



Eynsford Local Green Space Consultation 2 – 22th March 2026



Introduction

This document identifies the proposed Local Green Spaces (LGS) to become part of Eynsford's Neighbourhood Plan. These sites have been chosen as a result of public consultation including; the Household Questionnaire, the public meeting on 18th November and other community interactions. The Steering Group, which is composed of members of the Parish Council and the local community developed a number of potential LGS sites. These sites were then formally assessed by a planning expert to reach the sites in this document. We welcome your views and comments on these sites.

An LGS is a formal designation introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012. It allows communities to identify and protect specific green areas that are valued for their environmental, social and recreational significance to preserve their character and benefits. All the sites proposed have been tested against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by specialist consultants, which says that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a. *'in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b. *demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c. *local in character and is not an extensive tract of land'.*

In summary Local Green Spaces are vital components of community planning, offering a way for residents to preserve areas that are important to their quality of life. By designating these spaces, communities can ensure that they remain protected from development pressures, fostering a healthier and more sustainable environment for current and future generations.

This document includes maps, which identify of each proposed LGS. There are 21 in total listed below. We are very grateful to the GIS and Planning teams at Sevenoaks District Council, who produced the digital maps.

Please review the proposed Local Green Spaces and tell us your positive or negative comments. You could give us further examples of how the space is used by the community or its value and importance, alternatively you may suggest why it should not be designated; for example it has limited community value or say why or how it does not meet the criteria.

You can respond by using the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/SiHSAf49Wm> OR this QR code.



Alternatively, you can visit us at the following pop-up sessions to view a hard copy:

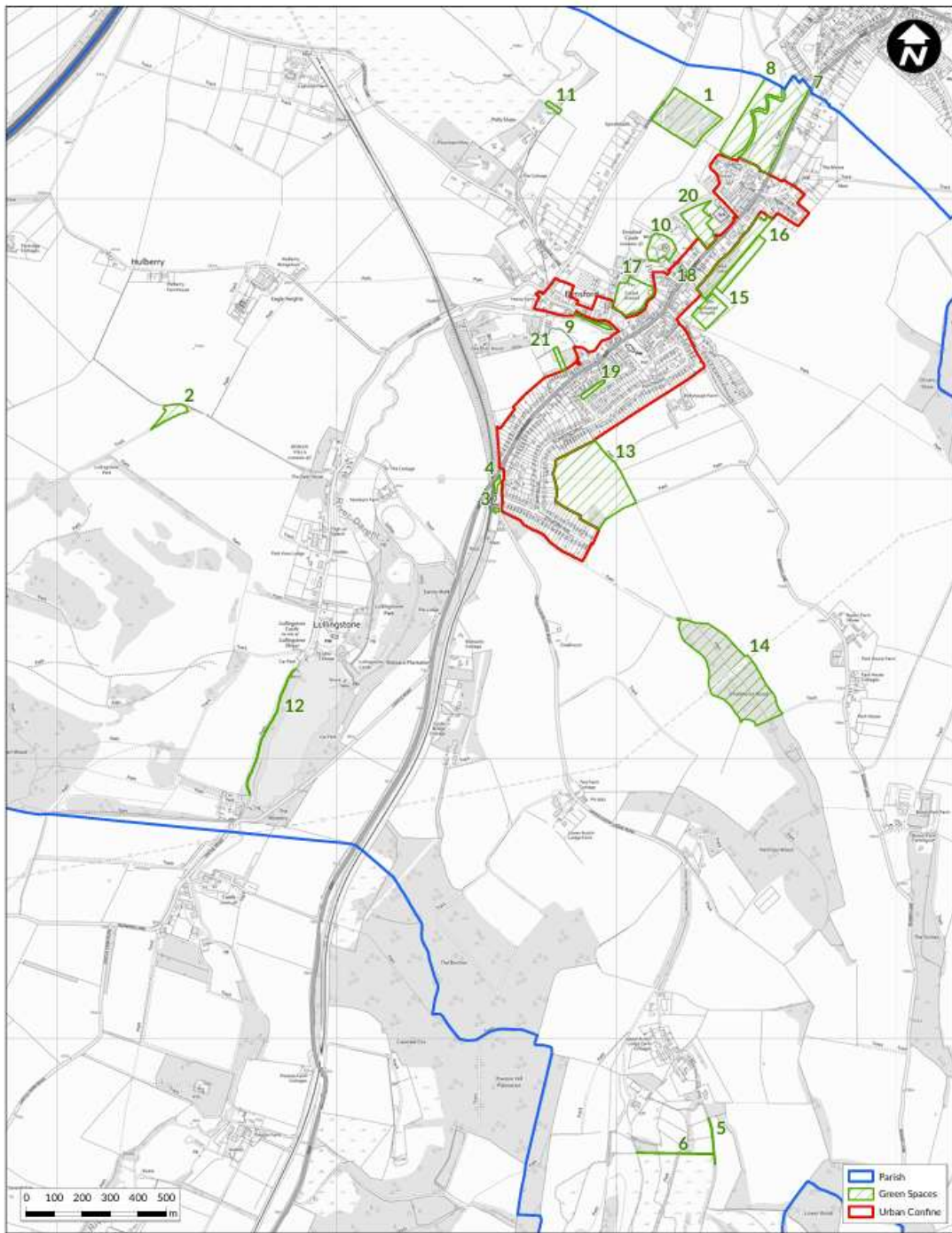
11th March 9.30am – 12md at The Space, Eynsford Riverside Club, Riverside, DA4 0AE

There will be a pop-up between 4.30pm – 7pm at Eynsford Station, DA4 0HP also at the Castle pub – back room, for one evening each during the consultation period. The details of these will be advertised on the village Facebook page and circulated by email to all those people who registered for electronic communication regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

If you require any support please visit The Space as detailed above, or contact the Clerks at the Parish Office on 01322 865320 or clerk@eynsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

What Happens Next?

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will consider all the responses after the consultation closes on 22nd March 2026 and then make a final list of those to be designated as Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan.



