

## **APPENDIX D – Locally distinctive and highly valued views**

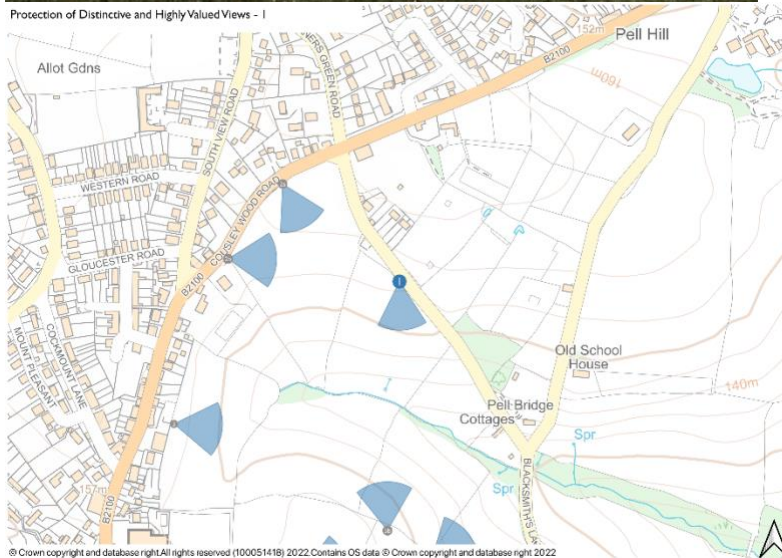
- D1. Wadhurst Parish is located within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, towards the eastern end of the east-west Forest Ridge. This part of the ridge has the valleys of the Bewl River to the northeast and the Tide Brook to the southwest. The High Weald, which encompasses the ridged and faulted sandstone core of the Kent and Sussex Weald, is an area of countryside representing one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe.
- D2. The general appearance of the High Weald is one of a densely wooded landscape, which comprises a patchwork of irregularly shaped fields and woods forming both open and enclosed landscapes along rolling ridges and within valleys. Along the ridge top roads briefly glimpsed extensive views open, stretching away over rolling ridges, with church spires often present within the views between the ridges, and green valleys below. The mosaic of small, hedged fields and sunken lanes, together with the wooded relief and comparative inaccessibility, provides a sense of remoteness which is rare within lowland English landscapes and creates a strong sense of place.
- D3. The landscape of the Weald is characterised by thickly wooded areas, with some historic, often ancient, woodland used for coppicing.
- D4. The historic settlement setting of Wadhurst village, and the Parish overall is created by:
- remnant historic landscapes around the settlements.
  - a ridge that runs northeast to southwest facilitating long and dramatic views of the streams and valleys below.
  - undulating fields interspersed with small stream corridors and extensive patches of woodland.
  - an ancient landscape comprised of irregular piecemeal enclosure, cohesive and aggregate assarts and Ancient Woodland.
  - Grade II listed Wadhurst Castle, and its associated registered park and garden, adding historic interest to the settlement setting.
  - Bewl Water and Kent, which can be seen to the northeast.
  - narrow streams scattered across the countryside.
  - a network of footpaths connecting the settlements with the surrounding countryside.
  - Landscape characteristics include large linear settlement, residential and including local shopping facilities; many historical buildings throughout the settlements; the church, which is central and dominant in Wadhurst village and can be seen from all around on the high ridges; sensitive urban edges all around the settlements, surrounded by mature vegetation; outstanding views to and from Wadhurst village.
- D5. Information about the particularly valued views identified through local engagement is provided below.

D6. The Wealden Landscape Sensitivity Criteria have been considered to assist in demonstrating the importance of the views:

Ref.	Criteria1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria 4	Criteria 5	Criteria 6
	Contribution to landscape setting	Distinctiveness	Continuity	Strength of place	Visibility Landform	Visibility Tree cover
View 1 Field East of Primmers Field	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 2a, b Primmers Field	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 3 Field Southwest of Primmers Field	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 4 Field Southeast to View 3	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 5 Field East next to View 4	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 6 Vicarage Green	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 7 Hill House Field	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 8 Stone Cross Farm	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 9a, b Brinkers Lane	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant / Panoramic	Open
View 10 Windmill Lane. Cousley Wood	Major	Unique/rare	Ancient	Strong	Dominant/ Panoramic	Open

D7. Further information on each view is provided below. Each has the name of the view, a photograph showing the view, a map (where the individual view number is noted in blue, where more than one view can be seen) and a description as to what the view is and why it is special.

