

Supporting Document LEA1

SWOT Data (Environment)

Topic Environment – Table 1

	Opportunity	Threat
Routeways & Open Spaces	Increasing tourism	Increasing development & traffic
Woodlands, Trees, Hedgerows, & Field Patterns	Plan to protect & replace hedgerows & plant new trees	Lack of appreciation of the country code by people moving into countryside: education needed in country ways
Biodiversity (Wildlife): Flora & Fauna	Funding from builders to protect wildlife flora & fauna – more targeted conservation, funding, and understanding what is already going on	Density of new developments – risk from large estates
Views, Dark Skies, Tranquillity	Identify the most important / outstanding views within the parish	Large estate development impact on views / light pollution / urbanisation. Might be threatened by site of 20 houses
Streams, Ponds, Ditches & Flooding	Developers could be tasked to maintain ditches / waterways	Existing farmers are maintaining these: if sold off for building = risk to ongoing maintenance

Supporting Document LEA2

Landscape Character Assessments 2018

Landscape

The parish of Benenden is a prime example of the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty. The medieval field structures and settlement patterns largely remain, modified through the centuries as the population has grown. It is peppered with outstanding views due to the ridged nature of the landscape. It enjoys rich biodiversity thanks to the largely unspoilt landscape where ancient woodland and gill valleys, some semi-improved grassland, ancient hedgerow and shaws provide vital habitats.



Central Benenden

The heart of the village clusters along The Street at the foot of the village green, with the church standing at the other end of the Green, on higher ground, as if watching over the village centre. This picturesque arrangement was largely designed in the 19th century by the Earl of Cranbrook, who cleared houses from around the church to do so.

A second unique feature are numerous notable trees, both ancient native and 19th and 20th century plantings from all over the world. Of the native trees, especially fine are the old oaks in the churchyard, round the Glebe Field and Recreation Ground, in the Beadle's Platt to the west of the church and on all sides in Hilly Fields.

The reason for the fine plantings of non-native trees is that the naturalist, Collingwood Ingram once lived at the Grange, on the Green. He planted the Monterey Pines on the Iden Green Road and many other magnificent trees. He was the man who re-introduced the flowering cherry to Japan where it had been lost for many years. He is revered in Japan to this day for this action. The original cherry, Tai Haku, or its direct descendant, which he used for the reintroduction, still stands in the grounds of the Grange. Almost every tree in his garden is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

This area includes many footpaths offering incomparable views south over the Weald, such as that from Pullington or from Hilly Fields.

The centre of the village, because of its historic interest and architectural value, is designated a Conservation Area. The farmland around the centre includes two Local Wildlife Sites: St George's Churchyard and Nine Acre Wood and Gill which stretches from west of Walkhurst Road and runs along wooded gills as far as Stepneyford Lane in the east. There is a Roadside Nature Reserve along the roadside path to Iden Green.

East End

The area is studded with old farmsteads such as Beston, Bishopsden, Pymptne Manor, Mount le Hoe and Maplesden. It is criss-crossed with narrow lanes, often sunken and lined with ancient woodland. To the south lies the old drove road, now the main road from Rolvenden to Benenden while the oldest track is the west-east Roman road (which may well pre-date the Romans), which follows the line of the west-east sandstone ridge to the north of the area. Bronze Age items have been found near this track. This ridge was, and still is, the centre for top fruit growing in the parish. This area is home to four Local Wildlife Sites (Brogues Wood, Benenden Hospital grounds, Beston Farm, Hemsted Forest) with a fifth site, the old Bramley orchard at Halden, sitting on its border with Rolvenden. Medieval tracks, often lined with moss-covered banks surmounted by the gnarled and ancient stumps of trees once laid as hedges, thread the area. The most notable are Dockenden Lane in Hemsted Forest and the bridle path from Mount le Hoe to Walkhurst Road. European Cycle Route no. 18 runs through the area, following narrow lanes from south to north.

West Benenden

The area north and south of the Cranbrook Road is largely farmland (a mixture of grazing and arable) and includes the parkland around Benenden School, once Hemsted Place. Though the Elizabethan house no longer exists, trees planted at that time remain, including a sweet chestnut tree thought to have been planted in 1588 to celebrate the victory over the Armada.

Like the rest of the parish this is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and includes long tracts of ancient woodland. There are two large areas of ancient woodland, White Chimney Wood and Parsonage Wood, which are both Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Parsonage Wood is the only place in the parish to be designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but abutting the western edge of the Parish is Cranbrook Wood, also an SSSI.

The area is dotted with mysterious ancient, man-made pits, often called marl pits, but which could also be the result of iron working or the mining of clay for bricks. Many of them are now filled with water and these numerous ponds and pits, often tree ringed and overgrown, provide a rich and diverse habitat for wildlife.

West Benenden is criss-crossed by a network of over a dozen footpaths, many of them with spectacular views over the Weald, such as from the footpath past the Jubilee Plantation. There are a number of sunken lanes or ancient drove roads and a Roman road runs north-south through the grounds of Benenden School. It is said to be the route taken by King Harold and his army on his way to Hastings. The High Weald Landscape Trail follows part of this track and Cycle Route 18 is marked on Nineveh Lane and Coldharbour Road.

Iden Green, Standen and Dingledean

These three ancient dens are sited amid an undulating rural landscape featuring small gill tributary streams, quiet sunken droveways and predominantly small scale, irregular fields. Many of the fields are bounded by woodland, copses, shaws and hedgerows all combining to create a distinctive landscape mosaic. Most of the fields within the area are grassland pasture grazed by sheep and horses; elsewhere there are several mature orchards producing mainly apples. There are numerous notable areas of Ancient Woodland including Iden Green Wood, Moor Wood, Standen Wood, Strawberry Wood, Seven Acre Shaw and Stone Quarry Wood, all of which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Strawberry Wood also contains an ancient culvert which is a structure of historic importance. The north-south Roman road crosses a stream at Stream Farm using a rare, still partially paved ford. This site is listed by Historic England.

Supporting Document LEA3

List of Source Documents

High Weald AONB Unit

The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

Case study report: Benenden by footpath, Field Systems in the High Weald - March 2017

Demonstration Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Residential Development on Land South West of Benenden - September 2015

High Weald AONB Landscape Character Maps for Benenden Parish

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Green Infrastructure Plan, Supplementary Planning Document - Adopted August

2014 Rural Lanes: Street Furniture, Signs and Materials - January 2004

Rural Lanes: Supplementary Planning Guidance - January 1998

Landscape and Nature Conservation Principles, Guidance Notes for Applicants (Parts 1-5) – August 2002

Conservation Areas Appraisal, Benenden and Iden Green - April 2005

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of additional settlements in Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood, Horsmonden, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook – July 2018

Tunbridge Wells Borough Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2017) Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (Final)

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2013 – 2033) Open Space Study (June 2018)

Local Green Space Designation Methodology - September 2018

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2017-2033 - NOVEMBER 2017

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT REVIEW, PART ONE - January 2018

Water Efficiency Background Paper - December 2017

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of Countryside around Tunbridge Wells - February 2017

PARISHES of HAWKHURST CRANBROOK GOUDHURST & BENENDEN, HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION, REVISION OF KENT HLC (2000) - August 2015

Analysis of the Implications of Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan: Issues and Options for European Sites - March 2017

Settlement Role and Function Study - February 2017

Tunbridge Wells Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2017 - February

2017 Core Strategy Development Plan Document - Adopted June 2010

Final Sustainability Appraisal Report – April 2009

Woodland Trust

Planner's Manual for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees by Woodland Trust, October 2017

Natural England

Guidance - Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: protecting them from development - Published 13 October 2014, Last updated 5 November 2018

Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre

Records for Benenden. www.kmbrc.org.uk

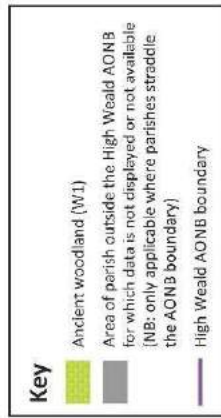
Kent Wildlife Trust

Designation documentation for Kent Local Wildlife Sites in Benenden parish.

Supporting Document LEA4

High Weald AONB Landscape Character Maps

High Weald AONB Landscape Character: Ancient woodland Benenden Parish



Summary Character Description:

The High Weald AONB is characterised by the great extent of ancient woodland, gills, and shaws in small holdings, the value of which is inextricably linked to long-term management.

Management Plan Objectives

W1 Objective: To maintain existing extent of woodland and particularly ancient woodland.

W2 Objective: To enhance the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale.

W3 Objective: To protect the archaeology and historic assets of AONB woodlands.

W4 Objective: To increase the output of sustainably produced high-quality timber and underwood for local markets.

For further info please refer to the High Weald AONB Management Plan, which may be downloaded from our website (see address below).

**Researched and produced by the
High Weald AONB Unit**

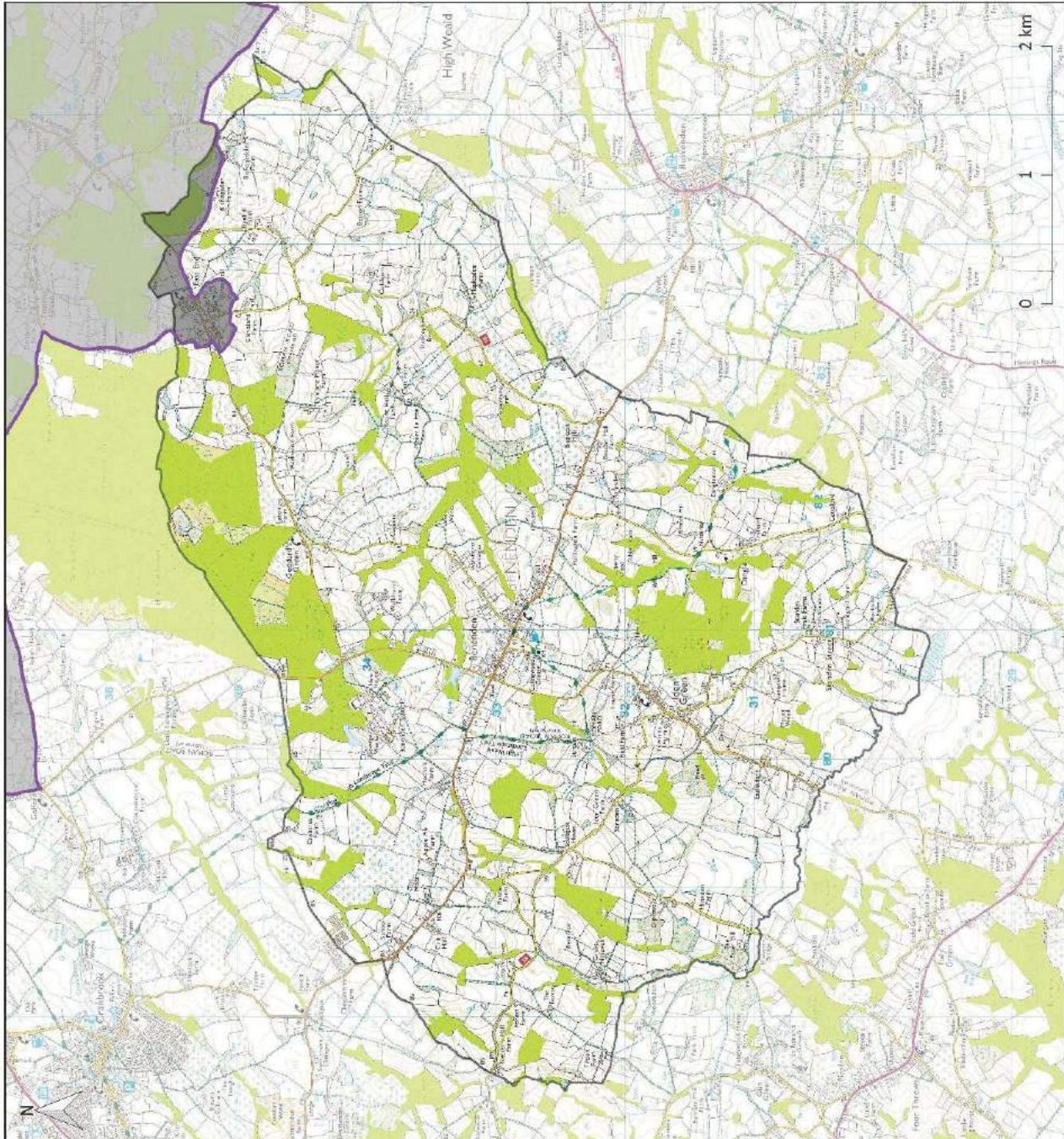
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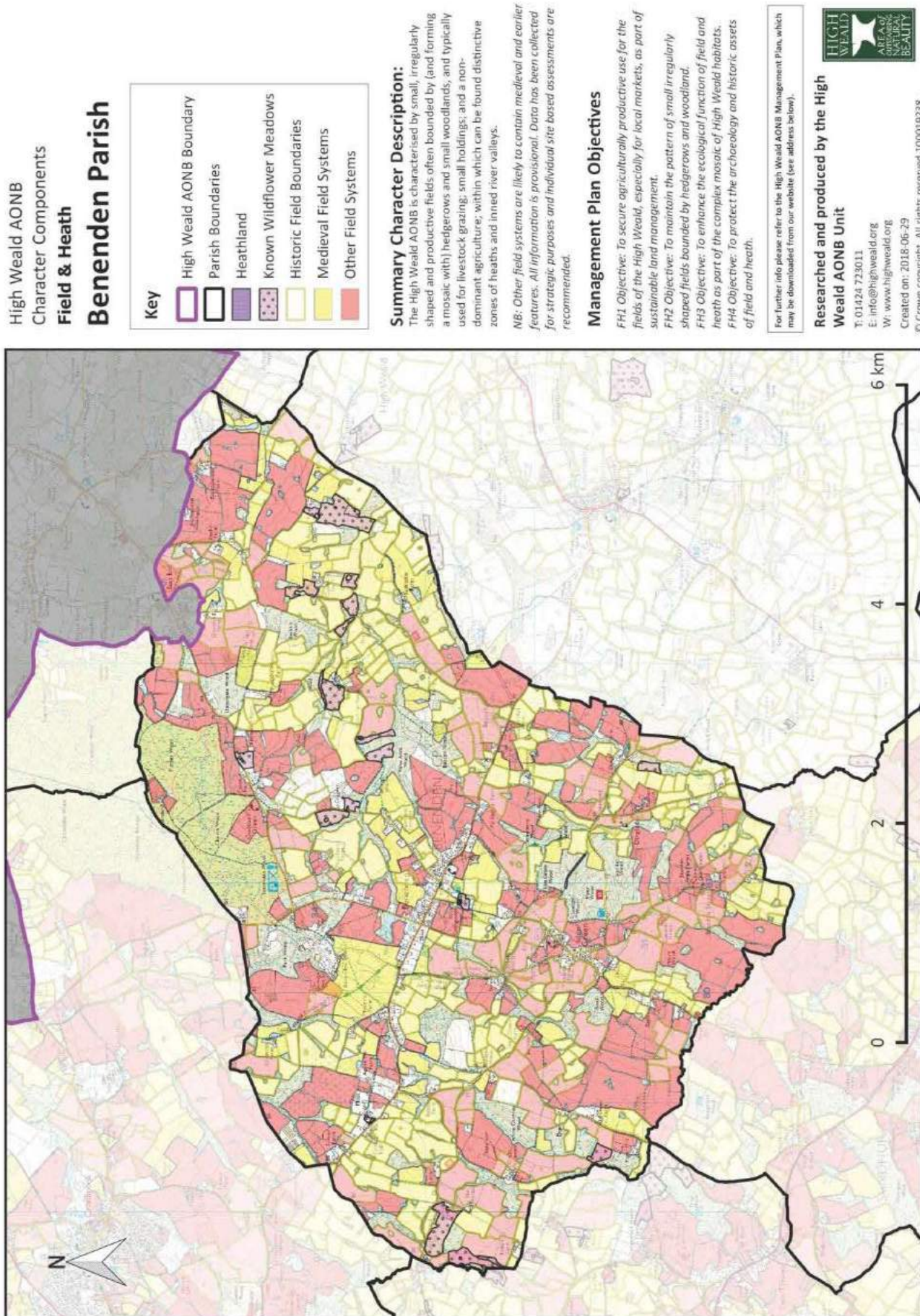
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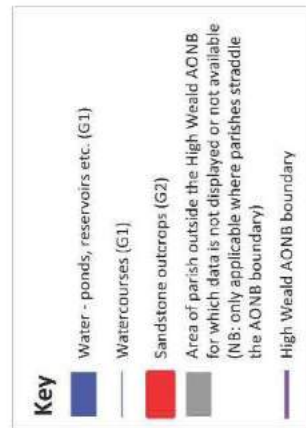


September 2020



High Weald AONB Landscape Character: Geology, landform, water systems & climate

Benenden Parish



Summary Character Description:

The High Weald AONB is characterised by a deeply incised, ridged and faulted landform of clays and sandstone. The ridges tend east-west, and from them spring numerous gill streams that form the headwaters of rivers. Wide river valleys dominate the eastern part of the AONB. The landform and water systems are subject to, and influence, a local variant of the British sub-oceanic climate.

Management Plan Objectives

G1 Objective: *To restore the natural function of river catchments.*

G2 Objective: *To protect the sandstone outcrops and other important geological features of the AONB.*

G3 Objective: *Climatic conditions and rates of change which support continued conservation and enhancement of the High Weald's value landscape and habitats.*

For further info please refer to the High Weald AONB Management Plan, which may be downloaded from our website (see address below).



