

**APP A: MAIDSTONE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2014 CONSULTATION ISSUES & RESPONSES TO POLICY SP5(6) LANDSCAPES OF LOCAL VALUE**

Key Issue	No. in support	No. of objections	No. of observations	Details	Officer response	Officer Recommendation
1. Lack of replacement for Special Landscape Areas	0	1	0	Lack of replacement for Special Landscape Areas	Nationally, there is a move away from extensive local landscape area designations unless there is robust evidence to support such policies. The draft Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2014 designates areas of local landscape value, including the Greensand Ridge which is a former SLA. Further work has identified an additional landscape of local value for the setting of the Kent Downs AONB. The Low Weald SLA did not meet the criteria for designation.	Add Setting of the Kent Downs AONB to landscapes of local value.
2. Omission of additional areas of landscapes of local value	0	10	2	<p>Walderslade woodlands, Beechen Bank, Lidsing environs, Cowbeck Woods, Reeds Croft Woods</p> <p>Greenfield land in Otham</p> <p>Land between Bearsted and Leeds Castle</p> <p>The countryside between Leeds Castle and Bearsted, either side of the A20 and M20</p> <p>Area between J7 and J8 (former SLA) should receive some protection</p> <p>Setting of the AONB</p> <p>Greensand Ridge and Low Weald</p> <p>Should include land south of Ashford Road in Bearsted (not clear exactly where)</p>	Many of these areas are too small to be designated landscapes of local value, which is a strategic designation of landscape protection for the borough, and would be better considered at the local level through the neighbourhood planning process. The Greensand Ridge is already designated in the draft Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2014. Further work has identified an additional landscape of local value for the setting of the Kent Downs AONB. The Low Weald SLA did not meet the criteria for designation.	Add Setting of the Kent Downs AONB to landscapes of local value.

3. The definition of local landscapes needs to be clearer and clarification of the added protection included	0	3	0	The definition of local landscapes needs to be clearer and clarification of the added protection included	Agreed.	Add to supporting text for policy SP5: Landscapes of local value have been identified according to criteria relating to the character and sensitivity of the areas. Development proposals within areas of landscape local value should, through their siting, scale, mass, materials and design, seek to contribute positively to the conservation and enhancement of the protected landscape.
4. Landscapes of Local Value protection is supported	1	0	0	Landscapes of Local Value protection is supported	Support is welcomed	No change to policy