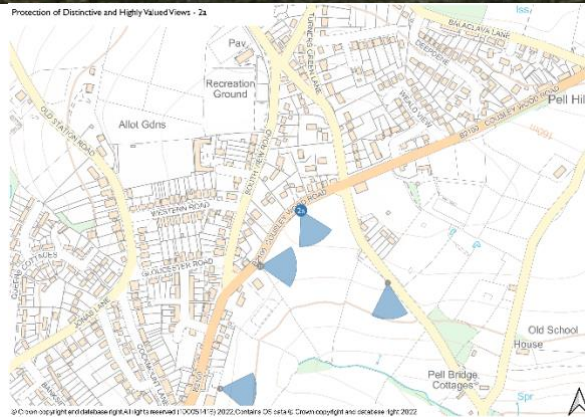
## View 1 – From the farm gate in Primmers Green Lane towards the steeple of St Peter and St Paul Church



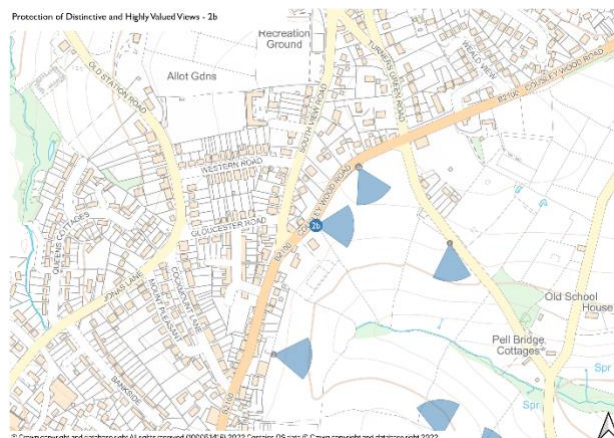
**Description:** Extensive views across rolling High Weald AONB / sheep grazing lands towards St Peter and St Paul Church steeple (Grade I listed). Primmers Green Lane is a single-track narrow and is a tranquil backwater. Informal footpaths well-used by the public.

## Views 2a & 2b – From Cousley Wood Road / Primmers Green Lane junction southeast across Primmers field

**View 2a** - Looking southeast towards the steeple of St Peter and St Paul Church (Grade I listed) from Cousley Wood Road

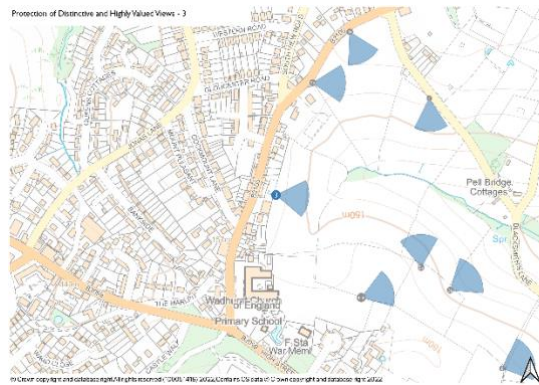


**View 2b** – Looking southeast towards over HWAONB from start of Sparrows Green Road, where informal footpath starts.



**Description:** Views are taken from the large southeast sloping field, which offers outstanding views across rolling open High Weald AONB, predominantly sheep grazing countryside. This is an important view southeast between Primmers Green Lane and Wadhurst village, with a view of the Church steeple. This is a view that would have been in existence for many centuries.

### View 3 – From Ben Grieg’s Garage forecourt across well used informal footpaths on field next to (Southwest) Primmers Green field



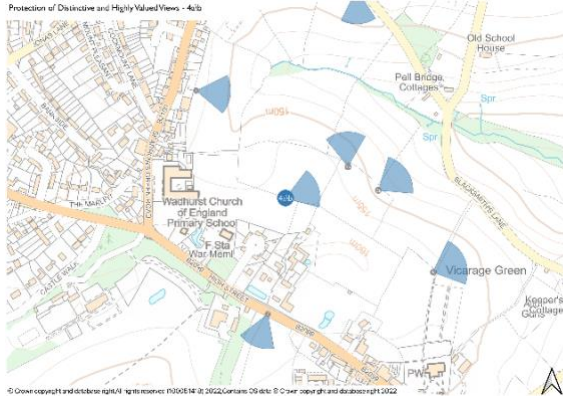
The image on the left shows the view east across rolling AONB / sheep grazing field.

**Description:** Views are visible to the public from Ben Grieg’s Garage forecourt. The view is seen across the large southeast sloping field. It provides views across open rolling High Weald countryside.



