

#### **AGENDA**

#### **Kent County Council**

#### REGULATION COMMITTEE MEMBER PANEL

Tuesday, 15th November, 2011, at 1.00 pm Ask for: Andrew Tait Westgate Hall, Canterbury Telephone 01622 694342

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the meeting

#### Membership

Mr M J Harrison (Chairman), Mr A D Crowther (Vice-Chairman), Mr H J Craske, Mr S J G Koowaree and Mr R A Pascoe

#### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

- 1. Membership and Substitutes
- **2.** Declarations of Interest for Items on the Agenda
- 3. Application to register land at Woodland Road at Lyminge as a new Village Green (Pages 1 22)
- **4.** Application to register land known as Seaton Meadow at Wickhambreaux as a new Village Green (Pages 23 52)
- **5.** Other items which the Chairman decides are Urgent

#### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Peter Sass Head of Democratic Services (01622) 694002

Monday, 7 November 2011



# Application to register land at Woodland Road at Lyminge as a new Village Green

A report by the Head of Countryside Access to Kent County Council's Regulation Committee Member Panel on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Recommendation: I recommend that a non-statutory Public Inquiry be held into the case to clarify the issues

Local Members: Ms. S. Carey Unrestricted item

#### Introduction

1. The County Council has received an application to register land at Woodland Road in the parish of Lyminge as a new Village Green from local resident Mr. S. Huntley ("the Applicant"). The application, dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010, was allocated the application number VGA628. A plan of the site is shown at **Appendix A** to this report and a copy of the application form is attached at **Appendix B**.

#### **Procedure**

- 2. The application has been made under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 and the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008.
- 3. Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 enables any person to apply to a Commons Registration Authority to register land as a Village Green where it can be shown that:
  - 'a significant number of the inhabitants of any locality, or of any neighbourhood within a locality, have indulged as of right in lawful sports and pastimes on the land for a period of at least 20 years:
- 4. In addition to the above, the application must meet one of the following tests:
  - Use of the land has continued 'as of right' until at least the date of application (section 15(2) of the Act); or
  - Use of the land 'as of right' ended no more than two years prior to the date of application, e.g. by way of the erection of fencing or a notice (section 15(3) of the Act); or
  - Use of the land 'as of right' ended before 6<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and the application has been made within five years of the date the use 'as of right' ended (section 15(4) of the Act).
- 5. As a standard procedure set out in the 2008 Regulations, the Applicant must notify the landowner of the application and the County Council must notify every local authority. The County Council must also publicise the application in a newspaper circulating in the local area and place a copy of the notice on the County Council's website. In addition, as a matter of best practice rather than legal requirement, the County Council also places copies of the notice on site to provide local people with the opportunity to comment on the application. The

publicity must state a period of at least six weeks during which objections and representations can be made.

#### The application site

- 6. The area of land subject to this application is referred to in the associated documentation by several names, including 'church field' and 'the bumpy field'. For the purposes of this report, it is referred to only as "the application site".
- 7. The application site consists of an area of open and uncultivated land of approximately 1.4 hectares (3.6 acres) in size situated adjacent to the village hall at Woodland Road in the parish of Lyminge. It is situated on a reasonably steep incline and access to it is via various recorded Public Rights of Way which cross the site (Public Footpaths HE54 and HE56, and Bridleway HE55).
- 8. The application site, and the Public Rights of Way, are shown in more detail on the plan at **Appendix A**.

#### The case

- 9. The application has been made on the grounds that the application site has become a Town or Village Green by virtue of the actual use of the land by the local inhabitants for a range of recreational activities 'as of right' for more than 20 years.
- 10. Included in the application were 85 user evidence questionnaires from local residents demonstrating use of the application site for a range of recreational activities for a period in excess of 20 years. A summary of the evidence in support of the application is attached at **Appendix C**.
- 11. In addition, letters of support from the Parish Council and the local Community Warden were also included with the application.

#### **Consultations**

- 12. Consultations have been carried out as required and the following comments have been received.
- 13. The Lyminge Parish Council wrote to express support for the application. The Parish Council stated that the application site had undoubtedly been open for use by members of the public in Lyminge for well over 20 years. Some local residents recall using it for more than 50 years. The land has, on occasion, been used for both grazing and car parking.
- 14. The Shepway District Council did not express any opinion either in support of or in opposition to the application. It stated only that District Council did not have any proprietary interest in the application site, which is in the ownership of the Tory Family Foundation.
- 15.A letter of support was also received from local resident Ms. C. Hughes, referring to her own recreational usage of the application site since 1989. She adds that she has observed many people using the land for horse riding, walking, mountain-

biking, skateboarding and tobogganing. The site has also been used for community events such as the millennium fireworks celebrations.

#### Landowner

- 16. The application site is owned by a registered charity known as the Tory Family Foundation ("the Foundation") and is registered with the HM Land Registry under title number K674394.
- 17. An objection to the application has been received from Cripps Harries Hall solicitors, who act on behalf of the trustees of the Tory Family Foundation. The objection is made on the following grounds:
  - That use of the land has not been such as to signify that the land has been in use by the residents of a specified locality;
  - That the use of the land has been so infrequent and of such low intensity that its appearance was more akin to individuals using the land as trespassers rather than general community use;
  - That a considerable amount of use was either 'by right' in exercise of the existing Public Rights of Way which cross the land or by virtue of permission granted by the landowner for specified community events;
  - That any use of the application site for recreational purposes would have been interrupted on several occasions due to the use of the land for car parking, an archaeological dig and sheep grazing; and
  - That any use of the application site for recreational purposes would not have been such as to suggest to a landowner that a right to recreate was being asserted by the local people.
- 18. In support of the objection, a statutory declaration from Mr. P. Tory, one of the trustees of the Tory Family Foundation, is provided. In it, Mr. Tory explains that he formed the Foundation as a charity with his father in 1984, and gifted the land forming the application site to the Foundation in 1988. Until 1993, the land was used by Mr. Tory (who also owned the nearby Court Lodge Farm) for sheep grazing, which involved daily visit by either Mr. Tory himself or one of his employees. Although it was apparent from these visits that the public used the recorded Public Rights of Way, general recreational use was not apparent. Over recent years, permission has been sought for various activities and, in the summer of 2010, part of the application site was cordoned off for a period of six weeks for the purpose of an archaeological dig.
- 19. Also included with the objection is a statutory declaration from the solicitor representing the Tory Family Foundation, Ms. A. Rogers, setting out examples of permission sought from the Village Hall Management Committee to use the application site. These include permission for bonfire celebrations in 2002 and for car parking in relation to Lyminge Day in 2003, 2006 and 2007.

#### Legal tests

- 20. In dealing with an application to register a new Town or Village Green the County Council must consider the following criteria:
  - (a) Whether use of the land has been 'as of right'?
  - (b) Whether use of the land has been for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes?

- (c) Whether use has been by a significant number of inhabitants of a particular locality, or a neighbourhood within a locality?
- (d) Whether use of the land 'as of right' by the inhabitants has continued up until the date of application or meets one of the criteria set out in sections 15(3) or (4)?
- (e) Whether use has taken place over period of twenty years or more?

I shall now take each of these points and elaborate on them individually:

#### (a) Whether use of the land has been 'as of right'?

- 21. The definition of the phrase 'as of right' has been considered by the House of Lords. Following the judgement in the Sunningwell<sup>1</sup> case, it is considered that if a person uses the land for a required period of time without force, secrecy or permission ("nec vi, nec clam, nec precario"), and the landowner does not stop him or advertise the fact that he has no right to be there, then rights are acquired.
- 22. In this case, there is no suggestion that use of the application site for recreational purposes has been in exercise of force. Access to the application site is freely available from at least four points on the boundary of the site by virtue of the existence of the Public Rights of Way, and there is no evidence that the Public Rights of Way have ever been fenced off from the rest of the site so as to physically restrict use to the existing paths. No evidence has been submitted to suggest that general recreational use of the application site has ever been challenged by way of notices or by way of verbal challenges by the landowner.
- 23. Similarly, although the landowner disputes the frequency and manner of use (a point which will be addressed later on in the report), there is no evidence that recreational use of the application site has been in any way secretive.
- 24. The landowner contends that on some occasions use of the application site has been by virtue of the express permission of the landowner. Those occasions include use of the site for community events, either for bonfire night celebrations or car parking for the annual Lyminge Day celebrations. The applicant accepts this point, but argues that the application does not seek to rely on these events in support of the Village Green status. The general informal recreational activities referred to in the application have taken place 'as of right' and without the landowner's permission.

Public Rights of Way

- 25. The landowner's position is that a considerable amount of the recreational use of the application site is associated with the designated Public Rights of Way. In his statutory declaration, Mr. Tory states that during his visits to the application site, he was aware of members of the public making use of the Public Rights of Way crossing the application site, but he did not witness any use which exceeded the exercise of those Public Rights of Way.
- 26. Use of existing Public Rights of Way across land is not considered to be 'as of right' in the context of Village Green applications, because it is in exercise of an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> R v. Oxfordshire County Council and another, Sunningwell Parish Council [1999] 3 All ER 385

- existing right and would not have appeared to a reasonable landowner as the assertion of a right to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes on the application site.
- 27. Therefore, in cases where Public Rights of Way cross an application site, it is important to be able to differentiate between use which is pursuant to an existing right to walk or ride a horse along a defined route and use which is of a more general recreational nature. The issue was considered by the Courts in Laing Homes<sup>2</sup>, in which the judge said that: 'it is important to distinguish between use that would suggest to a reasonable landowner that the users believed they were exercising a public right of way to walk, with or without dogs... and use that would suggest to such a landowner that the users believed that they were exercising a right to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes across the whole of the fields'
- 28. The exercise of distinguishing between these different types of use is something that is very difficult to achieve on paper. It is a question of evidence that requires more detailed scrutiny, preferably by way of the cross examination of witnesses in a public forum.

### (b) Whether use of the land has been for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes?

- 29. Lawful sports and pastimes can be commonplace activities including dog walking, children playing, picnicking and kite-flying. It is not necessary to demonstrate that both sporting activities *and* pastimes have taken place since the phrase 'lawful sports and pastimes' has been interpreted by the Courts as being a single composite group rather than two separate classes of activities<sup>3</sup>.
- 30. Legal principle does not require that rights of this nature be limited to certain ancient pastimes (such as maypole dancing) or for organised sports or communal activities to have taken place. The Courts have held that 'dog walking and playing with children [are], in modern life, the kind of informal recreation which may be the main function of a village green'4.
- 31. In this case, the evidence demonstrates that the land has been used for a number of recreational activities. The summary of evidence of use by local residents at **Appendix C** shows the full range of activities claimed to have taken place, which include cycling, fruit-picking, nature observation and tobogganing. There is also reference in the evidence to use of the application site for the purposes of organised community events, although it is probable that those events would have been the subject of permission from the landowner and thereby any use of the land associated with those events is likely to have been permissive.
- 32. However, by far the majority use of the application site has been for the purposes of walking (with or without dogs). As stated above, there is a question as to the degree of use which has been on the recorded Public Rights of Way which requires further clarification before a conclusion can be reached.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> R (Laing Homes) v Buckinghamshire County Council [2003] 3 EGLR 70 at 79 per Sullivan

R v. Oxfordshire County Council and another, Sunningwell Parish Council [1999]
 All ER 385
 R v Suffolk County Council, ex parte Steed [1995]
 P&CR 487 at 508 and approved by Lord

Hoffman in *R v. Oxfordshire County Council*, ex parte Sunningwell Parish Council [1999] 3 All ER 385

### (c) Whether use has been by a significant number of inhabitants of a particular locality, or a neighbourhood within a locality?

33. The right to use a Town or Village Green is restricted to the inhabitants of a locality, or of a neighbourhood within a locality, and it is therefore important to be able to define this area with a degree of accuracy so that the group of people to whom the recreational rights are attached can be identified.

"locality"

- 34. The definition of locality for the purposes of a Town or Village Green application has been the subject of much debate in the Courts. In the Cheltenham Builders<sup>5</sup> case, it was considered that '...at the very least, Parliament required the users of the land to be the inhabitants of somewhere that could sensibly be described as a locality... there has to be, in my judgement, a sufficiently cohesive entity which is capable of definition'. The judge later went on to suggest that this might mean that locality should normally constitute 'some legally recognised administrative division of the county'.
- 35. Further guidance in relation to the issue of locality is provided in the relevant Regulations, which require applicants to describe the locality upon which their case relies by reference to the name of a parish, electoral ward or other local administrative area<sup>6</sup>.
- 36. The Applicant specifies the locality at Part 6 of the application form as "the parish of Lyminge". This is a qualifying locality for the purposes of Village Green registration. A plan showing the locality is attached at **Appendix D**.

"a significant number"

- 37. The word "significant" in this context does not mean considerable or substantial: 'a neighbourhood may have a very limited population and a significant number of the inhabitants of such a neighbourhood might not be so great as to properly be described as a considerable or a substantial number... what matters is that the number of people using the land in question has to be sufficient to indicate that the land is in general use by the community for informal recreation rather than occasional use by individuals as trespassers'. Thus, what constitutes a 'significant number' will depend upon the local environment and will vary in each case depending upon the location of the application site.
- 38. The landowner disputes that the application site has been of sufficient quantity to signify that the land has been in general use by the local community or to suggest that a right to recreate was being asserted by the residents of the locality. Rather, it is suggested by the landowner that general recreational use of the site for lawful sports and pastimes has been infrequent and of low-level intensity.
- 39. The applicant contends this assertion, stating that the photographs and letters submitted in support of the application provide clear evidence of the use of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> R (Cheltenham Builders Ltd.) v South Gloucestershire District Council [2004] 1 EGLR 85 at 90

See paragraph 9 of Schedule 6 of the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008
 R (Alfred McAlpine Homes Ltd.) v Staffordshire County Council [2002] EWHC 76 at paragraph 71

- application site for recreational purposes. A number of well-worn unofficial tracks that are not recorded Public Rights of Way are visible on aerial photographs of the site which, according to the applicant, indicate a high level of usage.
- 40. It difficult to reconcile the differences in the landowner's recollections and the user evidence adduced in support of the application by the applicant. The fact that the application is supported by 85 user evidence questionnaires, many from people asserting use on a daily or weekly basis, means that, on balance, it seems probable that the land has been used by a significant number of the residents of the locality.

## (d) Whether use of the land by the inhabitants is continuing up until the date of application or meets one of the criteria set out in sections 15(3) or (4)?