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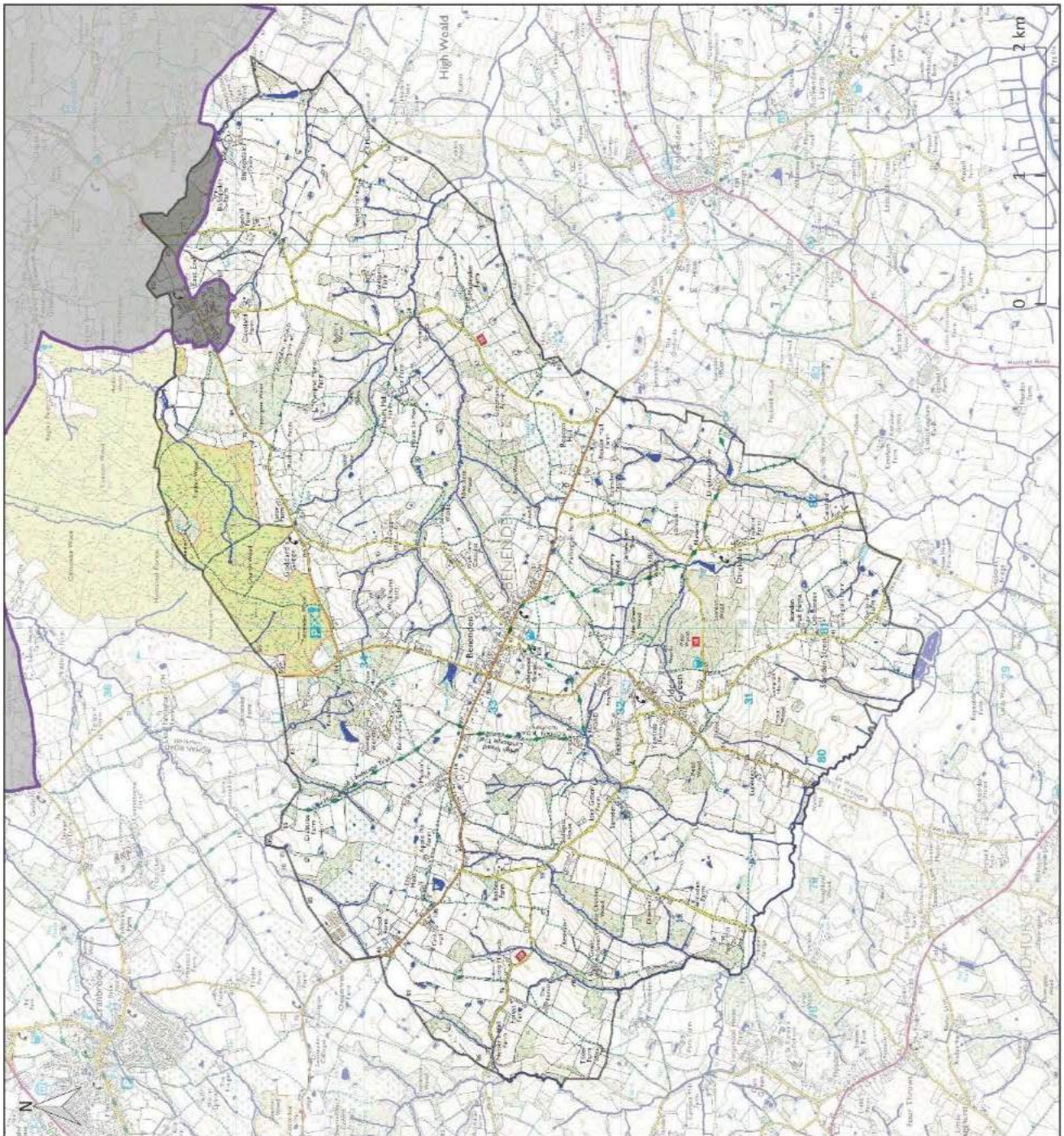
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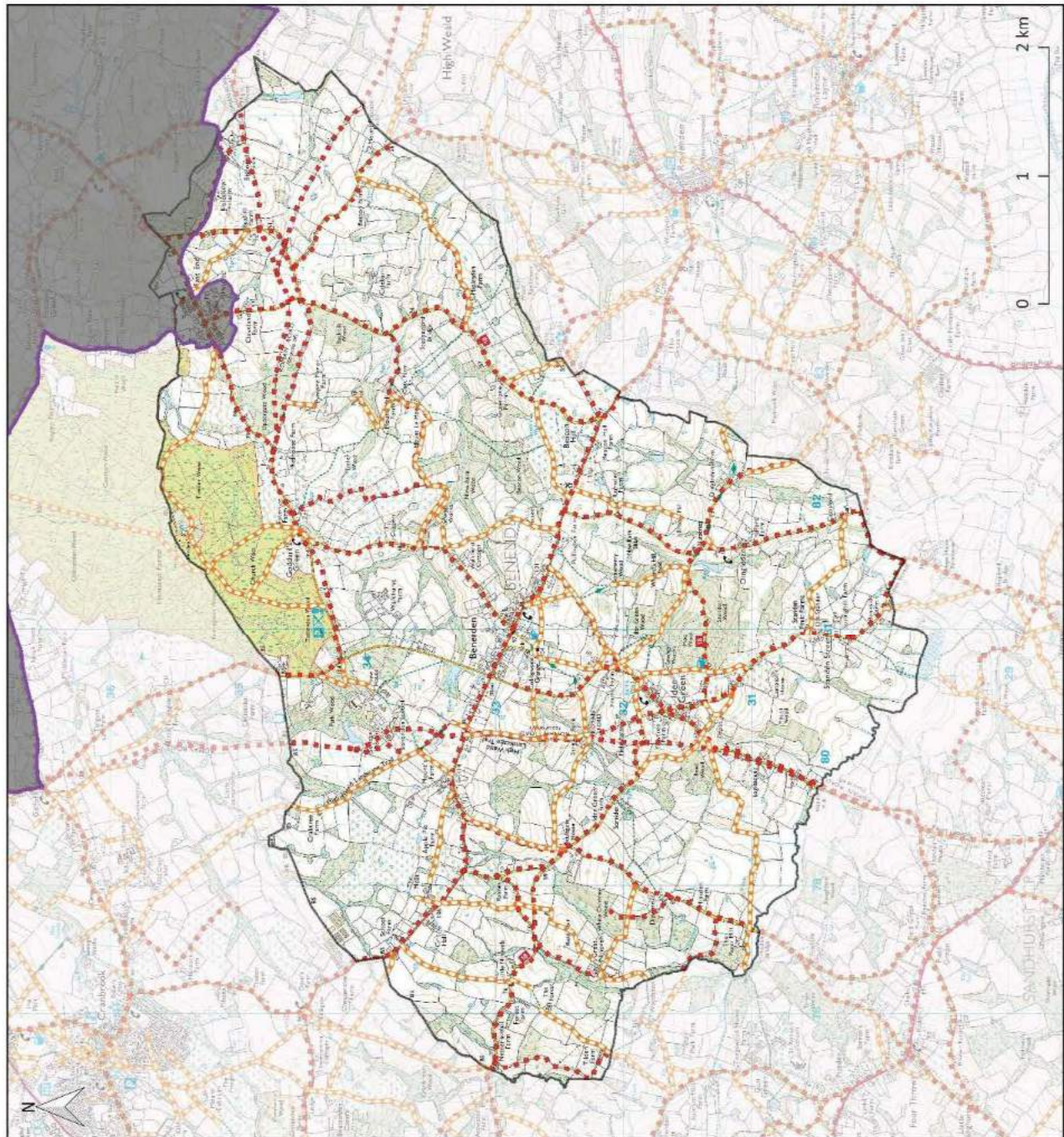


High Weald AONB

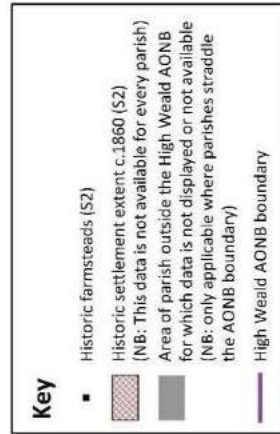
Landscape Character:

Historic routeways

Benenden Parish



High Weald AONB Landscape Character: Historic settlement Benenden Parish



Summary Character Description:

The High Weald AONB is characterised by dispersed historic settlements of farmsteads and hamlets, and late medieval villages founded on trade and non-agricultural rural industries.

Management Plan Objectives

S1 Objective: *To reconnect settlements, residents and their supporting economic activity with the surrounding countryside.*

S2 Objective: *To protect the historic pattern of settlement.*

S3 Objective: *To enhance the architectural quality of the High Weald.*

For further info please refer to the High Weald AONB Management Plan, which may be downloaded from our website (see address below).



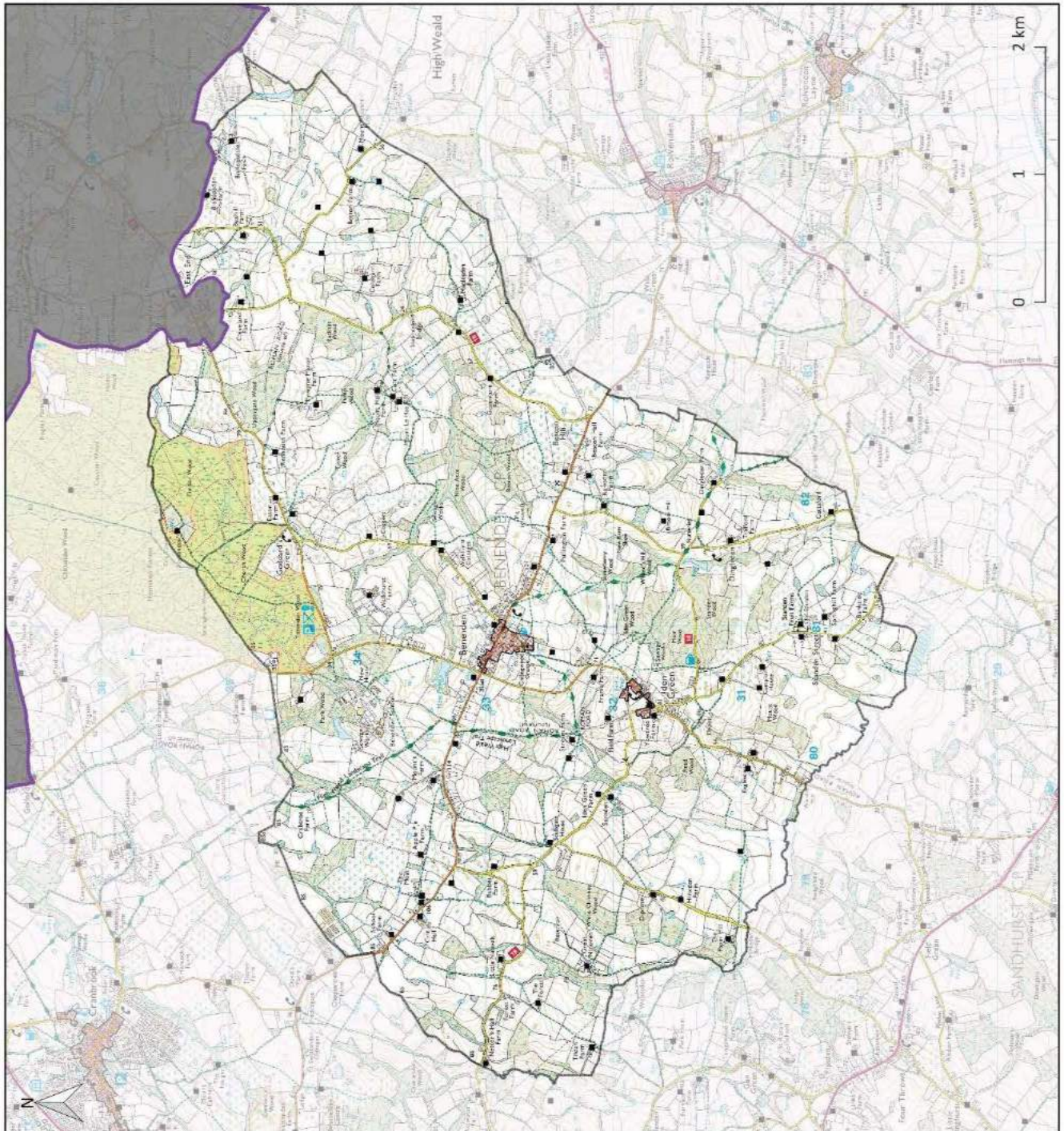
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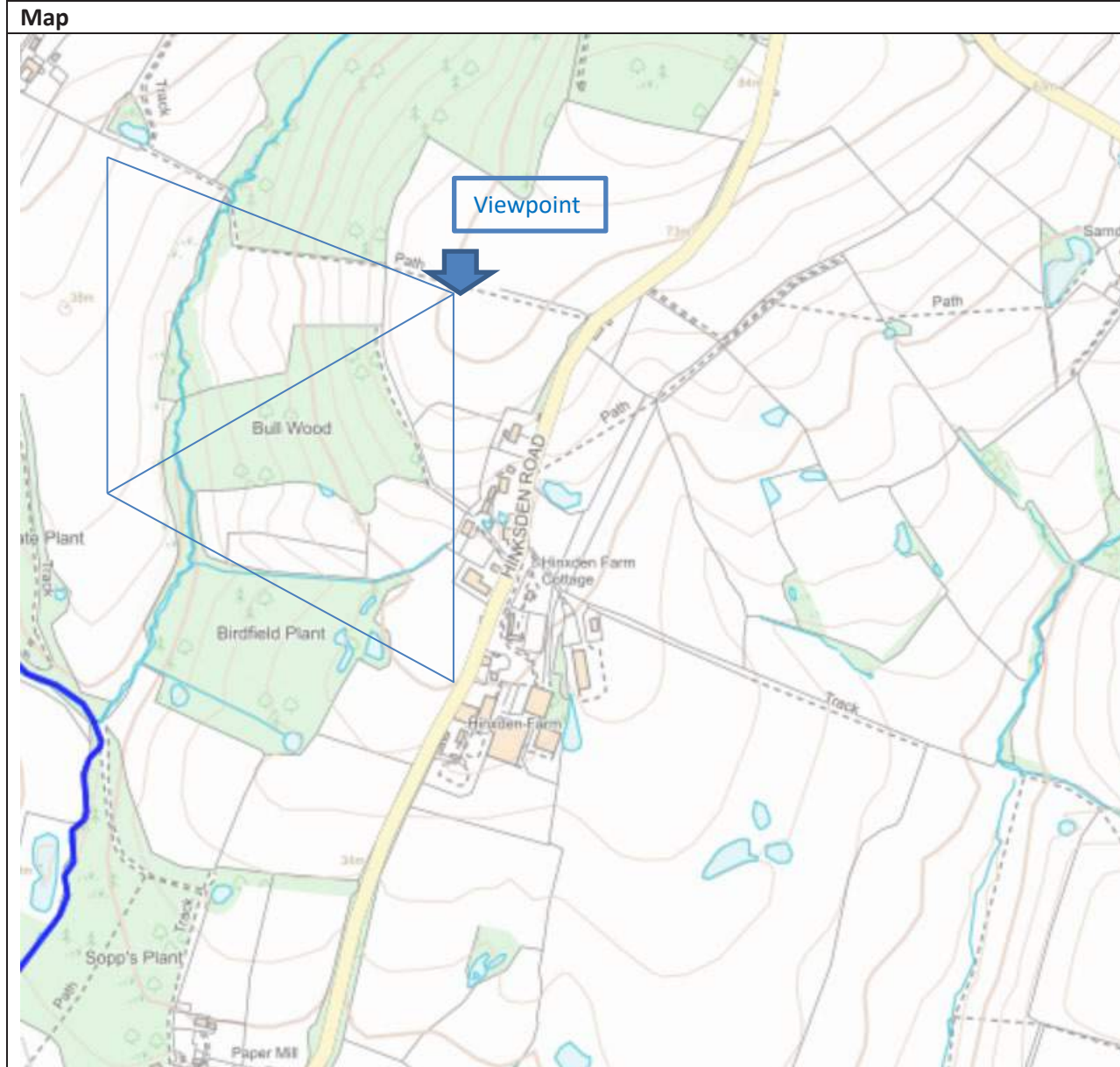
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Views



Reference	V1
Summary	Looking south / south-west from PRoW WC365 from Hinksden Road to White Chimney Wood
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ788319
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst



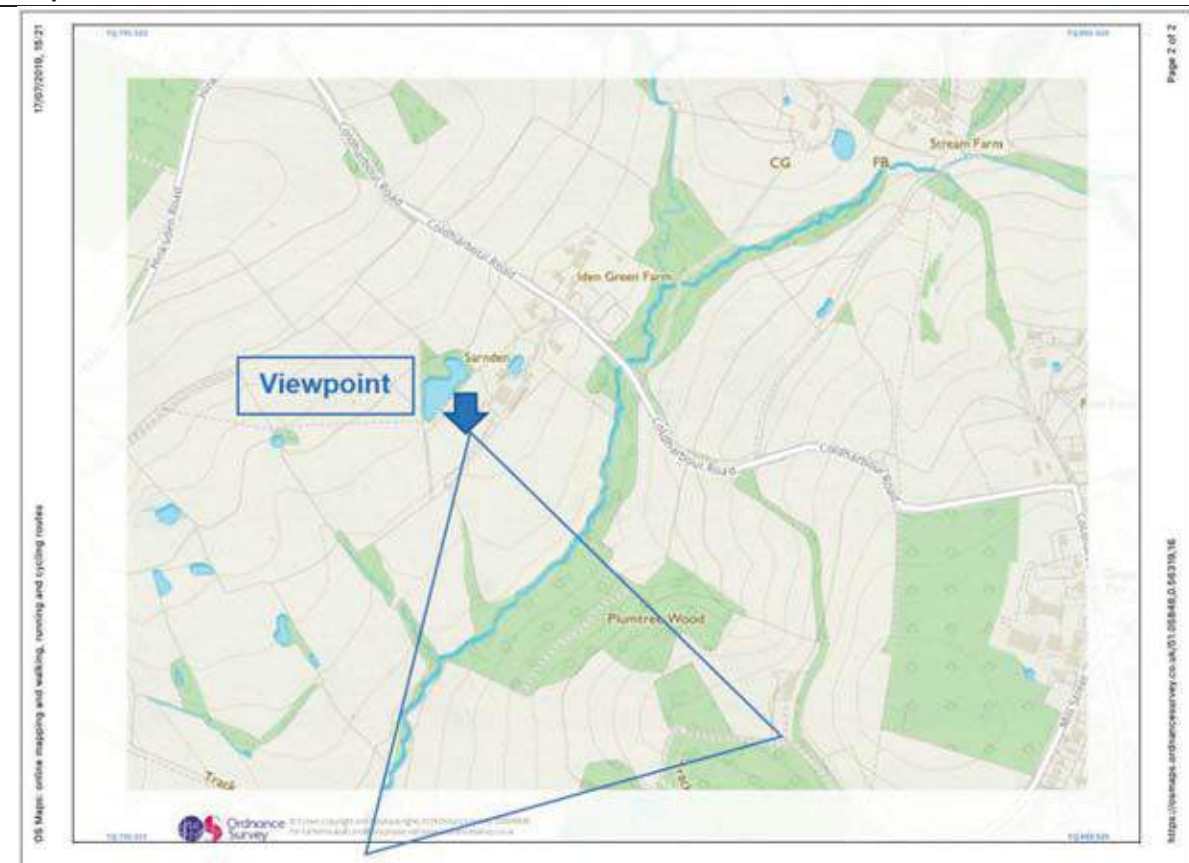
Photographs**Description**

View is from accessible footpath. South west (first photo) looks towards White Chimney Wood and down towards Furnace Mill Farm, Tilden Farm, across a typical High Wealden landscape. Second photo (south) looks down past Diprose and Hinksden Farm and across the valley up to Four Throws, with the Sandhurst Windmill in the far distance.

View shows a typical High Wealden landscape of smaller farmsteads, traditional hedgerows as field boundaries, interspersed with shaws and ghylls.

Reference	V2
Summary	Looking south-east from Parsonage Wood from PRow WC311 north of Coldharbour Road
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ794328
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Looking from Parsonage Wood SSSI towards Iden Green across a typical High Weald landscape of historic field boundaries.	

Reference	V3
Summary	Looking south from PRoW WC313
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ794319
Reviewer	

Map**Photographs**

**Description**

View is from accessible PRow / sunken byway alongside a shaw.

View down the valley shows a typical High Wealden shaw or ghyll, with native ancient woodland, small fields for grazing.

Reference	V4
Summary	Looking West from PRow WC316
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ787318
Reviewer	Peter Driver

Map**Photographs****Description**

View looking west from WC316 across typical High Weald landscape of Ghyll Woodland with historic field boundaries.

Reference	V5
Summary	Looking north from Coldharbour Road
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ794323
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst



Map**Photographs****Description**

View from quiet road (Coldharbour Road) often used by local walkers. It shows historic field patterns, with grazing on shallow slopes, tending down towards the spring line. Views are across to SSSI Parsonage Wood.

Reference	V6
Summary	Looking north-west towards Cranbrook, and across Dibley Shaw from High Weald Landscape Heritage Trail WC119
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ799337
Reviewer	Charles Pope

Map**Photographs****Description**

Far reaching views from the higher point along the PRow in Benenden School grounds across grassland and above the immediate tree tops to the distant landscape beyond.


Reference	V7
Summary	Looking south across historic, designated parkland from Benenden School from PRow WC315
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ804337
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Map	
	
Photographs	
 	
Description	
Views across the former Hemsted Park, now forming part of Benenden School grounds towards the south across the undulating land towards the wooded ridges beyond.	

Reference	V8
Summary	Looking south-west from Walkhurst Road across to Benenden village and the church
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ816343
Reviewer	Charles Pope

Map**Photographs****Description**



Enclosed view which can be seen from the top of Walkhurst Road when walking or driving towards Benenden. The church is clearly visible on the horizon at the top of the ridge.



Reference	V9
Summary	Looking north-west from Walkhurst Road
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ814332
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Views across farmland immediately north of the main Benenden settlement.	

