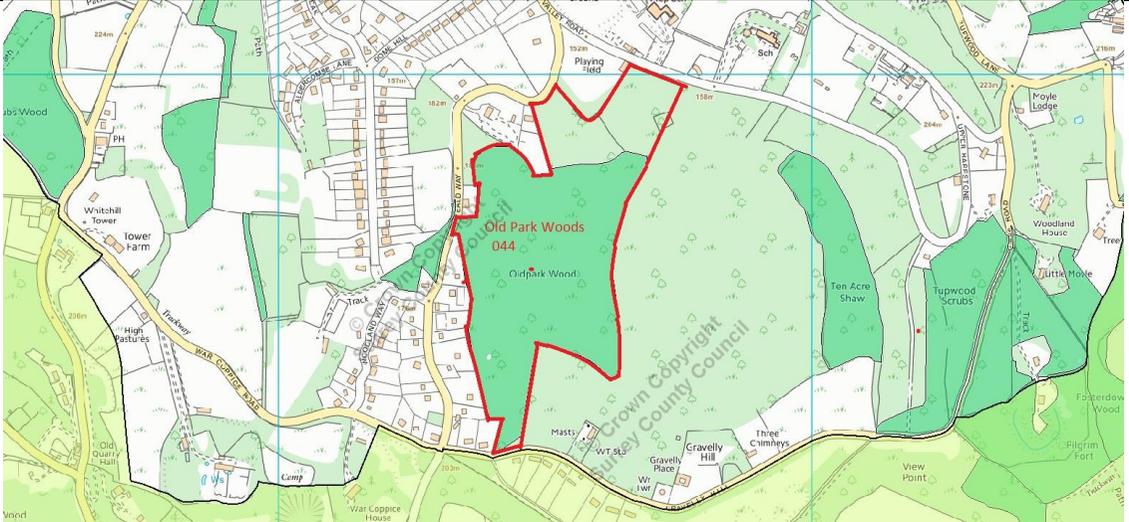


CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

<p>Name Old Park Woods</p>	<p>Location:</p>	<p>Between Gravelly Hill, Weald Way and Harestone Valley Road (BW 183</p>
<p>No.44</p>	<p>Coloured red on plan.</p>	
<p>Description</p>		
	<p>Wooded North Downs with Old Park Wood as Assarted pre 1811 Woodland This is a mixture of very mature trees and semi mature trees on sloping chalk downs with Bridleway 183 running along its east boundary and on the edge of the AONB area of View Point. Many informal paths run through the woods and there is a diverse habitat amongst the fallen trees.</p>	

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Biodiversity-	
<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 both plant, fungi and animal species together with a wide variety of trees species on the site.</p> <p>Issue 148, September 2013 Bulletin of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society The party then proceeded to explore Old Park Wood, which affords a splendid example of the Beechwood association. The Beeches in most parts of the wood grow in close canopy, and the ground flora is in consequence sparse, though very interesting. A few specimens of Wild Columbine(<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>) and an abundance of the Wood Laurel Daphne Laureola) were seen. Of the Orchids the Butterfly(<i>Habenaria bifolia</i>) and White Helleborine (<i>Cephalanthera grandiflora</i>) were still in flower, while the true Helleborine (<i>Epipactis latifolia</i>) was as yet only in bud.</p>	
Planning Permission?	<p>No. Although there has been an application for development on the Woods as part of a golf course and with Ten acre Shaw as large dwelling both applications refused and refusal upheld at appeal. TPO 1/C&W. Area between Old Park Wood and Ten Acre Shaw TPO 16/2013/TAN.</p>
Can all community benefit from LGS	<p>This area is one of the most prominent parts of Harestone Valley and can be seen from many viewpoints. It also forms the back drop for the setting of Caterham to the south. It is easily accessible from Graveely Hill and Harestone Valley Road.</p> <p>Currently now owned by Caterham School Trust it forms a recreational area for the school and the many people who use the informal footpaths to explore this area</p>
Does the land already benefit from protection?	<p>The site is designated green belt and is designated Ancient Woodland.</p> <p>TPO 1/C&W and TPO 16/2013/TAN</p>

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

<p>Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?</p>	<p>Yes the site is widely used by dog walkers, riders and the local public together with ramblers and interested groups from outside the CR3 area. It is used by Caterham School for recreation and a “woodland school” for pupils..</p>
<p>Is the green space local in character and is not an extensive tract of land?</p>	<p>The site area is just under 14 hectares approximately and the wooded hillside defines the location of CR3 as a town within the Surrey Hills. It has definable boundaries. The use of this site and neighbouring woodland and countryside form a major part in the life style for Caterham residents.</p>
<p>Is it demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of:</p>	
<p>Beauty</p>	<p>South Caterham Wooded North Down is a relatively small area of wooded chalk downland to the south of Caterham, situated on the dip slope beyond the chalk scarp which forms the southern boundary. The northern boundary is largely defined by the edge of settlement, south of Caterham. This site is part of CW8 in the Surrey Landscape Character Assessment April 2015. Old Park wood is assarted pre 1811 Woodland under Historical Landscape Characterisation by Surrey. As such there a a number of mature trees on the site including Beech . The site contributes strongly to views out of Caterham and from the eastern Hillside of Harestone Valley. It also forms the backdrop for views south and west to areas 45 and 45A. and to the view looking north from View Point. Its importance is confirmed in the HVCA .</p>
<p>Historic</p>	<p>It is thought that Old park Woods was part of Place Farm once occupied by Anne of Cleves who enjoyed</p>

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	<p>hunting here. The majority of the area is Ancient Woodland.</p>
Recreational Value	<p>The woods are extensively used by both local and non-local people for walking, rambling and enjoyment. Whilst there is only one bridleway running on its boundary, there are many informal paths into the woods used by ramblers and dog walkers alike. It is easily accessible from Gravelly Hill and Harestone Valley Road</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Very quiet location.</p>
Richness of Wildlife	<p>This site is rich in biodiversity. This area of woodland like others on the urban boundary provide natural and undisturbed habitat for many species of plants, animals and fungi. Ancient woodlands are UK and Surrey Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats and are subject to Natural England's Statutory Advice to Local Authorities.</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 connectivity to the wider countryside, suggest significant potential for many species of animals, reptiles and insects using the woods and the diverse habitat.</p>
Does it have public access?	<p>Yes. Through the public bridleway 183 and from Gravelly Hill, View Point. Informal footpaths cross the site.</p>
Does it have a public right of way?	<p>The public have used these woods for walking for many years without obstruction but no formal footpaths cross the site.</p>

CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Is it located in a new development?	No
Is it in public ownership?	No. it is owned by Caterham School Trust
How will LGS be managed?	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).
Should it be registered as an Asset of Community Value?	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.
Acknowledgements	Surrey Interactive Map. Surrey Landscape Character Assessment TDC April 2015. Surrey Historic Data. Harestone Valley Character assessment March 2011 G Fookes Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society