- 41. The Commons Act 2006 requires use of the land to have taken place 'as of right' up until the date of application or, if such use has ceased prior to the making of the application, to fulfil one of the alternative criterion set out in sections 15(3) and 15(4) of the 2006 Act.
- 42. In this case, there is no evidence of any direct challenge to the use of the application site for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes by the local community. Therefore, it can be concluded that the use of the application site has continued up to, and in this case beyond, the date of the application.

#### (e) Whether use has taken place over a period of twenty years or more?

- 43. In order to qualify for registration, it must be shown that the land in question has been used for a full period of twenty years. In this case, use of the application site 'as of right' is continuing and, as such, the relevant twenty-year period ("the material period") is calculated retrospectively from the date of the application, i.e. 1990 to 2010.
- 44. The user evidence summarised at **Appendix C** demonstrates that there has been use of the application site in excess of the last twenty years.
- 45. However, the landowner asserts that any use of the application site for lawful sports and pastimes would have been interrupted on several occasions, due to the use of the land for car parking, an archaeological dig and sheep grazing.
- 46. The applicant's position is that the use of the land for car parking lasted only approximately four hours on each occasion and was therefore an inconsequential interruption to use when considering the twenty year period as a whole. The archaeological dig, according to the applicant, took place after the application was made and is therefore of no relevance. With regard to the sheep grazing, the applicant states that this actually encouraged, rather than deterred, use of the application site as the grass was kept short, thereby making it more suitable for recreation.
- 47. Considering the evidence as a whole, it does not appear that the examples cited by the landowner would necessarily or materially have interrupted the recreational use of the land. In particular, the geography of the site and the existence of the Public Rights of Way would have significantly limited the areas of the application

site capable of use for car parking and, even if small parts of the application site were temporarily inaccessible, other sections would have been available for recreational use. Such interruptions to use as did occur during the relevant twenty year period would appear to have been occasional and sporadic, and consequently not of a substantial nature.

48. As such, it would appear that there has been use of the application site for a full period of no less than twenty years.

#### Conclusion

- 49. Although the relevant Regulations<sup>8</sup> provide a framework for the initial stages of processing the application (e.g. advertising the application, dealing with objections etc), they provide little guidance with regard to the procedure that a Commons Registration Authority should follow in considering and determining the application. In recent times it has become relatively commonplace, in cases which are particularly emotive or where the application turns on disputed issues of fact, for Registration Authorities to conduct a non-statutory Public Inquiry<sup>9</sup>. This involves appointing an independent Inspector to hear the relevant evidence and report his/her findings back to the Registration Authority.
- 50. Such an approach has received positive approval by the Courts, most notably in the Whitmey<sup>10</sup> case in which Waller LJ said this: 'the registration authority has to consider both the interests of the landowner and the possible interest of the local inhabitants. That means that there should not be any presumption in favour of registration or any presumption against registration. It will mean that, in any case where there is a serious dispute, a registration authority will almost invariably need to appoint an independent expert to hold a public inquiry, and find the requisite facts, in order to obtain the proper advice before registration'.
- 51.It is important to remember, as was famously quoted by the Judge in another High Court case 11, that 'it is no trivial matter for a landowner to have land, whether in public or private ownership, registered as a town green... [the relevant legal tests] must be 'properly and strictly proved'. This means that it is of paramount importance for a Registration Authority to ensure that, before taking a decision, it has all of the relevant facts available upon which to base a sound decision. It should be recalled that the only means of appeal against the Registration Authority's decision is by way of a Judicial Review in the High Court.
- 52. In this case, nearly all of the witnesses refer to use of the application site for walking of some kind. Whilst recreational walking across the application site as a whole would count as qualifying use, some of the evidence cited by the recreational users of the application site refers to horse-riding and using the land as a shortcut to amenities. Due to the several Public Rights of Way which cross

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Public Inquiry is referred to as being 'non-statutory' because the Commons Act 2006 does not expressly confer any powers on the Commons Registration Authority to hold a Public Inquiry. However, Local Authorities do have a general power to do any thing to facilitate the discharge of any of their functions and this is contained in section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> R (Whitmey) v Commons Commissioners [2004] EWCA Civ 951 at paragraph 66

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> R v Suffolk County Council, ex parte Steed [1997] 1EGLR 131 at 134

the land, it is necessary to differentiate between those different types of walking in order to determine whether the use of the application site has been in a manner that is capable of giving rise to the registration of the land as a new Village Green. This is not an exercise which can be achieved on paper, and requires further and fuller examination of the evidence as a whole.

53.A Public Inquiry would not only facilitate this, but it would also allow the other issues disputed by the landowner to be tested, including the effect of the alleged interruptions to use and whether use has been by a significant number of local residents.

#### Recommendation

54. I recommend that a non-statutory Public Inquiry be held into the case to clarify the issues.

Accountable Officer:

Mr. Mike Overbeke – Tel: 01622 221512 or Email: mike.overbeke@kent.gov.uk Case Officer:

Miss. Melanie McNeir – Tel: 01622 221628 or Email: melanie.mcneir@kent.gov.uk

The main file is available for viewing on request at the Environment and Waste Division, Environment and Regeneration Directorate, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone. Please contact the case officer for further details.

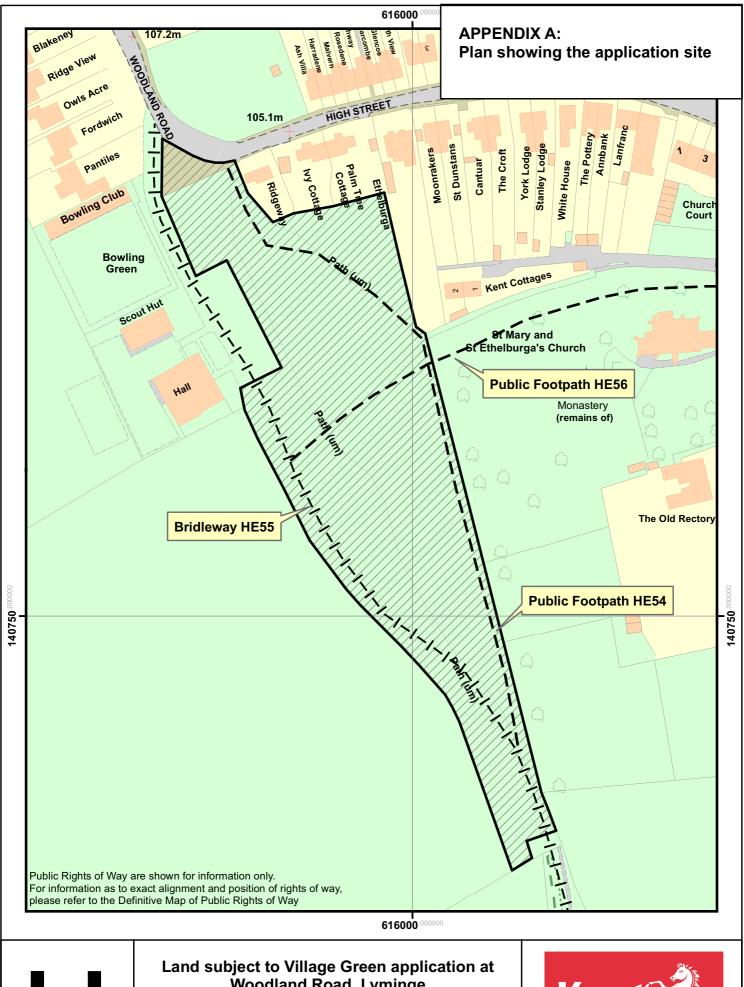
#### **Background documents**

APPENDIX A – Plan showing application site

APPENDIX B – Copy of application form

APPENDIX C – Table summarising user evidence

APPENDIX D – Plan showing the locality





Woodland Road, Lyminge





#### **FORM CA9**

ommons Act 2006: section 15

APPENDIX B:
Copy of application form

# Application for the registration of land as a new Town or Village Green



	section			

Official stamp of the Registration Authority indicating date of receipt:

COMMONS ACT 2006 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL REGISTRATION AUTHORITY 1 2 JUL 2010 Application number:

VGA628

VG number allocated at registration (if application is successful):

#### Note to applicants

Applicants are advised to read the 'Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 (changes to the commons registers): Guidance to applicants in the pilot implementation areas' and to note the following:

- All applicants should complete parts 1–6 and 10–12.
- Applicants applying for registration under section 15(1) of the 2006 Act should, in addition, complete
  parts 7 and 8. Any person can apply to register land as a green where the criteria for registration in
  section 15(2), (3) or (4) apply.
- Applicants applying for voluntary registration under section 15(8) should, in addition, complete part
   9. Only the owner of the land can apply under section 15(8).
- There is no fee for applications under section 15.

#### Note 1 Insert name of Commons Registration Authority

#### 1. Commons Registration Authority

To the: KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SESSIONS HOUSE
COUNTY ROAD

MAIDSTONE

ME14 IXQ

Note 2 If there is more than one applicant, list all names. Use a sparate sheet if necessary. State the full title of the organisation if the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporate. If you supply an email address in the box provided, you may receive communications from the Registration Authority or other persons (e.g. objectors) via email. If part 3 is not completed all correspondence and notices will be sent to the first named applicant.	2. Name and address of the applicant  Name: STEPHEN DENNIS HUNICT  Full postal address: (incl. Postcode)  Telephone number: (incl. national dialling code)  Fax number: (incl. national dialling code)  E-mail address:
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Note 3 This part should be completed if representative, e.g. a solicitor, is instructed for the purposes of the application. If so all correspondence and notices will be sent to the person or firm named here. If you supply an email address in the box provided, you may receive communications from the Registration Authority or other persons (e.g. objectors) via email.	3. Name and address of representative, if any Name: Firm: Full postal address: (incl. Postcode)
	Telephone number:
	(incl. national dialling code)
	Fax number: (incl. national dialling code)
	E-mail address:
•	
Note 4	4. Basis of application for registration and qualifying criteria
For further details of the requirements of an application refer to Schedule 4, paragraph 9 to the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008.	If you are the landowner and are seeking voluntarily to register your land please tick this box and move to question 5. Application made under section 15(8): □
	If the application is made under section 15(1) of the Act, please tick one of the following boxes to indicate which particular subsection and qualifying criterion applies to the case.
	Section 15(2) applies:
	Section 15(3) applies: □
	Section 15(4) applies: □
	   Page 12
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	If section 15(3) or (4) applies, please indicate the date on which you consider that use 'as of right' ended and why:
*Section 15(6) enables any period of statutory closure where access to the land is denied to be disregarded in determining the 20 year period.	If section 15(6)* is being relied upon in determining the period of 20 years, indicate the period of statutory closure (if any) which needs to be disregarded:
ote 5 . nis part is to identify the new green. The accompanying map	5. Description and particulars of the area of land in respect of which application for registration is made
must be at a scale of at least 1:2,500 and shows the land by means of distinctive colouring within an accurately identified boundary. State the Land	Name by which usually known: The Green, The Bumpy Field, Court Lodge Green.
Registry title number where known.	Location: LAND REGISTRY STATES "LAND ON THE SOUTH WEST SIDE OF WOODLAND ROAD, LYMINGE"
	LAND REGISTRY TITLE NUMBER: K 674394
	Common Land register unit number (only if the land is already registered Common Land):
	Please tick the box to confirm that you have attached a map of the land (at a scale of at least 1:2,500):  (Included in Land Registra details)
Note 6 It may be possible to indicate the locality of the green by	6. Locality or neighbourhood within a locality in respect of which the application is made
reference to an administrative area, such as a parish or electoral ward, or other area sufficiently defined by name (such as a village). If this is not possible a map should be	Indicate the locality (or neighbourhood within the locality) to which the claimed green relates by writing the administrative area or geographical area by name below and/or by attaching a map on which the area is clearly marked:
provided on which a locality or neighbourhood is marked clearly at a scale of 1:10,000.	In the parish of Lyminge.
	Please tick here if a map is attached (at a scale of 1:10,000): □
	Page 13

#### Note 7

Applicants should provide a summary of the case for gistration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

# 7. Justification for application to register the land as a Town or Village Green

The Green, Lyminge, is used on a daily basis by a significant number of local people, and it represents an important recreational amenity for the village.

It has been used by poishiners for generations, with the use of it regarded as a right, and therefore this application is being made to secure that right for future generations.

The field is known by many names, most popularly "The Green", but also aftertionately as "The Bumpy Field", and "Hump and Bumps". These names reflect the unique topography of the field, which is not only on a slope, but contains many interesting dips, hollows, ridges and historical earthworks.

These features give The Green its unique charm, where children play, make camps, ride bikes and go sledging in the winter. Walkers, dog walkers, runners and horse riders use the land daily, not only adhering to the footpaths, but using the expanse of the area.

Permission is not sought from the Landowners for these uses, and use has never been denied.

The Green also contains the only old pand in the village. This seasonal pond adds to the amenity and habitat valve of the field.

This application is supported by witness statements (see enclosed questionnaires) and a separate 'Justification report' document enclosed.

#### Note 8

Use a separate sheet if necessary. This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

8. Name and address of every person whom the applicant believes to be an owner, lessee, proprietor of any "relevant charge", tenant or occupier of any part of the land claimed to be a town or village green

According to the Land Registry Title Plan K674394 (enclosed), the owners are: Peter NettlemTory, Susan Amanda Rice, and James Nettlam Tory, all of Etchinghill.

The Property Register also makes reference to a charty known as "The Tory Family Foundation".

It is believed that the owners can be contacted via: The Estate Office, Etchinghill Golf Course, etchinghill.

#### Note 9

List or enter in the form all such declarations that accompany e application. This can include any written declarations sent to the applicant (i.e. a letter), and also any such declarations made on the form itself. 9. Voluntary registration – declarations of consent from any relevant leaseholder of, and of the proprietor of any relevant charge over, the land

#### Note 10

List all supporting consents, documents and maps accompanying the application. Evidence of ownership of the land must be included for sluntarily registration applications. There is no need to submit copies of documents issued by the Registration Authority or to which it was a party but they should still be listed. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

#### 10. Supporting documentation

Enclosed with this application one

- · A copy of the Land Registry Register for Title Number K674394 including a 1:2,500 scale plan.
- · A document entitled "Justification for the application to register "The Green', Lyminge, as a Village Green information to support Question 7 of form CA9".
- · A copy of a 1:25,000 map annotated with the indicative locations of the homes of questionaire respondents.
- · In exess of 60 completed "Evidence Questionaires in support of Village Green Application".

It should be noted that additional completed questionaires will be sent to the commons Registration Authority at a later date.

#### Note 11

List any other matters which should be brought to the attention of the Registration Authority (in particular if a person interested in the land is expected to challenge the application for registration). Full details should be given here or on a separate sheet if necessary.

