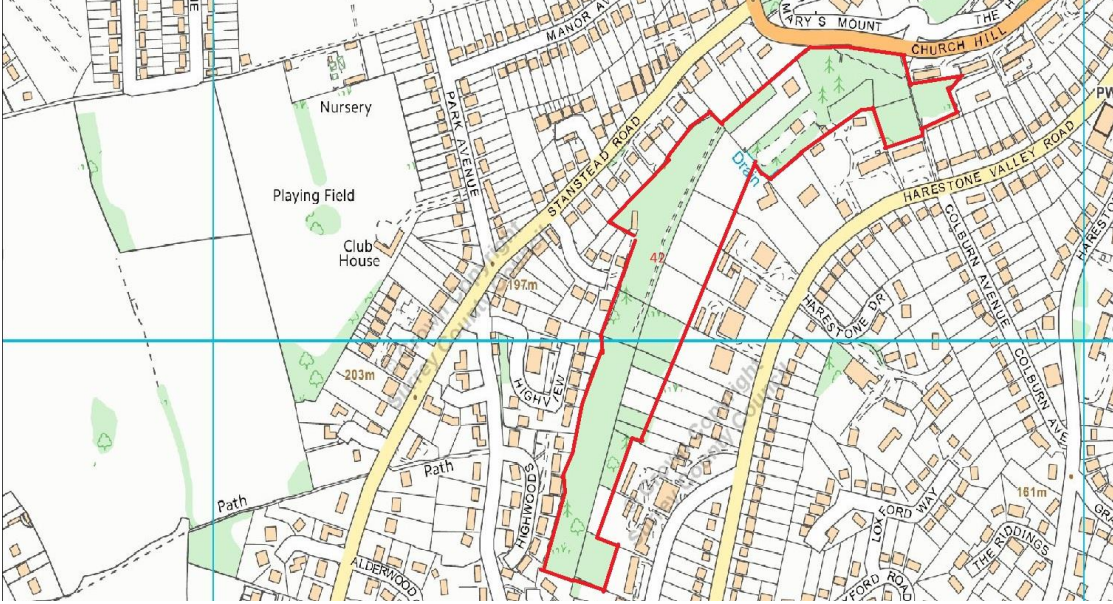


CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

<p>Name Western Slopes Harestone Valley Road</p>	<p>Location:</p>	<p>Wooded hillside between Stanstaed road and Haresone Valley Road</p>
<p>No.42</p>	<p>Coloured red on plan.</p>	
<p>Description</p>		
	<p>The steeper slopes to the west of the valley have kept this side of the valley free of development, preserving a dense tree cover and clear division between development in the valley bottom and that on the ridge.</p> <p>The woodland and the tree cover are prominent in views from the far side of the Valley and Harestone Hill and the woodland behind buildings forms an important backdrop. The long linear steep sided belt of woodland is a</p>	

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

	<p>key feature of both this area and the wider Harestone Valley.</p> <p>The woodland in the character area dates back to the late 19th century or earlier and the tree cover from the woodland extends into the rear of the gardens. The top part of the site bordering Church Hill is an open public area which provides a extensive view point across Caterham and the Harestone Valley.</p> <p>.</p> <p>The TPO's covering the majority of the site describes the woodland as mixed conifers and deciduous trees comprising beech, oak, ash, sycamore, cherry, yew, chestnut, larch and scots pine.</p>
<p>Biodiversity-</p>	
<p>Wooded areas are significant for biodiversity, in particular providing wild life corridors. Greenspace is also important in helping to absorb surface water run-off. Trees within the area are subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) 6,35,38/C&W.</p> <p>As mainly mature woodland the site is a mixture of mainly mature and semi mature trees with number of fallen trees from gales over the recent decade. As such it provides a valuable habitat to plant, fungi and animal species.</p>	
<p>Planning Permission?</p>	<p>No. Part of the area owned by TDC was put forward as CAT053 in the HELAA. There have also been a number of excursions into the land to make way for residential development.</p> <p>The strip was for over 40 years protected by the Harestone Valley Policy and the HVCA now confirms its importance</p> <p>.</p>
<p>Can all community benefit from LGS</p>	<p>This area is one of the most prominent parts of Harestone Valley and can be seen from many viewpoints looking South down the Valley, West across Harestone Valley and east from above.</p> <p>Described in HVCA “The steeper slopes to the west of the valley (a) have kept this side of the valley free of development, preserving a dense tree cover and clear division between development in the valley bottom and that on the ridge.”</p>

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

	<p>The top area adjacent to Church Hill is a public open space with an excellent view point across Caterham and steps lead down from Church Hill to Harestone Valley Road FP82</p>
<p>Does the land already benefit from protection?</p>	<p>The site is only protected by TPOs 6,35 and 39 C&W and its importance as set out in the supplementary planning documents HVCA and HVDG</p>
<p>Is the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?</p>	<p>Yes. Public area at top is directly accessible from Church Hill and the steps from Harestone Valley Road</p>
<p>Is the green space local in character and is not an extensive tract of land?</p>	<p>The topography and woodland pattern on the steepest slopes clearly shaped the development of Harestone Valley from the Victorian period onwards. In the 1897 map the ribbon of woodland on the steep east facing slopes (surviving between Stanstead Road and Harestone Valley Road) is clearly visible,</p> <p>The importance of these wooded slopes is clearly set out HVCA. It is not an extensive tract of land and measures hectares approximately</p>
<p>Is it demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of:</p>	
<p>Beauty</p>	<p>The site contributes strongly to views out of Caterham and from the eastern Hillside of Harestone Valley. It also forms the backdrop for many other views above and into the Valley. Further its open area adjacent to Church</p>

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

	<p>Hill provides the public with both recreation walking and extensive views.</p> <p>Its importance is confirmed in the HVCA .</p>
Historic	<p>The area dates back to before the 19th century and old maps show how it has been preserved during the development of the Harestone Valley.</p>
Recreational Value	<p>The public area at Church Hill is widely used particularly as it offers a half way stop from the steep walk up Church Hill. It provides extensive views for residents and visitors.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Mainly quiet acting as a sound buffer from both Harestone Valley Road and Stanstead Road traffic road and housing on these roads.</p>
Richness of Wildlife	<p>This site is rich in biodiversity. This area of woodland like others in the urban areas provides an invaluable natural and undisturbed habitat for many species of plants, animals and fungi.</p> <p>Much of the wood with its fallen trees is ideal for fungi. A professional mycological survey has not been undertaken but it is likely that there will be a reasonable diversity of woodland fungi.</p> <p>The site's age and size suggest significant potential for many species of animals, reptiles and insects using the woods and its diverse habitat.</p>
Does it have public access?	<p>Yes to those parts off Church Hill and adjacent to the steps downwards. Otherwise access is really only available to residents bordering the site. The steps downwards form FP82</p>

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

<p>Does it have a public right of way?</p>	<p>No except to the public area adjacent to Church Hill and the steps down to HV Road.</p>
<p>Is it located in a new development?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is it in public ownership?</p>	<p>Part is owned by TDC</p>
<p>How will LGS be managed?</p>	<p>The management will remain the responsibility of the current owners. However, if development is proposed, there is a case for listing it on the register of assets of value to the community (see below).</p>
<p>Should it be registered as an Asset of Community Value?</p>	<p>At present the site does not appear to be at risk from development. Should this change there would be a case for it being registered as an asset of community value in view of its significance to the ambience of Caterham.</p>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>Surrey Interactive Map. Surrey Landscape Character Assessment TDC April 2015. Surrey Historic Data. Harestone Valley Character assessment March 2011 Harestone Valley Design Guidance. 2011.</p>