Reference	V10
Summary	Looking north-east from Frogs Hole Lane near Bishopsden Farm across to The Brogues and Sandpit Wood
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ845352
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Map	
	
Photographs	

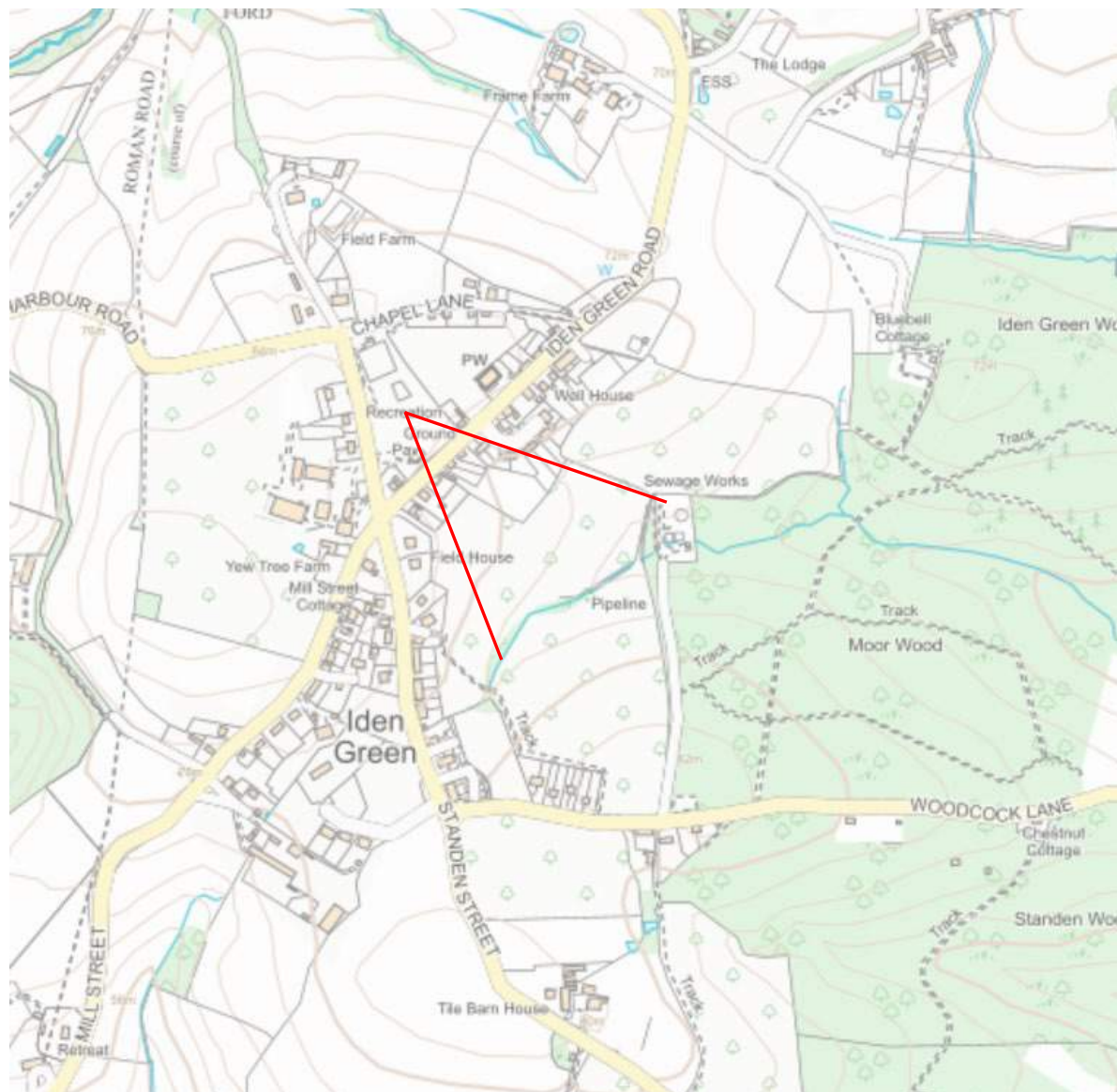
**Description**

Views onto the thick wooded landscape of Brogues Wood.

Reference	V11
Summary	Looking west from PRoW WC362 towards Dingleden
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ822307
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Looking west from PRoW WC362 across a typical High Weald landscape of historic field boundaries with pockets of ancient woodland.	

Reference	V12
Summary	Looking south-east from Footpath 333, mentioned in TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ806318
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Looking south-east from PRoW WC333 across orchards to an area of ancient woodland. The view is as defined in the TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005.	

Reference	V13
Summary	Looking south-east from Iden Green Recreation Ground, mentioned in TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ804318
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Map	







Photographs







Description

Looking south-east from Iden Green Recreation Ground towards the village setting with orchards and ancient woodland beyond as defined in the TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005.

Reference	V14
Summary	Looking north from Chapel Lane towards Benenden, mentioned in TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ803319
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Looking north from Chapel Lane in Iden Green towards Hilly Fields across a typical High Weald landscape of historic field boundaries with pockets of ancient woodland as defined in the TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005.	

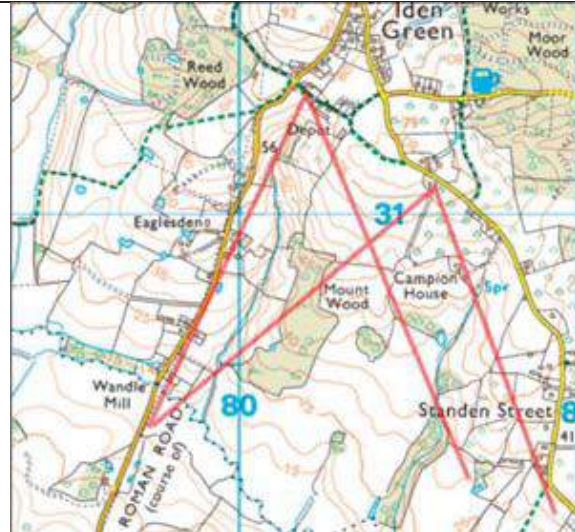
Reference	V15
Summary	Looking north towards Benenden from Iden Green Road, mentioned in TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ806319
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Looking north-east from Iden Green towards Hilly Fields across a typical High Weald landscape of historic field boundaries with pockets of ancient woodland.	

Reference	V16
Summary	View south from east side of East End towards Bexhill Farm
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ838354
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Far reaching views from Goddards Green Road towards the south across rolling farmland.	

Reference	V17
Summary	Looking north-west from Goddards Green Road across to Hemsted Forest
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ829351
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
Views that can be glimpsed driving along Goddards Green Road, with rolling countryside and large fields terminated by the woodland which forms part of Hemsted Forest.	

Reference	PV1
Summary	Panoramic views towards Sandhurst, from PRoW WC337
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ802313, TQ805318
Reviewer	Peter Driver, 2019

Map



Photographs



Description

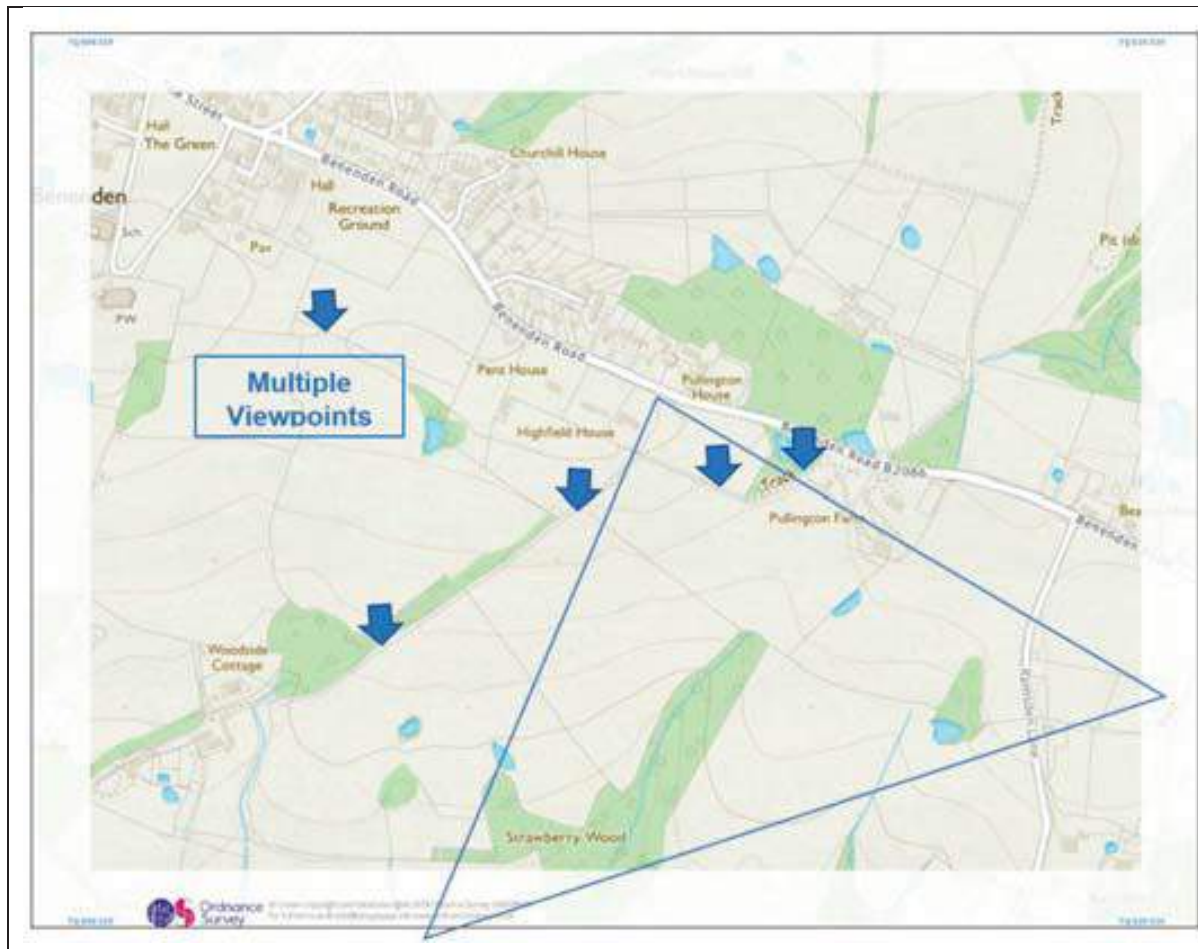
Far reaching view looking south across the Wandle Valley and beyond towards Sandhurst which can be seen from various viewpoints along Standen Street.

Reference	PV2
Summary	Panoramic views towards Iden Green from Iden Green Road, Hilly Fields green space
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ805323, TQ806323
Reviewer	Peter Driver, 2019

Map**Photographs****Description**

Far reaching views south and west towards Iden Green and Parsonage Wood. Typical High Weald farmland views with historic medieval field boundaries and farmsteads.

Reference	PV3
Summary	Panoramic views from ridgeline south across Weald, visible from multiple points along PRoW WC325, WC327, WC328
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ809326, TQ812326, TQ814325, TQ812325, TQ813324
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst, 2019
Map	



Photographs

**Description**

There are multiple viewpoints along the footpaths criss-crossing the southern side of the ridge, with line of sight across the High Wealden landscape across passed Sandhurst windmill (in the middle distance) and towards the ridge beyond to the south running west-east Bodiam to Newenden.



Note: Views are referenced in-TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005.

Reference	PV4
Summary	Set of westerly views across the rural landscape and ancient woodland from Stepneyford Lane
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ828326, TQ834332
Reviewer	Charles Pope

Map**Photographs**

**Description**

Idyllic enclosed westerly and north-westerly views across the rural landscape with the medieval field structure either side of the ghyll, with the ancient woodland beyond including Backtilt Wood, Pump Wood and Nine Acre Wood. The views can be enjoyed along Stepneyford Lane and from the 2 PRowS that intersect it.

Reference	PV5
Summary	Panoramic views north & south from Halden Lane
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ848339
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Map	
	
Photographs	
	
Description	
<p>Panoramic views from the start of the PRow WC358 off Halden Lane. A large field of crops gives way to views across farmland towards Tenterden where the church can be seen on the horizon in the distance. To the west, part of the Benenden parish can be seen terminated by the wooded ridges.</p>	

Reference	PV6
Summary	Views of and from Benenden Village Green, mentioned in TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005
Viewpoint location(s)	TQ808327
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst



Map**Photographs**



**Description**



The centre of Benenden Village is dominated by The Green, used for cricket, weddings, the village fete, and as a playing field. It presents a beautiful, relatively unified vista of architectural styles and character.



Note: Views are referenced in TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal 2005.





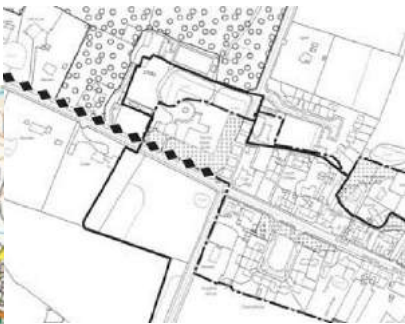
Supporting Document LEA6 — Local Green Space Assessments



Name	Goddards Green
Description	Long established green, bordered on 2 sides by Goddards Green Road and Walkhurst Road. Footpath WC359 runs its length.
	
Location	TQ817345 Goddards Green TN17 4AR
	
Reviewer	Arianwen Neve
Site area	0.5 hectares
Current use of the land	Amenity land used by cottages opposite
Owner	Mr & Mrs Petch
Comments by owner	
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	No
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	No
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size?	Yes
Does the space feel local in character and scale?	Yes. It is not fenced and is bounded on two sides by roads.
How close is the space to the community it serves?	It is around 1.9km from the village centre by road, and within 10m of immediate residents.
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
• Its beauty	Good trees – Beech, Monkey, Yew, Birch
• Historic significance	Formerly Gooseherds Green which was reportedly common land for the poor to graze their Christmas geese.
• Recreational value	For nearby residents to use footpath to Hemsted Forest avoiding walking along increasingly busy road.
• Tranquility	
• Richness of its wildlife	Mature trees and hedge Magpie inkcap funghi seen there
Summary of assessment	This is a particularly visible green area on the north side of the parish providing an attractive green area at one of the key Benenden road junctions.

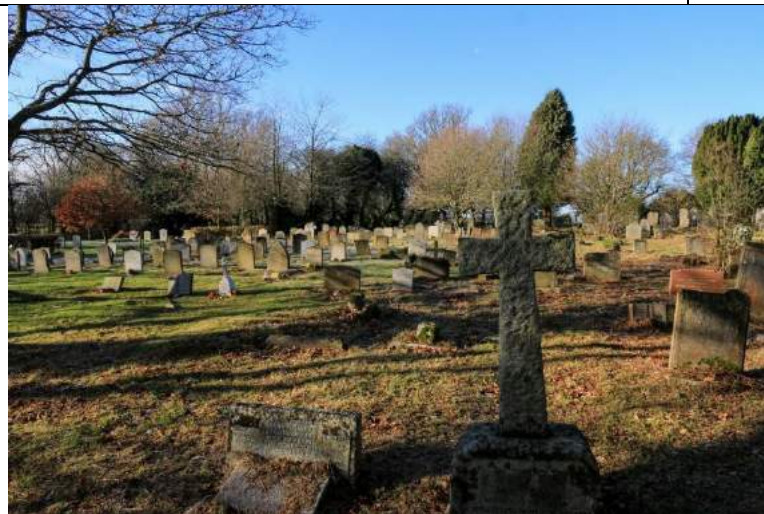


Name	Catholic Chapel Green
Description	Small grass area next to Catholic Chapel on New Pond Road
	
Location	TQ808336 Catholic Chapel, New Pond Road, Benenden, TN17 4EL
	
Reviewer	Arianwen Neve
Site area	0.36 ha
Current use of the land	None
Owner	Catholic Diocese – Administered by St Theodore's, Cranbrook
Comments by owner	Notification sent to Bishop of Southwark, but no reply received
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	No
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	No
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size?	Yes
Does the space feel local in character and scale?	It adjoins the catholic chapel and is of a modest scale. It is mown, but not fenced.
How close is the space to the community it serves?	It is 0.6km to the west side of the main village. Its congregation is scattered throughout the parish.
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
• Its beauty	
• Historic significance	Erected in 1931 – A colt of Bethersden Building to provide a catholic chapel of ease for the faithful, who otherwise travelled to Goudhurst.
• Recreational value	
• Tranquility	Peaceful spot beside busy road
• Richness of its wildlife	
Summary of assessment	It has historical and religious importance, and provides a green boundary to the wooded area to the north and east.

Name	Benenden Recreation Ground
Description	Recreational Area next to Village Hall bounded on one side by B2086
	
Location	TQ811328 Recreation Ground, Benenden. Access by north-west corner.
	
Reviewer	Arianwen Neve
Site area	1.4ha
Current use of the land	Football pitch, Playground and Bowling Green
Owner of site	Benenden Village Trust
Comments by owner	Concerns over restricting flexibility. The Green Space policy has been adapted to help provide this whilst ensuring the value to the village is maintained.
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	No
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	No
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size?	Yes
Does the space feel local in character and scale?	Yes. It is mowed regularly and used for sport.
How close is the space to the community it serves?	5m from the village hall entrance and 50m from the pub and Green
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
• Its beauty	Open space, good hedges and trees on 3 sides, but close to village centre
• Historic significance	Given to the Trust by Viscount Rothermere or Hemsted (now Benenden School) in 1920
• Recreational value	Used by the Village Football Club. Contains children's play area near to Primary School and Glebe Field. Bowling Green in regular use.
• Tranquility	Provides open space for use by all, and as a buffer for the peaceful Glebe Field and beyond
• Richness of its wildlife	Good trees and hedges
Summary of assessment	Historically it was given to the Village as Recreation Ground and it serves that purpose still.



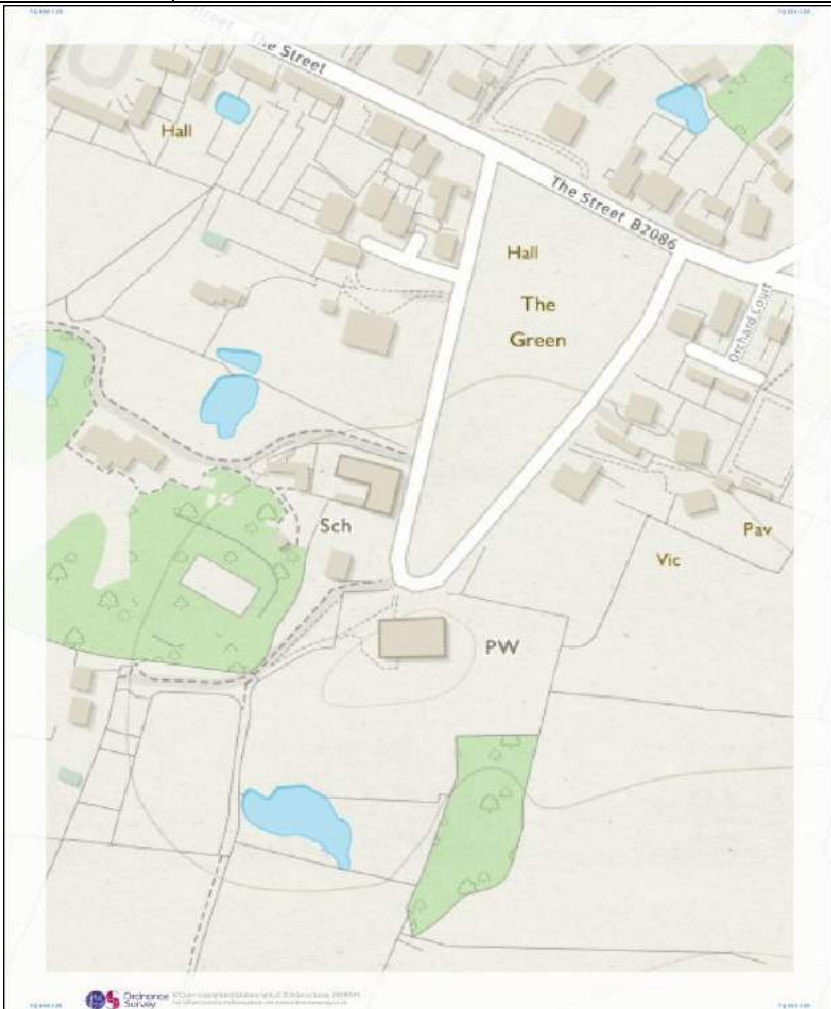
Name	East End Old Cricket Pitch
Description	Former cricket pitch in East End. Now part of Kent Local Wildlife Site TW57. See Appendix LEA10.
Location	TQ 83386 35421 Benenden Hospital Goddards Green Road Benenden CRANBROOK TN17 4AX
 	
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Site area	1.4ha
Current use of the land	Unused
Owner of site	Benenden Healthcare Society Ltd
Comments by owner	They have been notified, but have not responded directly. They are aware of the Local Wildlife Site designation and look after all of TW57.
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	No
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	Yes it is part of a proposed site (Site 41), but the element of the site which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site including the old cricket pitch is not intended for development.
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size? Does the space feel local in character and scale?	The site is clearly defined and is a visible central part of East End.
How close is the space to the community it serves?	It is central to East End
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its beauty 	It is a pleasant green open space bounded by mature trees on 3 sides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic significance 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational value 	Although a former cricket pitch which hasn't been used for a number of years, the LWS designation suggest that access for general activities should be limited. The acceptable level of use is awaiting confirmation from Kent Wildlife Trust.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquility 	It provides a large open green area, set back from the increasingly busy Goddards Green Road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richness of its wildlife 	It is part of the designated LWS TW57.
Summary of assessment	Given the anticipated development in the East End it is important to preserve the green space which is central to the developed area. The whole of the wildlife site TW57 should be preserved, of which the old cricket pitch is the most visible area. Its amenity value may however be limited in order to protect the plant life.