#### 11. Any other information relating to the application

It is believed that at least two of the owners of the field (as listed in the Land Registry papers) are Directors of at least one property development company Known as Pentland Homes Ltd., Pentland Properties Ltd., or similar.

#### Note 12

The application must be signed by each individual applicant, or / the authorised officer of an applicant which is a body corporate or unincorporate.

#### 12. Signature

Signature(s) of applicant(s):



Date:

5th July 2000.

#### REMINDER TO APPLICANT

You are responsible for telling the truth in presenting the application and accompanying evidence. You may commit a criminal offence if you deliberately provide misleading or untrue evidence and if you do so you may be prosecuted. You are advised to keep a copy of the application and all associated documentation.

#### Please send your completed application form to:

The Commons Registration Team ent County Council Countryside Access Service Invicta House County Hall Maidstone Kent ME14 1XX

#### Data Protection Act 1998

The application and any representations made cannot be treated as confidential. To determine the application it will be necessary for the Commons Registration Authority to disclose information received from you to others, which may include other local authorities, Government Departments, public bodies, other organisations and members of the public.

A copy of this form and any accompanying documents may be disclosed upon receipt of a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of 'nformation Act 2000.

#### APPENDIX C: Summary of user evidence

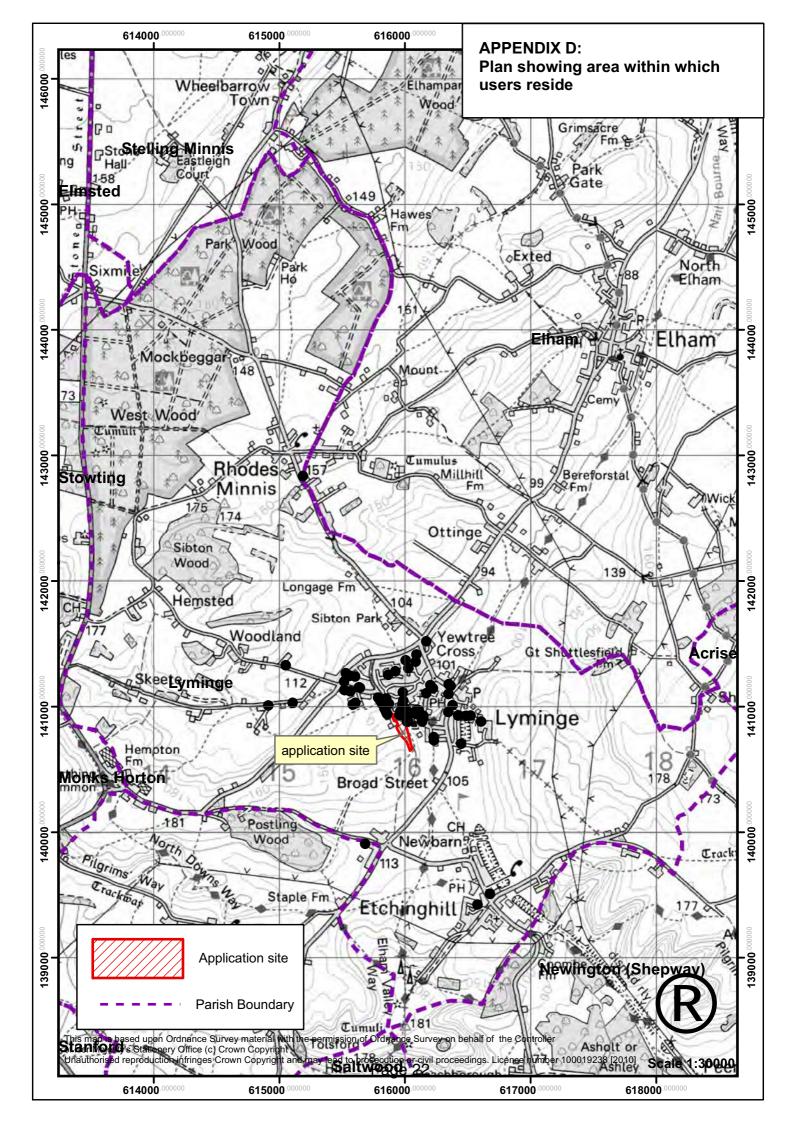
NAME	PERIOD OF USE	ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY OF USE	COMMENTS
Adam Woodbridge	29 years	Walking, sledging, playing as child, cycling, dog walking	Weekly	Seen others daily walking, playing, picnics.
Gill Clitheroe	24 years	Walking, playing with children, tobogganing, enjoying views	Daily, now weekly	Seen other use daily: playing, dog walking, cycling, on way to shops and school. It's a local amenity.
Brett Clitheroe	23 years	Family walks, playing with children, fireworks, nature walks, accessing village	Daily	People socialise, play, walk, cycle, access village halls etc. One of most used public spaces in village
Mr & Mrs Norton	17 years	Walking & dog walking, use shortcut to village	Weekly	Outstanding area of beauty for village. Seen other use daily
Joan White	40 years	Walking, horse riding on bridleway	Daily, then weekly, now monthly	Seen others playing, walking, tobogganing, socialising
Mrs S Jones	39 years	Walking with children & grandchildren, sketching,	Weekly/monthly	Seen others playing, walking, sledging
John Steward	50 years	Walking, dog walking, sketching	Occasionally	Seen others walking, dog walking, playing, firework display, sledging. Always been widely viewed as village facility
G Wren	53 years	Walking with grandchildren, sledging, walking dog	Occasionally	Seen other use daily
J Betts	67 years	Dog walking, horse riding, scout games, school games	Occasionally	Seen other use daily; walking, games, riding
Mr & Mrs D Hall	35 years	Monthly parish walks, dog walking, horse riding, village activities	Daily/weekly	Seen other use daily, playing, walking, village activities
Paul Woodbridge	30 years	Dog walking, sledging, mountain biking	Daily	Seen other use daily, walking, horse riding,
Mr & Mrs Coldup	50 years	Walking, children playing, sledging	Occasionally	Others riding, walking
M Fentiman	6 ½ years	Walking	Occasionally	See others walking
Mr & Mrs Knowles	7 years	Dog walking, playing, village events, observing land formation	Daily	Other use walking, playing, cycling, pond cleaning. Consider it site of historical and archaeological interest.
T Wright	22 years	Dog walking, fireworks, children's BMX and cycling	Weekly	Other use walking, children playing, riding, cycling
R Gibson	23 years	Dog walking, sledging in winter	Daily	See others walking, mountain biking, bonfire night, sledging
Mrs D Parker	14 years	Walking, New Year celebrations	Monthly	Others walking, Bonfire Night.
Mr S Wren	37 years	Sledging & playing as children, dog walking, mountain biking	Daily / weekly over the years	1984-87 moved away. Seen other daily use walking, biking, playing "the place the whole village went sledging every winter"
Mrs J Tugwell	87 years	As child, teachers would take lessons on land in hot weather; sledging in winter, fireworks night	Very often, less now	Other use dog walking, children playing

Mrs D Cross	28 years	Walking with friends & family	Monthly	See other sledging in winter
G Stanley	25 years	Walking & tobogganing with family	Monthly	Others dog walking & sledging. Sheep once grazed land
Wg Cmdr J Long	9 years	Dog walking, walking	Weekly	Seen others daily, walking and horse riding. Quiet and peaceful place important
Mrs S Huntley	8 years	Walking to Village Hall, dog walking, family games, cycling, sledging in winter, blackberrying	Approx 3 times a week	House overlooks the land & can see constant stream of people – walkers, children, all ages with different uses. Integral part of community for successive generations, immeasurable positive benefits to all village
R & M Sillwood	70 years	School sports, sledging, walking, dog walking	Occasionally	Seen others horse riding
Mrs P Martin	60 years	Sledging, picnics, bike riding, walking, playing as child, pond dipping, BMX	Occasionally	Often seen others dog walking, horse riding
Helen Burr	50 years	As child: playing sledging, making camps, ball games, school nature lessons, climbing trees. As adult: walking, dog walking, blackberrying	Weekly; daily as child	See others horse riding, cycling, skating, sledging, running, scout groups, playing. Five generations of family have enjoyed the Green
Vera Law	50 years	Walking, dog walking, playing with children & grandchildren	Occasionally	See others walking & children playing. School use it for projects, was traditionally grazed by sheep
Mark Yorke	45 years	Dog walking, sledging, kite flying, BMX	Daily	Seen others horse riding, walking, cub & scout groups. The Green part of my life & now my sons.
Mr & Mrs Kyte	40 years	Sledging, cycling, walking, football	Daily	Others riding, dog walking, biking, sledging
Susan Easton	42 years	Dog walking, sledging, blackberrying, enjoying nature with children, cycling, children playing	Daily	Seen others use: Horse riding, walking, sledging. Worked at Playschool and took children on Nature walks and pond dipping.
Steven Waite	15 years	Dog walking, family walks	Weekly	Seen others playing, walking daily
James Butcher	12 years	Dog walking, cycling, sledging	Weekly	Seen others walking, sledging, bonfire fireworks
Patsy Philip	24 years	Walking, picking fruit, teaching children about nature & pond life, children cycled, sledging	Daily	Seen others walking, cycling, sledging, picnicking, firework displays, scout groups, ball games – daily. Also area of great historical interest
Duncan Harrington	21 years	Walking dog, sledging, fireworks, children playing (now grown up)	Weekly	Seen others walking & playing
Mr & Mrs S Cunningha m	26 years	Dog walking, children playing, tobogganing, nature studies	Daily	Seen others reading, sitting, walking, BMX, tobogganing, playing
Mr & Mrs Woodbridge	35 years	Horse riding, dog walking, walking, sledging	Daily	Seen others walking, playing, sledging. Use by school.
Frederick	35 years	Walking, dog walking, playing with	Daily/weekly	Seen others use daily – walking, playing

Leyser		children & grandchildren, sledging		
P Reynolds	10 yeas	Dog walking, fruit picking, nature trails	Weekly	Seen others walking, cycling, horse riding, games, children playing, sledging - daily
R Edmond	25 years	Dog walking, horse riding, tobogganing, fruit picking,	Daily/weekly	See others daily, walking, playing
Gill Colao	18years	Horse riding, dog walking, playing with children, cycling	Daily/weekly	See others daily walking, playing
Sarah Miller	6 years	Walking, nature watching, dog walking, tobogganing	Daily	See others daily walking, dog walking, children playing & on nature trails, tobogganing
Mr & Mrs Martin	31 years	Dog walking	Weekly	See others daily walking & children playing
Emma Harvey	12 years	Playing with children, fruit picking, nature trailing	Weekly	See others daily playing, cycling, dog walking
Mrs D Bloomfield	10 years	Taken pre-school for games & play, dog walking, nature walks with children	Weekly/ occasionally	Seen others daily walking, cycling, horse riding
Mr & Mrs J Gredley	18 years	Horse riding, dog walking, tobogganing, mountain biking	Weekly	Seen others daily dog walking, children's games, biking
Mr & Mrs J Leadbetter	10 years	Walking, grandson uses for sports practise	Weekly	See others daily dog walking, cycling, kite flying, football
Mrs J Fry	25 years	Treasure hunts, nature studies, cubs groups etc.	Twice a month, more in summer	See others walking, sports, riding. I run the local Beaver scout group & all scout & guide local groups use the land extensively
J Gretton	28 years	Walking dogs, tobogganing in winter	Weekly	
Joe Whalen	25 years	Dog walking, playing	Occasionally	
Adrian Hackford	12 years	Walking, blackberrying, place to think	Daily	See others daily walking, blackberrying, cycling, playing
Toby Griggs	30 years	Playing as child, dog walking, cycling	Monthly, more frequently as child	See others daily horse riding, walking, playing
Eleanor Clayson	40 years	Dog walking	Daily recently, used to be weekly	See others daily walking, horse riding, cycling, playing
Laurence Peacock	26 years	Walking, biking, sledging	Monthly	See others walking & playing daily
John Piddock	33 years	Walking, visiting church, community events	Weekly	See others daily walking, riding, cycling, village hall events
Michael Foxon	13 years	Walking, cycling, sledging in winter, girl guide trails, community events inc. tidy up	Weekly on average	See others most days walking, cycling, children playing, socialising, kite flying
Georgina Philip	25 years	Walking, picnics, sledging when winter, art classes with Primary school	Monthly	See others walking, picnics, horse riding daily

Susan Wiltshire	15 years	Walking	Occasionally	See others walking, playing, picnicking, horse riding
Keith Munro	10 years	Running, dog walking, bird watching, wildlife observing	Daily	See others daily dog walking, horse riding, biking, sledging in winter, running, fruit picking
Mr & Mrs R Harper	4 years	Walking	Weekly	See dog walkers, horse riders, children playing, sledging in winter – daily basis
Mr D McKnight	5 years	Dog walking	Occasionally	See others occasionally walking, riding
Pam Wooding	38 years	Walking & sledging in winter	Weekly now, less in childhood	See others most days riding, cycling, walking
Andrew Sillwood	29 years	Walking, sledging in winter	Occasionally	See others walking
Mr D Ryan	11 years	Dog walking, general walks	Weekly	See others walking, cycling, horse riding, most days
Tara Ryan	11 years	Dog walking, blackberry picking, firework display	Weekly	See others running, riding, children playing – daily
Kevin Ryan	11 years	Dog walking, leisure walking	Weekly	See others walking, cycling, horse riding, children playing, firework displays
Mrs A Baker	11 years	Dog walking, girl guide leader & uses for games & activities	2-3 times a week	See others riding, dog walking, rambling. Other scout & guide groups use land regularly
Benjamin Osbourne	27 years	Dog walking, cycling, games, tobogganing in winter	Monthly, more when younger	See others most days walking, cycling, playing games, horse riding
Mrs J Low	36 years	Played there as child, sledging in winter, walking, nature trails with own child	Occasionally, more when younger	See others walking, riding, pre-school & Primary school groups, kite flying, bikes, sledging in snow
Mrs D Yorke	46 years	Dog walking, taking cubs on hikes, blackberrying	Monthly	See others walking & playing daily
Mr & Mrs O'Brien	6 years	Walking with family	Daily	See others daily walking, riding, sledging in winter
Mr & Mrs M Thomas	11 years	Dog walking, recreation, picnics, kite flying, sledging in snow	Daily	See others walking, general recreation
Mr S Huntley	27 years	Running, fruit picking, play with children, sledge in winter, toy boats in pond, fly kites, dog walking	Daily	See others daily walking, cycling, scout activities, kite flying, games, fruit picking
Edward Osborne	28 years	Walking, dog walking, running, winter games & summer games	Daily, now twice a week	See others dog walking, running, cycling, rambling during week
Patrick Osbourne	28 years	Walking, running, sledging when snowing	Daily	Bonfire displays; see others walking, riding, sledging in winter
Susan Kyte	20 years	Ball games with children, bike riding, tobogganing in snow, exploring pond, help with Beaver & Cub activities	2/3 times a week, more in summer	See others horse riding, bike riding, ball games, walking -daily

ledging in winter Occasionally See others walking, biking	ith & without dog, ing, nature spotting, cycling, cycling, decotions of the spotting of the sp	ng, picking blackberries, Daily Daily see walkers and riders In Snow	alking, children's play,  Daily in summer,  Daily see children playing, biking, horse riding, dog walking, niftees, tobogganing in winter  Use by cubs/Beavers, village events. Approached owner and process in winter and p	nature Weekly now occasionally	with children, r, mountain	olaying, admiring view, Daily /weekly Daily use by others : horse riding, bikes, playing, walking, ring. Ran youth club in dregularly used land	ng, children playing, kite Lots when children See others horse riding, playing, cycling, sledging in winter dging & snow fun in winter now	Monthly See others Walking, sledging in winter
Walking, sledging in winter	Walking with & without dog, blackberrying, nature spotting, children's cycling,	Dog walking, picking blackberr kids sledging in snow	General walking, children's play, village bonfires, tobogganing in	Walking, photograph nature	Dog walking, playing with child tobogganing in winter, mountal biking	ig, playing, adrenting. Ran yandanda regularly	Dog walking, children playing, kite flying, sledging & snow fun in winter	Walking
43 years	28 years	42 years	15 years	27 years	25 years	28 years	15 years	8 years
Mr & Mrs R Hendrick	Georgina Osborne	Mr R Easton	Philip Wilson	Mrs Chitty	David Hunt- Cooke	Jennifer Huntley	Mark Ethell	Karen



# Application to register land known as Seaton Meadow at Wickhambreaux as a new Village Green

A report by the Head of Countryside Access Service to Kent County Council's Regulation Committee Member Panel on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

Recommendation: I recommend that a non-statutory Public Inquiry be held into the case to clarify the issues.

