


CATERHAM VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

<p><b>Name: Land between Harestone Hill and Harestone Valley Road</b></p>	<p><b>Location: TQ340 540 534010 154040</b></p>	<p><b>Land north of Harestone Valley Road and south of Harestone bounded by Caterham School on western boundary but excluding Mulbeery, Steephurst, Appledore and Pentlands and Caterham Preparatory School</b></p>
<p>No.47</p>	<p>Coloured Red on plan.</p>	
<p><b>Description</b></p>		

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	<p>Mainly sloping pasture land with wood at the southern end and mature trees along Harestone Hill                  Pasture land with mixed woodland. The pastures are a rich source of wild flowers and although no survey has been undertaken likely to be the habitat for many wild life species from butterflies to foxes.                  The pastures are used for horses grazing and hay cutting.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity-</b></p>	
<p><b>Planning Permission?</b></p>	<p>No TPO30/C&amp;W describes the strip of trees on eastern boundary (BW182) as Beech, Sycamore, Corsican Pine, horse Chestnut, Elm, Maple, Larch, and White Beam.</p>
<p><b>Can all community benefit from LGS</b></p>	<p>The site forms the edge of the urban area of Caterham leading from Harestone Hill Public Road to the private the bride path of Harestone Hill on its eastern boundary. Harestone Valley Road becomes bridleway 183 after the Caterham Preparatory School and leads to Upper Harestone which forms the southern boundary.</p> <p>It provides the countryside setting with 45 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 182 and 183 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 down Harestone Valley.</p>
<p><b>Does the land already benefit from protection?</b></p>	<p>The site is designated green belt</p>
<p><b>Is the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?</b></p>	<p>Yes both bridleways are widely used by dog walkers, riders and the local public together with walkers from outside the area.</p> <p>.</p>
<p><b>Is the green space local in character and is not an extensive tract of land?</b></p>	<p>The site area is 7 hectares approximately and the rural nature defines the location of CR3 as a town within the Surrey Hills. The site is an example of the boundary between urban and countryside CR3 and for the setting of Caterham on its southern boundary. It is not extensive and has definable boundaries</p>

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<b>Is it demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance because of:</b>	
<b>Beauty</b>	<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 an area 802 Surrey Historic Landscape settlements with paddocks..</p> <p>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 . It is also provides an open are for views across the Harestone Valley looking east and for views into the site and to the ridgeline beyond looking west.</p>
<b>Historic</b>	Settlement with paddocks 802 Surrey Historic Landscapes
<b>Recreational Value</b>	Pasture land for horses and as setting for walking, riding and cycling. Viewed extensively from Bridleways 182 and 183
<b>Tranquillity</b>	Very quiet location, with only the sounds from the Prep school to interrupt the quiet.
<b>Richness of Wildlife</b>	<p>This site is rich in biodiversity. This area of pasture and woods like others on the urban boundary provide natural and undisturbed habitat for many species.</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>
<b>Does it have public access?</b>	No it is private land but viewed from public roads and bridleways.

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<b>Does it have a public right of way?</b>	No but is bounded by Bridleways 182 and 183 with views into and from these bridleways..
<b>Is it located in a new development?</b>	No
<b>Is it in public ownership?</b>	No
<b>How will LGS be managed?</b>	The management will remain the responsibility of the current owners. However, it there is a case for listing it on the register of assets of value to the community (see below).
<b>Should it be registered as an Asset of Community Value?</b>	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	Surrey Interactive Map. Surrey Landscape Character Assessment TDC April 2015. Surrey Historic Data. Harestone Valley Character assessment March 2011 TDC Planning Portal