Name		New Pond Corner	
Description		Corner of field on the junction of Iden Green Road and B2086 featuring a pond which is included within the Conservation Area Boundary	
			
Location		TQ806330	
			
Proposed area for Green Space		OS Map extract	Conservation Area boundary
Reviewer		Charles Pope	
Site area		0.8ha	
Current use of the land		Field	
Owner of site		Victoria Pettit	
Comments by owner			
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?		No	
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?		No	
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size?		Yes	
Does the space feel local in character and scale?			
How close is the space to the community it serves?		It directly borders the main village boundary.	
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its beauty 		It provides a clear green boundary of natural hedging and trees to the village.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic significance 		It forms part of the demesne of the Old Manor Farm which belonged to the Hemsted Estate. It still retains its close historic association with the medieval moated site to the north of the road.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational value 		It is a private field, so there is no access.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquility 		It provides a tranquil aspect from the busy road into Benenden village.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richness of its wildlife 		Good trees, hedges and a pond which provide a relatively undisturbed habitat.	
Summary of assessment		It is important to the setting of the village, providing a clear border to the main settlement. It provides an appropriate transition from the medieval field structure with a border of trees and hedges to the start of the main village.	

Name	Iden Green Recreation Ground
Description	A recreation ground in the centre of the secondary community of Iden Green. The site contains a Children's Play Area, Tennis Courts, a Village Hall (The Pavilion) and an area for car parking.
	
Location	
Reviewer	Peter Driver
Site area	1.0ha
Current use of the land	General Recreation use: Children's Play Area, Tennis Courts, Community Events. The site also includes a Village Hall available for public rental.
Owner of site	Benenden Village Trust (was Harmsworth Memorial Trust)
Comments by owner	Yes. There were reservations regarding restricting the Trust's flexibility. The LGS policy has been adapted to offer limited flexibility.
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	No
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	No
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size?	Yes
Does the space feel local in character and scale?	Yes
How close is the space to the community it serves?	Central to the secondary community of Iden Green
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
• Its beauty	
• Historic significance	
• Recreational value	The Children's Play Area and Tennis Courts are in frequent use. The area is also used for community events such as outdoor music festivals and sports competitions (e.g. the Iden Green Rounders Tournament). The Village Hall hosts a number of regular meetings and adult education classes.
• Tranquility	
• Richness of its wildlife	
Summary of assessment	The value to the community and its central location make it a key asset to the community which is important to be protected

Name	Historic Churchyard
Description	This site is the Churchyard associated with St George's Church, the Parish Church of Benenden. It is a small site, with a number of burials, ancient yew trees, and some attractive and ancient native hedging.
	
Location	TQ 80836 32641 St George's Church, The Green, Benenden CRANBROOK TN17 4DL
 	
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst
Site area	1.82ha
Current use of the land	Churchyard
Owner	Parish Church



Comments by owner	
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	Land is not subject of an application for Planning Permission
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	This site is not a Local or Neighbourhood Plan allocated site.
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size? Does the space feel local in character and scale?	This site is not an extensive tract of land. It is a historic churchyard, and as such is a tranquil site for contemplation and relaxation.
How close is the space to the community it serves?	The site is with 300 metres of the heart of Benenden village.
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its beauty 	This is a lovely village churchyard; with attractive historic yews, tidy, but not over-maintained graves and gravestones, and set on the ridge above the village. It is atmospheric, pastoral, and deeply reminiscent of English village life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic significance 	The Churchyard is contemporaneous with the Church, and hence dates back to 1086. It was enlarged in the 13 th Century, and extensive rebuilding in the 17 th Century following a fire in the tower. The Church is Grade 2* listed, and the Churchyard is within Benenden's Conservation Area. More detail at: https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/01/03/BEN.htm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational value 	This is an area for quiet enjoyment; a shady, tranquil spot for relaxation and contemplation. Inappropriate for exercise or games, but a well-used site place for contemplation, alongside being a site for significant life events for the Village and villagers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquility 	Extremely quiet, shady, and restful. Appropriate for quiet contemplation, especially at moments of stress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of its wildlife 	Site has a number of attractive and historic trees, and is bounded by historic, native hedgerows. It contains a small pond. The older part of the churchyard is managed by controlled cropping and has relict, unimproved neutral grassland. There are rare and interesting lichens and mosses in evidence across the tombstones and memorials. More detail at: http://benendenchurch.org/about-us/churchyard/
Summary of assessment	While the site has existing protection as a Churchyard it fits with the criteria for recognition as an Important Local Green Space; positioned centrally within the village, and fulfilling an important role in the life of the village and villagers. The more recent extension to the south has been included in the designation.

Name	Beadle Platt
Description	Small triangular area outside the churchyard walls on the footpath through to Hilly Fields and Iden Green.
	
Location	<p>TQ 80800 32676</p> <p>St George's Church, The Green, Benenden CRANBROOK TN17 4DL</p>
 	
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst
Site area	0.01ha



Current use of the land	None: grassy, shaded area of ground used for access through to footpath & Hilly Fields beyond.
Owner	Diocese of Canterbury
Comments by owner	<p>Potential use of land for a ground source heat pump. Any inclusion of the Beadle Platt as an LGS should not prohibit this possible use for this piece of land.</p> <p>The LGS policy allows for reasonable use.</p>
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	Land is not subject of an application for Planning Permission
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	This site is not a Local or Neighbourhood Plan allocated site.
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size? Does the space feel local in character and scale?	The site is not an extensive tract of land; it is a distinctive area of ground between the Churchyard and the houses at the top of The Green. It is not agricultural, and provides an area of shade and tranquillity besides Footpaths 322 and 323
How close is the space to the community it serves?	The site is within 300m of Benenden village centre, and access is via paved roads or footpaths.
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
• Its beauty	This is a quiet, beautiful and tranquil spot, offering shade and peace for churchgoers and those using the footpaths down to Iden Green.
• Historic significance	The area immediately adjoins St George's Churchyard, part of the Conservation Area surrounding Benenden Village Green
• Recreational value	<p>This is an area for quiet enjoyment; a shady, tranquil spot for relaxation and contemplation.</p> <p>Inappropriate for exercise or games, but a useful place for contemplation.</p>
• Tranquility	Extremely quiet, shady, and restful. Located next to the Churchyard and hence appropriate for quiet contemplation.
• Richness of its wildlife	Site has a number of attractive and historic trees
Summary of assessment	<p>Site is small, extremely close to Benenden Village Centre, and easily accessible by roadway and on an arterial footpath between Benenden and Iden Green villages.</p> <p>While not appropriate for sports or games, that site provides an ideal spot for resting, mediation, contemplation, and as sited next to the Churchyard is an appropriate spot for mourners.</p>



Name	Beacon Field (historically known as Courtlands)
Description	Field to east of the new school development. It reflects the revised layout of the green space following completion of the new primary school in 2019.
	
Location	TQ 812 327
 	
Reviewer	Charles Pope
Site area	0.7ha

Current use of the land	Part of development site for new primary school. Previously it was pasture land.
Owner	Kent County Council
Comments by owner	Notified, but no response
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	Whole site is part of primary school development.
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	No
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size? Does the space feel local in character and scale?	Yes it will have a clearly defined border.
How close is the space to the community it serves?	350m from the Green
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its beauty 	It should be an attractive green field once development is complete. There is ancient hedgerow on the northerly edge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic significance 	The historic name is Courtlands which indicates that it has medieval origins. The millennium beacon is placed at the higher end of the field which has been used occasionally for significant national events.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational value 	It will continue to feature footpaths and be a green space accessible to the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquility 	The northern end will be away from any road and will provide a peaceful environment into the countryside.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of its wildlife 	Not possible to assess until development is complete. The field will have been long established unimproved meadow land.
Summary of assessment	The new school has lead to a change in configuration of the green space around it. The adjusted tract of land still contains the millennium beacon and two footpaths, so remains an important recreational area.

Name	Hilly Fields
Description	<p>Large paddock and field featuring a footpath alongside and through it.</p> <p>A sloping site through open pastureland currently used to graze sheep. It is crossed by two footpaths including the High Weald Landscape Trail. The path from beside the churchyard is one of the most popular village walks and links Benenden with Iden Green. It can also form the 'first stage' of a longer circular walk. It is regularly used by walkers and dog walkers, as well as by children from Iden Green walking up/down to/from the Primary School in Benenden. Much of the site is bordered by hedges, of some age, judging by the size of the trunks, and by ancient oaks, before it opens up to reveal the sweeping view west towards Hawkhurst. The lower part of the field, which the footpath crosses, adjacent to Iden Green, is known as the village tobogganing site when it snows.</p>
	
Location	TQ 807325
	
Reviewer	Minnie Garnier
Site area	1.9ha
Current use of the land	The land is currently used as grazing.
Owner	Mr & Mrs David Barnes own large field to the south Charlotte & Donald Molesworth own paddock to the north
Comments by owner	Supportive of the designation
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	No, the land is presently farmed (used as grazing).
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	No

Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size? Does the space feel local in character and scale?	<p>The space consists of fields approx. 1.2km in length, linking the two ancient settlements of Benenden and Iden Green. The fields which it crosses are small in scale and have clearly defined boundaries, mostly by hedges and ancient trees.</p> <p>This space, taking in the sweeping view west towards Hawkhurst (see photo), is very typical of the gently rising and falling landscape of small fields and woods which characterise the area.</p>
How close is the space to the community it serves?	The space is immediately adjacent to the centre of Benenden and at its western end to the village of Iden Green.
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its beauty 	Sloping pastureland, apparently untouched by modern like, with ancient hedges and trees and a sweeping view west.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic significance 	<p>The link between the historic villages of Iden green and Benenden.</p> <p>The footpaths which cross this space go back to antiquity. This was the most direct route from Iden Green to the church in Benenden and, apart from attending services, would most probably have been the ancient coffin route. It is in daily use and has been a recreational amenity for both villages since the distant past since the footpath is recorded on ancient maps. It is also the field used by village children as the tobogganing field when it snows and the tradition is remembered by some of the older residents.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational value 	Widely used by residents and dog walkers on a daily basis as well as by pupils from the Primary School. Used as the village tobogganing field in the snow.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquility 	There are no roads near this Green Space, except at the western end where it meets the road from Iden Green to Benenden, and is therefore a particularly peaceful and safe place for children to walk and play as well as for people to walk their dogs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of its wildlife 	Walking through these fields you are aware of the insect life in the pastureland – bees and butterflies in particular – and because of the hedges and trees there is abundant bird life as well
Summary of assessment	This area is a large open space accessible by a public right of way. This area is privately owned but is used by the village for informal recreational activities (such as walking, dog walking, etc.). Dogs are only allowed if they are on a lead as it is working farmland. This area is therefore of local significance because of its recreational value.

Name		Glebe Field/Playing Fields
Description		Field directly adjacent to the south of the Recreation Ground.
		
Location		TQ 810 327
		
Reviewer		Charles Pope
Site area		0.9ha
Current use of the land		Used on bonfire night and for informal recreation. Will be used by the new primary school for games.
Owner		The Diocese of Canterbury
Comments by owner		0.9ha
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?		No
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?		No
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size?		Yes, it has a boundary of trees all around.
Does the space feel local in character and scale?		Yes.
How close is the space to the community it serves?		Western edge is around 100m from the church
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its beauty 		Surrounded by large oaks with outstanding views to the south.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic significance 		The name indicates its medieval origins used as pasture land to derive income for the church and manor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational value 		It has and will be used more by the new primary school as a playing field. It is used for community events. The footpaths and large flat open area mean that it will be continue to be used by the community on a day to day basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquility 		It is away from any road and bounded by trees providing a safe peaceful area to enjoy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of its wildlife 		Unimproved grassland surrounded by old trees indicates that it provides a good natural habitat.
Summary of assessment		This area will be used by the new primary school as a playing field and the church for community activities. It is used for informal recreation by the local community including the annual village bonfire/ fireworks which is an important local fundraising charity event .

Name	Cherryfields
Description	Green space around which the Cherryfields development has been built.
	
Location	<p>TQ 80687 32969</p> <p>CherryFields, The Street, Benenden CRANBROOK TN17 4</p>
	
Reviewer	Nancy Tolhurst
Site area	0.01ha
Current use of the land	None; the land forms a visual buffer between the Cherryfields housing and The Street.
Owner	Primarily the Parish
Comments by owner	Supportive of designation
Does the proposed space have planning permission for development?	Land is not subject of an application for Planning Permission
Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?	This site is not a Local or Neighbourhood Plan allocated site.
Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges and is under 20ha in size? Does the space feel local in character and scale?	<p>The site has clearly defined boundaries (roads on all sides). It is less than 20ha.</p> <p>It forms an integral element in the original design of the Cherryfields post war development.</p>
How close is the space to the community it serves?	<p>The proposed Green Space forms the centre of the development, and is immediately opposite the local Community-run Shop.</p> <p>It is 200m from the Village Green.</p>
What evidence is there to demonstrate that the space has a particular local significance with respect to at least one of the following aspects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its beauty 	The site is not notably beautiful; indeed it is rather municipal. The 2005 TWBC Conservation Area Appraisal assess the housing as 'very weak architecturally' and 'bland'.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic significance 	The site is not of special historic significance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational value 	The site forms a recreational space in front of the Cherryfields houses, and is an integral part of the development's original design.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquility 	The site forms a very useful buffer between the main road through Benenden, and the houses that form the Cherryfields site. The lime trees fronting the entrance to Cherrytrees also form useful enclosing elements, in keeping with the rest of the roadways into and out of the centre of Benenden village.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of its wildlife 	Nothing particular noted.
Summary of assessment	The site is not as attractive as the other candidate sites for the Parish, and it is somewhat suburban in character. However, if tidied up it could prove an attractive feature in the centre of a less notable development.

Supporting Document LEA7

Wildlife Summary

Benenden's rural environment provides a favourable habitat for several rare species of animal and plant. Notable recorded sightings are listed below. The parish is also part of the Linkhill Turtle Dove Friendly Zone which is an important initiative to reverse the catastrophic decline in the species.

Birds: The parish of Benenden is fortunate in having the habitat to support a high number of bird species. The area has arable, pasture, and woodlands plus both hop and fruit areas. This diverse landscape has attracted breeding birds, overwintering birds and birds re-fuelling on migration elsewhere. Several species of note are present in the area amongst which is the Turtle Dove. This bird has declined by over 94% since 1995 and is now Red Listed. Where once the purring of the Turtle Dove was a background sound of summer it is now rare. This area is recognised by the RSPB as an important site for the conservation of Turtle Doves and is one of only five initiatives in Kent to save this species. Turtle Doves are breeding in Standen Street and calling in Scullsgate and in Moor Wood, Iden Green. At present these sites are contiguous which is important as fragmentation of sites is a factor in the success or failure of such initiatives (see Project 1). Other birds of note are the Nightingale, also Red Listed and in sharp decline; down by 59% since 1995 and suffering from loss of habitat. This parish used to hold 70 pairs in the 1990s and we are now reduced to a small, and critical, population where once we were a stronghold. Benenden provides good habitat for other Red Listed birds such as Marsh Tits and Spotted Flycatchers. The Nightjar population in Hemsted Forest is under acute stress due to increased footfall in their woodland habitat. The Green in Benenden retains a small population of Amber Listed House Martin. Occasionally a Barn Owl can be seen floating over the fields. In total 93 species have been recorded more than once in the parish including 20 Red and 18 Amber Listed species.

Butterflies and Moths: 3 species of butterfly and 3 species of Moth which are recognised as conservation priorities in the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan have been recorded in the parish.

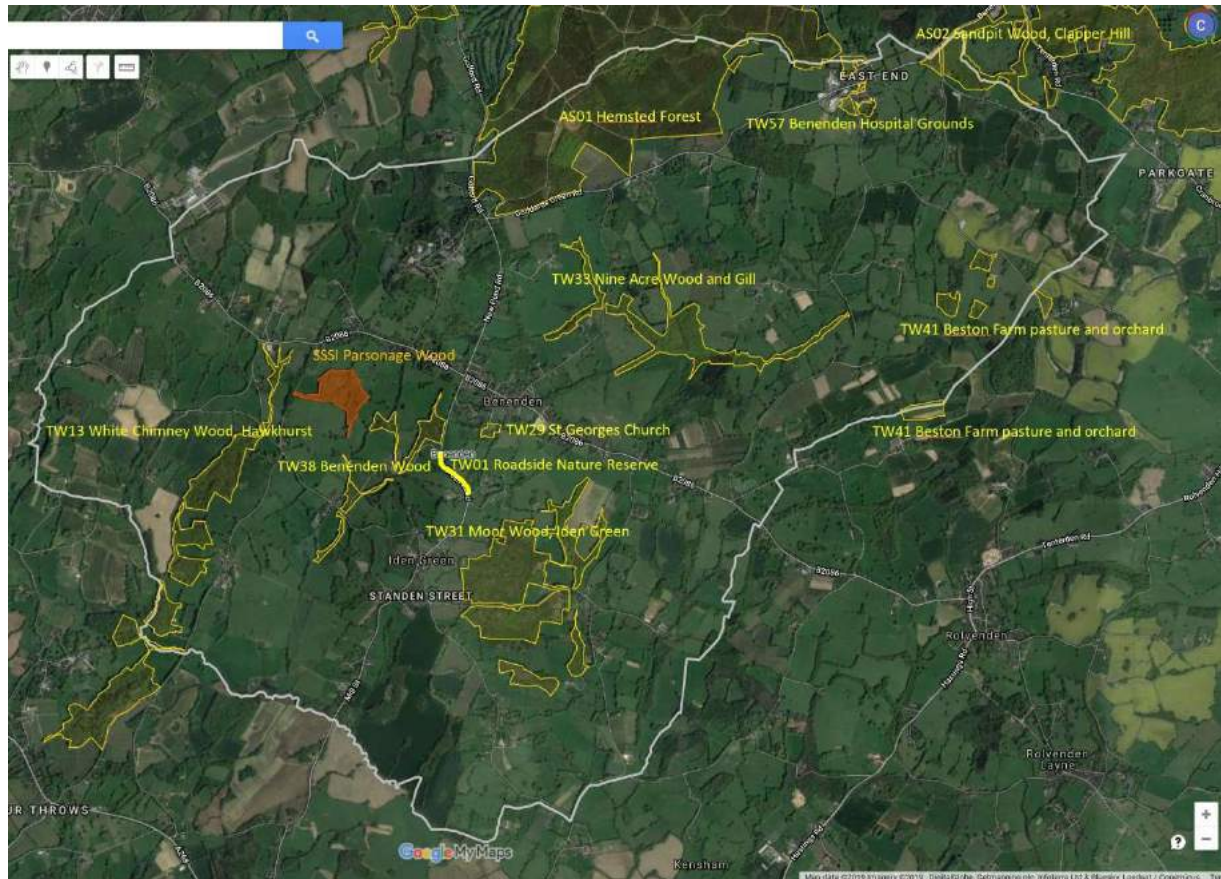
Mammals: Of the 7 species of bat recorded as roosting in Benenden, 3 are classed as vulnerable and 1 as rare in the Kent Red Data Book (KRDB). Other mammals recorded in the parish are the Hazel Dormouse and Eurasian Water Shrew which also appear in the KRDB.

