

## 6.0 LANDSCAPE TYPES

6.1 There are 20 landscape types within the district. These are shown on Figure 4 and are briefly described below. They are the building blocks for the landscape character areas described in the following chapters. The classification is broadly compatible with the landscape types classification prepared for the Somerset Levels and Moors ESA (MAFF 1995).

### 6.2 Type 1: Heathland

These are small areas of heathland and limestone heath, dominated by acid-loving plants, with a flat or gently-domed landform.

### 6.3 Type 2: Plateau and Ridge with Parliamentary Enclosures

This is a sparsely-populated undulating landscape with very little tree cover and a strong pattern of rectilinear fields, bounded mainly by drystone walls.

### 6.4 Type 3: Steep Slopes with Woodland and Pasture

This is a very variable landscape type unified by landform and by mosaics of pasture fields, hedgerows and woodland.

### 6.5 Type 3a: Footslope Villages

Adjacent to the main type, there are compact villages in local stone surrounded by small hedged fields.

### 6.6 Type 4: Flat Arable Farmland with Small Valleys

This type comprises flat to gently sloping predominantly arable land with low ridges, cut through by small valleys which open out into complex landforms on their upper reaches.

### 6.7 Type 5: Broad Ridges with Arable Farmland

This is a large scale landscape of broad ridges, low hedges and large fields in which the arable farming tends to dominate.

### 6.8 Type 6: Broad, Sweeping Slopes

The one example of this type in the district is a broad sweeping slope overlooking the Wellow Brook valley. It differs from other types of slope in the district in being largely free of minor valleys and having a fairly uniform pattern of landcover and gradient.

#### 6.9 Type 7: Wide Shallow Valleys with Farmland and Woodland

The broad gently-sloping valleys contrast with most of the other valleys in the district, which are generally steep-sided, and have mixed cultivation in medium size fields with some woodland.

#### 6.10 Type 8: Steep-sided Variable Valleys with Fast Flowing Streams

Some of these valleys have quite wide heads formed by several streams, although the Sheppey Valley does not. They are frequently wooded and heavily settled with the agricultural land being predominantly in pasture use. Many of the settlements have the fast-flowing stream, running through them.

#### 6.11 Type 9: Rolling Farmland with Frequent Arable

This rolling landscape with occasional large woodland blocks is often intensively farmed and arable is quite frequent. The hedgerow pattern is irregular. There are some blocks of small fields with frequent hedgerow trees, but also much more open, largely tree less, areas with low hedges.

#### 6.12 Type 10: Irregular Slopes and Ridges with Pasture Farmland

This is a varied landscape of small, irregular ridges, steep minor valleys, frequent settlement, medium sized fields, small woodlands and frequent hedgerow trees.

#### 6.13 Type 11: Wide Irregular Valleys with Mixed Farmland

This type comprises irregular slopes and minor side valleys with quite large fields and occasional woodland blocks.

#### 6.14 Type 12: Steep Wooded Scarp

This very distinctive landscape type is found only in the south western edge of the district on the Greensand. It comprises a very steep slope dominated by woodland, with frequent conifers.

#### 6.15 Type 13: Steep-sided Large Valleys

This landscape type has some similarities to type 8, but is on a larger scale and the valley follows a more sweeping course, with a distinct floodplain, although this is rarely more than one field wide.

#### 6.16 Type 14: Open Downland Ridges

These quite narrow downland ridges have very little tree cover, low hedges and a very open character, emphasised by the long views across both sides of the ridge.

#### 6.17 Type 15: Gently-undulating Mainly Pasture Slopes

This type is similar to type 9, but lacks the rolling character and is essentially a series of gentle slopes and shallow steps with small, shallow,

intricate depressions. There is generally good hedgerow tree cover, but it lacks the large woodlands of 9.

#### **6.18 Type 16: Steep, Irregular Slopes and Small Valleys**

Here steep slopes are cut into an intricate pattern of deeply-incised very variable valleys. There is frequent tree cover from small woodlands and hedgerow trees.

#### **6.19 Type 17: Gently-Undulating and Flat Open Farmland**

This is land on both arable and pasture cultivation with generally quite large fields and low hedges, emphasising the open appearance of the landscape. This area contains 17a broadly similar to 17 but has more frequent settlements and orchards in a landscape which is more undulating.

#### **6.20 Type 18: Large Lias Ridges with Farmland and Woodland**

These large and prominent ridges are on a different scale from type 19. They have frequent woodland and medium sized fields enclosed by hedges which are often overgrown, except locally where there is arable cultivation. Orchards are present in many places.

#### **6.21 Type 19: Low Lias Ridges**

These low ridges have quite frequent, rather dispersed settlement, and small fields often with overgrown hedges, and abrupt edges with the adjacent moors.

#### **6.22 Type 20: Moorland**

This is a flat landscape, mainly pasture, but also with areas of peatworking, open water and scrub divided up by a prominent rectilinear pattern of wet ditches (rhynes). Tree cover is largely absent, except as alders and willows alongside the rhynes. Some of the willows are pollarded.

#### **6.23 Type 21: Undulating Ridges and Knolls of Mixed Farmland**

This landscape type has some of the characteristics of type 19 and some of type 20, but the dominant characteristic is an attractive and very varied group of landforms. The ridges and knolls are separated by small areas of moorland, but in many cases this is no more than a shallow valley without a truly wetland appearance. Vegetation of the tops of the ridges and knolls is very variable. It includes woodland, hedges, and bare pasture which augments the variety of the landforms.