


CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Name UPWOOD GORSE	Location	Between Tupwood Lane and Harestone Hill
<p>No.45</p>	<p>Coloured Red on plan.</p>	
<p>Description</p>		
	<p>Wooded hillside at summit of ridge line between Harestone Valley and Tupwood Lane (Caterham Bypass). Grounds of Upwood Gorse</p>	
<p>Biodiversity-</p>		
<p>As regenerated woodland the site is a mixture of mainly mature and semi mature trees with a 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 the variety of trees on the site.</p>		

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<p>Planning Permission?</p>	<p>No. TPO25/C&W describes trees as Copper Beech, Cedar, Yew, Sequoia, Sweet Chestnut, Oak, Larch, Pine, Silver Birch, Ash, Sycamore and Elm.</p>
<p>Can all community benefit from LGS</p>	<p>The site forms the edge of the urban area of Caterham leading and viewed from Tupwood Lane on its NE border and the bride path of Harestone Hill is on its SW border. It provides the countryside setting with 45B after the urban area of Harestone Hill. There are no public footpaths through the site although the site is informally used by dog walkers and others for recreation and both bridleways 21 and 182 lie along its borders.</p> <p>This area is one of the most prominent parts of Harestone Valley and can be seen from many views from the western side of the valley, from Church Hill and in long and panoramic views over to the east side of the valley from the south west within the area of Great landscape Value. HVCA</p>
<p>Does the land already benefit from protection?</p>	<p>The site is designated green belt</p>
<p>Is the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?</p>	<p>Yes both Tupwood Lane and Harstone Hill are widely used by dog walkers, riders and the local public</p>
<p>Is the green space local in character and is not an extensive tract of land?</p>	<p>The site area is 5.4 hectares approximately and the wooded hillside defines the location of CR3 as a town within the Surrey Hills. The site is an example of the boundary between urban and countryside that defines CR3 and provides a rural countryside setting for Caterham on its southern boundary. It is not extensive and has definable boundaries</p>
<p>Is it demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of:</p>	

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Beauty	<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 and also forms part of area 415 Historic Landscape. It provides a natural landscape setting to the adjoining Built Up Areas and helps to conserve the historic elements of the landscape as remnants of an older landscape and provides the setting for the listed building of Upwood Gorse.</p>
Historic	<p>Original grounds for Upwood Gorse and on the edge of Ancient woodland.</p>
Recreational Value	<p>None other than as setting for walking, riding and cycling. Viewed extensively by Bridleways 21 and 182</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Very quiet location, only in the winter can the M25 or Caterham bypass be heard.</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.</p> <p>Much of the wood with its fallen trees and open areas 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 reptiles, although no surveys have been undertaken to due to the time of year. However, grass snakes <i>Natrix natrix</i> and (historically) adders <i>Vipera berus</i> have been documented from nearby War Coppice Road. Both of these are UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.</p>

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<p>Does it have public access?</p>	<p>No it is private land but viewed from public roads and bridleways. On the ridge line this site features in many views across Harestone Valley.</p>
<p>Does it have a public right of way?</p>	<p>No but is bounded by Bridleways 21 and 182 with views into the woods and slopes.</p>
<p>Is it located in a new development?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is it in public ownership?</p>	<p>No</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 especially since it is the setting for Upwood Gorse and many of these older properties have been lost through development and CR3 has few listed buildings in their original settings.</p>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>Surrey Interactive Map. Surrey Landscape Character Assessment TDC April 2015. Surrey Historic Data. Harestone Valley Character assessment March 2011 TDC Planning Portal</p>