Local Members: Mr. M. Northey Unrestricted item

#### Introduction

1. The County Council has received an application to register land known as Seaton Meadow at Wickhambreaux as a new Town or Village Green from the Wickhambreaux Parish Council ("the Applicant"). The application, made on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010, was allocated reference number VGA627. A plan of the site is shown at Appendix A to this report and a copy of the application form is attached at Appendix B.

#### **Procedure**

- 2. The application has been made under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 and the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008.
- 3. Section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 enables any person to apply to a Commons Registration Authority to register land as a Town or Village Green where it can be shown that:
  - 'a significant number of the inhabitants of any locality, or of any neighbourhood within a locality, have indulged as of right in lawful sports and pastimes on the land for a period of at least 20 years;
- 4. In addition to the above, the application must meet one of the following tests:
  - Use of the land has continued 'as of right' until at least the date of application (section 15(2) of the Act); or
  - Use of the land 'as of right' ended no more than two years prior to the date of application, e.g. by way of the erection of fencing or a notice (section 15(3) of the Act); or
  - Use of the land 'as of right' ended before 6<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and the application has been made within five years of the date the use 'as of right' ended (section 15(4) of the Act).
- 5. As a standard procedure set out in the Regulations, the Applicant must notify the landowner of the application and the County Council must notify every local authority. The County Council must also publicise the application in a newspaper circulating in the local area and place a copy of the notice on the County Council's website. In addition, as a matter of best practice rather than legal requirement, the County Council also places copies of the notice on site to provide local people with

the opportunity to comment on the application. The publicity must state a period of at least six weeks during which objections and representations can be made.

#### The application site

- 6. The area of land subject to this application ("the application site") is known locally as Seaton Meadow and is situated on the south-eastern fringes of the village of Wickhambreaux, although, officially, the land itself falls within the neighbouring parish of Ickham and Well. The application has therefore been made by the Wickhambreaux Parish Council, but it has the full support of Ickham and Well Parish Council.
- 7. The application site consists of approximately 8.5 hectares (21 acres) of grazing land, with the Little Stour river running across its centre. A plan showing the application site is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 8. Access to the application site is via three stiles in the fencing bordering Seaton Road, giving access to Public Footpath CB184 which is formed of two sections crossing the northern part of the application site. However, in early 2010, fencing was erected along the footpath, thereby cutting off access to the river and the meadow.

#### The case

- 9. The application has been made on the grounds that the application site has become a Town or Village Green by virtue of the actual use of the land by the local inhabitants for a range of recreational activities 'as of right' for more than 20 years.
- 10. In support of the application, 115 user evidence questionnaires (some supplemented by statements) were submitted detailing the recreational use of the application site, as well as various charts and plans showing the application site and the use of it. A summary of the evidence submitted in support of the application is attached at **Appendix C**.
- 11. Also included with the application were letters of support from Ickham and Well Parish Council, County Councillor Mr. M. Northey, City Councillor B. Staley, the Ickham, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Conservation Society, St. Andrew's Church Wickhambreaux, Wickhambreaux Church of England Primary School, and the Wickhambreaux Village Hall Management Committee. In summary, the letters of support refer to use of the application site without restriction by many generations of local residents for recreational pursuits.

#### **Consultations**

- 12. Consultations have been carried out as required. The Ickham and Well Parish Council wrote to reiterate its support for the application, whilst Canterbury City Council wrote to confirm that they had no proprietary interest in the application site and had no comment to make on the application itself.
- 13. During the consultation period, objections to the application were received from three local residents, disputing recreational use of the application site and raising concerns regarding the future grazing of cattle on the land.

14. A representation has also been received from Mr. J. Holdstock, who has been the tenant farmer of the land since 1991, providing an account of his knowledge of the application site. Mr. Holdstock explains that, in his experience, there has not been significant public access to the application site (as this would otherwise interfere with his use of the land for grazing) and any use of the application site has been predominantly on the designated footpaths. He adds that the most common digression from this is people walking along the northern bank of the Little Stour, only very occasionally venturing to the south of the river. Mr. Holdstock confirms that permission to use the land has been obtained for exceptional use (such as parking for village events) and that the closure of the application site due to foot-and-mouth would have led to an interruption to use.

#### Landowners

- 15. Historically, the site was owned for many centuries by the Church Commissioners and was let for grazing (mainly cattle). In 2009, the land was put up for auction and purchased by a consortium of individuals who divided the land into plots. A plan showing the current position with regard to ownership is attached at **Appendix D**.
- 16. All four of the current landowners have made representations in respect of the application ("the Objectors").

#### Mr. S. van de Vyer

- 17.Mr. van de Vyer owns part of the application site which abuts the southern side of the Little Stour. This area of land is registered with the Land Registry under title number K965436.
- 18.Mr. van de Vyer wrote to express concerns regarding the proposed change in status of the land leading to the cessation of cattle farming. The land should, in his view, remain a grazing field.

#### Mr. and Mrs. D. Pierce

- 19.Mr. and Mrs. Pierce own an area of land that is situated on the western part of the application site. This area of land is registered with the Land Registry under title number K965680.
- 20.Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have lived adjacent to the application site for 11 years and state that, during this time, they have only ever seen friends and neighbours walking on the land. That vast majority follow a linear route between the stiles following the river bank and only very seldom does anyone cross the river to access the land to the south of it. Any use of the land for dog walking has been with the permission of the tenant farmer (who has also challenged such use on occasion) and has not taken place when cattle were in the field.
- 21.Mr. and Mrs. Pierce object to the application on the basis that they have not witnessed any of the lawful sports and pastimes referred to in the application taking place on the land and, in their view, claims of such use have been exaggerated and misrepresented in the application.

#### Mr. R. Locke

- 22.Mr. R. Locke is one of the trustees of the Premier Trust, which owns a parcel of land at the southernmost part of the application site. This area of land is registered with the Land Registry under title number K965417.
- 23. Mr. Locke objects to the application on the basis that any alleged recreational use of the application site has not taken place continuously because people have not accessed the site when it has been in use for grazing. He accepts that particular individuals have occasionally trespassed off the footpath and walked along the river bank, however, such use has involved following a defined track, which is more akin to the use of a footpath.
- 24. Mr. Locke adds that his land can only be accessed by crossing the river. There is no bridge and, most of the year, the river is in full flow and cannot be crossed without wading through. As such, for significant periods throughout the year, this part of the application site has been inaccessible to recreational users.

#### Mr. and Mrs. M. Perkins

- 25. An objection to the application has been received Mr. and Mrs. Perkins who own a piece of land on the northern part of the application site, between the Little Stour river and Seaton Road. This area of land is registered with the Land Registry under title number K965437.
- 26. The objection is made on the following grounds:
  - That use of the application site has been by virtue of permission granted by the tenant farmer for specific activities (such as car parking for community and private functions). Permission can also be implied through the actions of the tenant farmer, such as the locking of the gate and the erection of electric fencing on the site:
  - That use of the application site has been challenged by the tenant farmer, who has on occasion asked people to leave;
  - That intensive grazing of the land is incompatible with recreational rights and recreational users deferred to the grazing and amended their behaviour accordingly. The land has been commercially grazed on a continuous basis for the whole of the grazing season for at least 80 years;
  - That there has not been a full and uninterrupted period of 20 years' use due to rotational grazing and river flooding. The river area provides a source of drinking water and is therefore heavily poached by the cattle. Large parts of the land have been inaccessible during periods of flooding (particularly in 2000/2001);
  - That use of the application site has been almost exclusively by recreational walkers who use it as an extended walk through the area. Other activities referred to in the application, such as picnics and paddling, are an extension of footpath use, and are of an infrequent and ad hoc nature.

#### Legal tests

- 27. In dealing with an application to register a new Town or Village Green the County Council must consider the following criteria:
  - (a) Whether use of the land has been 'as of right'?

- (b) Whether use of the land has been for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes?
- (c) Whether use has been by a significant number of inhabitants of a particular locality, or a neighbourhood within a locality?
- (d) Whether use of the land 'as of right' by the inhabitants has continued up until the date of application or meets one of the criteria set out in sections 15(3) or (4)?
- (e) Whether use has taken place over period of twenty years or more?

I shall now take each of these points and elaborate on them individually:

#### (a) Whether use of the land has been 'as of right'?

- 28. The definition of the phrase 'as of right' has been considered by the House of Lords. Following the judgement in the Sunningwell<sup>1</sup> case, it is considered that if a person uses the land for a required period of time without force, secrecy or permission ("nec vi, nec clam, nec precario"), and the landowner does not stop him or advertise the fact that he has no right to be there, then rights are acquired.
- 29. In this case, there is no suggestion that the informal recreational use of the application site during the relevant material period has been in exercise of force or in secrecy. There is, however, a question as to whether recreational use has been permissive and the effect of alleged verbal challenges by the tenant farmer.

#### Permission

- 30. The objector's stance is that any recreational use of the application site has been by virtue of permission, express or implied, from the tenant farmer. It is stated that permission has been sought for formal events and that permission can be implied by the actions of the tenant farmer in managing his land and in allowing recreational use to continue on the land.
- 31. It is the applicant's case that, whilst accepting that permission has been sought for exceptional use of the land (e.g. car parking), the recreational use of the application site has taken place without any permission from either the tenant farmer or the landowners.
- 32. As a general rule, in order for permission to be effective in defeating an application for the registration of land as a Village Green, it is important that the granting of such permission is communicated to those using the land. In some cases, it might be possible for permission to be inferred by the conduct of the landowner, but it will not be possible to infer permission from mere inaction on the part of a landowner with knowledge of the use to which the land is being put.
- 33. This issue was explored in the Beresford<sup>2</sup> case, in which it was held that "a landowner may so conduct himself as to make clear, even in the absence of any express statement, notice or record, that the inhabitants' use of the land is pursuant to his permission. This may be done, for example, by excluding the inhabitants on occasional days: the landowner in this way asserts his right to exclude, and so makes plain that the inhabitants' use on other occasions occurs because he does

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> R v. Oxfordshire County Council and another, Sunningwell Parish Council [1999] 3 All ER 385

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> R v City of Sunderland ex parte Beresford [2003] UKHL 60 at paragraph 5

not choose on this occasions to exercise his right to exclude and so permits such use".

34. In order for permission for informal recreation to be implied, therefore, it will be necessary to demonstrate that the land has, periodically, been closed to the exclusion of the recreational users. There is insufficient evidence in this case to suggest that this has been the case at Seaton Meadow.

#### Challenges to use

- 35. The objectors also make reference to incidents where recreational use of the application site has been challenged by the tenant farmer, who has had occasion to ask people to leave the land. This is strongly disputed by the applicant, who states that the examples of challenges cited by the objectors relate to isolated incidents of inconsiderate use (such as children worrying the cattle) rather than to general recreational use by the local residents.
- 36. Therefore, on the issue of whether use of the application site has been 'as of right', the evidence as a whole suggests that use has taken place 'as of right', although further investigation of the alleged challenges is required before it is possible to reach an informed conclusion.

### (b) Whether use of the land has been for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes?

- 37. Lawful sports and pastimes can be commonplace activities including dog walking, children playing, picnicking and kite-flying. It is not necessary to demonstrate that both sporting activities *and* pastimes have taken place since the phrase 'lawful sports and pastimes' has been interpreted by the Courts as being a single composite group rather than two separate classes of activities<sup>3</sup>.
- 38.Legal principle does not require that rights of this nature be limited to certain ancient pastimes (such as maypole dancing) or for organised sports or communal activities to have taken place. The Courts have held that 'dog walking and playing with children [are], in modern life, the kind of informal recreation which may be the main function of a village green'<sup>4</sup>.
- 39. In this case, the evidence demonstrates that the land has been used for a wide range of recreational activities, including walking (with or without dogs), picnics, paddling, playing with children, kite-flying and nature observation. The summary of evidence of use by local residents at **Appendix C** shows the full range of activities claimed to have taken place.
- 40. The objectors assert that they have not witnesses any significant recreational use of the application site by local residents and also dispute that some of alleged activities took place: the disputed activities include kite flying (due to the presence of overhead power cables), ball games (due to the topography of the site) and swimming (due to the depth of the river). The applicants contend that there is a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> R v. Oxfordshire County Council and another, ex parte Sunningwell Parish Council [1999] 3 All ER 385 <sup>4</sup> R v Suffolk County Council, ex parte Steed [1995] 70 P&CR 487 at 508 and approved by Lord Hoffman in R v. Oxfordshire County Council and another, ex parte Sunningwell Parish Council [1999] 3 All ER 385

significant body of evidence of use and that there is evidence of use for those activities that are disputed by the objectors.