Pollinating insects: Pollinating insects depend on species-rich meadows which are in significant decline. Several notable species of bees, wasps and flies which appear in the KRDB have been recorded in Benenden parish.

Flowering Plants: There are 35 species of flowering plants listed in the KRDB to be found in Benenden parish. A significant number of these are to be found at the Benenden Hospital Local Wildlife Site (LWS). This area of almost 5 hectares of unimproved neutral grassland does not receive, and may have never received, treatment with weedkiller or artificial fertilizers.

Supporting Document LEA8

List of Local Wildlife Sites & SSSIs



Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Parsonage Wood

Local Wildlife Sites

AS01 Hemsted Forest

AS02 Sandpit Wood, Clapper Hill

TW01 Roadside Nature Reserve

TW13 White Chimney Wood, Hawkhurst

TW29 St Georges Churchyard

TW31 Moor Wood, Iden Green

TW33 Nine Acre Wood and Gill Benenden

TW38 Benenden Wood

TW41 Beston Farm pasture and orchard

TW57 Benenden Hospital

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Parsonage Wood

COUNTY: KENT SITE NAME: PARSONAGE WOOD

DISTRICT: TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 797329 Area: 9.7 (ha.) 24.0 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 188 1:10,000: TQ 73 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1981 Date of Last Revision: -

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 Date of Last Revision: -

Other Information:

This site is a reserve owned by the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation.

Reasons for Notification:

Parsonage Wood is a good example of a wealden ghyll woodland. The damp stream banks support many species of fern, moss and liverwort, some of which are rare in eastern Britain.

The woodland is predominantly hornbeam, sweet chestnut and ash coppice under pedunculate oak standards, with a rich ground flora dominated by brambles and bluebells. The coppice layer includes some hazel, field maple *Acer campestre* and wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*. In the ground flora are plants which suggest that this is ancient woodland, subject only to traditional woodland management for many centuries; these include butcher's broom *Ruscus aculeatus*, violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*, and pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*. The last species is especially abundant around the ponds in the north and west of the wood, but these are largely shaded and have little aquatic vegetation.

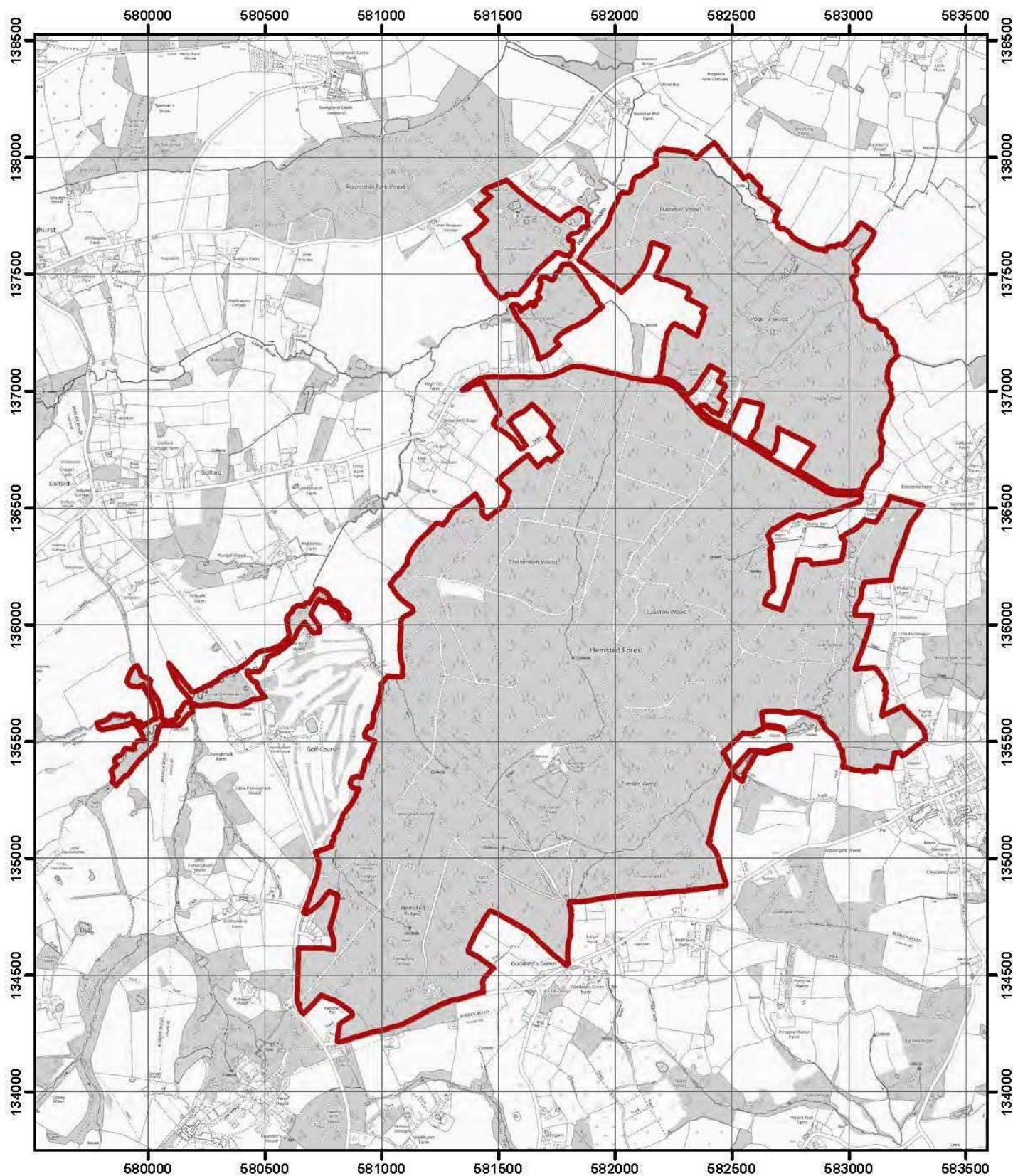
The ghylls cut through the Wadhurst Clay to expose the hard Ashdown Sands. The steep-sided gullies are kept moist by their shape, the woodland canopy, and the streams flowing through them, so that plants, which otherwise are restricted to the damper western seaboard of Britain, can flourish here. Examples of these 'Atlantic' ferns and bryophytes are the hay-scented buckler fern *Dryopteris aemula* and the mosses *Fissidens celticus*, *Hookeria lucens* and *Dichodontium pellucidum*.

Supporting Document LEA9

Local Wildlife Site maps and citations

Site Ref: AS01

Grid Ref: TQ819360



Kent Wildlife Trust 2017

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Approved: 2017 Jun
September 2020

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

KWT File Ref: 820362

Site Name:	Hemsted Forest	Site Ref. No:	AS01
LPA:	Ashford / Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 819360
Parish:	Cranbrook / Benenden / Biddenden	Category:	Woodland, grassland
Owner:	Forestry Commission	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	509.25 ha	AONB:	No
Date first notified:	1986	TPO:	Yes
Dates revised:	1993, Feb 2000, June 2016		
Date last approved:	June 2017		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

Much of the woodland within this site is included on Natural England's Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory and is known to support at least 42 ancient woodland vascular plant indicator species. The site also includes areas of secondary woodland which are contiguous with the ancient woodland and which are considered to have the potential for colonisation by species associated with the ancient woodland.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The site boundary stretches from Tottenden Wood in the far south to Hammer Wood at the north. Milestone Wood and Copden Wood to the north-west of the main site are also included along with Little Ommerden and the shaw to the west.

DESCRIPTION

Hemstead Forest is managed by the Forestry Commission and what was once a large ancient woodland on soils derived from dry, acid Tunbridge Wells sands and heavy Wadhurst clay has been largely converted to conifer plantation, with some sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* coppice and beech *Fagus sylvatica* plantation.

Fringes of the original ancient woodland occur along the perimeters, including sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and occasional alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*. Wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* is also present. The main interest is confined to these fringes and to the edges of the wide rides, which support many of the plants that were present in the original woodland. These include betony *Betonica officinalis*, tormentil ¹ *Potentilla erecta*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, devil's-bit scabious ¹ *Succisa pratensis*, lesser centaury *Centaureum pulchellum* and heather ¹ *Calluna vulgaris*.

The geomorphology across the site is varied, with damper valleys and dry plateau areas. Damper areas and flushes support several colonies of lousewort ¹ *Pedicularis sylvatica*, lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor*, square-stalked St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum* and common yellow-sedge *Carex demissa*. Carnation sedge ¹ *C. panicea* has also been recorded. Smooth-stalked sedge *C. laevigata* is common along many of the rides, and green-ribbed sedge *C. binervis* occurs frequently with pill sedge along the drier rides on the plateau, together with heather and bell heather *Erica*



cinerea. Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* is occasional in the dampest places. Pale sedge *C. pallescens* and remote sedge *C. remota* are also present in the ride flora. The rare chaffweed ¹ *Centunculus minimus* together with water-purslane *Lythrum portula* are present in very bare damp shaded rides.

Scrubby areas of alder *Alnus glutinosa*, sallow *Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia* and eared willow *Salix aurita* occur in some damper parts. Several colonies of saw-wort ¹ *Serratula tinctoria* occur, both along the northern broadleaved fringe of the woodland and within the main wooded complex. A wide variety of fern species reflecting the different soils present also occur including lemon-scented fern ¹ *Oreopteris limbosperma*, hard-fern *Blechnum spicant*, all the common *Dryopteris* species, lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and the uncommon hybrid between narrow buckler-fern and scaly male-fern. Polypody *Polypodium vulgare* is a common feature on some of the relict broadleaved trees.

The rides in Hemsted Forest support a rich bryophyte flora, including several *Sphagnum* species, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Polytrichum commune* and *Pogonatum nanum*. In total, over 80 species have been recorded here. They also support a rich insect fauna including; red wood ants, white admiral ^{5,6}, speckled wood, holly blue & brimstone.

The site is important ornithologically. Firecrest ^{2,3,4}, nightjar ^{2,3,5,6}, woodcock ^{7,8} and grasshopper warbler ^{2,6,8} were recorded as breeding species in the 1980s, with crossbill ^{3,6} and siskin ² common winter visitors. Other species include green woodpecker ³ and nightingale ^{7,8}, the latter being present in sweet chestnut coppice and storm-damaged broadleaved woodland.

A good fungi flora has been recorded, including many agarics associated with conifers, such as *Russula caerulea*, *R. turci*, *Lactarius hepaticus*, *Lactarius camphoratus*, *Suillus bovinus*, *S. granulatus* and *S. luteus* and a number of *Cortinarius* species. *Macrotyphula juncea* and *Cantharellus tubaeformis* are often abundant in the sweet chestnut coppice. *Faeberia carbonaria*, a very local species, has been noted on a bonfire site.

To the north of the main area of Hemsted Forest, large blocks of broadleaved woodland add to the interest of the main area. Milestone Wood (TQ817373) is unmanaged oak/hornbeam coppice merging into very damp ash/alder woodland at the northern end. The ground flora in the dampest parts is dominated by ramsons *Allium ursinum* and pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*. Elsewhere there is a good range of common woodland plants, including wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, bluebell ⁴ *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, bramble and bracken. Heather occurs on the woodbanks and in the more open areas of oak coppice. Kingfisher ^{3,4} has been observed flying over the shallow stream. There is also evidence of badgers ⁹ within the wood.

Rogers Wood and Hammer Wood, comprise a mosaic of conifer plantations, sweet chestnut coppice, secondary birch, and areas of relict ancient broadleaved woodland. Some areas appear to be managed, others less so. The wide rides, often very damp, support the greatest interest with *Sphagnum* moss, lesser spearwort ¹ *Ranunculus flammula*, ragged-robin ¹ *Silene flos-cuculi*, lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor*, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, sedges such as star sedge ¹ *Carex echinata* and remote sedge. A small stream runs through an area of old alder/hornbeam woodland at the northern end of the complex with lady-fern, wood speedwell *Veronica montana* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* along the floodplain.

Drier areas support bluebell and wood anemone. Wood-rushes *Luzula* spp., hard-fern and betony are a feature of the mossy wood banks. There are occasional large mature oaks. Despite the variety

of management/non-management the ground flora is likely to retain much of the original interest and adds to importance of the site as a whole.

Copden Wood (TQ 816376) is managed sweet chestnut coppice, with relict hornbeam / hazel coppice, and areas of dense birch/oak scrub. There is a good system of wide rides, with many bryophytes on the banks and a range of plants including heather, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* and tormentil in the drier parts. Where the soils are damp, a notable plant is lousewort ¹, together with lesser spearwort ¹ and square-stalked St John's-wort *Hypericum tetrapterum*. Bracken *Pteridium aquifolium* is locally common and a variety of common ferns are also present. Ramsons is a feature of the dampest lower ground. An interesting feature is an old green lane with well-defined banks on both sides and ancient hornbeam and oak stools.

A narrow band of woodland associated with a stream to the west of Hemsted Forest (TQ 804357) is very damp in parts. Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and ramsons are present under alder/ash coppice and crack willow *Salix fragilis*. Drier areas are dominated by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, together with many other woodland herbs, including goldilocks buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus* and yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*. There is evidence of badgers⁹ within the wood.

¹ Kent Rare Plant Register v10.

² Kent Red Data Book Status 1. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.

³ Amber List. Birds of Conservation Concern 4.2015.

⁴ Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

⁵ S.41 Species NERC Act 2006.

⁶ UK BAP Priority Species as identified by the JNCC.

⁷ Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.

⁸ Red List. Birds of Conservation Concern 4. 2015.

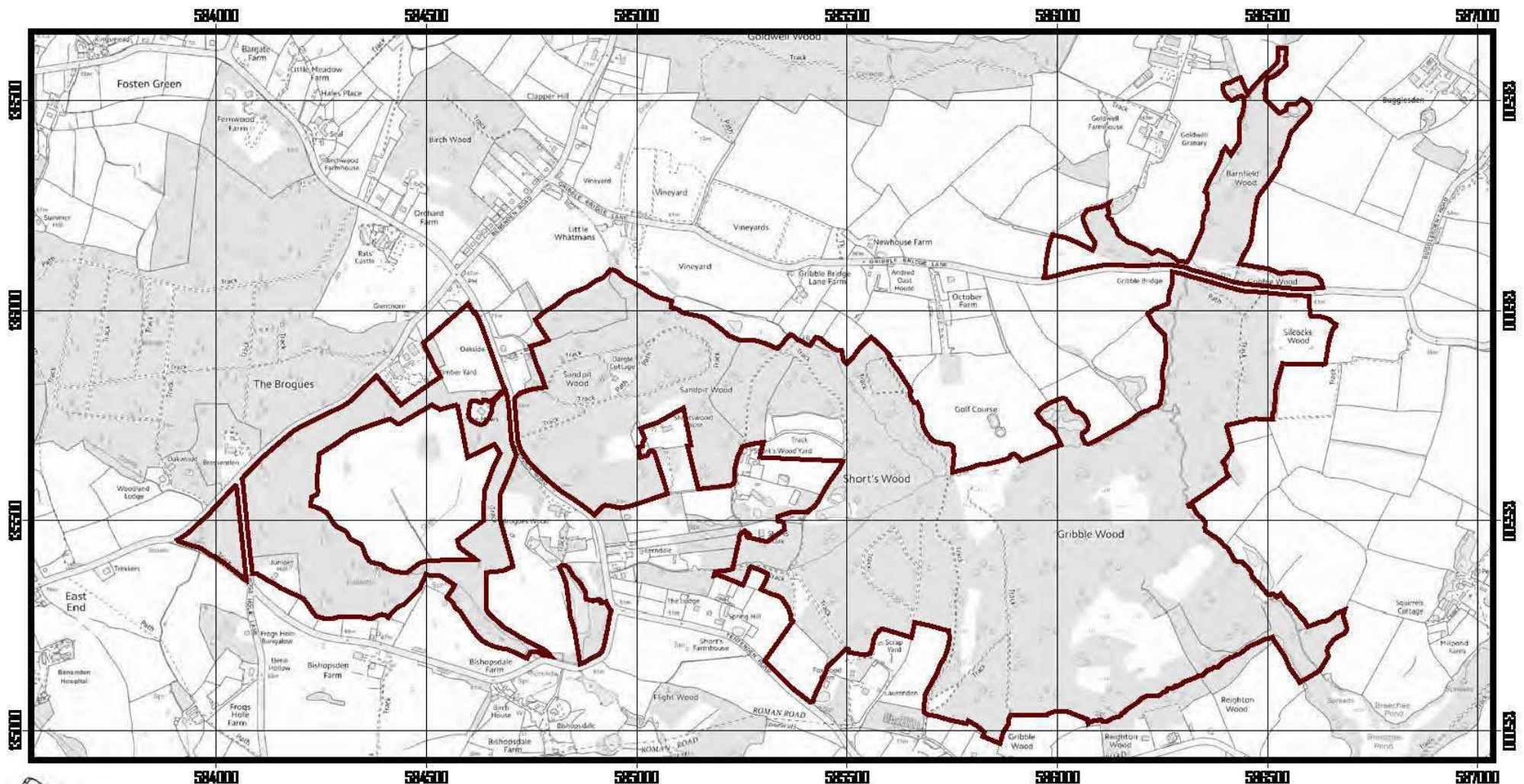
⁹ Badger Protection Act 1992.



KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site: SANDPIT WOOD, CLAPPER HILL

Map ref: TQ 855355, TQ 846358



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Last Approved: Oct 2010

September 2020

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE*KWT File No.: 855355*

Site:	Sandpit Wood, Clapper Hill	Site Ref. No:	AS02
LPA:	Ashford / Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 855355 TQ 846358
Parish:	Benenden / Biddenden / Tenterden	Category:	Woodland, stream, bog, grassland, pond
Owner:	Private	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	139.51 ha	AONB:	No
First notified:	1986	TPO:	Yes (at western end)
Last revised:	1993, February 1998, May 2009		
Last approved:	October 2010		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

This site comprises a large block of ancient woodland with woodbanks along some edges and supporting 29 recently recorded ancient woodland indicators. A number of streams run through the site and these have given rise to areas of wet woodland. The site also includes several areas of semi-improved neutral grassland which are contiguous with the ancient woodland.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The site boundary has been drawn to include the extent of the ancient semi-natural and ancient replanted woodland and its associated habitats including streams, flushes, ponds and unimproved/semi-improved neutral grassland all of which contribute to the overall wildlife interest of the site.

DESCRIPTIONWoodland

This large tract of High Weald woodland situated on high ground has dry, acid soils derived from Tunbridge Wells Sands and is dissected by a number of streams and associated valleys and gills. The soils on the lower slopes of these valleys and in the floodplains of the streams are heavy and damp, being derived from Wadhurst Clay.

