

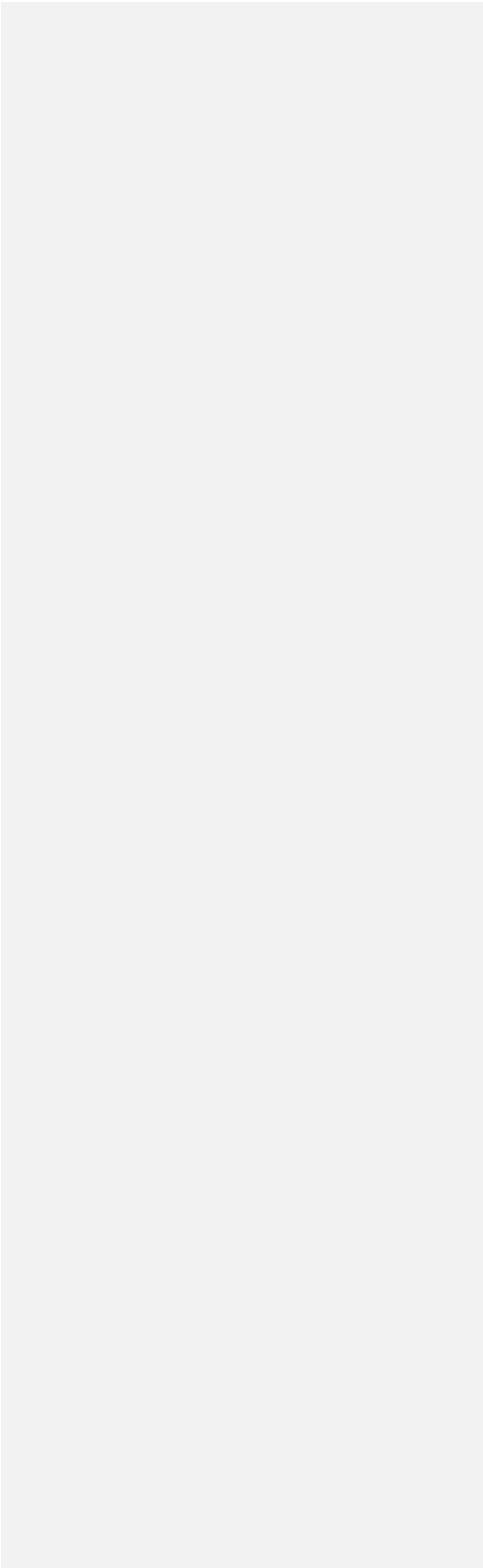


2013-2033 Green Spaces – Assessment and Allocation

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Cover – Photographs submitted for the NDP photography competition,
ndp/Goudhurst.co.uk/PhotoCompetiton



Section 1 Purpose of this Document

This document provides the details of how Local Green Spaces were identified and assessed for inclusion in the Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan.

Our plan will include Local Green Space designation (LGS), which was introduced by the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 and retained within the revised NPPF published in July 2018. The designation allows us to give a high level of protection to the green areas and open spaces that are key to the character of Goudhurst and which our residents see as important areas in our landscape.

Many of the open spaces in our community are taken for granted by residents. Because they have been open for many years, the assumption is that they will remain so in the future. Given the Parish is, geographically, one of the largest in the country, and although we have worked to identify important LGS, the number is relatively small.

This document sets out the approach we have used to identify and assess the sites put forward along with the results of that process. This document relies heavily on the methodology¹ put forward by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) and all of the work described in this document has been completed in close cooperation with the Borough.

Submitting Body

This Neighbourhood Plan, which includes the Parish LGS, is submitted by Goudhurst Parish Council, which is a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Designating the Neighbourhood Area

Local Green Spaces will be identified within the area of the Parish of Goudhurst as the designated Neighbourhood Area (the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan) and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) approved our request on the 7 November 2016.

Context - Our Parish

Goudhurst Parish comprises Goudhurst Village, Kilndown and Curtisden Green. The Parish is in West Kent and forms a part of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells lying to the east of Tunbridge Wells town. It has boundaries with the Parishes of Horsmonden, Cranbrook, Hawkhurst, and Lamberhurst.

¹

http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/216582/75BFA2A2388174AEE0531401A8C0D848_Local_Green_Space_Designation_Methodology_Final_with_NPPF_update.pdf

Purpose of this Document

The Parish of Goudhurst

This Plan applies to the Parish of Goudhurst in Kent. Goudhurst Parish covers 25 sq Km (9.6 sq miles). Our Parish has a rich heritage and the natural environment has changed little over centuries. 90% of the Parish falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), 20% of the Parish is ancient woodland and 19% of our buildings are listed.