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Ordnance Survey AC0000822250

Eynsford Local Green Spaces

Scale: 1:9,000 @ A2
Date: December 2025

Produced by the GIS Team, Sevenoaks District Council

Eynsford Local Green Spaces

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1. Local Green Space Description: Nine Hole Wood
(‘What 3 words’ – backup.month.lined, Grid reference TQ542662)



Community Value

Nine Hole Wood is a 3 hectare wood acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1997 as a gift. It sits between Eynsford and Farningham and overlooks the River Darent. It is important as a green space separating the two villages as Millfield does on the opposite bank of the River Darent so the villages will not merge. It was planted in 1998 with mixed native broad leaved trees: ash, field maple, cherry, hazel, beech, oak and hawthorn. There are also many pyramidal orchids. It contains one of the works on the village art trail a wooden sculpture representing woodland life. The Darent Valley Public Footpath crosses the wood at the north and there is also a circular path cut through the woods. It is accessible direct from Sparepenny Lane so can be visited by those with limited mobility or families with pushchairs and is used for wild play by young families.



Photo with permission from Helen Penney

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space (Ha)	3 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

2. Local Green Space Description: Chicken Tree & Acrostic
(‘What 3 words’ – rises.pram.volume)



The Chicken Tree

Community Value

Eynsford is noted for its tree acrostics where the first letter of each planted species spells out a phrase. A chapter in 'The Great British Tree Biography' by Mark Hooper gives more detail. The first tree acrostic was planted in 1897 by Elliott Downs Till followed by a range of others including in 1902 a memorial for the late Queen Victoria 'She Wrought Her People Lasting Good', 'Be Prepared' by the Scout Hall with the latest being planted in 2023 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. This acrostic reads 'Save The Planet' and consists of: Sycamore, Alder, Variegated maple, Eucalyptus, Tulip tree, Hornbeam, Elm, Plane, Lime, Acer, Nothofagus, English oak and Thuja. These trees continue to flourish and a nearby bench next to the Chicken Tree, a sycamore planted in 1871, gives a splendid view over the Darent Valley towards Austin Lodge Valley. It is a favourite picnic spot for the community. The trees are planted on land owned by a local farmer, who allows access. In addition footpaths run along two sides one of which is registered footpath SD203.

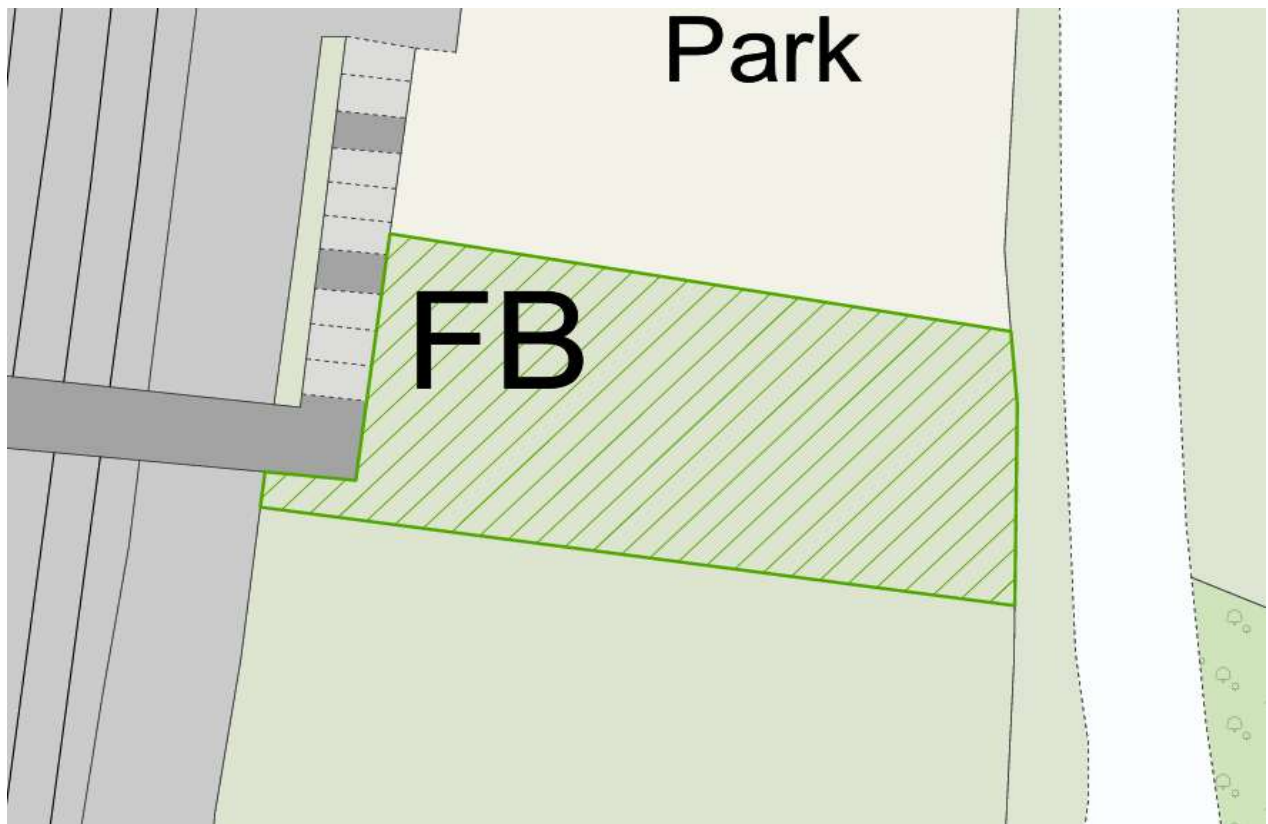




Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space (Ha)	0.5 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. Application made for Tree Preservation orders plus veteran tree status.
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

3. **Local Green Space Description: Land between Eynsford station carpark and container storage in old goods yard**
(DA4 OHP, 'What 3 words' – void.space.happen)



Community Value

The small green space sandwiched between the station car park and the container storage in the Old Goods Yard is important for where it is rather than what it is. It serves as a visual break between two built up structures and stops them coalescing into a large and overbearing single built up area. The land is owned by Network Rail; they leave it to nature and it contains a number of saplings of native trees and a mature silver birch and sycamore on which tree preservation orders are being sought. Network Rail have suggested applying for a community licence for planting additional trees and shrubs. On the carpark side the voluntary group 'Eynsford in Bloom' take a great deal of time and effort to tend the mixed bed, which is clearly valued as Eynsford has won a gold award in Britain in Bloom for the last 11 years and this year also won Large Village of the Year in the South and South East in Bloom Competition. There are bird boxes and bat boxes serving this area, which is matched by a wild flower triangle of small mature trees hung with mistletoe on the other side of the station car park.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space (Ha)	Approx. 0.05 acre
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. Application made for Tree Preservation orders.
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