Woodland habitats are diverse as a result of the varied geomorphology and differing management regimes. Managed sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* coppice with occasional pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* standards occupies the very acid soils of the plateau, with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, pill sedge *Carex pilulifera* and common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense* in more open parts and rides. Hard fern *Blechnum spicant* is frequent as is *Leucobryum glaucum*, a moss characteristic of very acid soils. Occasional open areas are dominated by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. Pedunculate oak and beech *Fagus sylvatica* high forest are present, and oak and conifer plantations have been introduced on parts of



the higher ground. Old pedunculate oak coppice is frequent, sometimes as singled poles. Storm damage has affected some areas.

The most interesting areas are the unmanaged and managed slopes and floodplains of streams. Large mature beech and pedunculate oak are found on the sides of many gills, with hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, downy birch *Betula pubescens* and hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice on the lower ground and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* / alder *Alnus glutinosa* coppice present in the boggy floodplains. The many shrubs occurring within the complex include holly *Ilex aquifolium*, guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*, aspen *Populus tremula*, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and Midland hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*.

Bluebell ¹ *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and, sometimes, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. dominate the woodland ground flora, together with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, lesser skullcap ² *Scutellaria minor* and bugle *Ajuga reptans* where soils are slightly damper. Woodland orchids present include violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*, broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*, common twayblade *Listera ovata* and early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*. Ramsons *Allium ursinum*, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, remote sedge *Carex remota* and lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina* are locally dominant in the floodplains.

Alder carr, together with a more acid, boggy flora, occurs around the spring-line flushes and in some of the gills. Marsh violet ² *Viola palustris*, remote sedge, thin-spiked sedge ² *Carex strigosa* and narrow buckler fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* feature in these areas, often with sphagnum moss *Sphagnum* spp. In some places, these bogs are being colonised by young birch, but they still hold much interest, including the rare saprophytic liverwort *Cryptothallus mirabilis*, recorded in only three sites in Kent, and wood horsetail ^{3,4} *Equisetum sylvaticum*.

There are a number of shaded and often silted woodland ponds.

Woodbanks occur along some of the woodland edges.

Twenty nine recently recorded ancient woodland indicator plant species from a brief walk over survey (forty six have been previously recorded including a variety of sedges) and sixty-six bryophytes show the extent of the diversity. The corticolous lichen flora is also of interest, especially in the sheltered, unpolluted valleys.

Several badger ⁵ setts were recorded in 2009 and a landowner reported then that bats ¹ use the site.

Grassland

Two small semi-improved neutral grassland fields were added to site in 1993. The species rich field at TQ846358 has been managed sympathetically since at least the 1970s. A small pond created in one corner has colonised naturally with a wide variety of species typical of the Weald, including tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris*. The aquatic moss *Drepanocladus aduncus*, which is quite local in the county, was also recorded. The meadow itself has a good assemblage of common herbs and grasses, including sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and common sorrel



AS02 – Sandpit Wood, Clapper Hill

Page 3 of 3

Rumex acetosa in addition to abundant adder's-tongue ²*Ophioglossum vulgatum*, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, sneezewort ²*Achillea ptarmica* and ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*.

A second semi-improved neutral grassland field at TQ853351 contains a variety of common herbs and grasses, including sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, field wood-rush *Luzula campestris* and bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

- ¹ Protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- ² County Scarce Plants. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.
- ³ County Rare Plants. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.
- ⁴ Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed) 2000.
- ⁵ Protection of Badgers Act 1992.



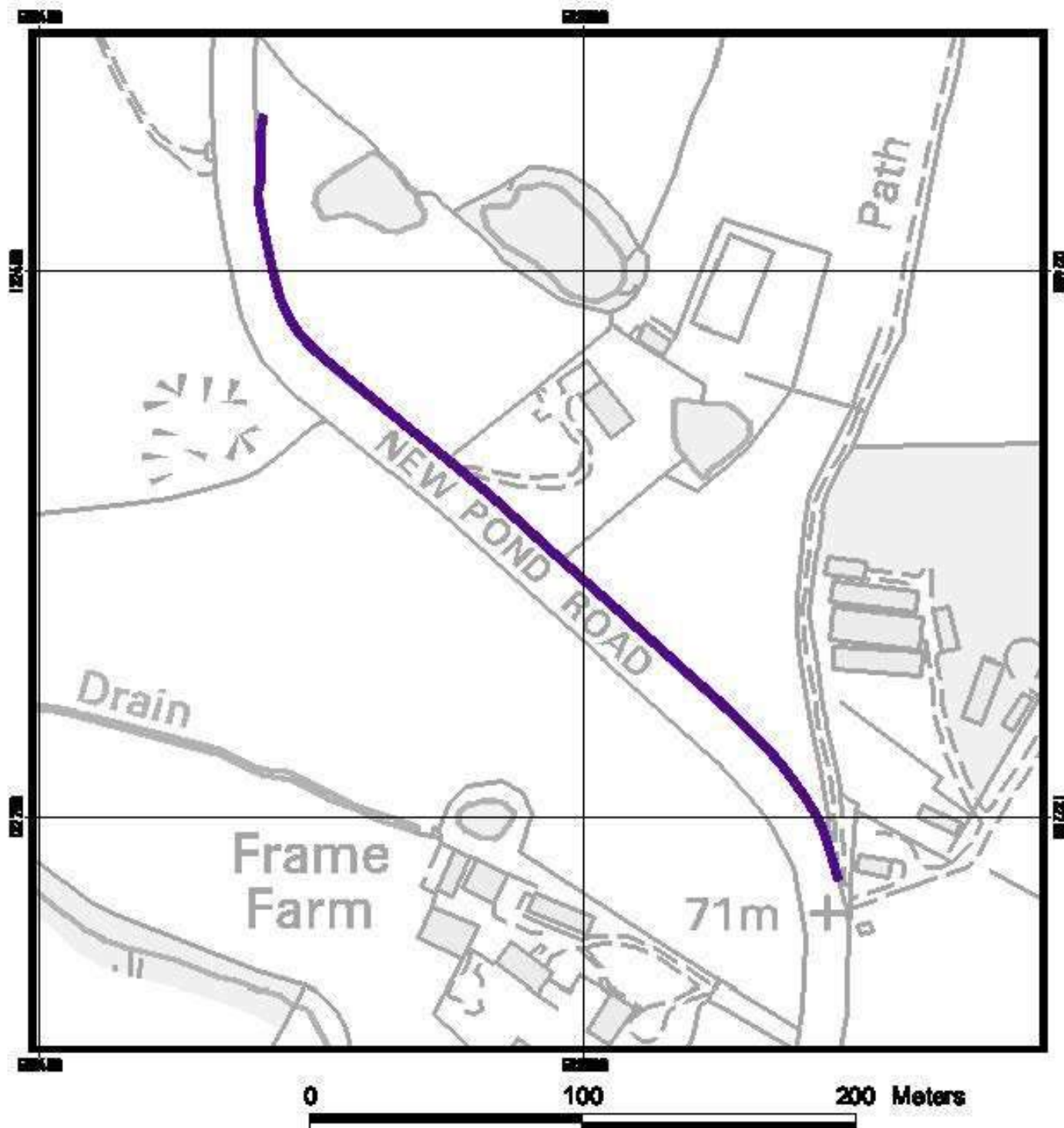
Kent Wildlife Trust

ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVE

Site Ref No: **TW01**

Site: Benenden to Iden Green near Frame Farm
 Parish: Benenden

Map refs: TQ 804324 - 806322
 Roadside length: 318 m



Kent Wildlife Trust © 2009

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Contact: Gill Tysoe, Road Verge Project Officer
 Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn
 Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3BD
 Tel: 01622 662012 Fax: 01622 671390
gill.tysoe@kentwildlife.org.uk
www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk



September 2020



ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVE CITATION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site:	Iden Green nr Frame Farm	Site Ref. No:	TW01
Parish:	Benenden	Grid Ref:	TQ 804324 - 806322
District:	Tunbridge Wells	Length of verge:	320m
Owner:		Width of verge:	1-2m
Adjacent landowner (if known)		Angle of slope (or flat):	Flat to gently sloping
First notified:	1995	Area (if known)	636sq m
Last revised:		Natural Area:	High Weald
Category:	Neutral to acid	AONB:	

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

This site has been selected as an RNR because it is a good example of flower rich grassland.

DESCRIPTION

This RNR is flat to gently sloping, narrow at 1 -2metres wide and 320 metres in length and the soils are neutral to acid. The flower species include meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifrage*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, bugle *Ajuga reptans* and agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*.

A more detailed species list is available at the Kent Wildlife Trust.



Head Office: Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3BD
 Tel: 01622 662012 Fax: 01622 671390 www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk info@kentwildlife.org.uk
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September 2020

MANAGEMENT:

MANAGEMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY HIGHWAYS CONTRACTORS

	EARLY CUT	LATE CUT
Timing:	APRIL	OCTOBER
Width:	Sight line cut if necessary, 1m	Full width to hedge
Height:	10cm/4ins	10cm/4ins

Additional management comments could be included underneath:

All cuttings to be raked up and removed from site.

No tree planting should take place on the verge.

MANAGEMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY VOLUNTEER TASKS (IF REQUIRED)

ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY VOLUNTEER WARDEN

Report any problems on the verge to the Road Verge Project at Kent Wildlife Trust.

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

KWT File Ref: 789322

Site Name:	White Chimney Wood, Hawkhurst	Site Ref. No:	TW13
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 789322
Parish:	Benenden, Hawkhurst	Category:	Woodland, grassland, running water, standing water
Owner:	Private	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	56.54 ha	AONB:	High Weald
Date first notified:	1986	TPO:	No
Dates revised:	February 2000, June 2011		
Date last approved:	October 2012		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

Predominantly ancient woodland shown on the ancient woodland inventory, with over 30 ancient woodland indicator plants recorded, and containing deep gills important for lower plants.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The site boundary surrounds the complex of gill woodlands. A couple of plantations near the Paper Mill (TQ785310) are included as these are also rich in lower plants and they provide a link between the northern and southern ends of the site.

DESCRIPTION

The site consists of a series of small, steep, north-facing, gill woodlands that follow the path of streams flowing from issues at the north and south ends of the site into a larger stream running west to east, south of the Paper Mill. The woods are now separated from each other by pasture and arable land, but are the remains of ancient woodland which was once continuous along the side of the valley.

The woodland was in the past managed as mixed broadleaved coppice-with-standards, but areas of sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* and conifers were later introduced on the dry acid soils, derived from Tunbridge Wells Sands, which are present on the upper slopes. Much of this planted woodland was badly damaged by the great storm in 1987 and the conifer areas, then derelict, did become colonised by rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* but, in Tongs Wood particularly, the rhododendron has been removed, rides opened and the coppice cycle reinstated. Other areas of the lower slopes and wooded valley floor still contain the original, generally unmanaged coppice-with-standards. Sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* form the standards on dry soils, while pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* is more common on the clays of the lower slopes. Large areas of over-mature hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* coppice are present, with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hazel *Corylus avellana* on the lowest slopes. The floodplain areas and stream are fringed by overstood ash and alder *Alnus glutinosa* coppice. Within White Chimney Wood, large-scale management work has recently been undertaken to clear the fallen conifers and dense



rhododendron. The lowest parts of the gill are accessible, although much fallen hornbeam remains in this area. There is abundant ash regeneration in other areas, where the woodland was opened up by the 1987 storm. Wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* is present in Tongs Wood.

The plateau woodland, except Tongs Wood, is locally dominated by rhododendron, with bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and bluebell ¹ *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* also very common. Wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, hairy wood-rush *L. pilosa*, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, wood melick *Melica uniflora*, soft shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum* and patches of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* also occur. Wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* is often dominant where soils are damper.

A more diverse ground flora on the slopes includes dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* and early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*. Violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata* is also present. In the dampest areas, along the gills and in the floodplain, ramsons *Allium ursinum* is locally dominant and often occurs with opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, wood speedwell *Veronica montana*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*. Coralroot ^{2,3} *Cardamine bulbifera* is scattered along the lower slopes and under the oak/beech a large colony of lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis* has been recorded.

The gill areas are rich in ferns and bryophytes particularly at the northern end of White Chimney Wood where the stream has cut down into the Ashdown Sands. Hay-scented buckler-fern ^{3,4} *Dryopteris aemula*, lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, hard-fern *Blechnum spicant* and scaly male-fern *Dryopteris affinis* are common. Bryophytes recorded include shining hookeria *Hookeria lucens*, which was plentiful in the gill, with long-beaked water feather-moss *Platyhypnidium riparoides* and dotted thyme-moss *Rhizomnium punctatum*. The stream flows through slightly less acid soils in the plantations near the Paper Mill and the floodplain here supports much great scented liverwort *Conocephalum conicum*, river feather-moss *Brachythecium rivulare* and twist-tip feather-moss *Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri*.

There are relict wood banks with large hornbeam stools at the north-eastern end of the complex and elsewhere along old field edges.

A large badger ⁵ sett is present along the southern edge of Tongs Wood and evidence of badger, rabbit and deer were noted throughout the complex. The complex supports a variety of woodland birds including hole nesting species such as nuthatch and treecreeper and cuckoo ^{6,7,8,9} was heard calling on the most recent visit. Greater and lesser ^{6,9} spotted woodpeckers have been reported in Tong's Wood.

The small meadow, at TQ 783306, at the eastern end of Tongs Wood appears to be only slightly improved and is under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme as owl habitat. Cattle-grazed in winter and cut for hay in summer, it supports a good range of grasses and herbs, including yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. A small shaw with a silted pond is present on the south-eastern boundary of this field. Wood club-rush *Scirpus sylvaticus* and yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus* occur here.

Bat surveys undertaken at the northern end of the site in 2009, in White Chimney Wood and at Babbes Farm, recorded both common ¹ and soprano pipistrelle ^{1,7,8}, serotine ^{1,4}, noctule ^{1,7,8,9}, brown long-eared ^{1,7,8,9} and Natterer's ^{1,9} bat species.



- 1 Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- 2 Nationally Scarce. Scarce Plants in Britain. JNCC 1994
- 3 Kent Rare Plants Database v4 2011.
- 4 Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.
- 5 Badger Protection Act 1992.
- 6 Red List. Birds of Conservation Concern 3. 2009.
- 7 Priority Species, UK Biodiversity Action Plan. 2007.
- 8 S.41 species NERC Act 2006.
- 9 Kent Red Data Book Status 2. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.



KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

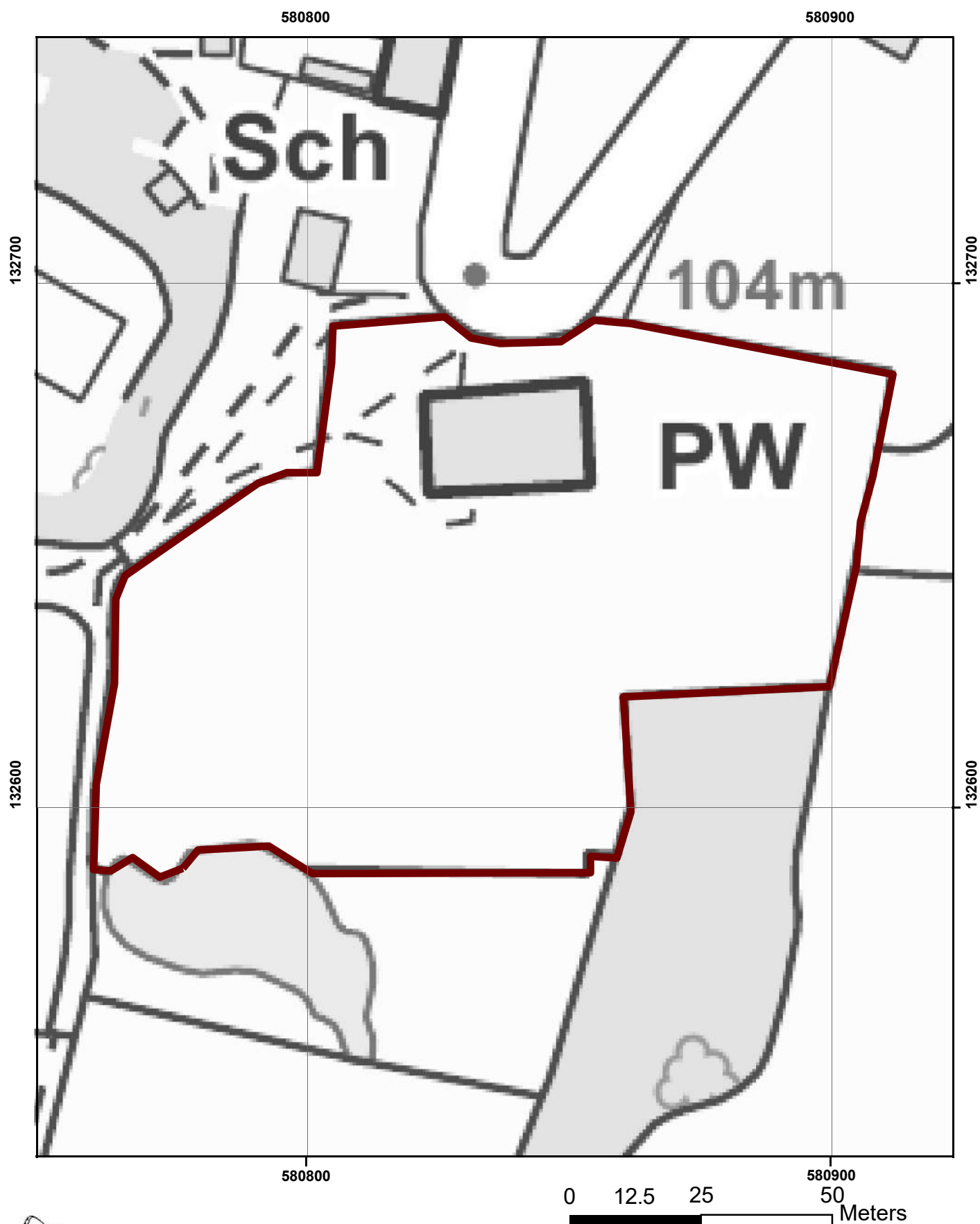
LEAD Local Wildlife Sites and citations

BNDP Supporting Documents Page 476

Site Ref: TW29

Grid Ref: TQ808326

Site: St George's Churchyard, Benenden



Kent Wildlife Trust 2015

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September 2020

Approved: Jan 2016



TW29 – St George's Churchyard, Benenden

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KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE*KWT File No.: 808326*

Site Name:	St George's Churchyard, Benenden	Site Ref. No:	TW29
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 808326
Parish:	Benenden	Category:	Rock surfaces, walls, grassland
Owner:	Church Commissioners	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	1.17 ha	AONB:	High Weald
Date first notified:	1987	TPO:	
Dates surveyed:	Feb 2002, Nov 2013 & Apr 2014		
Date last approved:	Jan 2016		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

This churchyard has been designated for its rich lichen and bryophyte flora and fungi. It supports in excess of 30 species of bryophyte, 118 species of lichen and eight species of waxcap. The grassland comprises unimproved neutral grassland.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The boundary follows that of the churchyard including the boundary walls & features.

DESCRIPTION

This sheltered Wealden churchyard in an unpolluted part of Kent holds one of the richest churchyard lichen flora in the county, with a total of 118 species having been recorded. A variety of headstones and chest tombs of both calcareous and acid stone, wooden memorials and mature trees all provide a variety of habitats.

Richly fertile *Solenospora candicans* is abundant on limestone surfaces. This lichen is a local species in Kent, but is very rarely fertile elsewhere in the country. Other saxicolous species include *Haematomma ochroleucum* var. *ochroleucum*, several *Pertusaria* species including *P. albescens* var. *corallina* and *Phlyctis argena* on limestone. The latter is more often found on bark. *Pseudevernia furfuracea* is present on a sandstone headstone and *Rinodina teichophila*, a distinctly uncommon species in Kent, is present on one tomb. A variety of corticolous species includes *Ochrolechia subviridis*, *Pyrrhospora quernea* and *Schismatomma decolorans* on mature oak.

The churchyard itself is unimproved neutral grassland. The grassland supports a variety of common grasses and herbs, including common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, lesser stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. Some



TW29 – St George's Churchyard, Benenden

Page 2 of 2

scrubby areas with bramble and hawthorn are present in the section at the rear of the yard. Good numbers of common butterflies have been recorded.