#### Public Footpath CB184

- 41. The majority of the use of the application site has been for the purposes of walking and this raises questions in relation to the existence of the two sections of Public Footpath CB184 running across the northern part the application site. Use of a defined route that constitutes a recorded Public Footpath is use that is in exercise of an existing right and cannot give rise to any further rights. Similarly, use of a defined track (as opposed to wandering at will over a piece of land) will also give rise to the presumption that the users are asserting a right of passage rather than a general right to recreate.
- 42. The issue was considered by the Courts in Laing Homes<sup>5</sup>, in which the judge said that: 'it is important to distinguish between use that would suggest to a reasonable landowner that the users believed they were exercising a public right of way to walk, with or without dogs... and use that would suggest to such a landowner that the users believed that they were exercising a right to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes across the whole of the fields'.
- 43. In this case, there is a dispute as to the extent of footpath-related use. The objectors assert that the vast majority of the recreational use of the application site is (or is associated with) walking along the existing footpaths. Such use is in exercise of an existing right and cannot give rise to a general right of recreation across the whole of the application site.
- 44. However, the applicant's position is that, although the land is accessed via the footpath stiles, walkers generally walk away from the designated footpaths which are little used by local people. Some of the walkers have preferred routes devised according to personal preference, whilst others wander more freely across the application site. With the exception of a visible track along the northern bank of the river, there are no other identifiable tracks (so as to suggest use along linear footpath-type routes) on the application site.
- 45. The exercise of distinguishing between types of use is something that is very difficult to achieve on paper. It is a question of evidence that requires more detailed scrutiny, preferably by way of the cross examination of witnesses in a public forum.

# (c) Whether use has been by a significant number of inhabitants of a particular locality, or a neighbourhood within a locality?

- 46. The right to use a Town or Village Green is restricted to the inhabitants of a locality or of a neighbourhood within a locality and it is therefore important to be able to define this area with a degree of accuracy so that the group of people to whom the recreational rights are attached can be identified.
- 47. The definition of locality for the purposes of a village green application has been the subject of much debate in the courts and there is still no definite rule to be applied.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> R (Laing Homes) v Buckinghamshire County Council [2003] 3 EGLR 70 at 79 per Sullivan J.

In the Cheltenham Builders<sup>6</sup> case, it was considered that '...at the very least, Parliament required the users of the land to be the inhabitants of somewhere that could sensibly be described as a locality... there has to be, in my judgement, a sufficiently cohesive entity which is capable of definition'. The judge later went on to suggest that this might mean that locality should normally constitute 'some legally recognised administrative division of the county'.

- 48.On the subject of neighbourhood, the Courts have held that 'it is common ground that a neighbourhood need not be a recognised administrative unit. A housing estate might well be described in ordinary language as a neighbourhood... The Registration Authority has to be satisfied that the area alleged to be a neighbourhood has a sufficient degree of cohesiveness; otherwise the word "neighbourhood" would be stripped of any real meaning.
- 49. At part 6 of the application form, the applicant specifies the relevant locality and neighbourhood as "the neighbourhood of Wickhambreaux village with Seaton hamlet, within the localities of Wickhambreaux and Ickham parishes"
- 50. The objectors do not seek to challenge the application on the basis of the locality/neighbourhood relied upon by the applicant and make no detailed submission about this part of the legal tests.
- 51. In this case, both the parishes of Wickhambreaux and Ickham and Well constitute legally recognised administrative units. The village of Wickhambreaux (as distinct from the wider parish) and the hamlet of Seaton are clearly identifiable neighbourhoods. Case law suggests that an applicant may rely on two or more qualifying neighbourhoods within a locality or localities<sup>8</sup>. Therefore, the neighbourhoods and localities relied upon by the applicant would appear to satisfy the legal tests.

"a significant number"

- 52. The word "significant" in this context does not mean considerable or substantial: 'a neighbourhood may have a very limited population and a significant number of the inhabitants of such a neighbourhood might not be so great as to properly be described as a considerable or a substantial number... what matters is that the number of people using the land in question has to be sufficient to indicate that the land is in general use by the community for informal recreation rather than occasional use by individuals as trespassers'9. Thus, what is a 'significant number' will depend upon the local environment and will vary in each case depending upon the location of the application site.
- 53. On the basis of the evidence forms submitted by the applicant, there would appear to have been use by a significant number of local residents. The evidence submitted in support of the application suggests that a significant number of local residents have used the application site on a regular or daily basis. However, as stated above, there is a dispute between the applicant and objectors as to nature

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> R (Cheltenham Builders Ltd.) v South Gloucestershire District Council [2004] 1 EGLR 85 at page 90

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> R (Cheltenham Builders Ltd.) v South Gloucestershire District Council [2004] 1 EGLR 85 at page 92

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Leeds Group PLC v Leeds Ćity Council [2010] EWHC 810 at paragraph 97

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> R (Alfred McAlpine Homes Ltd.) v Staffordshire County Council [2002] EWHC 76 at paragraph 71

and frequency of recreational use on the application site. This is therefore a question which requires further examination.

### (d) Whether use of the land by the inhabitants is continuing up until the date of application or meets one of the criteria set out in sections 15(3) or (4)?

- 54. The Commons Act 2006 requires use of the land to have taken place 'as of right' up until the date of application or, if such use has ceased prior to the making of the application, to fulfil one of the alternative criterion set out in sections 15(3) and 15(4) of the 2006 Act (as set out at paragraph 4 above).
- 55. In this case, use of the application site as a whole was challenged in 2010 by the erection of fencing along the footpath. If the recreational use of a piece of land ceases to be 'as of right' before an application for the registration of the land as a new Village Green is made, the applicant has a two year period of grace during which an application can be made (see section 15(3)).
- 56. In this case, it is the erection of the fencing that appears to have triggered the Village Green application. The fencing was erected in February/March 2010, and the Village Green application was made in June 2010. Therefore, the application has been made well within the two-year period of grace prescribed by Parliament, and this test is therefore met.

#### (e) Whether use has taken place over a period of twenty years or more?

- 57. In order to qualify for registration, it must be shown that the land in question has been used for a full period of twenty years. The twenty year period is calculated retrospectively from either the date of the application or, where use of the application site ceased to be as of right prior to the making of the application, the date upon which use of the application site ceased to be 'as of right'.
- 58. In this case, it has been established that the recreational use of the application site as a whole ceased to be 'as of right' when the fencing was erected in February/March 2010. On the face of it, therefore, the relevant twenty-year period is therefore 1990 to 2010 (but note the impact of foot and mouth closure, discussed below).

#### Continuous use

- 59. There is a dispute as to whether recreational use of the application site has taken place for a full and uninterrupted period of twenty years. This dispute relates to the use of the application site for grazing purposes and flooding which has taken place on the land.
- 60. It is argued by the objectors that the use of the land for grazing purposes has discouraged recreational use of the land when the cattle were on the land, and it is alleged that the vast majority of local residents would avoid using the land when the cattle were present. This is strongly refuted by the applicant, who states that use of the land for recreational purposes was not affected by the presence of the cattle and there is evidence from numerous local residents who refer specifically to the presence of the cattle on the land during their usage; far from being a deterrent, the cattle were in some cases an attraction.

- 61. The objectors also argue that use of the land for recreational purposes would necessarily have been interrupted during periods of flooding. In particular, during the floods of 2000/2001, the land would have been inaccessible for many months due to flooding.
- 62. The applicant's position in respect of the flooding is that such flooding of the land as did take place was of very limited duration. In fact, during the 1990s, water levels along the Little Stour were so low that there was widespread concern about the river drying up. Flooding, in the applicant's view, did not adversely impact upon the use of the land for recreation or substantially interrupt recreational use during the material period.

#### Foot and Mouth closure

- 63. The tenant farmer, Mr. Holdstock, refers to the closure of the footpaths during the Foot and Mouth crisis. In Kent, all Public Rights of Way crossing farmland or woodland were closed to the public between 6pm on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2001 and 6am on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2001 using powers under the Foot and Mouth Disease Order 1983. As such, there would, necessarily, have been an interruption to the use of the land, particularly the Water Meadows, during this time.
- 64. However, section 15(6) of the Commons Act 2006 states that in determining the 20 year period, "there is to be disregarded any period during which access to the land was prohibited to members of the public by reason of any enactment". Therefore, the closure of the land during this three-month period would not have the effect of defeating the application for the registration of the land as a Village Green.
- 65. In practice, all that would be required is for the relevant twenty-year period to be extended by an additional three-month period to take into account the time that the land was statutorily closed. The applicant's case is that use of the application site has taken place for a period in excess of twenty years and, as such, the closure of the land due to foot-and-mouth would not present any problem in this case.

#### Conclusion

- 66. As has been noted above, there have been various disputes regarding the nature and factual basis of the evidence. The applicant's case is that the weight of the evidence established prolonged and frequent use of the application site by local residents for recreational purposes. The Objector's case, on the other hand, is that whilst there may have been limited recreational use of the application site, the extent and frequency of such use has been highly exaggerated.
- 67. Although the relevant Regulations<sup>10</sup> provide a framework for the initial stages of processing the application (e.g. advertising the application, dealing with objections etc), they provide little guidance with regard to the procedure that a Commons Registration Authority should follow in considering and determining the application. In recent times it has become relatively commonplace, in cases which are particularly emotive or where the application turns on disputed issues of fact, for

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008

Registration Authorities to conduct a non-statutory Public Inquiry<sup>11</sup>. This involves appointing an independent Inspector to hear the relevant evidence and report his/her findings back to the Registration Authority.

- 68. Such an approach has received positive approval by the Courts, most notably in the Whitmey 12 case in which Waller LJ said this: 'the registration authority has to consider both the interests of the landowner and the possible interest of the local inhabitants. That means that there should not be any presumption in favour of registration or any presumption against registration. It will mean that, in any case where there is a serious dispute, a registration authority will almost invariably need to appoint an independent expert to hold a public inquiry, and find the requisite facts, in order to obtain the proper advice before registration'.
- 69. It is important to remember, as was famously quoted by the Judge in another High Court case 13, that 'it is no trivial matter for a landowner to have land, whether in public or private ownership, registered as a town green... [the relevant legal tests] must be 'properly and strictly proved'. This means that it is of paramount importance for a Registration Authority to ensure that, before taking a decision, it has all of the relevant facts available upon which to base a sound decision. It should be recalled that the only means of appeal against the Registration Authority's decision is by way of a Judicial Review in the High Court.
- 70. A decision to hold a Public Inquiry is not one which the County Council should take lightly; such a decision imposes significant burdens on all parties involved in terms of the preparation for and attendance at the Inquiry. Officers will, in the first instance, always seek to resolve an application without the need to resort to a Public Inquiry if at all possible. However, there are occasions, of which this appears to be one, where there is a serious conflict in the evidence which cannot be resolved on paper and the County Council has little option other than to refer the matter to a Public Inquiry for the matters to be clarified before a final decision is made.
- 71. In addition to factual disputes in the evidence outlined above, it is clear from all of the documentation that the Village Green application is a very emotive issue which generated a great deal of media publicity and local debate, and has become a matter of significant local importance. The documentation received by the County Council is vast and runs to almost 6 lever arch files. It is important for all parties that all of this evidence receives full and proper scrutiny by an expert in this area of law. Not only is it in the interest of the landowners to test the evidence which they dispute in order to ensure that all of the relevant legal tests are strictly met, but there is also a strong public interest in the matter being heard in public forum so that all members of the community may participate and make their views known.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Public Inquiry is referred to as being 'non-statutory' because the Commons Act 2006 does not expressly confer any powers on the Commons Registration Authority to hold a Public Inquiry. However, Local Authorities do have a general power to do any thing to facilitate the discharge of any of their functions and this is contained in section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

R (Whitmey) v Commons Commissioners [2004] EWCA Civ 951 at paragraph 66
 R v Suffolk County Council, ex parte Steed [1997] 1EGLR 131 at 134

72. Therefore, it would appear that it is not possible to determine this matter on paper and the most appropriate course of action would be for the matter to be referred to a Public Inquiry.

#### Recommendations

73.I recommend that a non-statutory Public Inquiry be held into the case to clarify the issues.

Accountable Officer:

Mr. Mike Overbeke – Tel: 01622 221513 or Email: melanie.mcneir@kent.gov.uk Case Officer:

Miss. Melanie McNeir - Tel: 01622 221511 or Email: melanie.mcneir@kent.gov.uk

The main file is available for viewing on request at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone. Please contact the case officer for further details.

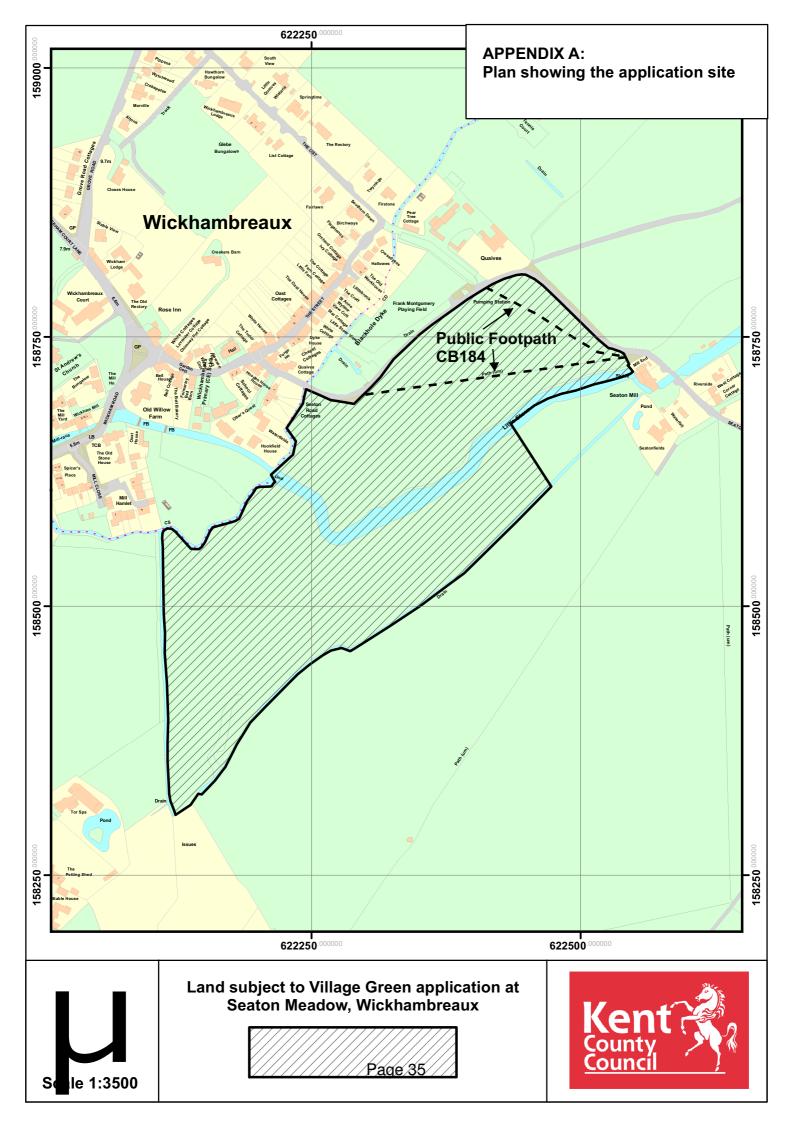
#### **Background documents**

APPENDIX A – Plan showing application site

APPENDIX B – Copy of application form

APPENDIX C – Summary of user evidence

APPENDIX D – Plan showing ownership of the application site



FORM CA9

Commons Act 2006: section 15

Commons Act 2006, Section 15

APPENDIX B: Copy of application form

# Application for the registration of land as a new Town or Village Green



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	36661011		101		USC	VIII	v

Official stamp of the Registration Authority indicating date of receipt:

COMMONS ACT 2006 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL REGISTRATION AUTHORITY 2 8 JUN 2010 Application number:

VGAG27

VG number allocated at registration (if application is successful):

## Note to applicants

Applicants are advised to read the 'Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 (changes to the commons registers): Guidance to applicants in the pilot implementation areas' and to note the following:

- All applicants should complete parts 1–6 and 10–12.
- Applicants applying for registration under section 15(1) of the 2006 Act should, in addition, complete
  parts 7 and 8. Any person can apply to register land as a green where the criteria for registration in
  section 15(2), (3) or (4) apply.
- Applicants applying for voluntary registration under section 15(8) should, in addition, complete part
   9. Only the owner of the land can apply under section 15(8).
- There is no fee for applications under section 15.