Goudhurst Parish has three main hilltop settlements with Goudhurst being the largest. Goudhurst contains 53% of the population with Kilndown (11%) and Curtisden Green (9%) and the remainder (27%) being in the surrounding countryside.

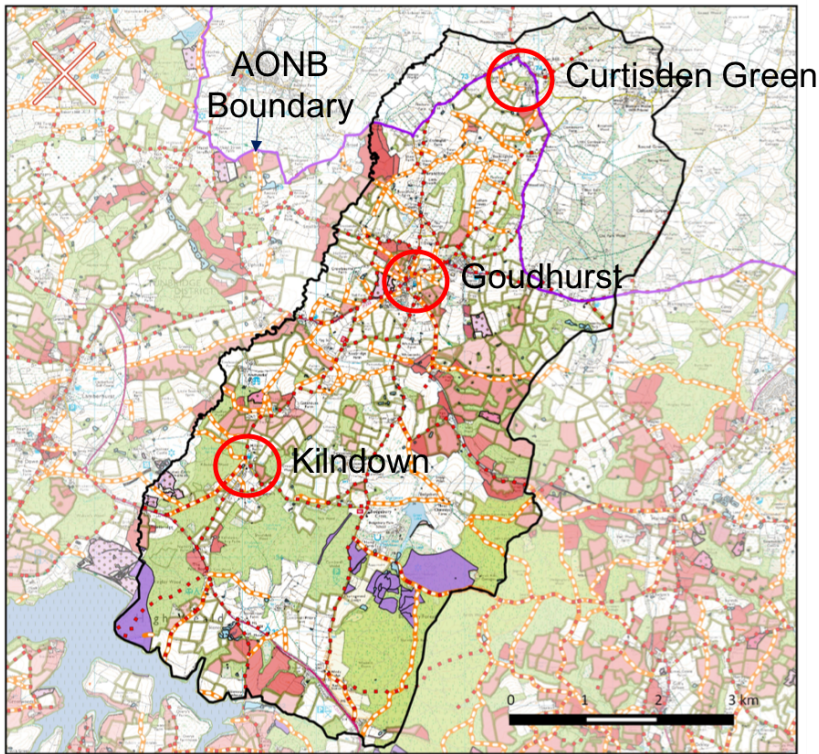


Figure 1 The Parish of Goudhurst

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Section 2 Identifying Green Spaces

As a rural community, the value of green space in shaping our community is very much taken for granted by residents. The nature of our countryside, and the impact this has on the wellbeing of the community, was identified at a very early stage in the Plan scoping process. Our questionnaire identified that the environment and our green spaces are important to over 90% of residents.

Local Green Space designation allows this plan to provide protection (similar to that afforded to Green Belt)² to areas that are, and have been, historically important to residents.

The Landscape Character Group was responsible for scoping the overall process. The Goudhurst Plan has been developed in parallel with the TWBC new Local Plan and we have benefited from their work. We have adopted the overall methodology used by TWBC in our assessment.

The initial list of Green Spaces was produced by Goudhurst Parish Council in support of the Borough LGS activity. This was used as the basis of the Neighbourhood plan process and the list grew as a result of the public workshops held in support of the Plan, by personal recommendation from residents and by the Landscape Character Group. The result was a 'long-list' of spaces in the Parish to be reviewed as part of the LGS designation process.

The long-list of sites was assessed for inclusion in the consultation draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan for comment from the community and landowners. The policy that supports LGS (Policy L9) is framed as:

Policy Objective:

To ensure we retain existing Green Spaces and deliver new Green Spaces where possible

Our plan identifies and designates green spaces for protection

Policy L9 Green Spaces

Development that results in the loss or degradation of Green Spaces will be considered only in wholly exceptional circumstances.

Larger developments should be designed to provide new green amenity spaces, reflecting and extending the existing network of accessible green space running through the Parish.

The Green Spaces identified in this plan are areas highlighted as deserving protection. The designation of these Local Green Spaces is consistent with local planning for sustainable development. These spaces will continue to provide our community with its rural character and identity as well as providing recreational opportunities for residents and support biodiversity.

The detailed assessment of these sites along with maps is included in this document.