4. Local Green Space Description: Eynsford Station Triangle
(DA4 0HP, 'What 3 words' – fees.trim.corner)



Community Value

The small triangle of land to the north of the station is full of wild flowers in spring and summer including wild cyclamen. It has a variety of saplings and mature trees one of which is notable for being covered in mistletoe. Wild birds nest in the trees in spring and feed off their berries and fruit in the summer and autumn. It acts as an amuse-bouche as people walk up Upper Austin Lodge Road to the open countryside or from the station into the village. There are two noticeboards; one giving walking routes and the other information on the flora in the green space. It is cared for by the Eynsford in Bloom group.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space (Ha)	Approx. 0.1 acre
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

5. Local Green Space Description: Tree Arch Footpath Upper Austin Lodge (DA4 0HU, pump.shelf.chose)



Community Value

Austin Lodge Valley is the hidden treasure of open green space in Eynsford. It is a dry valley some two miles long and one wide with chalk grassland, ancient woodland, rare orchids and rare species of wildlife. It is sparsely populated with only two small hamlets at Lower and Upper Austin Lodge. This LGS is accessed from Upper Austin Lodge Hamlet along footpath SD199/SR23, which runs through the hamlet and into a spectacular tree arch lining the footpath for about 100 metres. The footpath then enters more open country before rising up into another tree arched section of path to the ridge running towards East Hill, where it links into a network of 3 footpaths leading southwards to Kemsing or east in a circular walk back to Eynsford or west towards Shoreham and then back to Eynsford. On either side are wildlife corridors used by badger, weasels and stoats. Many species of bird are found in Upper Austin Lodge including but not limited to all 3 types of woodpecker, skylarks, little owls, barn owls, tawny owls, short eared owls, brown owls, buzzards, kestrels, sparrow hawks and red kites, which you may be lucky enough to see from the footpath. Grass snakes, adders, slow worms, and common lizards live there as do frogs, toads and both types of newt. One animal deserves special mention which is the Roman or Edible Snail commonly found close to hedgerows. It is the largest land snail in north-west Europe and can grow up to 5 cm across. It only has a limited distribution in southern England and is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Much of this information comes from The Austin Lodge Valley, Eynsford an Appreciation by Professor John Shepherd.

It serves not only the surrounding local communities, but its position 20 miles from Piccadilly Circus with a train connection to central London means it serves people interested in Percy Pilcher, walking and those with a special interest in the countryside and its wildlife. It is part of a popular circular walk that attracts walkers from London and the South East, having been featured in the weekend sections of a number of the broadsheets and recommended walks.

In the household questionnaire August 2025 Austin Lodge Valley was mentioned as:

- The most frequently mentioned tranquil area
- An area of important views
- An important open space
- 'My special natural area' with the highest support after a more general 'wooded areas'

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space	0.25 acres
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & in the Green Belt. The walk takes one to a monument then to areas of Ancient Woodland and Special Scientific Interest.
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the communities that access the space, either locally or via the station at the north end of the valley.

6. Local Green Space Description: Percy Pilcher Memorial in Upper Austin Lodge Valley (DA4 0HU 'What 3 words' – flying.crab.codes)



View from path to the memorial facing east



View from Percy Pilchard Memorial facing west towards Site of Special Scientific interest

Community Value

Austin Lodge Valley is the hidden treasure of open green space in Eynsford. It is a dry valley some two miles long and one wide with chalk grassland, ancient woodland, rare

orchids and rare species of wildlife. It is sparsely populated with only two small hamlets at Lower and Upper Austin Lodge. It has a long history including of early flight. Percy Pilcher, an early aviation pioneer, who died in a gliding accident in 1899, launched his gliders from a hill in the valley. In Percy's honour there is a memorial stone raised on the prominent spot from which he used to launch his gliders. From this viewpoint you have a panoramic view over the western valley.

The memorial is reached via a branch off footpath SD199/SR23, the branch to the Monument is about 400 mt long. The footpath SD199/SR23 runs through the hamlet of Upper Austin Lodge and rises up to the ridge running towards East Hill, where it links into a network of 3 footpaths leading southwards to Kemsing or east in a circular walk back to Eynsford or west towards Shoreham and then back to Eynsford. Many species of bird are found in Upper Austin Lodge including but not limited to all 3 types of woodpecker, skylarks, little owls, barn owls, tawny owls, short eared owls, brown owls, buzzards, kestrels, sparrow hawks and red kites, which you may be lucky enough to see from the footpath or lookout point. Amongst mammals there are bats, badgers, foxes, rabbits, shrews, stoats and weasels. Grass snakes, adders, slow worms, and common lizards live there as do frogs, toads and both types of newt. One animal deserves special mention which is the Roman or Edible Snail most commonly found on the south west side of the valley close to hedgerows. It is the largest land snail in north-west Europe and can grow up to 5 cm across. It only has a limited distribution in southern England and is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Much of this information comes from The Austin Lodge Valley, Eynsford an Appreciation by Professor John Shepherd.

It serves not only the surrounding local communities, but its position 20 miles from Piccadilly Circus with a train connection to central London means it serves people interested in Percy Pilcher, walking and those with a special interest in the countryside and its wildlife.

In the household questionnaire August 2025 Austin Lodge Valley was mentioned as:

- The number 1 mentioned tranquil area with dark sky looking north
- An area of important views
- An important open space
- 'My special natural area' with the highest support after a more general 'wooded areas'



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space	Memorial 12 square yards with footpath approach of quarter a mile
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is in an area designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & in the Green Belt. The walk takes one to an areas of Ancient woodland and special scientific interest.
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the communities that access the space, either locally or via the station at the north end of the valley.

