than 100 pages, illustrated with appropriate photographs / diagrams. The report needs to incorporate also a stand-alone summary report (6 pages or less).

The consultant will also be required to present their findings to the Partnership Board or to a wider group called together to celebrate the end of the Scheme delivery.

## **7. Criteria for choosing the successful tenderer**

The successful contractor will:

- Show that they fully understand our requirements in letting this contract, and are prepared to work with us in a flexible way over the contract period to best meet our needs
- Have a track record of carrying out heritage based evaluation work, and in producing useful and readable evaluation reports. They will be able to demonstrate that the personnel who will be involved have appropriate skills and relevant background knowledge. In particular, they need to show they are able to take a robust approach to evaluation even when this may mean making criticisms of their client organisation
- Show that they will be able to work effectively and in a creative way with the project team and the wider partnership, and where appropriate will take an innovative approach to the evaluation
- Have in-depth knowledge of the areas of work with which the landscape partnership is involved, including:
  - Knowledge of natural and historic environment policy

- An understanding of working on a landscape scale
- Experience of community and rural subject matters
- Experience of the voluntary sector
- Experience of training and education initiatives

Ideally the contractor will already have had some previous experience of working with HLF's landscape partnership programme.

- The contractor will also need to have:
  - Excellent presentation, written and verbal communication skills
  - Robust management and project management arrangements
  - Commitment to equalities
  - The ability to take initiative and work independently
  - The ability to work with a variety of people
  - A willingness to travel within the project area and adopt flexible working patterns
- Can justify costs and provide demonstrable value for money

## **8. Management information**

The project manager and the main contact for this evaluation work will be the Scheme Manager, Darent Valley Landscape Partnership.

The Contractor will grant Kent County Council full copyright on all contents and materials produced. Where the Contractor makes use of material in which copyright vests in third parties, it will be the responsibility of the Contractor to obtain permission for the appropriate use of such material.

The total budget for all three elements of this contract is not to exceed £25,000 (ex VAT)

## **9. Submitting a tender**

Your tender should be no more than 20 sides of A4, including CVs / appendices. This means you will have to be concise and focus on giving us information that is directly relevant to our 'criteria for choosing the successful tenderer' above.



Your tender should include:

- Name of tendering organisation
- Name of lead individual
- Contact details.
- Names, positions, details of relevant experience and expertise of all staff to be involved in the evaluation. In particular, please include information regarding projects you have delivered of similar scale and value.
- A brief statement detailing your understanding and interpretation of the purpose, context, specific objectives and scope of this work
- A proposed methodology to deliver the required outputs, together with a clear statement of the cost of the work and details of the how this will be spent. Explain how costs will be divided over the three project phases, and the roles different personnel will take in delivering the work.
- A statement about the quality control measures you will use.
- Two referees who can comment on your previous work.
- A risk assessment for the evaluation.
- Price – including breakdown of day-rates.
- Legal status of the organisation/business, VAT registration status, insurance cover.

The tender should be submitted by TBC to:

Successful candidates will be appointed on the basis of fitness for purpose, best value and availability.



## Appendix 8 DARENT VALLEY LPS INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

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(Attached as a separate document)