² NPPF para 101 states 'Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts'

Section 3 Green Space Assessment Methodology

3.1 Guidance Supporting our Methodology

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) includes guidance on LGS designation³. The guidance addresses many common questions about the LGS designation, particularly relating to what sort of sites would be suitable for designation and what the designation means in practice. The following paragraphs in the NPPG are of particular relevance for the evaluation of sites for LGS designation. Key points are summarised below:

- Paragraph 007 – LGS designation should be consistent with local planning for sustainable development and should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making.
- Paragraph 008 – generally LGS designation is rarely appropriate for land which is subject to planning permission for development.
- Paragraph 009 Local Green Spaces may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or in a neighbourhood in a town or city.
- Paragraph 011- if land is already protected by designation (such as Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Park), then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by LGS designation.
- Paragraph 014 – the proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special e.g. if public access is a factor, then the site should be in easy walking distance.
- Paragraph 015 – there are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed.
- Paragraph 017 – some areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may already have largely unrestricted public access. LGS designation in itself does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present.

A list of sites in the Parish was initially provided by Goudhurst Parish Council. The importance of those sites was confirmed and the list of sites was updated at workshops and public meetings and by Neighbourhood Plan Working Groups.

3.2 How they were assessed

The Green Space assessment process, based upon the NPPF and the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Green Space Methodology, created a template used to assess each site.

³ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

Green Space Assessment Methodology

Sites were assessed in two stages:

Stage 1	<p>Each site was reviewed in the context of existing planning activities and other designations. This first stage of analysis looked at the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site already have planning permission for an incompatible or alternative use? • Was the site allocated for an incompatible alternative use in the adopted TWBC Local Plan (2006)? • Is the site reasonably close to the community it serves? • Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land? • If designated, could the Local Green Space be capable of enduring beyond the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan period? • Whilst there is no size threshold proposed for the identification of Local Green Spaces, the Plan would expect the size of the area to reasonably relate to the community/purpose that it serves. <p>It is important to note that Local Green Space designation in itself does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present.</p> <p>From this initial assessment those sites that were identified as not meeting the criteria were rejected and discounted from the second stage of the analysis</p>
Stage 2	<p>Those sites that were not rejected at stage 1 were put forward to the second stage of the analysis. In stage 2 sites were assessed to understand their importance to our community. As set out in the NPPF the criteria used in stage 2 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic significance to the community • The recreational value provided by the space • Tranquility • The richness of wildlife • Any other local significant features <p>In addition the following should be considered in the final analysis of each site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access – Although not a requirement for LGS designation, public access can be a key factor as to why the site may be considered demonstrably special. This criterion has been added to assist in identifying where public access is necessary <u>in order to fulfil the criteria</u>. • Layers of designation – Where there are already protective designations for a site, consideration is given to the additional benefit LGS designation would offer. This criterion is added so that it is clear that, where there is potential for layering of designation, consideration can be given as to the benefits of LGS designation. • Other information, for example proximity to conservation areas, listed buildings or whether there were any TPOs in place was also noted. • Other reasons - The proposed site has a particular local significance for the community for reasons other than those identified above.

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Stage 1 Assessment

Section 4 Stage 1 Assessment

Site	Current use	Has PP	Allocated	Close	Large?	Viable	Suitable as a Green Space
GOUDHURST							
Goudhurst Pond and the Plain	Public Space	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
St Mary's Churchyard	Church	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Glebe Field	Public Space	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Old Cricket Pitch	Rec/wildlife	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Five Fields	Farm Land	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Triangle' by Maypole	local amenity	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Fields to west of Goudhurst	Grazing	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Cemeteries behind church	Rec/open	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Land between Mary Days & High Ridge	Rec	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Land between Bankfield Way and High Ridge	Rec	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Goudhurst Tennis Club	Recreation	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Land within Culpepers 'loop'	Rec	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Recreation Area within the Housing Association area	Recreation	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Land southside of Lurkins Rise	Rec	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Grieves Lord Field	Open Field	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Lower Glebe Field	Open Field	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Playground Back Lane	Public Space	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Chequer Field	Rec	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Triangle by Peacock Inn	Public Space	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N
The disused railway line	Public/Private	N	N	N	Y	N	N
CURTISDEN GREEN							
Firs Playing Field	Sports Pitch	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Field south of Firs Pitch	Open Space	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Triangle in the highway	Public space	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Playing fields west of Curtisden Green	Sports pitch	N	N	N	N	N	N
KILNDOWN							
Millennium Green,	Public space	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Christ Church, Churchyard and War Memorial	Public Space	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Quarry Pond + land	Public Space	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Cricket Ground	Sports Pitch	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Land west of Kilndown	Open Space	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Between Kilndown and Priors Heath there is a nature reserve adjacent to the highway.	Open Space	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bedgebury Forest & Pinetum	Open Space public access	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Bedgebury Manor	Manor and Parkland	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Triangle near Prior's Heath	Enclosed space	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y

4.1 Stage 1 Reasons for Rejecting Specific Sites

The initial assessment of sites found that 5 of the proposed sites did not meet the criteria set out for a Local Green Space in Goudhurst.