Note 1 Insert name of Commons Registration Authority 1. Commons Registration Authority

To the:

Kent County Council.

Note 2 If there is more than one applicant, list all names. Use a separate sheet if necessary. State the full title of the organisation if the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporate. If you supply an email address in the box provided, you may receive communications from the Registration Authority or other persons (e.g. objectors) via email. If part 3 is not completed all correspondence and notices will be sent to the first named applicant.	2. Name and address of the applicant  Wickhambreaux Parish of Name: Application submitted by Full postal address: Mrs Christine Logical Postcode)  Forge House, The Wickhambreaux,  Telephone number: (incl. national dialling code)  Fax number: (incl. national dialling code)  E-mail address:	y: 2 Jeune (Chairman) Street
Note 3 This part should be completed if representative, e.g. a solicitor, is instructed for the purposes of the application. If so all correspondence and notices will be sent to the person or firm named here. If you supply an email address in the box provided, you may receive communications from the Registration Authority or other persons (e.g. objectors) via email.	3. Name and address of representative, if an Name:  Firm:  Full postal address: (incl. Postcode)  Telephone number: (incl. national dialling code)  Fax number: (incl. national dialling code)  E-mail address:	ny
Note 4 For further details of the requirements of an application refer to Schedule 4, paragraph 9 to the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008.	4. Basis of application for registration and If you are the landowner and are seeking volumely land please tick this box and move to question under section 15(8):  If the application is made under section 15(1) one of the following boxes to indicate which paragraphically applies to the case.  Section 15(2) applies:  Section 15(3) applies:  Section 15(4) applies:	ntarily to register your  5. Application made  □  of the Act, please tick
	Page 37	

If section 15(3) or (4) applies, please indicate the date on which you consider that use 'as of right' ended and why:

Fence and padlocked gate put in place over a two week period from the beginning of March, 2010.

\*Section 15(6) enables any period of statutory closure where access to the land is denied to be disregarded in determining the 20 year period. If section 15(6)\* is being relied upon in determining the period of 20 years, indicate the period of statutory closure (if any) which needs to be disregarded:

Closed because of Foot and Mouth restrictions March - June 2001.

#### Note 5

This part is to identify the new green. The accompanying map must be at a scale of at least 1:2,500 and shows the land by means of distinctive colouring within an accurately identified boundary. State the Land Registry title number where known.

## 5. Description and particulars of the area of land in respect of which application for registration is made

Name by which usually known:

Seaton Meadow

Location: Between the village of Wickhambreaux

and the hamlet of Seaton.

Land Registry title number: K965436 Gommon Land register unit number (only if the land is already registered Common Land): K965437

K965680 K965417

Please tick the box to confirm that you have attached a map of the land (at a scale of at least 1:2,500):

### Note 6

It may be possible to indicate the locality of the green by reference to an administrative area, such as a parish or electoral ward, or other area sufficiently defined by name (such as a village). If this is not possible a map should be provided on which a locality or neighbourhood is marked clearly at a scale of 1:10,000.

## 6. Locality or neighbourhood within a locality in respect of which the application is made

Indicate the locality (or neighbourhood within the locality) to which the claimed green relates by writing the administrative area or geographical area by name below and/or by attaching a map on which the area is clearly marked:

The neighbourhood of Wickhambreaux village with Seaton hambet, within the localities of Wickhambreaux and likham

Please tick here if a map is attached (at a scale of 1:10,000):

#### Note 7

Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

## 7. Justification for application to register the land as a Town or Village Green

Seaton Meadow lies on the edge of Wickhambreaux village and the adjacent hamlet of Seaton, with the Little Stour River flowing through it. It has been used by a significant number of past and present inhabitants of both communities for the twenty years from October 1989 to February 2010 and for many decades before that. (The dates include four months' statutory closure due to Foot and Mouth disease in 2001)

The meadow has been accessed openly, without force and without seeking anyone's permission.

It has been used for exercise, dog walking, enjoying river views, paddling in the river, bird watching and many other activities, as testified in the witness statements and listed in the Appendix.

115 Evidence questionnaire s are being submitted representing 163 named individuals

The Parish Council believes that all the relevant criteria have been met for the land to be registered as a village green.

Please also see full statement, in Appendix,

### Note 8

Use a separate sheet if necessary. This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8). 8. Name and address of every person whom the applicant believes to be an owner, lessee, proprietor of any "relevant charge", tenant or occupier of any part of the land claimed to be a town or village green

1) Mr. + Mrs Mark Perkins, Waterfield, Seaton Road, Wickhambreaux CT3 IRW. (Title no. k965 437)

2) Mr + Mrs David Pierce, Hookfield House, Seaton Road, Wickhambreaux CT3 IRW (Title no. K965680)

3) Mr. Hrs Stephen Van De Vyver, Seaton Mill, Seaton Road, Ickham CT3 154 (Title no. k965436)

4) Mr Richard Locke, Bridewell House, Bridewell Lane, Tenterden TN 30 6FA and D.A. Phillips + Co. Ltd, Bridewell House, Bridewell Lane, Tenterden TN 30 6FA (Title no. K965417) Page 39

#### Note 9

List or enter in the form all such declarations that accompany the application. This can include any written declarations sent to the applicant (i.e. a letter), and also any such declarations made on the form itself.  Voluntary registration – declarations of consent from any relevant leaseholder of, and of the proprietor of any relevant charge over, the land

### Note 10

List all supporting consents, documents and maps accompanying the application. Evidence of ownership of the land must be included for roluntarily registration applications. There is no need to submit copies of documents issued by the Registration Authority or to which it was a party but they should still be listed. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

## 10. Supporting documentation

See attached sheets in Appendix (Red and blue folders)

#### Note 11

List any other matters which should be brought to the attention of the Registration Authority (in particular if a person interested in the land is expected to challenge the application for registration). Full details should be given here or on a separate sheet if necessary.

## 11. Any other information relating to the application

We expect most of the owners to challenge the registration (See Section 8)

We have received 20 forms, supporting our claim, from people outside our neighbourhood, which we have not submitted, but which are available if required.

#### Note 12

The application must be signed by each individual applicant, or by the authorised officer of an applicant which is a body corporate or unincorporate.

## 12. Signature

Signature(s) of applicant(s):

Date: 23 rd Lune, 2010



### REMINDER TO APPLICANT

You are responsible for telling the truth in presenting the application and accompanying evidence. You may commit a criminal offence if you deliberately provide misleading or untrue evidence and if you do so you may be prosecuted. You are advised to keep a copy of the application and all associated documentation.

## Please send your completed application form to:

The Commons Registration Team
Cent County Council
Countryside Access Service
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX

## Data Protection Act 1998

The application and any representations made cannot be treated as confidential. To determine the application it will be necessary for the Commons Registration Authority to disclose information received from you to others, which may include other local authorities, Government Departments, public bodies, other organisations and members of the public.

A copy of this form and any accompanying documents may be disclosed upon receipt of a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## Full Statement justifying application to register Seaton Meadow as a Village Green (as mentioned in Note 7)

Seaton meadow lies between Wickhambreaux and Seaton, in the parish of Ickham. Of the three stiles which give access to the land, two are on the outskirts of Wickhambreaux and one at Seaton. Wickhambreaux village is closer to the meadow than the village of Ickham so the land is used predominantly by Wickhambreaux residents, hence Wickhambreaux Parish Council is submitting this claim (see letter of support from Ickham Parish Council in Appendix).

The Meadow was owned for centuries by the Church Commissioners. The land was used by tenant farmers as part of an extensive grazing marsh, mostly for cattle. It is part of the Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Seaton Conservation Area (see map in Appendix). The Little Stour river, a chalk stream, flows through the site. The river is very shallow here and stepping stones enabled people to cross to the rest of the meadow. The stiles give access to two sections of footpath CB184 which are clearly marked with signs but people have always wandered at will over the whole area, up to the river, along the bank, across the river, amongst the cattle and beyond. People accessed the land openly, via the stiles and the stepping stones, and did not ask anyone's permission.

In the Autumn of 2009 a large acreage along the river valley was put up for sale by the Commissioners. Seaton Meadow was part of the land bought by a consortium of private individuals, who then divided it up. The meadow was divided between four separate owners (see section 8), three of whom have houses and gardens adjoining the land.

In March 2010 stock-proof fencing, topped with barbed wire, was erected along footpath CB184, cutting off access to the river and the meadow.

You will see from the evidence forms that over the last twenty years, and for the whole of living memory, many activities have taken place on the land. People have walked to enjoy the views, to watch the river, and to exercise their dogs. Children have paddled and used fishing nets, flown kites, played chase, thrown balls and tobogganed down the river banks in the snow. People have sketched, painted, practised photography and watched the birds and wildlife. Some have even practised golf shots. People have run along the banks watching charity duck races (plastic ducks!) and at one fête hot air balloon rides were given from the meadow.

The land has been used daily by the people of Wickhambreaux Village and the nearby hamlet of Seaton and there are close links between the two as Seaton has no facilities of its own. Wickhambreaux is the nearest village to Seaton, only a quarter of a mile away by road. Seaton children have attended Wickhambreaux School and Seaton residents participate in events in Wickhambreaux Village Hall. Wickhambreaux and Seaton are linked within the Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Seaton Conservation Area. People mix socially and the Rose Inn in Wickhambreaux is the nearest hostelry. (Further details regarding the cohesive nature of Wickhambreaux and Seaton is provided in the letters from Emmy Watts and Annabel Ward in Appendix).

Wickhambreaux Village and Seaton comprise approximately 126 and 10 households respectively (housing approximately 255 adults). 115 Evidence questionnaire's have been received from past and present Wickhambreaux and Seaton residents representing 163 named individuals. This figure does not include the use by children referred to on many of the forms. All of the forms are from residents who have used Seaton Meadow within the last 20 years, apart from 2 (numbers 16 and 73) who are from former residents who used the land over 20 years ago. The evidence questionnaire's show that Seaton Meadow has been used by Wickhambreaux and Seaton residents since 1934 (see form 11). A chart in the Appendix lists the 37 most popular activities carried out or observed on Seaton Meadow and a further chart shows that these have mostly been carried out daily.

Seaton Meadow is an idyllic spot and the Parish Council wishes to register it as a village green so that the activities enjoyed by so many for so long can continue for future generations.

## APPENDIX C: Summary of user evidence submitted in support of the application

Name	Period of use	Frequency	Activities	Other comments
Mr & Mrs C. Alabaster	32 years until 2000	Weekly when resident, now for village events	Walking, kite flying, ball games	When resident weekly observed children playing, walkers, village events
Mr M. Ashley-Jones	1998-present	Weekly	Family walks, playing, picnics, enjoying wildlife, relaxing	Regular use by others – walking, paddling, bird watching. Use now limited due to now fenced
Mr & Mrs P. Barrett	1994 – present (fenced off Feb 2010)	Daily when could	Dog walking, playing in river with children, kite flying	Feb 2010 land fenced and signs put up
Mr & Mrs J. Bateman	1960 until fenced off 2010	Daily when could	Walking, playing in river, picnics, dog walking	Observed daily walkers, people with picnics, children playing in river
Mrs L. Bates	1982 -	Regular basis	Children played in river, picnics, walking, fishing for tiddlers	Others use of playing, walking, picnics, Village duck races, school use for river projects
Mr & Mrs D. Bolton	1982 – 2010 fenced off	Weekly/monthly	Walking, bird watching, river watching, blackberrying, playing with grandchildren	Can see from house daily use until recent erection of fences and signs. School often use river for projects
Alecia Brewster	1987-2010 fenced off	Regularly 1987- 1994, occasionally 1994-2000, regularly 2000-2010	Dog walking, picnics, paddling, kite flying, duck feeding	March 2010 fenced off. See others regularly walking & using land before
Miss A. Broadbridge	1969-1999	Weekly	As child played, paddled in river, picnicked, as teenager walked, relaxed and then as nanny took children there to play & enjoy river	Daily see others enjoying, walking & family fun. Now looks an eyesore as fenced off and community deprived
Mr R. & Mrs A. Broadbridge	1940 -1992	Monthly, 1992 occasionally	Played, walked, picnics	Daily walkers & birdwatchers, school pond dipping, kids playing
Tina Burton, David Burton	1991 – present(only footpath)	Daily	Dog walking, pond dipping with children, family fun	Daily seen other users playing, walking, canoeing
Mrs D. Chandler	1934 – 1994	Daily as child, weekly/daily as adult	Field games (rounders, cricket), picnicking, walking, fishing	Daily seen others walking, fishing, playing, also village school activities
Mr D. Chandler	1971 – present	Daily/weekly as child, now occasionally with own children	Played in river as child, walking and playing with own children	See other family activities
Mark Chandler	1970 – present	Weekly as child, occasionally now. Take own children	Paddling, fishing, kite flying, use river stepping stones to cross to next village	See other games & activities
Roy Chandler	1960 – present	Daily as child, occasionally now	Walking & playing; cut across river to next village	See others walking & playing in river
Lisa Clark	2002 – 2010 when fenced	Daily & more in summer	Dog walking, children paddling, fishing	March 2010 fence erected. Previously used by village daily

