

CHALDON PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Name	Location	Reference: Chaldon Village Council Reference CH009
Grub Wood	Chaldon Parish	
Description		
A distinct pocket of ancient woodland between the North Downs Way and Roffes Lane, Chaldon, approaching the Harrow at its southern end.	See ancient woodland map for Chaldon	
Planning Permission?	No	
Can all community benefit from LGS	Yes. The wood provides excellent recreation opportunities for dog walkers, horse-riders and hikers, including those using the adjacent North Downs Way, a National Trail that is considered to be south-east England's premier long-distance walk. Local residents can also enjoy the biodiversity of the wood.	
Does the land already benefit from protection?	Green belt. Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland It is also within the Surrey Hills Area of Great Landscape Value, but this category may be abolished in a forthcoming Natural England review, and thus does not afford the site assured protection.	
Is the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes. Within walking distance of Chaldon Common Road, and the car park at The Harrow provides easy access for those wishing to drive.	
Is the green space local in character and is not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The wood forms a discrete, roughly triangular pocket between Roffes Lane and the North Downs Way.	

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Is it demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of:	
Beauty	Included in the Surrey Hills Area of Great Landscape Value. Great visual value, particularly as one enters Chaldon from southern end via Roffes Lane, especially in spring time with masses of bluebells and white wood anemones, the wild cherry blossom, plus a variety of trees coming into leaf. Perfect encapsulation of English Spring. Also benefit of autumn colour from the large number of tree species.
Historic	The Manor of Limpsfield, including the sub-manor of Willey, was given by William the Conqueror to Battle Abbey which still held it at the dissolution. It then became the property of John Cook a London Goldsmith. In 1551 it was transferred to Sir Thomas Cawarden (Master of Tents & Revels to Henry VIII). At that date Willey consisted of 3 dwellings, arable & pasture land, with smaller areas of woodland, heath and furze. In 1664 Willey belonged to Richard Betenson who sold it in 1734 to Sir William Clayton. On the 1837 Tithe Map for Chaldon, Grub Wood is part of Willey Farm still owned by William Clayton.
Recreational Value	Valued by dog walkers, horse-riders, nature watchers / photographers, and hikers.
Tranquillity	Despite been edged by Stanstead Road and Roffes Lane, it is remarkably peaceful inside. Any traffic is almost inaudible. This is due to thick hedge boundaries plus Roffes Lane was originally a sunken ancient track way and is for most of the length well below the level of the wood.
Richness of Wildlife	<p>This ancient semi-natural woodland is home to a wide range of biodiversity. Tree species include ash, beech, birch, wild cherry, elder, field maple, hawthorn, holly, lime, laurel, oak, sycamore, and yew. Underneath these are found brambles, bracken, foxgloves, ivy, thistle, rushes, stinging nettle, and dead nettle, willow herb, old man's beard <i>Clematis vitlaba</i>. The wood is structurally diverse with open glades, fallen braches, and tree stumps in various stages of decay. Together with the leaf litter, these provide habitat for a range of species. Potentially, greater stag beetles <i>Lucanus cervus</i> (a species of national conservation concern) may be present.</p> <p>It is very possible that hazel dormice <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> – a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species – are present; their presence has been verified at other sites in Chaldon which are connected to this ancient woodland by hedgerows. Confirmed mammals include roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> and red</p>

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	<p>foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>.</p> <p>Fungi include various species of Russula and brackets.</p>
Does it have public access?	<p>Yes. Borders are southern end of Roffes Lane, southern end of Stanstead Rd, metalled driveway to Willey Park Farm which is part of North Downs Way. Another footpath winds through the wood from the south east corner. Unofficial paths allow people to wander more or less at will. It is a short walk from the urban area of the village (Rook Lane, Roffes Lane, Chaldon Common Road triangle). The site is directly opposite The Harrow public house. Willey Park Farm driveway is also used as starting / finishing point for locals and ramblers.</p>
Does it have a public right of way?	<p>Yes, see above.</p>
Is it located in a new development?	<p>No</p>
Is it in public ownership?	<p>No</p>
How will LGS be managed?	<p>The management will remain the responsibility of the current owners. However, it there is a strong case for listing it on the register of assets of value to the community (see above).</p>
Should it be registered as an Asset of Community Value?	<p>Consideration should be given to listing this important space as an Asset of Community Value. Despite private ownership, the wood is currently well used by the local community.</p>