Site	Reason for Rejection
Goudhurst Pond and land by the Plain	This site is in the centre of Goudhurst Village bounded by the Parish Hall, Hughenden, the A262 and the B2079. The land is designated as a Village Green and so is already afforded protection. Designation of the area as a Green Space is not necessary
Glebe Field	Recently acquired on a lease by the Parish and already designated a Village Green, the land already has protection and requires no further designation
Triangle by Peacock Inn	This area bounded by the Peacock Pub, the A262 and the B2079. This site is already designated as a Village Green and so already has adequate protection.
Goudhurst Tennis Club	Brandfold, the site of the Goudhurst Tennis Club, is remote from the village, located behind a 2.4m high wall and cannot be seen from any public space. There is no public access and it is not considered appropriate for designation.
Disused railway line	Although this represents a potential leisure facility in the community the land is extensive, has fragmented ownership and covers multiple parish boundaries. There is already an initiative (the Hop Pickers Line) to deliver a facility and this has more chance of success.
Bedgebury Forest including the Pinetum	This is a large area (>650 ha) of woodland managed by the Forestry Commission. It provides managed woodland with structured public access. This is a significant tract of land and it is some distance away from any community and, therefore, does not meet our criteria for an LGS.
Bedgebury Manor	This site is already designated as Historic Manor and Parkland and would therefore not benefit from LGS designation. Bedgebury Manor is one of two significant brownfield sites in the Parish with over 12,000 ^{M2} of existing floor space. Bedgebury Manor is identified within both the plan and the accompanying design guide.
Playing fields west of Bethany	Although these are distinct when viewed from surrounding countryside they are remote from the settlement and limited in access.
Land West of Kilndown	This is a part of the Scotney Castle estate and represents a large tract of land that is remote from the settlement. The land is crossed by a network of public footpaths and so it is not felt that Green Space designation is appropriate.

Stage II Assessment

Section 5 Stage II Assessment

The Stage 2 assessment summary is detailed below. Many of the sites meet more than one criteria.

Site Ref: ⁴	Site	Historic Significance	Recreational value	Tranquility	Richness of Wildlife	Suitable as a Green Space
GOUDHURST						
97	St Mary's Churchyard	Y		Y	Y	Y
99	Old Cricket Pitch		Y	Y	Y	Y
102	Five Fields			Y	Y	Y
103	Triangle' by Maypole		Y			Y
101	Fields to west of Goudhurst			Y	Y	Y
100	Cemeteries behind church	Y		Y		Y
AS16	Land between Mary Days & High Ridge		Y	Y		Y
AS17	Land between Bankfield Way and High Ridge		Y			Y
AS18	Land within Culpepers 'loop'		Y			Y
AS19	Recreation Area within the Housing Association area		Y		Y	Y
AS20	Land on south side of Lurkins Rise		Y			Y
AS21	Grieves Lord Field			Y	Y	N
AS22	Lower Glebe Field		Y	Y	Y	Y
AS23	Playground		Y			Y
AS24	Chequer Field			N		N
CURTISDEN GREEN						
AS1	Firs Playing Field	Y		Y	Y	Y
AS2	Field SW of Firs Pitch			Y		Y
AS3	Triangle in the highway		Y	Y		Y
KILNDOWN						
106	Millennium Green,		Y	Y	Y	Y
105	Christ Church and Churchyard with War Memorial	Y		Y	Y	Y
104	Quarry Pond + land	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
107	Cricket Ground		Y	Y	Y	Y
	Between Kilndown and Priors Heath there is a nature reserve adjacent to the highway.			Y	Y	N
	Triangle near Prior's Heath		Y	Y	Y	N