Mrs C. Clarke	1963 – 2010	Occasionally	Dog walking, kite flying, picnicking, sledging and same with own	March 2010 fences put up. Always people using land
Oznanija va Ozbi	1000	0	children	Netice Mende 2010
Genevieve Cobb	1990 – March 2010	Occasionally	Walking, bird watching, enjoying nature, picnic	Notices March 2010. Other activities weekly
Mr R. Collins	1985 – 2010	Weekly	Bird watching on behalf	Fence erected 2010.
Wi X. Collins	1300 - 2010	VVCCKIY	of Kent Ornithological Society, family walks & play, dog walks	Other use of walking, picnics, paddling
Mr & Mrs K. Cooper	1971 – 2010	Weekly	Family picnics, walking, children playing	Seen others walking, picnicking
Mr J. Cotton	1999 – present	Daily or weekly	Exercise	See others walking, playing
Mrs D Curtis	1955 – present	Daily when lived in village, occasionally now moved to Wingham	Children playing, paddling, walking dog	Regularly see others walking, family outings, fishing
Mrs J. Dack	1980 – 2010	Monthly sometimes	Dog walking,	See other walkers
0 0. 2 00.	when fenced	more	exercising, children played	
Mr M. Dack	1980 – 2010	Monthly	Walking with family & pets	Used by village school until fencing March 2010
John & Rose Dartnell	1958 – 2010	Monthly	Walking, relaxing, play with children	Fenced off 2010. Seen other use of walking
Mr & Mrs Davies	1994 – 2010 when fenced	Weekly	Walking, paddling with children, picnicking, fishing	Other use dog walking, children playing, fishing. Local school used land for projects. March 2010 fence erected
Fiona Dawson	1998 – present	Occasionally, more in summer. Children use it weekly/daily	Walking, paddling, fishing, village duck race, picnics, games	Other use daily – walking, playing
Claire Day	1989 – present	Daily now occasionally as moved away	Walking, playing	Return to village to enjoy the land, but recently fenced
Jan de Bont	1987 – present	Monthly	Walking, enjoying river	See other walkers
Laura Downes	1978 – present	Weekly in summer, monthly in winter	Fishing, making camps, village duck races, picnics, making snowmen, now do the same with own children	See others enjoying the land – family games & play. Safe area in locality
Zara & Patrick Duffy	2000 – 2010	Daily	Dog walking, family & friends walks, paddling in river with children, bird watching	Daily see others walking, playing, picnicking, children fishing
Mr & Mrs Dutton	1987 – 2010 fence erected	Daily / weekly	Walk dogs, play with children, jog, pond dipping	See other use – walking, blackberrying, picnicking, playing in river
Sharon Egin	2007 – 2010 fence put up	Daily	Dog walks, children playing in river	Fencing off safe area affects safe childrens play
Mr & Mrs G Farnham	2006 – 2010 fence erected	Weekly	Dog walking, picnics, bird watching, running	March 2010 fence & signs erected. Previously daily use by others walking, fishing, playing
Ms J. Farnham	2006	Daily since 2009	Walking, jogging, bird watching	Fence erected & signs put up end Feb 2010. Local school using river for pond dipping, people used land daily
Mr B. Ford	1984 – 2010 fence	Daily with dogs, now weekly	Walking, photography, paddling in river	See others daily walking, kids playing, picnicking

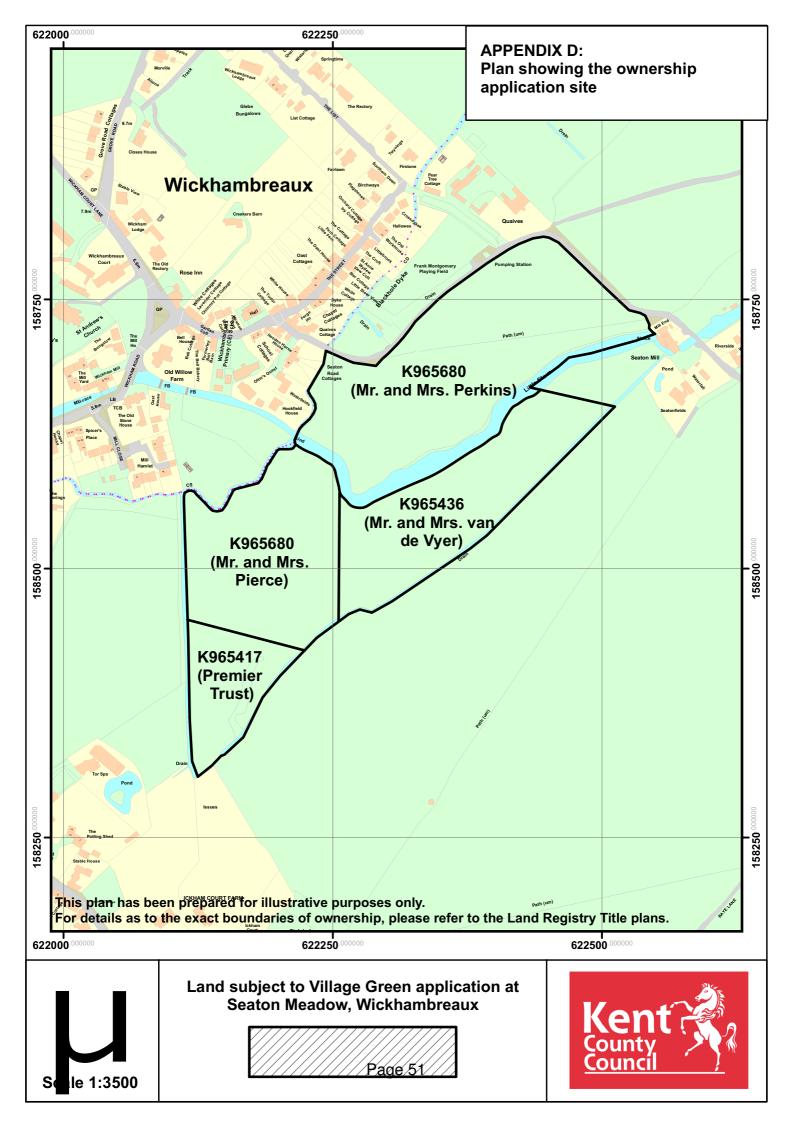
Mrs M. Gooderon	1996 – 2010	Occasionally	Walking, bird watching	2010 fence put up. Others
	fenced off	-		walking, picnics, children playing, bird watching
Mrs K. Gower	1985 – 2010 fenced off	Occasionally to 2008 then daily	Dog walking, picnics, playing as child, school outings	Fence installed & signs Feb 2010. Others walking, playing, fruit picking, bird watching
Caroline Hagan	1975 – 2010 fenced off	Weekly/ Monthly 1998 onwards occasionally	Fishing/playing in river, making camps, photography, snowmen, sledging	Other use – usually see others walking, fishing, kite flying
David Haigh	1976 – 2010	Monthly	Exercise, wildlife observation	2010 erection of fencing & notice. Other use of walking, picnics, children paddling, bird watching
Mr H. Haines	1982 – 2009 due to ill health	Weekly/monthly	Bird watching, walking to Seaton	2010 prohibitive notices. Village school used river for educational activities.
Mrs J. Hammond	1963 – present	Weekly	Picnics, children fishing in river and playing rounders, camping, cricket, kites	Other use of dog walking & children playing
Tracy Harris	1992 – 2010 fence	Weekly & daily during school holidays	Dog walking, children playing in river, sledging in winter	Feb/Mar 2010 fence & notices went up, family can no longer use it. See others daily, walking, playing, school projects
Geordie Hayward	1962 – Mar 2010 fence	1991 – weekly/daily	Dog walking, photography, kite flying, ball games, blackberrying, dam building with children, bird watching	2010 barbed wire fence erected & notices. Always see others walking, (house overlooks the Marsh) & many other activities
Ollie Hayward	1991 – 2010	Daily	Cross-country running, walking, kite flying, socialising on river bank	2010 erection of barbed wire fence. See others walking, school field trips
Mrs E. Healy	1984 – 1999	Daily when had dog	Strolling, observing river, taking grandchildren to play	Popular childrens & family area
Miss H. Hirst	2001 – 2010	Daily	Dog walking, watching wildlife, meeting others, village Tai Chi group	March 2010 fence obstruction. Daily see others use & enjoyment of land – walking, playing, school children by river
Mr & Mrs G Hutchings	2006 – April 2010	Weekly	Walking	Recent obstructions of fence. See other walkers
Joy Jennings	1996 – March 2010	Daily with dog, less now due to health	Walking with dog & neighbours	2010 March fence & signs prevented use of land. Regularly others walking, flying kites, school nature trips, family fun
Julia Jensen	2008 - present	Every few days	Dog walking	Others playing, walking
John Joice	1999 – March 2010	Weekly	Walking, observing nature, taking son for walks & play	March 2010 barbed wire fence & notices. Other use of walking, children playing, school outings. Used for village recreation for decades
Mrs E. Jones	1978 – 2010	Occasionally, children used daily in school holidays	Walking, picnics, tai-chi class, hot air ballooning, paddling in river, bird watching, fishing	March 2010 fence & notices put up. Daily use by others – walking, ball games, paddling, picnics

Mrs C. Kelsey	1960	Weekly	Walking, picnics, bird watching, playing games	2010 notices, fence & locked gates, security lights. Other use of walking, bird watching
Knight Family	1991 – present (restricted)	Weekly	Walking dogs, taking children to play, cross country running group	2010 fence & notices erected. General community use as amenity land
Michael Knott	1962 – 2001 (moved away)	Daily	Exploring wildlife & river, bird watching, walking.	Daily use by others – walking, fishing, children playing in river, kite flying
Eunice & Hyman Kossoff	1961 – present	Occasionally	Walking, kite flying, children playing	See others walking, kite flying, children playing
Graham Lane	2001 – 2010	Weekly/monthly	Walking, playing with children, dog walking, playing in river	March 2010 notices & fences prevented use. Prior use by others – walking playing in streams etc.
Mr & Mrs R. Lane	1974 – 2010	Weekly	Family recreation	Notices & fences put up.
David & Angela Le Breton	1987 - present	Weekly	Walking, picking blackberries, paddling with children, sketching	Other use – artists, birdwatchers, dog walkers, photographers
Christine Le Jeune	1973 – March 2010	1970s several times a week, 80s & 90s weekly, now monthly	Children paddled & fished in summers, snow play & tobogganing winter; picnics, blackberrying	2010 fence & notices. Previously see others daily – can see from house. Hot air balloon rides, school projects
Mrs L. Lodge	1980 – 2010	Occasionally	Dog walking, enjoying nature, take classes from school to paint & carry out nature surveys, history projects	2010 restricted access. Other daily use or weekly – walkers, bird watchers, children playing, fishing, picnics
Norman & Ann Long	2007 – present	Daily	Dog walking & enjoying river bank	See others a lot – walking, painting, children playing
Mr & Mrs D. MacIsaac	1994 – 2010	Several times a week	Dog walking, bird watching, paddling in stream, enjoying riverbank	2010 fence erected. Other use – walking, playing, local primary school, snowballs & snowmen in winter
Mr & Mrs A. Mauduit	1963 – present (restricted)	Occasionally	Walking, activities with children & grandchildren,	Fences & warning notices March 2010. Daily see other recreational use
Brian Maxted	1963 – 2010	Occasionally	Photography, wildlife, children & grandchildren playing, relaxing	Barbed wire fence & locked gates 2010. Prior daily use by others – walking, playing
Mr & Mrs J McGeever	1982 – 2009 (moved away)	Occasionally	Walking, playing with children	Weekly use by others – walking, playing
Rita & Bob McMurran	1992 – 2010	Daily/weekly	Walking, sitting watching wildlife	Fence erected. Others walking, playing
Mr & Mrs Metcalf	1960 – March 2010	Daily	Picnics & playing as child, then walking	March 2010 areas fenced off. Seen children playing, school activities, walkers, twitchers
Mr & Mrs R. Mitchell	1984 onwards	Daily until 2004 then weekly	Walking & picnicking with friends & family, children played and went on school study trips	Observed others walking, playing, photography, bird watching, picnics
Edward Moon	1952 – 2010	1982-2006 daily, then weekly	Playing and school activities as child, then dog walking, meeting	Observe others walking & playing