7. Local Green Space Description: Millfield (DA4 0BW, 'What 3 words' – retire.slug.richer)



Community Value

Millfield is a 7 acre site bought by villagers in 2000 as a green space separating Eynsford and Farningham. Millfield is owned by a charity, Eynsford Millfield Trust and is managed by trustees. It has a public footpath SD328 running alongside the A225 but within the fenced boundary of the open space and is bound on the opposite side by the River Darent. This footpath is of particular importance for the safety of the primary school age children who walk from Farningham to attend school in Eynsford along this busy road. There are 28 fruit trees on the Eynsford side. The lower level by the River Darent is covered in wild flowers in summer and is partly flooded in winter and it has been untouched for centuries. There is dense and impenetrable woodland adjoining the Mill development. There are 11 bird boxes to encourage wildlife and seats to encourage walkers to sit and enjoy the splendid views over the Darent Valley one of which is an attractive carved bench. Millfield also contains one of the works on the Public Art Trail; an ornate insect hotel called 'Bug Hutch' installed in 2015. Millfield is used for community events like Arbor Day, a celebration brought to the UK by Elliot Downs Till who held the first such event in Eynsford in 1897.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space (Ha)	7 acres
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt
Close to the community it serves	It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

8. Local Green Space Description: Water meadow opposite side of river to Millfield
(‘What 3 words’ – insist.ramp.fans)



Community Value

The water meadows South East of Sparepenny Lane consist of 12ha of grassland fields for grazing animals. They closely follow the River Darent, one of 200 chalk streams in the world,

stretching from Home Farm and into Farningham. It acts as a green space separating Eynsford and Farningham on the opposite side of the river to Millfield. It is split into 5 grassland paddocks, which are all in an environmental agreement with DEFRA providing a wide variety of biodiversity, carbon sequestration and habitat for water voles, wetland birds such as snipe and lapwing, plus grassland species such as butterflies, bees, adders and a wide variety of farmland birds. The majority of this land has also been entered into a Landscape Recovery Scheme, whereby the aim is to optimize the agricultural potential of the landscape whilst increasing biodiversity, species conservation and carbon storage. This project will also provide an opportunity to increase the supply and quality of water, local health and wellbeing and community environmental appreciation.



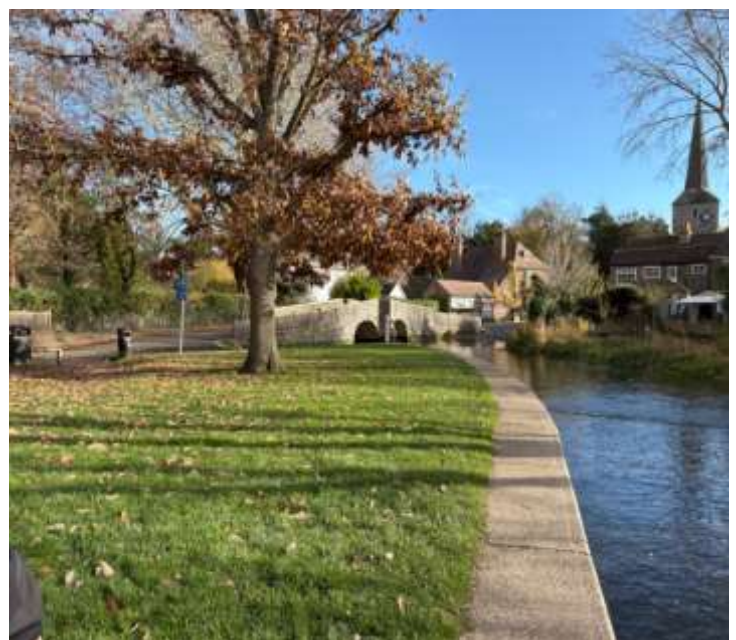
Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Area of space (Ha)	12 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	It is close to the community from where it is easily visible providing a visual amenity and a rich wildlife habitat.

9. Local Green Space Description: Riverside Green
 ('What 3 words' – lakes.reader.beam)



Left above - view of Riverside from the bridge and ford.



Right above – view of Riverside looking at the ford and bridge

Community Value

Riverside is the stretch of bank alongside the River Darent, within Eynsford, in the Darent Valley, part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This proposed Local Green Space is the most widely used recreational open space in Eynsford as it is regularly visited by many local residents as well as other visitors to the village. It is a place for popular gentle riverside walks, family outings and enjoying the natural setting of the valley. In warm summer, spring and autumn months it is often frequented by more than 100 people consisting of adults and many children who enjoy the close connection with the River Darent. Its charm and character is recognised by the many photographers and film/TV companies who choose to film this space to portray the picturesque and tranquil village-feel.

Riverside is in the heart of Eynsford and connected to the historic ford and medieval hump-back bridge over the river. This area offers scenic views upstream and downstream through meadows and fields. This area is famous for its historic charm with many buildings along Riverside dating back to the 16th century and contributing to the conservation character of the area.

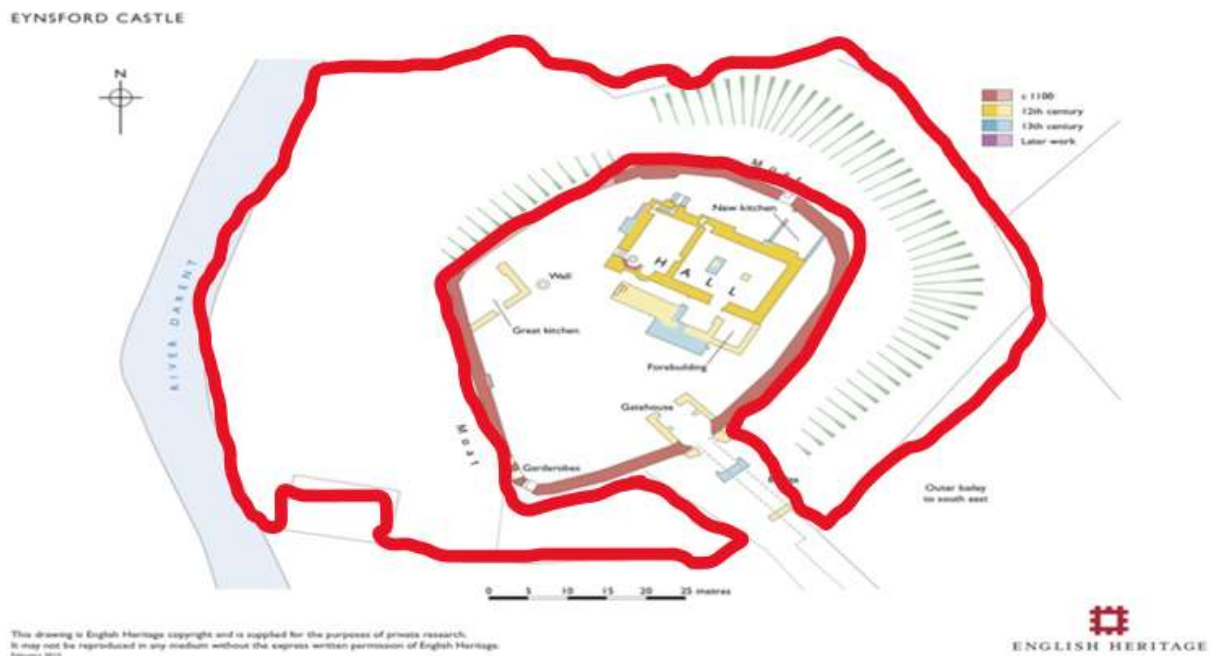
Riverside within this Local Green Space supports a variety of flora, fauna and wildlife including moorhens, herons and kingfishers. The area is within a conservation zone, so preserving its character and respecting the natural environment is paramount.