⁴ References allocated by TWBC

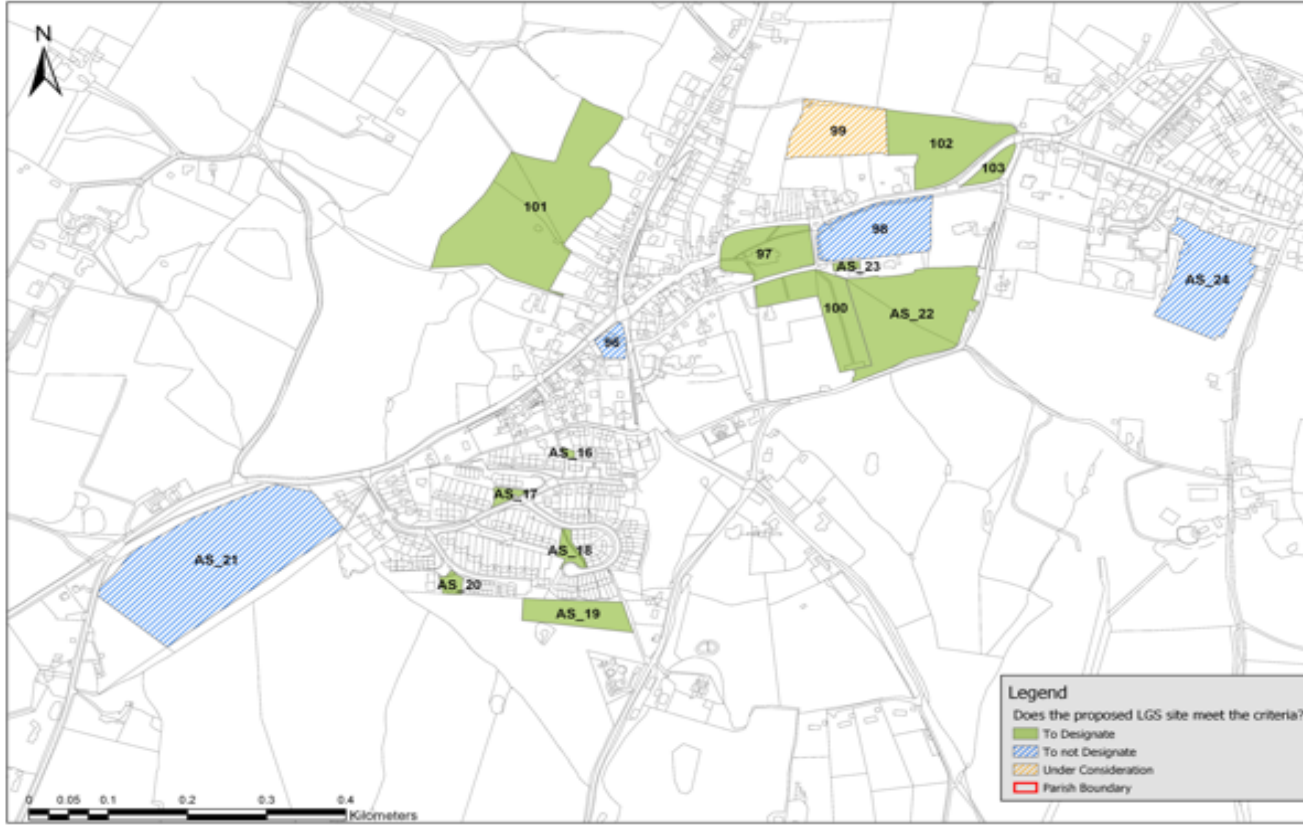
Stage II Assessment

5.1 Rejected Sites

At Stage 2 four further sites were rejected as unsuitable.

Site Ref:	Site	Rationale for Rejection
AS21	Grieves Lord Field	This is a parcel of farmland of approximately 0.3 hectare on the boundary of the village extending away from the settlement. The site is elevated affording partial views but it is not visible from the road. There is a footpath through the area which is used daily by residents. The area is similar in nature to many other fields on the slopes of the settlement and It has no historic significance. The presence of a footpath is not considered to infer recreational value as access for walkers will not change with any designation. For these reasons it does not meet the criteria for designation.
AS24	Chequer Field	The Chequer Field provides sports facilities for local clubs and school. It is owned by the Parish Council and does not require further protection.
	Between Kildown and Priors Heath there is a nature reserve adjacent to the highway.	This is an open area of land alongside the road. Although it is adjacent to a nature reserve it is remote from settlements
	Triangle near Prior's Heath	This land is enclosed by houses and is used occasionally by residents. The land is in private ownership and accessed through the houses and gardens and so does not meet our criteria for designation.