Pam & Ron Moon   1960's-2010   Weekly   Dog walking, children playing in river weeting friends   March 2010   Weekly   Horseriding, dog walking, playing with children in river walking, playing in river walking, playing with children in river walking, playing in river walking, playing with children in river walking, playing with different in river walking, playing with play frozene deceded 2010 & notices. Seen others walking, periode notices. Seen others walking, playing with onto walking, playing with family walking, children playing, observing nature, erigolying countrystife walking, playing with children playing, walking, playing with children, walking with family walking, playing with children playing, walking, playing with children, walking with family walking, playing with children, walking with family walking, playing walking, playing, walking, playing, walking, playing, observing nature, erigolying countrystife walking, playing, playi				others, enjoying nature	
Jacqueline Mount    1993 -   March 2010   Couple of times per month   Making, playing with children in river walking, playing myth children in river walking, placing, playing, place, playing, playi	Pam & Ron Moon	1960's- 2010	Weekly		Use now restricted.
Jacqueline Mount   March 2010					Others use – walking, kite
March 2010 month children in river with sign, picnics, playing walking, picnics, playing walking, picnics, playing walking, picnics, playing nature walking, picnics, playing uplife used and for nature study lessons and was private. See other walkers, bitdeen enjoying river, walkers walking, playing provide. See other walkers, children playing private. See other walkers, children playing about river.  Jo Pestel 1987 — Daily when resident present in village, now monthly.  Jo Pestel 1986 — 2010 Frequently in summer, less winter wavay.  Katy Pickvance & 1986 — 2010 Daily all year Walking, children playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside.  David Pollard 1970 Occasionally Walking with family walkers.  Max & Camilla Preslama 1998 — 2010 Monthly Fishing, playing with family walkers.  Monthly Fishing, playing with family walkers.  Monthly Fishing, playing with family walkers.  Christopher & Anne Riddell 1986 — 2010 Daily Weekly/daily/monthly over the years walking, playing paddling. Baying observed paddling, sledging, playing with family walkers.  Christopher & Anne 1970 — 2010 Weekly/daily/monthly over the years on the years walking, paddling.  John Somers 2005 — 2010 Z-3 times per week week walking, paddling, playing in river, pond dipping, playing of tamily function in river pond dipping, playing in river, pond dipping, playing observed the years walking, playing in river, pond dipping, playing over the years walking, playing in river, pond dipping, playing over the years walking, playing in river, pond dipping, playing over the years walking, playing in river, pond dipping, playing, over the years walking, playing, local school activities, picnics is family functional walking with friends, walking, playing, local school activities, picnics.  John Somers 2005 – 2010 Several times a week walking, playing, blackbernying blackbernying objects. Seen o					
Mrs R. Murgatroyd  Mrs R. K.  O'Sullivan  Mrs S. Paine  1987 — Daily when resident in village, now monthly monthly summer, less winter wavely.  Walking, children  games and learning about river  Walking.  Walking  Walking  Walking  Walking  Walking  Family still in village and use land	Jacqueline Mount				
Mrs R. Murgatroyd  Mrs R. K O'Sullivan  Mr S. Mr S. O'Sullivan  Mr S. Paine  1992 – 2010  Daily  Daily  Daily when resident in village, now monthly monthly monthly monthly  Dr J. Peebles  1987 – Daily when resident in village, now monthly monthly monthly  Dr J. Peebles  1986 – 2010  Daily when resident monthly monthly  Making with family  David Pollard  1970  David Pollard  1970  Docasionally  Monthly  Max & Camilla Presland  1982 – 2010  Monthly  Terence Relph  1980 – 2010  Christopher & Anne Riddell  1986 – 2010  Daily  Weekly/daily/monthly over the years  Dog walking, playing with children, walking, playing with children in diver walking, playing with children, walking, playing with children in diver walking, playing walking, with friends, walking, playing, walking, with friends, walking, playing, beached was only walking, playing, walking, with friends, walking, playing, beached was only walking, playing, walking, with friends, walking, playing, beached walking, playing, beached was only walking, playing, walking, playing, beached walking, playing, blackbernying  John Somers  2005 – 2010  John Somers  2005 – 2010  Several times a week walking, playing, playing, children, playing, games & on river, photo		March 2010	month	children in river	1
Mrs R. K. O'Sullivan Mrs B. Ovenden Mrs Mrs Mrs B. Ovenden Mrs Making, pilorider Mrs Maki					
Mrs R. K. O'Sullivan Mr & Mrs B. O'Coasionally O'Coasional	Mrs R. Murgatroyd	1961 – 2010	Weekly		
Mrs R. K.   2007 - 2010   Occasionally   Dog walking   Daughter used land for nature study lessons					1
O'Sullivan Mr & Mrs B. Ovenden  O'Real Mr & Mrs B. O'Real	Mrc D K	2007 2010	Occasionally		
Dog walking   Prior to March 2010 no indications land was private. See other walkers, birdwatchers, children playing about river		2007 – 2010	Occasionally	Dog waiking	
Overden		2002 – 2010	Daily	Dog walking	
Mrs S. Paine 1992 – 2010 Occasionally Walking with family See children playing See children playing in village, now monthly about river away)  Katy Pickvance & 1986 – 2010 Cocasionally Walking, children glaying, observing nature, enjoying nature, enjoying nature, enjoying ocuntryside Walking, walking with family See children enjoying nature, enjoying nature, enjoying nature, enjoying countryside Walking with family Walking with family Seen children playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside Walking with family walkers  Max & Camilla Presland 1996 – 2010 Monthly Fishing, playing with children, walking with family walkers  Joan Priestman 1998 – 2010 Daily Dog walking, playing with children in village and use land Seen children playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside Walking, playing walkers  Always see others walking, playing with children in view playing, walking, playing walking, walking with friends, walking, playing walking, playing walking, walking with friends in river, pond dipping, walking, playing, bicnics, family fun, paddling, playing walking, playing, become of family playing, walking with friends, walking, playing, bicnics, family fun, paddling, playing, p					
Mrs S. Paine   1992 – 2010   Occasionally   Walking with family   See children playing   walking way)   Walking with family   See children enjoying river, walkers					private. See other
Mrs S. Paine   1992 – 2010   Occasionally   Walking with family   See children enjoying river, walkers					
Dr J. Peebles   1987 -   Daily when resident in village, now monthly   Walking, childrens games and learning about niver   Walking would now way)					
Dr J. Peebles   1987 - Daily when resident in village, now monthly present   1986 - 2005   Frequently in summer, less winter away)   1986 - 2010   Daily all year   Walking, children playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside   Seen children playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside   Seen children playing, walkers   Manking with family walkers   Manking with family walking with family family   Seen children playing, walkers   Manking with family padding   Seen children playing, walkers   Manking with family walking with family family   Seen children playing, walking with family padding   Seen children playing, walking with family   Seen children playing, walking, playing with children, walking with family   Seen children playing, walking, playing with children in river   Seen children walking, walking, wild fire surveys   Seen children seen walking, playing, local school activities, picnics   Seen children playing, walking, wild fire surveys   Seen children walking, playing, local school activities, picnics, playing, local school activities, picnics, playing, local school activities, picnics, reading   Seen children   S	Mrs S. Paine	1992 – 2010	Occasionally	Walking with family	
present   in village, now monthly   about river   walking wardy   walking   walking   walking   playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside   walking	D 1 D 11	1007	D 11 1 1 1 1	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	river, walkers
Monthly   About river   Walking   Family still in village and use land   September   Sep	Dr J. Peebles				
Jo Pestel		present			
Care	.In Pestel	1986 – 2005			Family still in village and
Away   Pickvance & family   1986 - 2010   Daily all year   Walking, children playing, observing nature, enjoying countryside	301 63(6)			VVaiking	1 - 1
Recent fence & signs stopped use.   Recent fence & signs stopped use.		<b>\</b>	- 2		
David Pollard   1970   Occasionally   Dalying, observing nature, enjoying countryside	Katy Pickvance &		Daily all year	Walking, children	Recent fence & signs
David Pollard 1970 Occasionally Walking with family Seen children playing, walkers  Max & Camilla Presland 1962 – 2010 Monthly Fishing, playing with children, walking with family Always see others walking, playing walking, playing with children in river paddling, walking with friends, wildlife surveys walking, playing with friends, wildlife surveys walking, playing, walking with friends, wildlife surveys walking, playing, walking with friends, wildlife surveys walking, playing, walking with friends, wildlife surveys walking, playing, ocal school activities, picnics with friends, learn about nature  John Somers 2005 – 2010 Daily/weekly as child, 2005 at university, still use in holldays  John Somers 2005 – 2010 Several times a week Paddling, picnics, reading  Isabella Stephens 1982 – 2010 Several times a week Paddling, picnics, reading picnics with grandchildren playing agames & on river, photography, blackberrying  Elizabeth M. 1949 – 2010 Regularly to occasionally over years walking, playing walking, playing walking, playing, play	family				stopped use.
David Pollard   1970   Occasionally   Walking with family   Seen children playing, walkers					
Max & Camilla Presland       1962 – 2010       Monthly       Fishing, playing with children, walking, playing with children, walking, playing with children in river with children in river with children in river with children in river walking & playing with children in river with children in river with children in river with children in river walking & playing with children in river walking, paddling, playing, walking with friends, wildlife surveys wildlife surveys wildlife surveys wildlife surveys walking, playing, walking, playing, walking, surveys wildlife surveys walking, playing, coal school activities, picnics with friends, learn about nature         Fern Riddell       1986 – 2010       Daily/weekly as child, 2005 at university, still use in holidays       Dog walking, paddling, picnics with friends, learn about nature       March 2010 fence and signs put up. Other use walking, picnics, family fun paddling, sledging, picnics with grandchildren       Seen chers walking, picnics walking, picnics walking, picnics, family fun, river studies for primary school. Land used by three generations of family         John Somers       2005 – 2010       Several times a week       Walking, running, picnics, reading       March 2010 fence & signs put up. 2010 fence & signs put up. School use land for projects         Isabella Stephens       1986 – 2010 restricted access       Daily       Dog walking, children playing, picnics with grandchildren projects       Seen others walking, picnics, paddling, sledging, picnics					
Max & Camilla   Presland   1962 – 2010   Monthly   Fishing, playing with children, walking with family   Dog walking walking, playing   Seen others walking, playing   Observe others walking, paddling   Observe others walking, paddling   Observe others walking, paddling   Observe others walking, paddling   Observe others walking & playing   Observe others walking, playing, playing, playing, playing, playing, playing, playing, playing, fishing, playing, fishing, mindend playing, play	David Pollard	1970	Occasionally	Walking with family	
Presland	May & Camilla	1062 2010	Monthly	Fighing playing with	
Joan Priestman   1998 – 2010   Monthly   Dog walking   paddling   Doserve others walking   paddling   Observe others walking & playing   with children in river   Pamily picnics, playing   mirver, pond dipping, walking with friends, wildlife surveys   Pamily picnics with friends, wildlife surveys   Dog walking, paddling   March 2010 fence erected & signs put up. See other walking & playing   March 2010 fence erected & signs put up. See other walking wildlife surveys   Dog walking, paddling, playing, local school activities, picnics with friends, learn about nature   March 2010 fence and signs put up. Other use walking, picnics, family fun, river studies for primary school. Land used by three generations of family		1962 – 2010	Monthly		
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Stewart restricted access playing games & on river, photography, blackberrying  Elizabeth M. 1949 – 2010 Regularly to occasionally over years playing when children young – kites, in river, with friends playing, fishing, mushrooming  Ian Stewart 1977 – 2010 Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing Notices up March 2010.				grandchildren	for projects
Elizabeth M.  Stewart  1949 – 2010  Regularly to occasionally over years  Very photography, blackberrying  Dog walking, playing when children young – kites, in river, with friends  Ian Stewart  1977 – 2010  Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing washrooming  Notices up March 2010.			Daily		
Elizabeth M.  Stewart  1949 – 2010  Regularly to occasionally over years  years  In Stewart  1949 – 2010  Regularly to occasionally over years  Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing years  Dog walking, playing years people walking, playing, fishing, mushrooming  Notices up March 2010.	Stewart				picnicking, walking.
Stewart  Stewart  1949 – 2010  Regularly to occasionally over years years  Notices put up. Over years people walking, playing years playing, fishing, mushrooming  Ian Stewart  1977 – 2010  Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing Notices up March 2010.		access			
Stewart occasionally over when children young – years people walking, playing, fishing, mushrooming  Ian Stewart 1977 – 2010 Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing Notices up March 2010.	Elizobeth M	1040 2040	Dogularly to		2010 notices put Out-
years kites, in river, with playing, fishing, friends mushrooming  Ian Stewart 1977 – 2010 Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing Notices up March 2010.		1949 – 2010			
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lan Stewart 1977 – 2010 Regularly mid 80's & Dog walking, playing Notices up March 2010.			, 50.0		
(restricted) 90's, now Page with children Village duck race	Ian Stewart	1977 – 2010	Regularly mid 80's &	Dog walking, plaving	Notices up March 2010.
		(restricted)	90's, now Page	அன்th children	

loods Of our als	2004 2000	occasionally	Diamin a milla	Abores a seule de a
Judy Sturrock	2001 – 2009	Occasionally	Playing with grandchildren, walking & enjoying scenery	Always people dog walking
Edward Taylor	1988 – present	Weekly as child, now occasionally when visit	Walk dog, fly kite, play in stream	Others walking, playing, picnics, painting
Susan & Peter Terrill	1980 – 2010	Daily / weekly	Walking with dogs, children, friends, picnicking, kite flying, paddling, picking mushrooms	Notices up March 2010. Daily see others walking, ball games, children playing in river
Katherine Trotter	2003 – 2010 restricted access	Twice weekly	Walking, paddling, picnicking, dog walking	March 2010 fences & notices up restricting access.
Mr Alex Twyman	1946 – 2000 (moved away)	Weekly	Fishing, dog walking, paddling with children, bird watching	See others playing, picnicking, walking
Carol Twyman	1960 – 2000 (moved away)	Weekly	Picnics, walking dogs, children playing, bird watching	Daily see others enjoying land
Emma Twyman	1972 – 2000 (moved away)	Weekly	Paddling, picnicking, rounders, village duck race, bird watching	Three generation of family have enjoyed the land
Timothy Upcroft & Mary Clemson	2002 – 2010	Weekly	Painting, picnics, walking with family & friends	Daily see kite flying, ball games, walkers, playing in river
Mrs Ann Vine	1988 -	Weekly, now occasionally	Walking, watching grandchildren play	2010 fence put up. Always seen walkers & children playing
Dr. J Volkman	2001 -	Daily, weekly, monthly (weather dep)	Walking, children paddling & playing in stream, kite flying, picnicking, photography, enjoying nature & wildlife, socialising	Signs put up March 2010
Annabel Ward	1977 -	Weekly (sometimes daily)	Walking, dog exercising, wildlife, meet friends, bird watching, community activities	Barbed wire & notices March 2010 "no right of access"
John & Emmy Watts	1964 -	Daily	Dog walking, children & grandchildren playing, Easter egg hunts, blackberrying, family fun	Wire fencing put up 2010
Lucy Watts	1970 -	Frequently	Dog walking, picnics, bird watching, painting, playing, blackberrying	March 2010 fence & signs put up
Tim Watts	1960's -	Frequently as child, now occasionally	Walking, playing games, paddling in river, kite flying, dog walking	Often see others playing, walking etc.
Mrs E Wellard	1996 -	Weekly now monthly	Kite flying, picnics, drawing, children playing in river	Weekly see others using land. Concern for safety with wire put up
Mr A White	1997 -	Occasionally	Walking	See other walkers & families.
Mrs C Whiting	1973 -	As child daily or weekly, 1992 onwards less so	Play games, fishing, kite flying, picnics, meet friends, Abjackberrying	Daily see other use

Brian Wilkinson	1998 – 2010	Daily	Dog walking, taking grandchildren along riverbank, bird watching	See other use – family picnics, walks, games
Mrs J Wilkinson	1966 -	Monthly, occasionally now older	Walking, picnics, blackberrying, playing with grandchildren	Other use by walkers
Karen & Malcolm Withers	2007 -	Daily	Walking, bird watching, playing with grandchildren	March 2010 sign of no access
J Wood & M Blake	1978 -	Often / occasionally	Walking, exploring riverbank	Prevented since March 2010
R Wood & C Savin	2003	Occasionally	Dog walking, picnics, playing	
The Wright Family	1987 – 2010	Daily / weekly over years	Dog walking, children playing, picnics, river exploring	Prevented by current owners
Holly Wyles	2006 -	Weekly	Dog walking	March 2010
Philip Wyles	2006 -	Daily	Dog walking	Prevented March 2010



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