This outstanding space is maintained by Eynsford Parish Council.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community and recreational value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.3 Acres (0.12Ha)
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. Eynsford Parish is designated a conservation area of special architectural and historic interest
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is in the heart of Eynsford, adjacent to a local pub, local village club, tearoom, farm houses, local business units and residential properties. It is within 100 metres of St Martins Church on the High Street.

10. Local Green Space Description: Eynsford Castle
 (DA4 0AA, what3words: jolly.sing.boots)



Drawing of castle showing proposed LGS outlined in red

Community Value

The remains of an early Norman Castle sit the centre of Eynsford Village. It is managed by English Heritage. The castle is built on the east bank of the River Darent. It is unusual in that instead of a motte and keep its defences were principally a curtain wall around the site (much of which remains today). The castle ruins are open to the public; entrance is free. The Castle site that has housing on two sides, a Baptist church / church house on the third and the River Darent on the fourth side. Outside the curtain walls of the castle are grassy areas and a dry moat.

This LGS refers to the land marked in red on the map and more detailed plan above. This grassy area has varied recreational uses and is an important part of the castle precincts. As well as individuals visiting the historic site or walking, playing or picnicking on the grassland it also provides access to the river with a vast range of flora and fauna. It is also used by many village clubs and societies for special occasions and celebrations during the year.



Eynsford Castle showing green space in front of curtain wall



Concerts (professional and amateur) are held on these spaces, local theatre groups stage outdoor performances, village societies organise fetes and village-wide picnics to celebrate local and nation events, outdoor celebratory carol and church services are held on the grass area. The village annual bonfire and firework display which is one of the best in the area is centred on the Norman Castle. It is a green lung in the centre of the village and should be protected as a valuable village recreation area.





Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The grass area around the Norman Castle in Eynsford village centre is of special community value to the parish (as described above)
Area of space (Ha)	1 hectare approximately
Planning permissions or site allocations	None
Other Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. • Eynsford designated a conservation area of special architectural and historic interest. • Eynsford Castle is designated as an important national monument. Schedule Monument list entry no. 1007462. • Countryside Rights of Way Act Section 15 Land
Close to the community it serves	Eynsford castle and surrounding grassland is in the centre of the village, it is bounded by housing on two sides, a Baptist church/church house on the third side and the River Darent on the fourth. It is a nationally important historic site and is a popular recreation destination for the villagers as it is a short walk from the residential areas in the parish.

11. Local Green Space Description: Area by Arthur Mee's Seat (TQ 538663)



Community Value

The wooden bench known as Arthur Mee's seat was placed here by Eynsford Village Society in 1981 to replace the original seat presented to the village in 1930 by the well known author of the Children's Encyclopaedia and many other works, Mr. Arthur Mee, who lived nearby. It can be accessed from a nearby pathway, SD 181, at a point where the path turns sharply uphill towards Pedham Place after climbing the side of the valley from Eynsford village centre. The pathway which passes a local vineyard provides an opportunity to enjoy its natural hillside setting. The Local Green Space itself provides a range of flora and fauna both in the open chalk grassland and the adjacent woodland. It is located on a popular walking route, is a pleasant place for a picnic, being sheltered from north-westerly winds by woodland, while providing a good vantage point with far reaching views over the Darent Valley between Eynsford and Farningham and beyond.



View from Arthur Mee's seat

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value as noted above.
Area of space (Ha)	0.12 Ha (approx. 60 metres x 20 metres) total of open field in front of seat plus woodland
Planning permissions or site allocations	None
Other designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. The woodland is noted in the Natural England Green Infrastructure Map and is subject to a tree preservation order.
Close to the community it serves	Located approx. 1 Km. from village centre via Riverside, Crockenhill Lane and Footpath SD181.

**12. Local Green Space Description: Riverside Pathway from Lullingstone Castle to Lullingstone Country Park Visitor Centre
(From TQ 528643 to TQ 527639)**



Community Value

The permissive pathway extends for a distance of approx. 500 metres from the boundary of a private car park adjacent to Lullingstone Castle to the boundary of Lullingstone Country Park alongside the River Darent. The proposed Local Green Space extends from the river bank to include a line of trees and shrubs up to their boundary with an open field, a total width of approx. 10 metres. Although not within the boundary of the Country Park, it is a popular walking route for visitors to the Park as the car park and Visitor Centre may be accessed from this path and it provides a pleasant riverside walk towards Lullingstone Castle. It also forms part of a longer walk from Eynsford through Lullingstone to Shoreham and provides a shorter alternative route than the official Darent Valley Path which takes a route higher up the side of the valley. There is another path along the edge of the field on the far side of the line of trees and shrubs, but this only allows glimpses of the river and its wildlife.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value as noted above.
Area of space (Ha)	0.5 Ha (aprox. 500 metres x 10 metres) including the pathway and a line of trees and shrubs to the adjacent field boundary.
Planning permissions or site allocations	None
Other designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	Located approx. 1.5 Km. from village centre via Riverside, Lullingstone Lane; or via Castle and Lullingstone Visitors Centre.