## Views 4a and 4b – Across to Bewl Water from Wadhurst Primary School

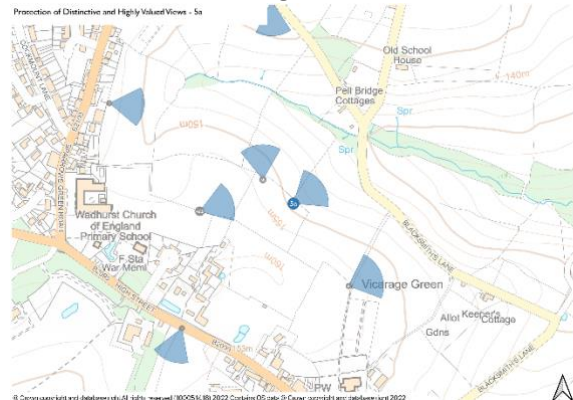
**View 4a (image on the left):** From Wadhurst CoE Primary School fence and **View 4b (image on the right):** From other side of the fence on well used, informal footpaths on field (which is south of Primmers Field (access from farm gate in Primmers Green Lane) northeast to Bewl Water (c. 3 miles)



**Description:** The open views across farmland/sheep grazing areas towards Bewl Water have been identified by the community as providing an attractive backdrop in this tranquil part of Wadhurst behind the High Street. Here the ridge top land is partly bordered by the school playing fields, which themselves are identified as a Local Green Space. Other notable features of the view include the visibility at sunrise. The views are also accessible via informal footpaths which are well-used by the public.

**Views 5a and 5b - From well used footpath on field (southeast of Primmers Green field with access from farm gate in Primmers Green Lane) northeast to Bewl Water (c. 3 miles) and north to Primmers Green**

**View 5a** - Bewl Water can be seen in the northeast distance across rolling AONB farmland.

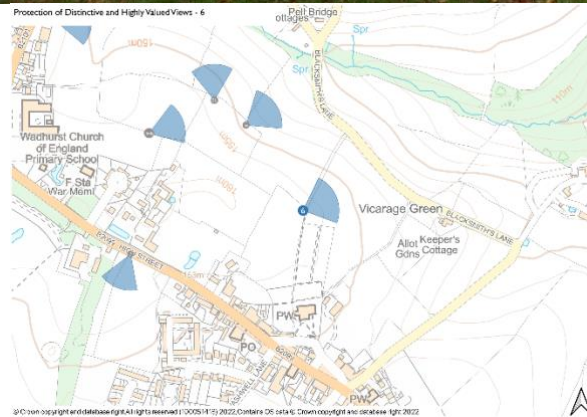


**View 5b:** Primmers Green can be seen to the north



**Description:** The open views across farmland/sheep grazing areas towards Bewl Water provide an attractive backdrop in this tranquil part of Wadhurst behind the High Street. The view is from the top of the ridge top. At night, the area affords dark skies views and, in the mornings, sunrises have been flagged as particularly beautiful from this location. Although the land here is privately owned, there are informal footpaths well-used by the public, and these views can also be seen from the Primary School Recreation Area.

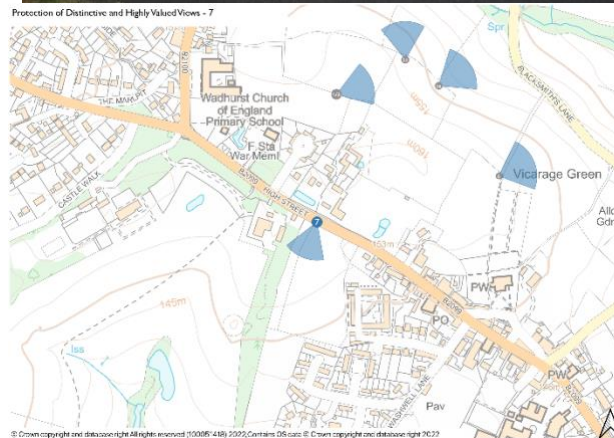
## View 6 - From Church (Donkey Steps) public footpath across Vicarage Green to Bewl Water (c. 3 miles)



**Description:** Bewl Water can be seen in the distance across rolling High Weald AONB farmland. The open AONB views across this particular piece of farmland/sheep grazing land towards Bewl Water provide an attractive backdrop in this tranquil part of Wadhurst behind the High Street. At night, the area affords dark skies views and, in the mornings, sunrises have been flagged as particularly beautiful from this location.



**View 7 – From the Walk, in the High Street south towards the southern ridge (Burwash to Heathfield) c. 5 miles**

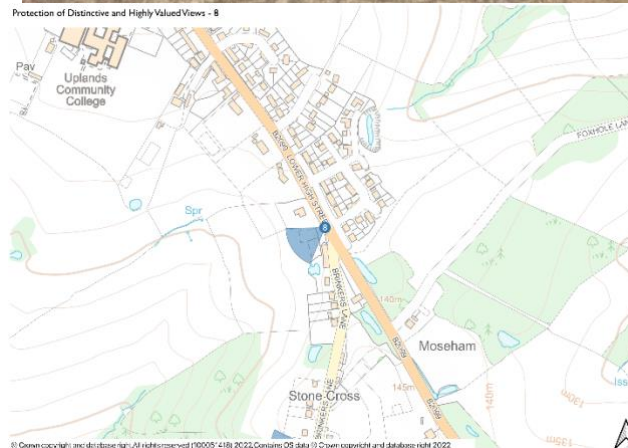


**Description:** The view is taken from the public bench on The Walk, in the High Street. This is the last easily accessible southern green gap view going northwest of Wadhurst High Street. Rural field fronting onto B2099 (Wadhurst High Street) with long distance views across AONB to the far southern ridge (Burwash – Heathfield).

