

WHAT IS A LOCAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION?

A Local Landscape Designation (LLD) is an officially-recognised identification of an area where planning policies and decisions should respect and enhance the landscape, history, heritage and natural environment of that area. It is achieved by incorporation in a statutory plan.

OBJECTIVES OF DESIGNATION

- Identity** - Recognition that the valley means more than just part of the countryside or semi-rural area.
- Statutory** - Once incorporated into statutory planning policies, the valley will represent more than 'a material consideration' in planning terms and be the primary determinant in decision making
- Strategic** – It will provide planning policy continuity across the three (current) local planning authorities
- Holistic** - The valley will underpin the whole area's homogeneity and the connectivity of its environmental assets.
- Permanence** – A Landscape Designation is based on physical environmental features making it more resilient to policy change - unlike the Green Belt policy
- Financial** - Designation will add weight to complementary projects seeking financial assistance under DEFRA's Environmental Land Management Scheme and grants under other government initiatives.
- Awareness** - Heightened awareness of the valley's rich past will help future decision makers and investors to act in a sensitive way. Designation will help to raise awareness of the 'jewels' which exist within the it and encourage sympathetic investment in its assets.
- Education** - Framing the valley area as an entity would provide an educational opportunity for all, showing how the valley's social history evolved over time, and how rare habitats can, and should be protected.

For further information, please visit our website: www.mimramvalleylandscape.org ,e-mail mimramvalleylandscape@gmail.com or contact your local Town or Parish Council or Meeting.

The **Mimram Valley Local Landscape Designation project** is supported by the 11 local councils in whose areas the valley is located and through which the River Mimram flows: King's Walden, St Paul's Walden, Kimpton, Knebworth, Codicote, Welwyn, Tewin and Hertingfordbury Parish Councils; Ayot St Lawrence and Ayot St Peter Parish Meetings; and Hertford Town Council. Collectively these local authorities represent over 50,000 residents. The next steps are to make the details available to local residents and stakeholders via this leaflet and the website, and to send the proposal to the three Local Planning Authorities involved: East Herts and North Herts District Councils and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, asking them to include Local Landscape Designation for the Valley in their statutory plans, most probably at the next revise of their Local Plans.

This leaflet has been produced under the guidance of a steering group of representatives of the 11 town and parish councils and parish meetings in whose areas the valley lies. The web site and printing have been made possible by a grant from Affinity Water Limited, to whom the Project is grateful.

The Mimram Valley

Local Landscape Designation Proposal



Mimram source, near Staggenhoe



Whitwell Village



Digswell Viaduct



Tewinbury

A twelve mile-long valley in the centre of Hertfordshire, with a unique landscape of parkland, farmland and woods, through which flows the wonderful River Mimram chalk stream, beginning near Whitwell and ending at Hertford, where it joins the River Lea.

The Mimram and its valley is a jewel in the Hertfordshire countryside and it deserves to be fully enjoyed by all.

TIM HAGYARD (*Chalk Stream Reflections 2023*)

The Mimram goes through a dozen historic parishes, and its great scenic beauty, coupled with its closeness to London has attracted many wealthy people to build country houses and to create parks along it.

TONY ROOK (*River Mimram 2014*)

The Mimram Valley