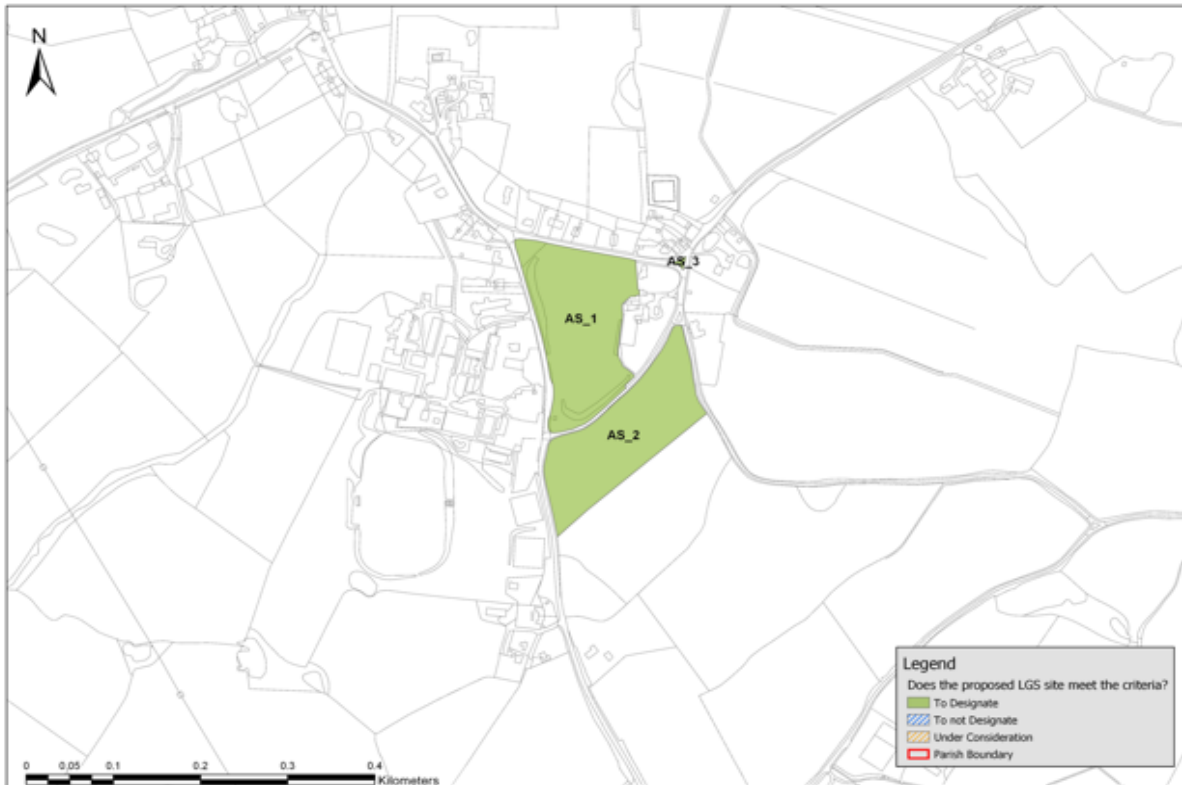
5.2 Goudhurst Sites



5.3 Kildown Sites



5.4 Curtisden Green Sites






Section 6 Rationale for acceptance of sites

The sites identified in Stage II of the process are detailed below. For each site the conclusion of the assessment is that the space meets the criteria to allow us to designate it as a LGS.

Below is a more detailed description and rationale for inclusion in the Green Space summary.

Site Ref:	Goudhurst Sites	Size (ha)	Description/Rationale
97	<p>St Mary's Churchyard</p> 	0.71	<p>The site lies in the centre of the village, and encloses the Parish Church of St Marys which is a Grade I listed building, parts of which date back to the 12th Century.</p> <p>The site is local in character.</p> <p>It is readily accessible to surrounding residential areas and is on the doorstep of those houses closest to the centre of the village. It is within easy walking distance of most of Goudhurst Village, probably within 5 - 10 minutes' walk for most mobile members of the local community and for visitors to the church site via the A262.</p> <p>The green space is significant in that it protects the setting of the listed building and allows views of the church from all sides and views from it through the Conservation Area to the AONB.</p> <p>The site also includes the old village burial ground.</p>
99	<p>Old Cricket Pitch</p> 	0.85	<p>This was as the name suggests the original Parish cricket pitch. It is presently overgrown with brambles but there has been some discussion about restoring the site to its original use. It is approximately 0.7 hectares.</p> <p>The land is crossed by public footpath. The site is demonstrably special to the local community for its history and wildlife and is enclosed so that it cannot be seen from most areas of the village.</p>
102	<p>Five Fields (top area)</p> 	1.05	<p>This land is considered to be visually important undeveloped space in the Goudhurst Conservation Area.</p> <p>The site is local in character and sits to the north of the A262 within the Goudhurst Conservation area. It historically provided a clear open space and a green corridor between the two Goudhurst Limits-to-Build (LBD). The contrast between Little Goudhurst LBD and the open space is striking for motorists using the A262. For those heading west, this is the first indication of Goudhursts prominent ridge top position.</p>