The Wadhurst Conservation Area Character Appraisal (para. 5.4.4) notes this view *“is particularly significant to the historic setting of Hill House and contributes to the rural setting of this area of the village, affording views to the High Weald”*. In para. 5.5.7 it notes *“There are important panoramic views over the field opposite Hill House across the High Weald towards the next ridge. The panoramic views across the High Weald to the southeast and southwest and this open landscape setting, interspersed with woodland and open fields, has a very strong sense of place and strong links to the historic development of the area.”*

At night, the area affords dark skies views and, in the mornings, sunrises have been flagged as particularly beautiful from this location.

**View 8 - From Wadhurst Lower High Street looking southwest over fields to southern ridge (c. 5 miles)**



**Description:** The view taken looking southwest from Lower High Street. The open views across farmland/sheep grazing areas towards the southern ridge (Burwash to Heathfield) provide an attractive backdrop to the busy B2099 Lower High Street Road.

This is an important green corridor view going northwest and looking southwest from Lower High Street. Similar view from public footpath running alongside and into these fields.

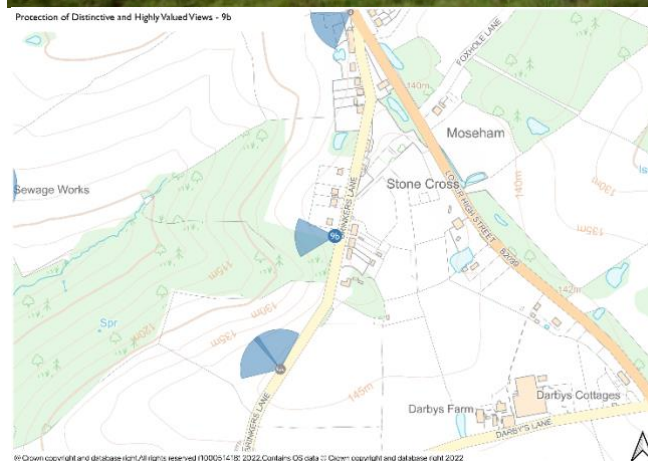
At night, the area affords dark skies views and, in the mornings, sunrises have been flagged as particularly beautiful from this location.

**Views 9a, 9b and 9c - from Brinkers Lane farm gates (x2) to Mayfield Lane ridge (c. 2 miles) and to the spire of St Peter and St Paul Church (c. 1 mile); and View 9d looking east towards the Brinkers Lane ridge from footpath 27a from Stone Cross Farm to Snape Wood (this is the reciprocal view of View 9b)**

**View 9a:** from farm gate 2 - West to Mayfield Lane ridge.



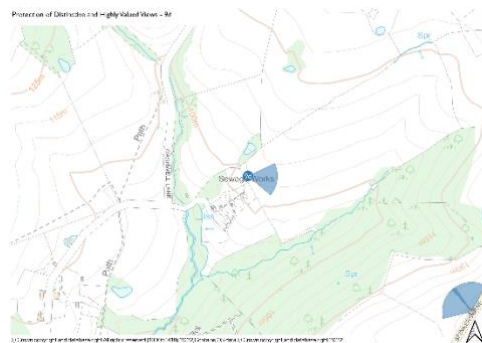
**View 9b – from farm gate 1 - West to Mayfield Lane Ridge from ‘Four Winds’ house**



**View 9c – from farm gate 2 - northwest to St Peter and St Paul Church Spire**



**View 9d** – looking East towards the Brinkers Lane ridge from footpath 27a from Stone Cross Farm to Snape Wood (this is the *reciprocal* view of View 9b)



**Description:** Beautiful views in a 180-degree arc are across the High Weald and open farm / sheep grazing land and to Wadhurst village and the spire of St Peter and St Paul Church (Grade I listed). The views are visible from two farm gates on the right as you proceed down Brinkers Lane just past the houses. The Wadhurst Conservation Area Character Appraisal (para. 5.5.6) says *"There are views from Stone Cross, across the fields and through to Wadhurst Castle planned parkland and garden"*.



## View 10: – Windmill Lane, Cousley Wood (by Farm Gate)



**Description:** This is a beautiful view towards Bewl Water in a 120-degree arc across the High Weald and open farmland