13. Local Green Space Description: Field behind St Martin's Drive
(DA4 0EY, what3words: peanut.gloves.pounds)



Left above view from field over valley. Right above Field is much used by dog-walkers



Footpath SD196 access from St Martin's Drive

Community Value

The proposed Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the Eynsford. This Green Space is very close to the main residential area of the village, Pollyhaugh, St Martin's Drive and Eynsford Rise. It is very accessible via footpath SD196. This footpath also leads directly to the other nearby Green Space Chalkhurst woods.

This Green Space has very high recreational value, it is much used by dog walkers and families with children. The field is always fallow and a great place to let dogs off leads and children play. The field forms a well-used circular walk down to Eynsford Rise and the Chalkhurst area of Lower Austin Lodge. It is the favoured toboggan run with families in winter. It slopes up to the southeast and therefore has splendid views over the Darent Valley, Eynsford and Farningham in the distance. The field is tranquil, and its hedgerows are much used for foraging such as blackberries and sloes. There is a lot of wildlife in the area in particular nesting birds in the hedgerow, Roman snails, foxes and badgers. In the household questionnaire August 2025 it was mentioned 13 times as an area of special views and it was mentioned 5 times as a special natural area and as a tranquil area.

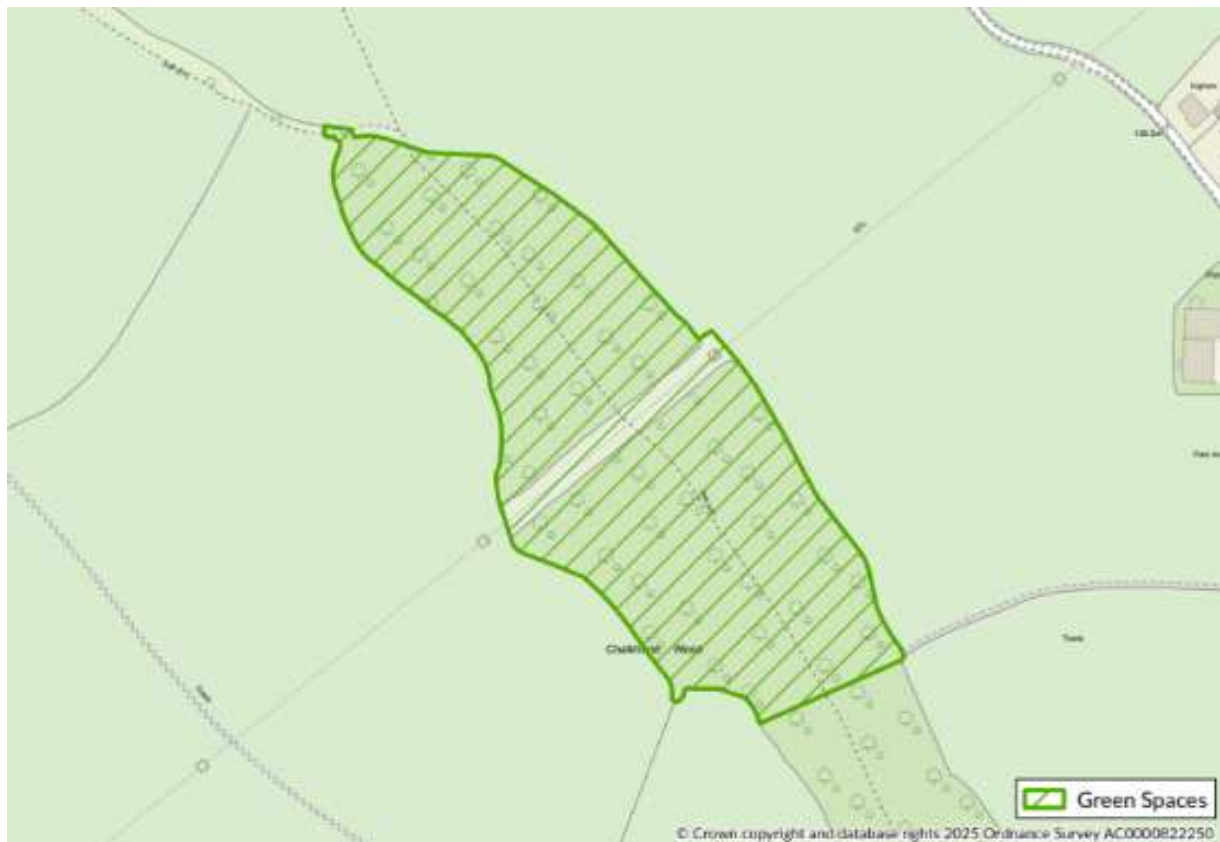


Tobogganing in the winter

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	4.5 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as green belt and within a National Landscape. It lies outside the urban confines of Eynsford
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is adjacent to the built up area, within 50 metres of St Martin’s Drive roadway

14. Local Green Space Description: Chalkhurst Woods
(DA4 0EY, what3words: likely.melon.risen)



Left above mature woodland, right above coppiced woodland



Off road cyclist

Community Value

This area is connected to the village by footpath SD196. It is used by walkers, cyclists. Being at one of the highest points in the valley it offers even more dramatic views than the St Martin’s Drive field. Recently coppiced in large part it is a mixture of mature and recovering woodland. It is especially prized by villagers and visitors for its wealth of wildlife with a great variety of birds including tawny owls, buzzards, jays and woodpeckers. The public footpaths allow circular walks and access to Lower Austin Lodge Valley and Bower Lane. It is already designated as Ancient Woodland and a Local Wildlife site.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	5.25 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. It is designated as Ancient Woodland and a Local Wildlife site.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is near to the built up area, 700 metres from St Martin’s Drive roadway

15. Local Green Space Description: Football Pitch at Harrow Meadow (DA4 0AJ, what3words: pushy.jumps.models)





Community Value

The proposed Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the community of Eynsford because it provides a football pitch for the village community to use. Harrow Meadow has been used for football and recreational use since 1936. The site is within the centre of the village and residents can walk to the pitch. The pitch is hired and used by 4 local football teams; a veteran over 35-year-old team, a senior over 18 team, an under 17 team and an under 12 team, many ages enjoy the pitch. Residents also use the area to play football informally and for other sports and exercise.