Rationale for acceptance of sites

			<p>As an open space it is used daily by residents who use the footpath which crosses the site and provides a northern boundary and provides a tranquil contrast to the A262. The site permits medium and long distance views to the north downs.</p> <p>It is important to residents who identified the field as an important area which contributes to their sense of place. The presence of a public footpath was not considered to infer recreational value as access for walkers would not change with any designation.</p> <p>This area has in previous Borough local plans been identified as an important gap between the two LBD that needs to be maintained (2006 Local Plan, chapter 3, paras 3.4-3.5⁵). With a new local plan being developed it is not clear if this protection will continue and the AONB and Conservation area status would not protect this space from potential future development. The site is important to residents and so is included as a Local Green Space in our plan.</p>
103	<p>Triangle' by Maypole</p> 	0.15	<p>The site is triangle of land that sits to the south of the A262 and bounded by Maypole Lane. It was created when the road was 'straightened'. The land sits within the Goudhurst Conservation area. The site permits important medium distance views to the north downs.</p>
101	<p>Fields to west of Goudhurst</p> 	2.93	<p>The site is on the steep western slopes of the Goudhurst ridge with abutting houses on North Road. It has a medieval field pattern and a number of natural springs along the ridge line. The area is crossed by three footpaths. It provides for open and dramatic views to north and west towards Horsmonden Church.</p> <p>The site is currently in private ownership and used for grazing / paddocks.</p>
100	<p>Cemeteries behind church</p>	0.83	<p>The site(s) is located in Back Lane lies to the south of the Parish Church of St Marys and contain historical graves as well as the land allocated for new graves. The site is local in</p>

⁵ <http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-chapters>

Rationale for acceptance of sites

			<p>character, well maintained by Goudhurst Parish Council. Local residents visit their family graves regularly and frequently.</p> <p>This site is demonstrably special to the local community for its historic significance and as a beautiful and tranquil environment.</p> <p>It is readily accessible to surrounding residential areas and is on the doorstep of those houses closest to the centre of the village. It is within easy walking distance of most of Goudhurst Village, probably within 5 - 10 minutes' walk for most mobile members of the local community and for visitors to the church site via the A262.</p> <p>The green space further protects the setting of the listed building and allows views of the church from all sides and views from it over the Conservation Area with outstanding panoramic views to the South from the ridge towards Bedgebury.</p> <p>St Marys Church is a Grade I listed building, parts dating back to the 12th Century.</p>
AS16	<p>Land between Mary Days & High Ridge</p> 	0.1	<p>This is a small area of grass created at the time of the Mary Days development. This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.</p>
AS17	<p>Land between Bankfield Way and High Ridge</p>	0.1	<p>This is a small area of Green Space created at the time of the Bankfield Way development. This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.</p>
AS18	<p>Land within Culpepers 'loop'</p>	0.1	<p>A small tract of land designed as a Green Space in the original Culpepers estate design. This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.</p>

Rationale for acceptance of sites

			
AS19	Recreation Area within the Housing Association area	0.1	The small area includes provision for children and young people with a children's play area and seating. The site is located in Culpeppers and was built to support the estate. This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.
AS20	Land on south side of Lurkins Rise 	0.1	This is a small area of Green Space created at the time of the Lurkins Rise development. This area is a locally important informal green space with a mature oak tree and long-reaching views to the open countryside and supports opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.
AS22	Lower Glebe Field 	1.75	The field was leased from the diocese in 2008 and is now maintained and managed by the Parish Council for the benefit of residents. It is on the southerly slope of the Goudhurst Ridge and affords excellent views to the south towards Bedgebury Forest. Public footpaths run through the site and the pre-school have their garden next to the church rooms. There are plans to develop community projects on this site.
AS23	Playground	0.1	The small area includes provision for children and young people with a children's play area and seating. The site can be accessed from the Glebe Field or from Back Lane and is the site of a variety of play equipment. The site is publicly accessible and has views to the south. The Parish Council has responsibility for maintenance of the site.
Site Ref:	Curtisden Green Sites	Size (ha)	Description/Rationale
AS1	Firs Playing Field	2.06	The site is a broad green swathe in the centre of Curtisden Green and defines the character of the settlement. Surrounded on two side by Oak trees and now open to the