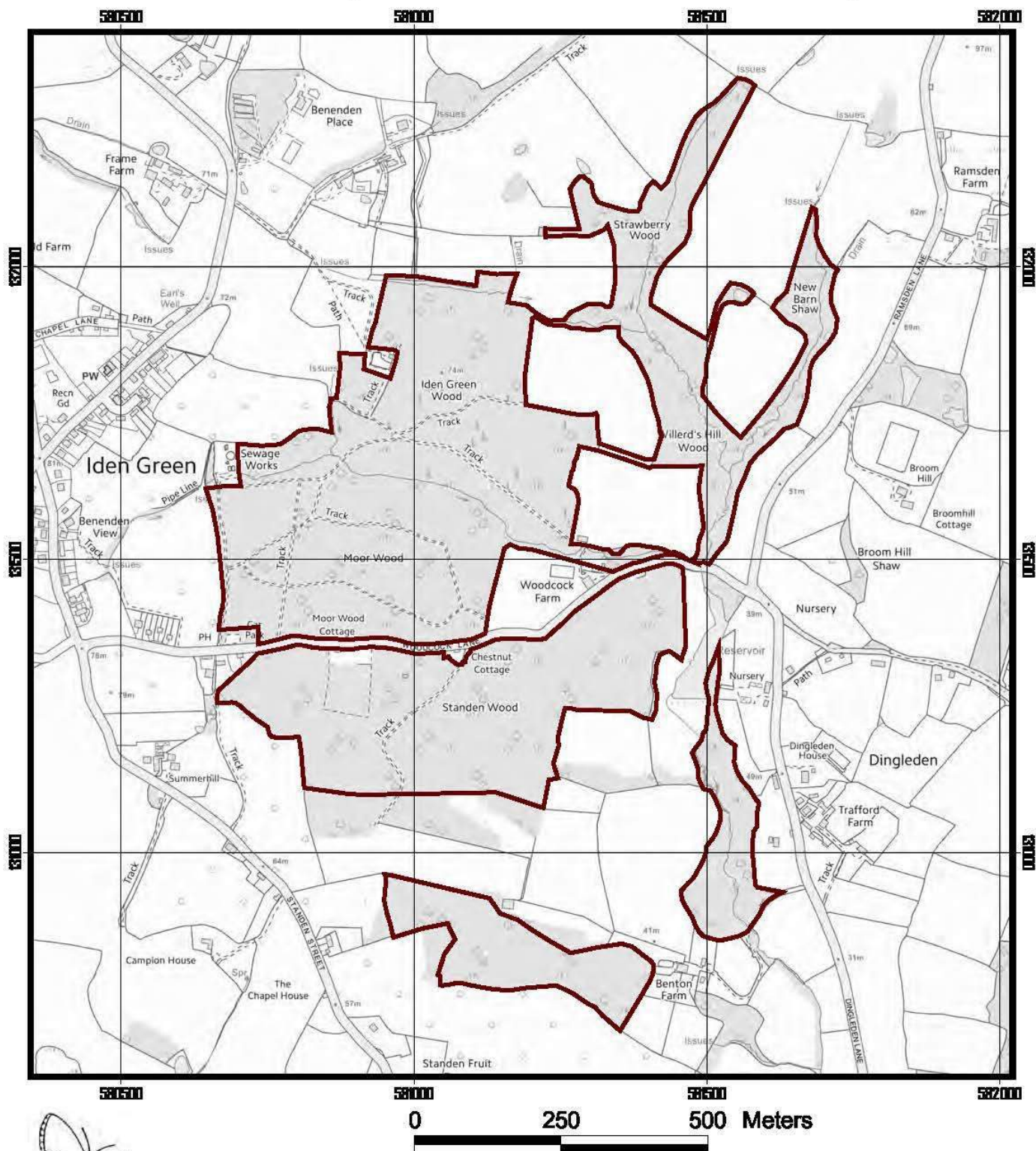
Eight species of waxcap fungi were recorded on a recent visit, in addition to several other grassland species such as *Entolomas*, *Dermolomas* and fairy clubs. Their presence is indicative of unimproved neutral grassland.

The bryophyte flora is rich, with more than 30 species having been recorded recently. Of particular interest are the large buns of *Orthotrichum lyellii* on the top of some limestone headstones. This moss is more commonly found on sheltered trees in the British Isles. It is occasional in Kent, although it has recovered slightly in recent years, but is rare on rock surfaces anywhere. *Leucodon sciuroides* occurs on one or two base-rich headstones. This moss is uncommon in Kent and generally in the British Isles. It was once found on trees in the county but is now restricted to a few base rich headstones. Other species seen include *Syntrichia intermedia*, *Schistidium crassipilum* and *Orthotrichum anomalum*.



KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITESite Ref No: **TW31**Site: **MOOR WOOD ETC., IDEN GREEN**

Map ref: TQ 812315

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Last approved: June 2011

September 2020

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site Name:	Moor Wood etc., Iden Green	Site Ref. No:	TW31
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 812315
Parish:	Benenden	Category:	Woodland, streams, gill
Owner:	Private	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	62.67 Hectares	AONB:	High Weald
Date first notified:	1987	TPO:	No
Dates revised:	2000 (Map), April 2010		
Date last approved:	June 2011		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

Typical ancient Wealden woodland with some heathy areas. Woodbanks and ride edges with a good variety of lower plants and relict mature trees. Twenty nine ancient woodland indicator higher plants were recorded on the most recent survey.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The boundary surrounds Moor Wood, Iden Green Wood, Strawberry Wood, New Barn Shaw, Willerd's Hill Wood, Standen Wood. Also included within the Local Wildlife Site are the woodlands to the south of Standen Wood, to the west of Trafford Farm.

DESCRIPTION

Ancient broadleaved woodland complex typical of the Weald, mainly converted to sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* coppice with very occasional standards, which is actively managed. The high ground is generally very acid and dry on soils derived from Tunbridge Wells Sands. Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, silver and downy birch *Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens*, hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and occasional relict, large, mature oak *Quercus robur* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* are present, particularly in Moor Wood.

In the valleys and along streams the soils are richer and heavier and relict coppice of hazel, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hornbeam is frequent with alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr along the stream sides in Moor Wood and Dingleden gill. A small unmanaged conifer plantation is present in the north eastern corner of Standen Wood TQ814314. A conifer area in Iden Green Wood at TQ810317 has been cleared and the time of the most recent survey is a mosaic of heathy shrubs such as heather (or ling) *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather ¹ *Erica cinerea* and young birch and oak.

Generally the ground flora in the wooded areas is dominated on high ground by bluebell ² *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Whilst richer soils in the valleys support



much wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, with yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

Opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and ramsons *Allium ursinum* are found in the flood plains of streams in Moor Wood and Dingleden Gill. Early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula* is present occasionally throughout the complex. Additionally, a variety of ferns, woodrushes and sedges reflecting the varied soils are present throughout the complex.

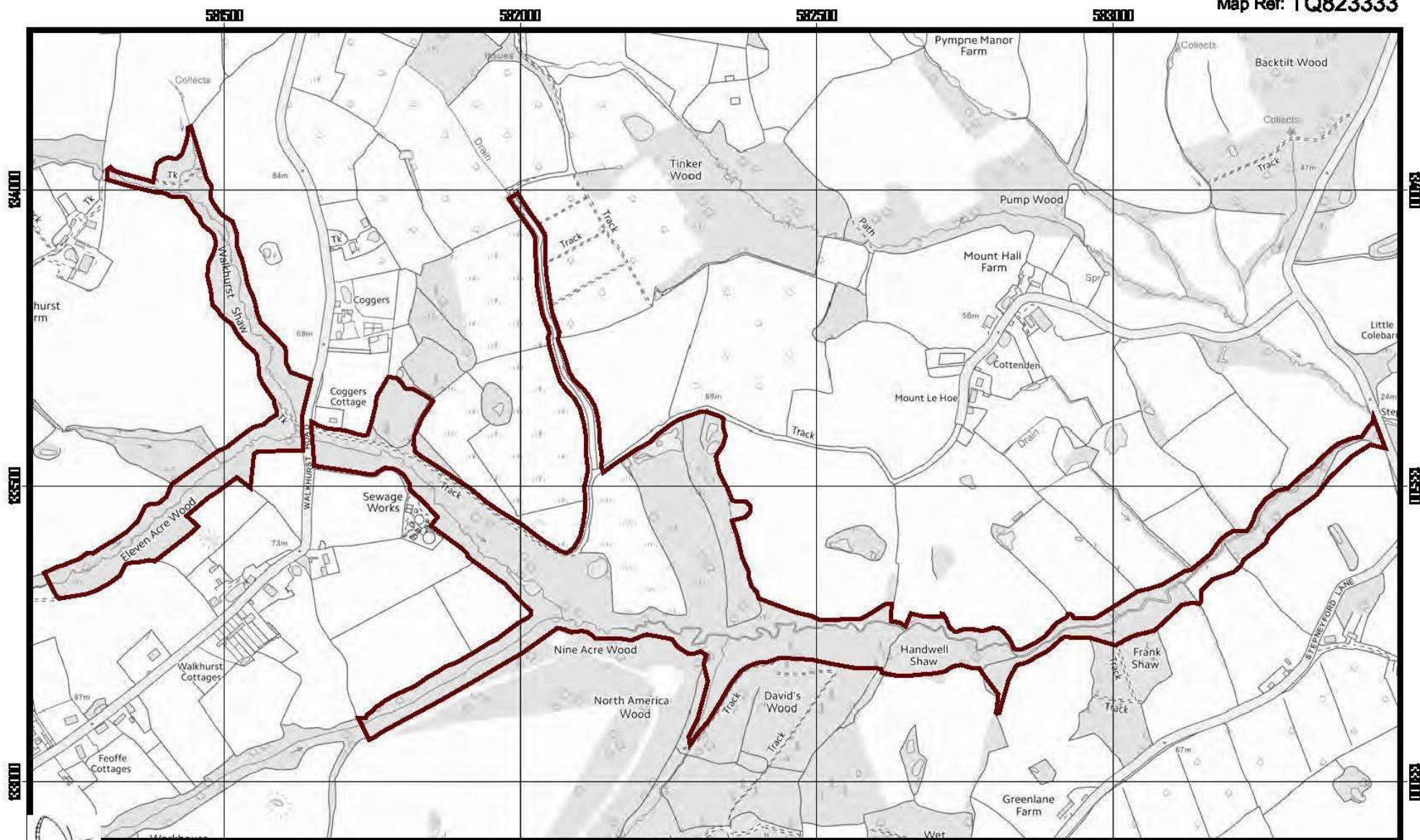
A good ride system is present in Standen and Moor Wood with excellent woodbanks which support a variety of bryophytes and higher plants. On the sandy banks heather, bell heather, pill sedge *Carex pilulifera* and heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia* can be observed, with acid loving bryophytes. Elsewhere the banks support primroses and wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and a different mix of bryophytes which includes the woodland form of *Ctenidium molluscum*. Occasional boundary woodbanks with relict mature oaks and /or hornbeam are a feature in parts of Standen and Moor Woods.

Over the whole site, 29 ancient woodland indicator plants have been recorded recently, plus orpine *Sedum telephium* in a previous survey. Over 60 bryophytes have been recorded recently, reflecting the variety of habitats within the complex. A number of lichen species were recorded on the mature oaks in sheltered area in Moor Wood including *Thelotrema lepadinum* which is a little recorded species in Kent, but more lichen survey work would be beneficial.

A variety of woodland birds were recorded on recent spring visits including several warbler species, woodpeckers, tree creeper and nuthatch.

- 1 County Scarce. Atlas of Kent Flora 1982 E. Philp.
- 2 Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981



KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE**Site: NINE ACRE WOOD AND GILL, BENENDEN****Site Ref No: TW33****Map Ref: TQ823333****Kent Wildlife Trust © 2014**

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**Last approved: Oct 2013**

September 2020

TW33 – Nine Acre Wood and Gill, Benenden

Page 1 of 2

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE*KWT File Ref.: 823333*

Site Name:	Nine Acre Wood and Gill, Benenden	Site Ref. No:	TW33
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 823333
Parish:	Benenden	Category:	Woodland, running water, standing water, grassland, scrub
Owner:	Private	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	30.14 ha	AONB:	High Weald
Date first notified:	1987	TPO:	No
Dates revised:	February 2000, May 2011		
Date last approved:	Oct 2013		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The site has been designated because it comprises a large block of ancient woodland included on the provisional ancient woodland inventory. Over thirty ancient woodland indicator vascular plant species have been recorded since the site was originally designated. The site also includes an area of semi-improved neutral grassland, which has been designated because it is contiguous with ancient woodland.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The boundary has been drawn to include all areas of ancient woodland which have been surveyed. The boundary includes an area of secondary woodland which is contiguous with the ancient woodland and which is considered to have the potential for colonisation by species associated with ancient woodland. The site boundary also includes running water, standing water and scrub as these habitats contribute to the overall biodiversity interest of the site.

DESCRIPTION

The site comprises a series of woods, including several extending along small gills, to the north-east of Benenden.

The woodland within Walkhurst Shaw, Eleven Acre Wood, Nine Acre Wood and Handwell Shaw consists of relict mixed broadleaved, on base-rich soils derived from heavy Weald Clay. Formerly managed as coppice-with-standards but unmanaged for many years, large areas were badly damaged in the great storm of 1987, resulting in many parts now being a tangle of fallen live and dead trees and natural regeneration. In some places, where the woodland was less damaged, it is reverting to high forest. Mature pedunculate *Quercus robur* oaks are present as standards, with large areas dominated by hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* coppice. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and field maple *Acer campestre* occur on the lower ground, with alder *Alnus glutinosa* and ash frequent on the dampest ground and in the floodplain. Wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis* is occasional, and English elm *Ulmus procera* scrub is frequent at the western end of Nine Acre Wood. Midland hawthorn *Crataegus*



laevigata, guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* are found in the shrub layer. A series of ponds are located in the floodplain at TQ 820333.

The rich ground flora present throughout the woodland complex includes large stands of ramsons *Allium ursinum* on the dampest soils, together with moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*. Thin-spiked wood-sedge ¹ *Carex strigosa* is also present. Wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* is common, with wood speedwell *Veronica montana*, lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* also occurring. Bluebell ² *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* is found on the upper slopes but is never dominant. There are several large colonies of early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, together with primrose *Primula vulgaris*, soft shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum* and hard shield-fern *P. aculeatum*. A series of damp flushes which cross the slopes of the main gill are vegetated by pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* and remote sedge *C. remota*. Stinking iris *Iris foetidissima* occurs in the drier parts under field maple coppice, together with common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and common twayblade *Neottia ovata*.

The woodland at TQ 822334 lies on flatter ground. It comprises both ancient and secondary woodland blocks and is dominated by unmanaged, very large ancient hornbeam coppice with many oak standards, downy birch *Betula pubescens* and Midland hawthorn. The dense canopy has suppressed the ground flora, although bluebell ² and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. occur locally. There are several old external and internal woodbanks and, at the northern end, there are several silted and shaded woodland ponds.

A green lane lined with mature oaks and woodbanks extends north from the woodland at TQ 821335. The trees support a number of common corticolous lichens and mosses which add to the interest of the site. Wood melick *Melica uniflora* is common along the dry woodbanks, together with hairy wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*, wood anemone and lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*.

Over fifty bryophytes have been recorded within the woodland including *Neckera pumila* ³, *Thamnobryum alopecurum* and the woodland form of *Ctenidium molluscum*. A rich variety of epiphytic bryophytes including several liverworts such as *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria fruticulosa* and *M. furcata* and several *Ulota* sp. and *Orthotrichum* sp. mosses have been recorded on the sheltered trees.

A block of rough, unmanaged semi-improved grassland surrounded on three sides by woodland with woodbanks occurs at TQ 821334. The grassland supports a range of grass species, including sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and meadow-grasses *Poa* spp.. Flowering plants include bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and several thistle species *Cirsium* spp. Trees and scrub are colonising the grassland, particularly at its northern end.

Birds recorded include great spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker ⁴ and blackbird, along with nuthatch, blackcap, chiffchaff and common woodland tits.

¹ County Scarce. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982.

² Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

³ Kent Red Data Book Status 2. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.

⁴ Amber List. Birds of Conservation Concern 3. 2009.

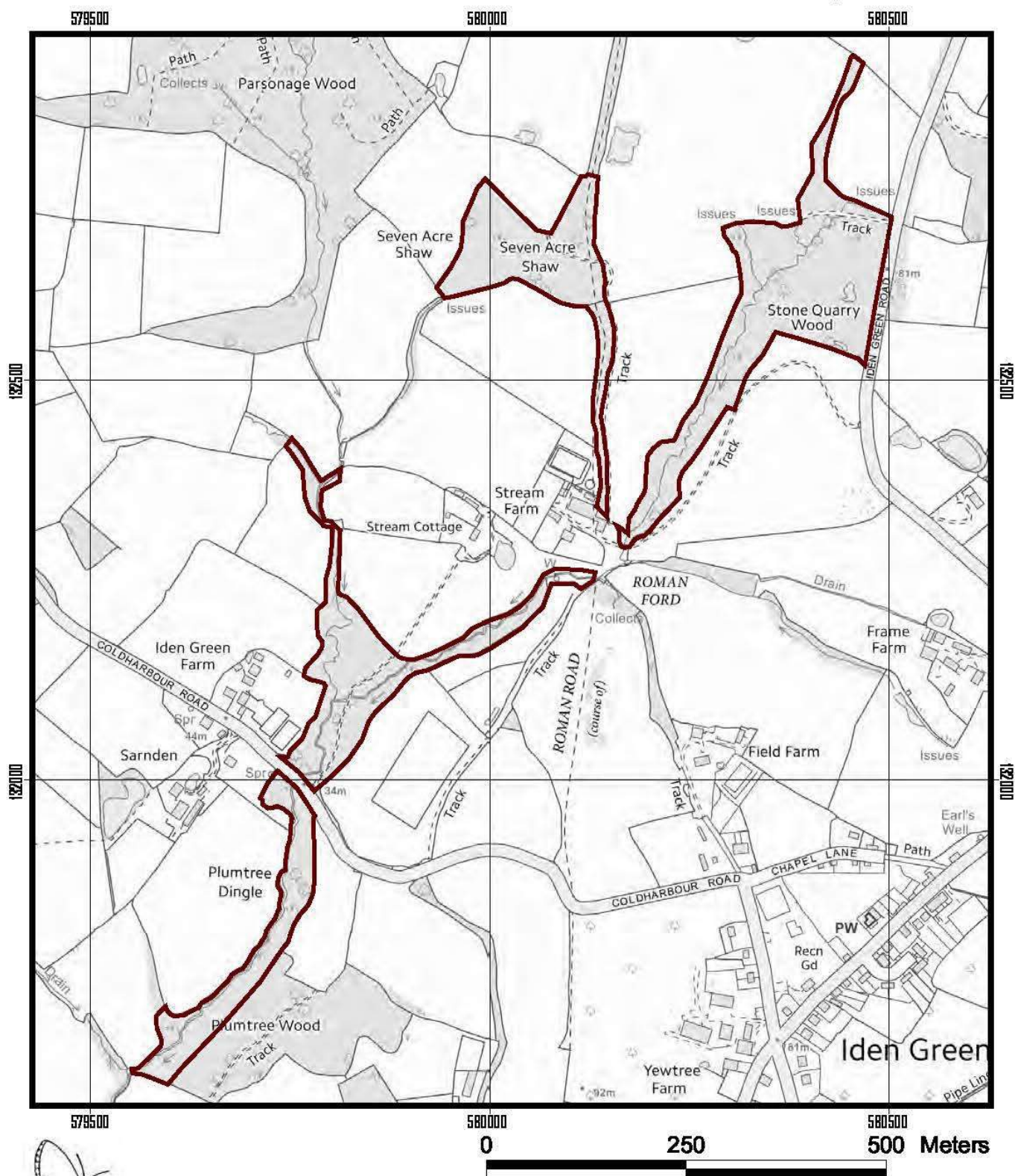


KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site Ref No: **TW38**

Site: **BENENDEN WOOD ETC.**

Map ref: **TQ 800322**



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September 2020

KENT WILDLIFE SITES

Local Wildlife Site		Site Ref:	TW38
Site:	Benenden Wood etc	Map Ref:	TQ 800322
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	AONB:	No
Parish:	Benenden	SLA:	Yes
Owner:	Private	TPO:	No
Category:	Woodland, stream, rocks	Protected species:	
Area:	11.38 ha		
Date first notified:	1988		
Date amended:	2000 (map)		

DESCRIPTION

A small area of ancient mixed broadleaved woodland situated along a deep gill with a stream running through from north to south. Although woodland is not present on earliest OS maps, it is obviously ancient in origin since the range of plants, particularly ferns and bryophyte species, indicate continuous cover from earliest times.