This Local Green Space is not locked and is freely accessible for all residents to use. Members of the community enjoy meeting at Harrow Meadow to socialise. The site has over the years been used for other community events including fetes and a jubilee music festival.

The pitch is surrounded on two sides by established trees and hedging and on the other two sides by newly planted native hedging and trees, the planting of which was a condition of a planning permission when the pitch was recently redeveloped. This local green space not only provides a recreational use but is also an important habitat for wildlife.

Part of Harrow Meadow is also the site of the new village hall and car park, due to be constructed within the next year. Planning permission details below. The land subject to this permission is not included in this proposed designation.

Further there is land within the Harrow Meadow site, which has a children's playground and an old trim trail. Eynsford Parish Council are proposing to expand this facility and this part of the site is not included in the proposed designation.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.7 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	Yes, part of Harrow Meadow is subject to planning permission 19/03345/FUL:- "Erection of village hall, football pitch, viewing platform together with associated parking as amplified by amended highway plan." The redevelopment of the football pitch has been completed and all conditions relating to this element have been satisfied. The remaining outstanding conditions relate to the building of the new village hall and the land subject to this does not form part of this Local Green Space.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) and is within the Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built-up area of Eynsford village. It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

16. Local Green Space Description: Chalk Hill at Harrow Meadow (DA4 0AJ, what3words: basin.slang.harsh)



Community Value

The proposed Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the community of Eynsford because it provides a green space with panoramic views of the village. Chalk Hill has been created from the spoil of the redevelopment of the football pitch at Harrow Meadow.

The spoil is predominantly a chalk-based soil and this hosts a variety of different plants and in turn insects and wildlife. A local community group, Eynsford Green Team have planted native trees, hedging, flowers and bulbs on the site and some areas have self-seeded and started to naturalise. The community group have created a path along the top of the hill, and this provides not only views of the village but importantly connects Harrow Meadow to a byway at the north end of the village. Together with a local landowner, a permissive path is going to be granted along this Local Green Space creating a walk through the countryside away from the village High Street. This Local Green Space gives the community space to connect with a chalk landscape and the nature this provides.

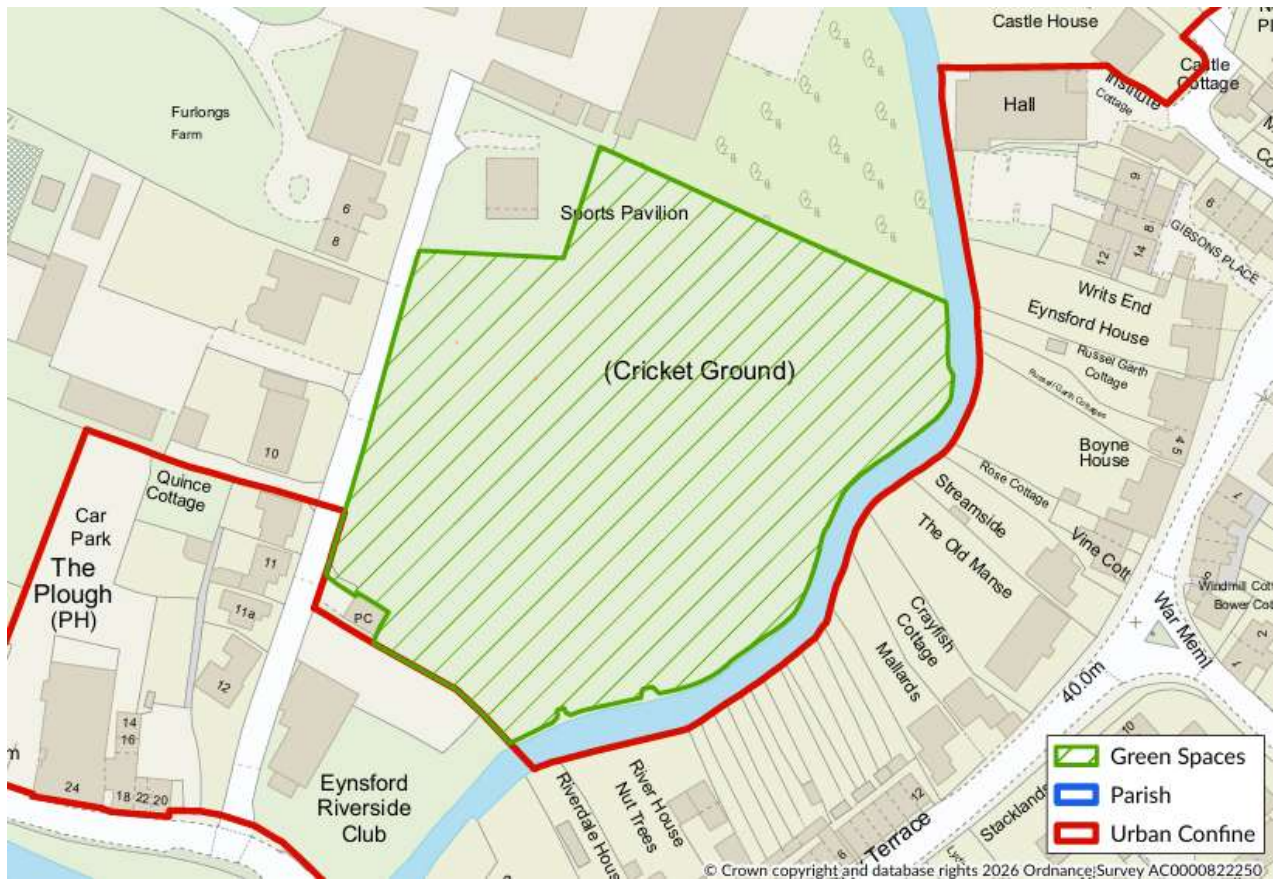
Chalk Hill will be subject to some development work including improvements to the permissive path which will be carried out with Kent County Council Public Rights of Way team. This will include adding a type 1 surface.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.718 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is near to the centre of Eynsford and can be accessed via Harrow Meadow recreation ground or a footpath from the village High Street. It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

17. Local Green Space Description: Common Meadow, Cricket Pitch (DA4 0AH, what3words: crisis.invest.chart)



Community Value

This Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the community of Eynsford because it provides them with a recreational ground and riverside access. The site was gifted to the Parish of Eynsford in 1929 *“for the purpose of a recreation ground or open space in connection with the Parish of Eynsford for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish for ever”*. The site has since this date been used for cricket by the local community with many parishioners either coming to the site to play cricket or watch games.