Rationale for acceptance of sites

			<p>south. It is currently known as the Firs Pitch. It was purchased by the school in 1871 becoming the Cricket Meadow and supported school allotments. It was significantly overhauled in the 1970s being cleared and levelled to create the playing field that exists today.</p> <p>The Firs Pitch is local in character and is open with no fencing and although it does not have public access residents do walk dogs and families and children play football, cricket, picnics etc. The site provides is central to the community and makes a significant contribution to the village's unique character and historic identity.</p> <p>The site is demonstrably special for the residents of Curtisden Green with a large number of houses in the immediate community overlooking the site.</p> <p>This area is an important central open space that makes a positive and significant contribution to the local landscape character. This land is distinctly local in character and was previously designated as a Special Landscape Area. This area adjoins the AONB and has panoramic views to the south and south east looking onto the AONB. With St Mary's Grade 1 listed Church tower at Goudhurst can be seen clearly from the site and vice versa. It is therefore within the setting of both the AONB and St Mary's Church.</p>
AS2	Field SW of Firs Pitch	1.5	<p>Being high on a ridge it affords long reaching views over the AONB to the south and west. This land is distinctly local in character and was previously designated a part of the <i>Special Landscape Area</i>. Looking from Goudhurst, the field 'underlines' the hamlet providing a clear boundary. St Mary's Grade 1 listed Church tower at Goudhurst can be seen clearly from the site and vice versa.</p> <p>This area is of local significance because it affords long reaching views over the AONB to the south. This area is also used by the adjacent Bethany School for occasional hockey games as well as regularly by the community as a recreational walking area and for flying kites, playing with children and exercising dogs, etc. It also has public access via two access points through the hedge boundaries. This area was formerly valued as a Special Landscape Area. Adjacent AONB is clearly viewed from the site. Similarly, St Mary's Grade 1 listed Church tower at Goudhurst can be seen clearly from the site and vice versa. It is therefore within the setting of both the AONB and St Mary's Church.</p>
AS3	Triangle in the highway	0.01	<p>As the name suggests a small triangle in the middle of a road junction. This small green area contributes to the character/setting of the settlement. It has been planted with ornamental plants and a bench has been placed on it that is frequently used by locals and passing cyclists. It has been cared for by a number of residents for many years. This area is therefore demonstrably special to the local community.</p>
Site Ref:	Kilndown Sites	Size (ha)	Description/Rationale

Rationale for acceptance of sites

106	<p>Millennium Green</p> 	0.7	<p>The Millennium Green is in the centre of Kilndown Village but outside of the conservation area. Created using the Old Playing Field of the closed Kilndown School. GPC purchased the land from KCC. It was opened for the Celebration of the Millennium for use by the village with play equipment for the village children along with seating and quiet areas. Equally benefit all the people of the village.</p>
105	<p>Christ Church and Churchyard with War Memorial</p> 	0.38	<p>Christ Church is a Grade 1 listed building dating from the mid 19th Century and built by Lord Berrisford from nearby Bedgebury Park. The site lies in the centre of Kilndown village, and encloses the Parish Church of Christ Church. It is readily accessible to all houses in the village and is in the centre of the conservation area.</p> <p>The green space is significant in that it protects the setting of the listed building and allows views of the church from all sides and views from it through the Conservation Area.</p> <p>The site also includes the old village burial ground.</p> <p>This site is demonstrably special to the local community for its historic significance and as a tranquil environment.</p>
104	<p>Quarry Pond + land</p> 	0.37	<p>The site is situated in the centre of Kilndown village and the conservation area. The land is a mixture of trees and natural pond. The space is 'wild' in feel. The space is publicly accessible from Church Road and West Road and is home to the Kilndown Fishing club.</p> <p>This site is demonstrably special to the local community for its historic significance and a beautiful and tranquil environment.</p>
107	<p>Cricket Ground</p> 	1.29	<p>The land lies on the northern slopes of the village bordering the conservation area and has views through to Goudhurst. This site is demonstrably special to the local community for its historic significance. There are beautiful long distance views towards Goudhurst and the site provides a tranquil space for residents.</p> <p>Originally an estate side playing at Finchcocks Park the club was formed in 1896, moving later to Kilndown village alongside the church. Cricket has been played on the present ground, behind the local, since 1926 and the original pavilion</p>

Rationale for acceptance of sites

		<p>was donated by Captain Cecil, the then president, and opened in 1928.</p> <p>Following fund raising over a period of years the club purchased the ground in 1986 and then began raising more funds to build a new pavilion. This was completed and opened on July 3rd 1993 by Sir Colin Cowdrey CBE.</p>
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