Unmanaged, the wood is now reverting to High Forest from coppice-with-standards. The soils range from acid Tunbridge Wells Sands on high ground, through to Wadhurst Clays, whilst Ashdown Sands are exposed in the rocky stream banks and in a series of small waterfalls in the stream bed at northern end.

Hornbeam is the dominant coppice species on high ground with occasional mature sessile oak and beech with holly and hawthorn. The ground flora is dominated by bramble and bluebell ¹ *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus* together with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*. On the clays, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum* and lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis* are more commonly seen under hazel and ash coppice with the occasional pedunculate oak standard. Early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula* is abundant.

The rocky stream sides are rich in ferns including the rare hay-scented fern ² *Dryopteris aemula* and scaly male-fern *Dryopteris pseudomas*. The rare coralroot ³ *Cardamine bulbifera* occurs here.

The bryophyte flora is rich on the damp acid sandstone rocks with *Hookeria lucens* and *Dichodontium pellucidum* and many liverworts. Golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* also occurs. Rocky, acid streamside below waterfall supports excellent bryophytes. Large bittercress *Cardamine amara* ⁵ is also present.

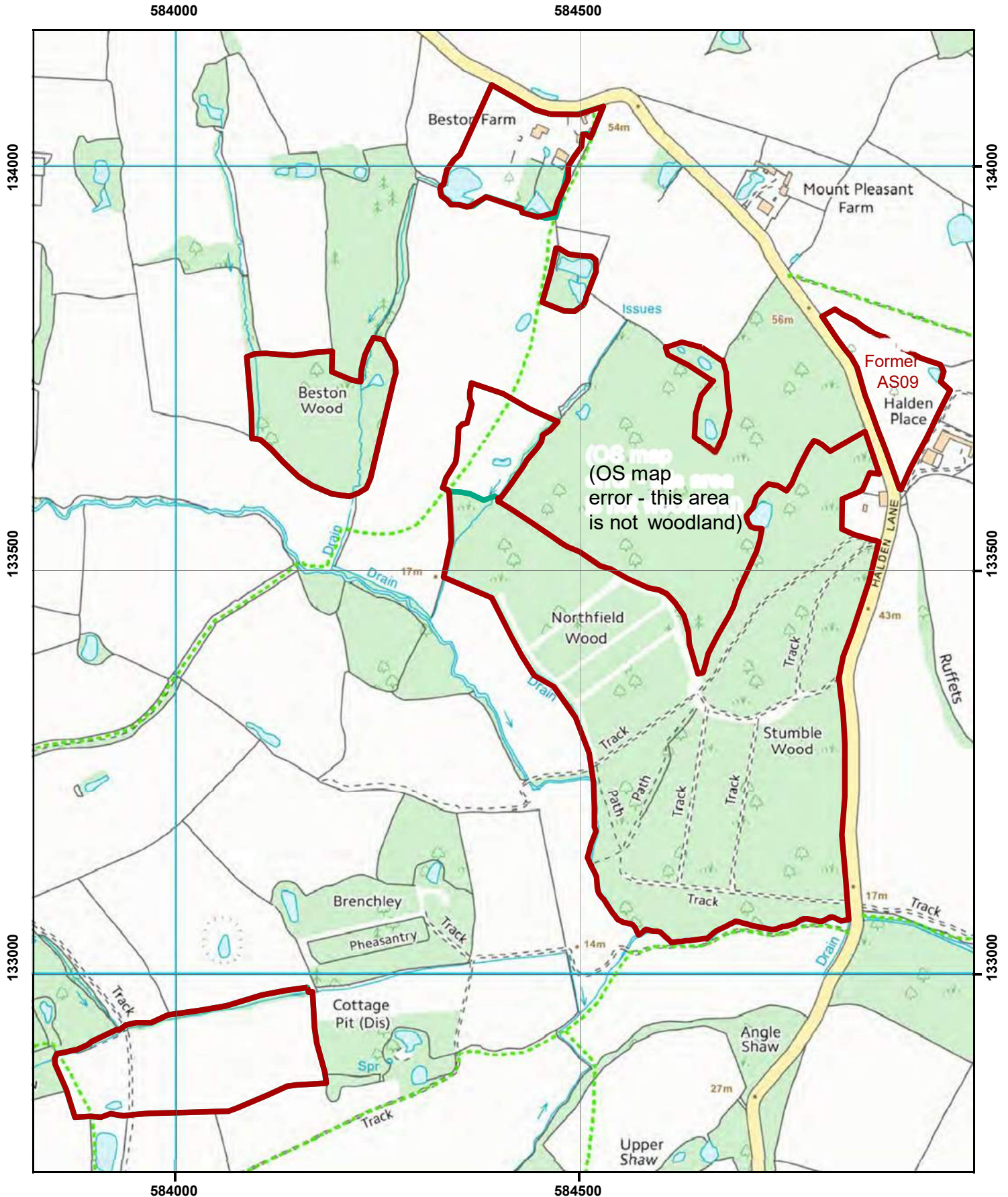
Two over-silted shady woodland ponds occur at the southern end of the site with alder and willows.



Evidence of dormouse ^{1, 6} and badger ⁴ has been recorded.

- ¹ Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- ² Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000
- ³ Nationally Scarce. Scarce Plants in Britain. JNCC. 1994
- ⁴ Badger Protection Act 1992
- ⁵ County Scarce. Atlas of Kent Flora. Philp. 1982
- ⁶ National Red Data Book Species
- ⁷ Priority Species, UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1998





Kent Wildlife Trust 2018

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September 2020

Approved: 2018 Mar

TW41 – Beston Farm pastures, woods and orchard

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KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

KWT File No: 844341

Site Name:	Beston Farm and Haldon Place	Site Ref. No:	TW41 (merged with AS09)
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Refs:	TQ 844340, TQ 841336, TQ 846336, TQ 848337, TQ 840328
Parish:	Benenden / Rolvenden	Category:	Grassland, pond, woodland
Owner:	Private	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	29.08 ha	AONB:	High Weald
Date first notified:	1988	TPO:	No
Dates revised:	June 1995, September 2015, May 2017	Landscape Character Area:	Cranbrook: Kentish High Weald
Date last approved:	March 2018		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The site contains a range of habitats of wildlife interest. Beston Wood and part of Stumble Wood are listed on Natural England's Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory. Mature oaks add interest to the site. The lower plant interest at Halden Place orchard is being nurtured. The semi-improved neutral grassland contains four indicator species.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The boundary surrounds the areas of interest within Beston Farm and includes the adjacent Halden Place orchard (which until 2018 was a separate Local Wildlife Site, AS09).

DESCRIPTIONPastures

Two areas of pasture are present within the site. The southern pasture (TQ840328) includes an area of north-facing, steeply sloping grassland, semi-improved with much broken ground where the surface has slipped, is cattle-grazed. The lower banks are herb-rich, with a mosaic of dry and damp areas. A wide range of grasses includes quaking-grass *Briza media* and herb records here include common milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* plus many leguminous plants. Additionally, hairy sedge *Carex hirta*, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifrage* are found. Glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* and oval sedge *C. leporina* have also been recorded prior to the recent visit. In the damper areas, records include ragged robin *Silene flos-cuculi*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, jointed rush *J. articulatus*, plus hard rush *J. inflexus*, soft rush *J. effusus* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* recorded recently.

The pasture area east of Beston Wood (at TQ843336) is tussocky semi-improved neutral grassland. It has some tall ruderal and scrub patches and damper parts hold clumps of hard rush. It forms a



structural mosaic, likely to be good for invertebrates, dragonflies and cricket/grasshoppers have been noted. Burnet saxifrage is also present here; it is an indicator of unimproved neutral grassland.

In both areas there are ant hills, parasol mushrooms *Macrolepiota* sp., and records of good numbers of common grass-feeding butterflies and moths, including meadow brown, gatekeeper and green-veined white. Rabbits are common.

Beston Farm Orchard (TQ 844 340)

This orchard and the adjoining pond are included in the site. The ground is unimproved and sheep-grazed in winter. The fruit trees are not yet particularly old and only support common epiphytic bryophytes, but some lichens are found on standing dead wood and older trees. The grassland supports a range of common meadow grasses and herbs. Meadow crane's-bill *Geranium pratense* has been recorded on this site. Oval sedge, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* are also present. Large pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* trees (around 350 years old) add interest to the site, as does the large alder *Alnus glutinosa* lined pond, now nearly silted up, with little aquatic or marginal vegetation showing at this stage of its development.

Records show the lawn in front of the farmhouse is unimproved, with the relict turf supporting a colony of autumn lady's tresses ¹*Spiranthes spiralis*, a species of county importance.

Halden Place Farm Orchard (TQ 848 337)

This is a large orchard with a scattering of old apple trees and many replanted trees. Dead wood is left *in situ*. Large numbers of old apple trees were lost in the Great Storm but a few of these remain. In the early 1980s these old trees held a richer lichen and bryophyte flora than many others in Kent. In 2017 there remain good number of common lichen and bryophytes on the boughs of both old and young trees. Traditional orchard management will ensure that the lower plant flora will improve further.

Beston Wood

This is a small wood with mature oak standards which is relict ancient Wealden woodland adds diversity to the site. Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* coppice is common, but ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hazel *Corylus avellana* are also present. The ground flora is dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and bluebell ²*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, but it is likely many other woodland herbs occur.

Stumbles Wood

A large area of broadleaved woodland on ground sloping south, with a stream running along the lowest boundary. The soils are generally rather acid but slightly richer ground flora occurs on the lower ground. A good, wide, grassy ride system is present. The area includes relict hornbeam coppice with oak standards and hazel on the slopes, managed chestnut coppice with occasional oaks on higher ground, relict ash/hazel coppice on the damp, lowest ground, in addition to small areas of broadleaved and conifer plantation.

The flora includes 23 ancient woodland indicator plants although bluebell ²*Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* are the most conspicuous in ground flora. Other species include woodland grasses such as wood melick *Melica uniflora*, wood meadow grass *Poa nemoralis*, creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*, with southern wood-rush *Luzula forsteri* and heath speedwell ¹*Veronica officinalis* on the drier acid ground. Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* occur along the stream-side, with primrose *Primula vulgaris*, early purple orchid *Orchis mascula* and ragged robin ¹*Silene flos cuculi*. Good numbers of ferns are present including soft shield-



TW41 – Beston Farm pastures, woods and orchard

Page 3 of 3

fern *Polystichum setiferum* and scaly male-fern *Dryopteris affinis*. Common woodland butterflies are present and evidence of badger ³ was observed. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is locally dominant in some areas. The wood contains several silted ponds. It is actively managed for pheasantry.

The whole area is likely to support an interesting woodland bird fauna. Great-spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker ⁴, jay, common warblers and tits were observed recently.

- ¹ Kent Rare Plants Register v11.
- ² Protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.
- ³ Badger Protection Act 1992.
- ⁴ Amber List. Birds of Conservation Concern 4. 2015.



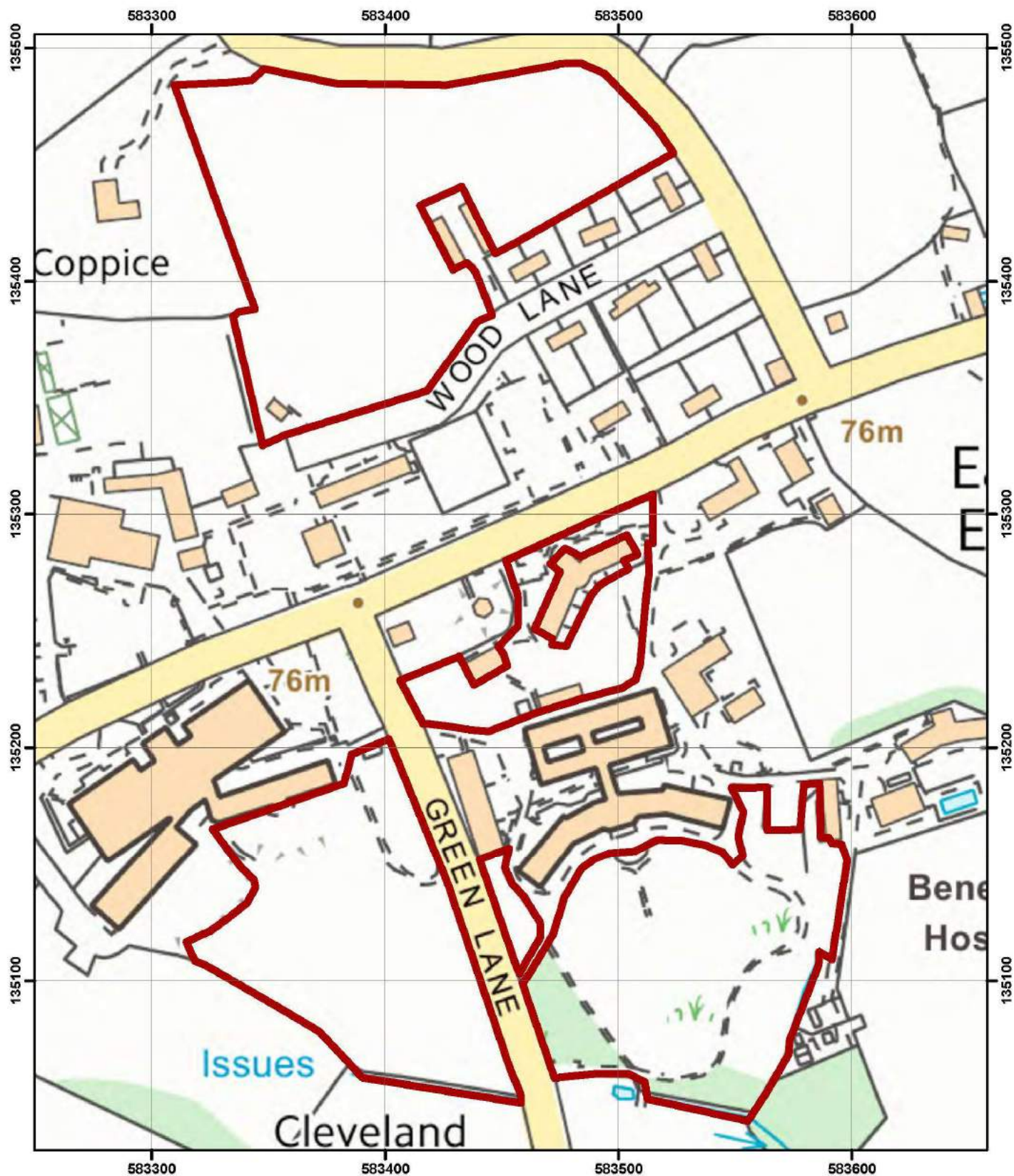
KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site: Benenden Hospital Grounds

Draft update

Site Ref: TW57

Grid Ref: TQ834352



Kent Wildlife Trust 2019

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September 2020

KENT LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

DRAFT UPDATE

KWT File No: 834352

Site Name:	Benenden Hospital Grounds	Site Ref. No:	TW57
LPA:	Tunbridge Wells	Central Grid Ref:	TQ 834352
Parish:	Benenden	Category:	Grassland, parkland trees
Owner:	Private	Natural Area:	High Weald
Area:	4.78 ha	AONB:	No
Date first notified:	2006	Landscape Character Area:	Low Weald, Sissinghurst Wooded Farmlands
Dates revised:	Nov 2017		
Date last approved:	Oct 2006,		

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The site consists of a number of areas of unimproved neutral grassland within the hospital grounds. These do not receive, and may have never received, treatment with weed-killer or artificial fertilizers. The grassland supports at least ten indicator plant species of unimproved neutral grassland and large numbers of orchids, it also has an exceptional fungus flora. It is considered, in expert opinion, to be of county importance for its wax-cap fungi alone.

RATIONALE FOR SITE BOUNDARY

The boundary has been drawn around all the important areas of grassland known to support neutral grassland flora, including orchids and areas of important fungus flora. For ease of mapping, some areas of hard paving and some small, built structures may have been included within the boundary of the Local Wildlife Site, but should not be considered as being part of the Local Wildlife Site.

DESCRIPTION

This site comprises a series of unimproved neutral grassland banks and lawns, the latter regularly managed by mowing. The grassland supports a variety of grass and herb species which were characteristic of this part of Kent before the advent of modern farming methods.

The south-facing, steep, grassy banks which are present in several areas of the hospital grounds are particularly important. The thin, dry soils support abundant bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, common milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, common sorrel *R. acetosa*, bugle *Ajuga reptans*, agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Oval sedge *Carex ovalis* and glaucous sedge *C. flacca* are occasional in the turf. Betony *Stachys officinalis* is also frequent. Common dog-violet *Viola riviniana* is abundant in the spring. Large populations of autumn lady's-tresses ¹ *Spiranthes spiralis* are present throughout the grassland areas, and green-winged orchid ¹ *Anacamptis morio* also occurs on banks adjoining the croquet lawn, together with a large population of adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. The former was once a common orchid in the British Isles, but has declined dramatically with agricultural improvement. Grass species include quaking-grass ¹ *Briza media*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and smooth meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*.



The grassland supports a wide range of grassland fungi, including a rich assemblage of waxcaps, *Enteloma* species, fairy clubs and earth tongues. These are all indicative of short, unimproved grassland, and such associations are considered to be uncommon in the British Isles generally. In Kent they are confined mainly to relict grassland in churchyards and a few parklands and gardens of large estates. Fourteen waxcaps recorded recently include *Hygrocybe punicea*, which occurs in huge quantities, *H. calyptriformis*², *H. russocoriacea*, *H. quieta*, *H. coccinea* and *H. intermedia*³. The earth tongue *Geoglossum glutinosum*, *Dermaloma cuneifolium* and a rare fairy club *Clavaria incarnata*, as well as other fairy clubs, are also present in the grassland. A site holding eighteen species of waxcap is considered to be of national importance. This site is therefore of county importance for its waxcap populations alone.

In addition, a variety of agarics are present in association with the parkland trees, including several uncommon species. The uncommon and rarely recorded *Lyophyllum eustygium* is present with Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*.

The cricket ground in the northern part of the grounds also supports a rich grassland fungal flora and also holds a number of mycorrhizal agarics associated with the large parkland oaks which fringe the ground. A number of large, parkland trees present in some areas of lawn also support a variety of fungi and lichen species.

A small area of marshy grassland lies close to a stream which forms the southern boundary of the grounds. This holds a variety of rush species *Juncus spp.*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, buttercups *Ranunculus spp.*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre* and bog stitchwort *Stellaria alsine*.

Steep, shady, unmanaged banks about a metalled road running through the grounds. The flora here, including primrose *Primula vulgaris*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, cuckooflower, greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, bugle, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, wood melick *Melica uniflora* and false-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, offers a contrast to that of the open, south-facing dry banks.

A variety of common butterfly species observed in early summer include common blue, small copper, green-veined white, holly blue, orange tip and peacock.

¹ Kent Rare Plants Database v11.

² Kent Red Data Book Status 3. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.

³ Kent Red Data Book Status 1. A. Waite (Ed.) 2000.