The site is also used for community events including fetes and for the past four years it has been used August Bank Holiday Monday for an afternoon music festival, which attracts many people from the village who come and picnic, socialise and enjoy the music.

This Local Green Space also provides the community with a tranquil area to enjoy the River Darent and the natural surroundings. The site has Willow trees along the riverbank and other native trees around the site. The stretch of the River Darent within this Local Green Space supports a variety of flora, fauna and wildlife including moorhens, herons and kingfishers.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.75 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt and is within the village Conservation Area.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is in the centre of Eynsford. It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

18. Local Green Space Description: Castlefield Allotments
(DA4 0AY, what3words: artist.sorters.ruled)





Community Value

The proposed Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the community of Eynsford because since 1936 it has provided 47 allotments for the local residents. The allotments are in the heart of the village, are accessible and within walking distance for parishioners.

The allotments give those members of the community with no garden or a small space the opportunity to grow their fruit, vegetables and flowers. Working on the allotment has physical and mental health benefits. Castlefield Allotments has a strong sense of community, where allotments holders support and help each other.

This local green space is also full of wildlife, with many birds, insects and mammals. Sightings include, foxes, badgers, owls.



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	Approx. 4 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt. Part of the site is classified within the Priority Habitat Inventory .
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is in the centre of Eynsford. It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

19. Local Green Space Description: Sadlers Park

(DA4 0HA, what3words: poem.steps.flesh)





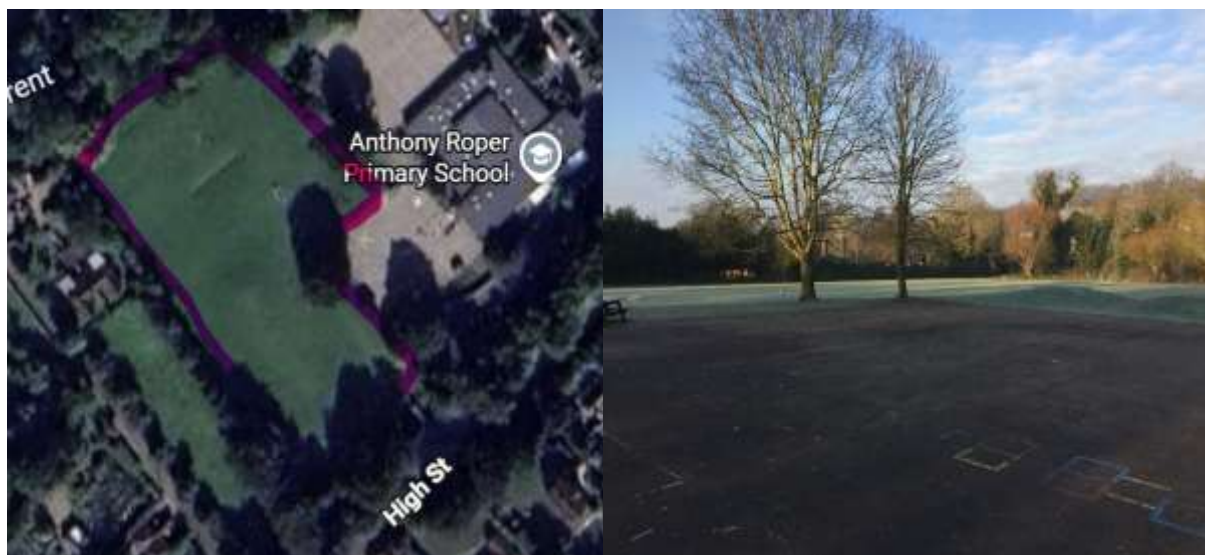
Community Value

Saddlers Park green space is a small open space in the middle of a ring of houses near the centre of Eynsford. It lies on the footpath leading past St Martin’s church, going down St Martins Drive a little to lead onto footpath SD 196 and so the open countryside. It acts as green for surrounding houses. It has some mature trees, which encourage nesting birds in the spring.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	Approx. 0.2 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within walking distance of the church and other community facilities in centre of the village.

20. Local Green Space Description: Anthony Roper School Playing Field (DA4 0AA, what3words: extend.rams.erky)



Community Value

The proposed Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the community of Eynsford. The playing field is in the centre of the village and provides a recreational value to the local children who attend the school. The children benefit from this field every day at school because it gives them space to exercise, play and enjoy the green space. The annual school sports day is held on the field as is the school summer fete, both events are special days and much loved by

families in the village. Other events which have been held on the field include school end of year proms, fundraising ball for adults and easter egg hunts.



This Local Green Space is also used by a Saturday children sports club which village families walk to and in the summer holiday it hosts a community family fun day run by Sevenoaks District Council, which in 2025 150 people attended.

In addition to the recreational benefits, this land is also rich in wildlife. The playing field is flanked on one side by a thick hedge which hosts many nesting birds and at the far end is the River Darent, which although fenced off for the safety of the children is a haven for wildlife.

The site also has various native trees planted around it including many planted on various Arbor Days, a tree celebration tradition which has been observed in Eynsford since 1897. Some of the trees planted were grown from seedlings by the children at the school.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.796 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is in the centre of Eynsford. It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.

21. Local Green Space Description: Elm Tree Allotments, Station Road (DA4 0EN, what3words: dreams.battle.prep)





Community Value

The proposed Local Green Space is demonstrably special to the community of Eynsford because it provides allotments to 10 residents in the village. The allotments are in the middle of the village, are accessible and within walking distance for residents.

The allotments give those members of the community with no garden or a small space the opportunity to grow their fruit, vegetables and flowers. Working on the allotment has physical and mental health benefits. Elm Tree Allotments has a strong sense of community, where allotments holders support and help each other.

This local green space is also full of wildlife, with many birds, insects and mammals. Sightings include, snakes, foxes, badgers, owls.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The space is of special community value, as described above.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	Approx. 0.47 Ha
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	It is designated as a Protected National Landscape (AONB) & Green Belt.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is in the centre of Eynsford. It is within walking distance of the residential communities that access the space.