

Application to register land known as Glebe Field in the parish of Goudhurst as a new Town or Village Green

A report by the Head of Regulatory Services to Kent County Council's Regulation Committee Member Panel on Tuesday 24th September 2013.

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

Local Member: Mr. A. King

Unrestricted item

Introduction

1. The County Council has received an application to register land known as Glebe Field in the parish of Goudhurst as a new Town or Village Green from local resident Mr. E. Bates ("the applicant"). The application, made on 18th November 2011 was allocated the application number VGA639. 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**¹, e.g. by way of the erection of fencing or a notice (section 15(3) 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

¹ Note that after 1st October 2013, the period of grace will be reduced from two years to one year (due to the coming into effect of section 14 of the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013). This will only apply to applications received after that date and does not affect any existing applications.

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”) consists of an area of grass of approximately 2.5 acres (1 hectare) in size situated at the junction of Church Road and Back Lane in the parish of Goudhurst. The application site is shown in more detail on the plan at **Appendix A**.
7. There are no recorded Public Rights of Way on or abutting the application site, although there is a surfaced path running inside the northern boundary of the application site. It is understood that this was constructed in approximately 1998 to facilitate the safe passage of children between the village centre and the new primary school situated to the east of the application site.

The case

8. 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.
9. Included in support of the application were 112 user evidence questionnaires, a statement detailing the history and use of the application site, a copy of leases between Kent County Council (as Local Education Authority) and the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance (as landowner), correspondence with the landowner, notes of a meeting between the Parish Council and the landowner regarding the future of the application site, a summary of the activities cited by users, a timeline of relevant dates, various photographs showing organised activities taking place on the land (e.g. fetes) a programme from the 1997 fete and sample flyers from the ‘save the glebe field’ campaign. A summary of the user evidence submitted in support of the application is attached at **Appendix C**.
10. The applicant’s evidence is that the application site is an extremely popular public meeting place that has been used for generations on a daily basis by a significant number of local people for a variety of recreational purposes. Permission has not been sought to use the land for informal recreation and access has never been denied. Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School had a lease that allowed its pupils to play sports on the field, but local residents continued their recreational use of the application site whilst ensuring that such use did not interfere with school use.
11. After the lease expired, the Parish Council approached the landowner with a request to buy or lease the land, but there has been no response to this request. The end of the lease raised significant concern amongst local residents that continued access could not be taken for granted. At a public meeting in March 2011, residents expressed a clear wish for use to continue and, as this has not been achievable through negotiation with the landowner, a group of residents set up the save Glebe Field campaign to prepare a Village Green application.

Consultations

12. Consultations have been carried out as required.
13. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council responded to the effect that ‘although [the application site] does not have any specific use allocation in the Local Plan, officers can confirm that it is used for recreational purposes. The field is clearly used for sports, with short mown grass and goal posts at eastern end of the site. There is a public footpath across the site from north-east to south-west in addition to a number of accesses from both Church Road and Back Lane to the site. However, aerial photographs taken in 1999, 2003, 2006 and 2009 do not show any evidence of use of the field for more extensive recreational use by the wider public in the locality. From the information available it is therefore not possible for the Local Planning Authority to confirm that a significant number of any inhabitants of the locality or of any neighbourhood within the locality have indulged as of right in lawful sports and pastimes on the land for a period of at least 20 years’.
14. Local resident Mr. P. Glyde also wrote in support of the application. He said that the land was used on a daily basis for dog walking and socialising, and that football was played there during most winter weekends. During the summer, the application site becomes a venue for well-attended local fetes and shows.

Landowner

15. The application site is owned by the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance (“the landowner”). The land was vested in the landowner by virtue of section 15 of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976. Under this provision, the landowner has a statutory duty to manage the land for the benefit of the Clergy Stipends Fund.
16. The land was leased to Kent County Council (“KCC”) as a school playing field. There were a succession of leases between 1966 and 2010, when KCC ceased occupation of the land. In 1996, KCC sought permission from the landowner to construct a footpath along the edge of the Glebe in connection with the construction of a new primary school nearby. The path was constructed in 1998 and two new pedestrian gates were installed at either end of the pathway. Prior to this period access was limited to one gateway only. The creation of the footpath opened up access to the land for use by the general public in a way that had not taken place previously.
17. An objection to the application was received from Graham Boulden and Co, land agents acting on behalf of the landowner. The objection has been made on the following grounds:
 - That the application is invalid because the application plan includes land not owned by the landowner and the requisite notices have not been served².
 - The applicant only moved to Goudhurst in 1996 and therefore cannot assert from his own knowledge that the land has been used for generations.

² It should be noted that none of the application site is registered with the Land Registry. Regulation 22(3) of the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008 provides that the applicant is not required to serve notice on a landowner if that person cannot be reasonably identified.

- Despite the applicant's assertions to the contrary, permission was granted for certain events to take place on the field; indeed, the fete programme from 1994 states 'by kind permission of the headteacher'. In any event, the fete is organised on the basis that four local organisations benefit (the church, the school, the village hall and the scouts) and, since both the church and the school are represented at the fete, use of the land for the fete was by virtue of an implied permission.
- It is unclear whether some of the recreational use is ancillary to the main purpose of walking along the footpath.
- Part of the land is used for parking in connection with the church on a weekly basis and, for weddings and funerals, as much as half of the land is used for parking.
- The Newhaven case stated that registration as a Village Green cannot take place where it would be inconsistent with the statutory purpose for which the land is held. The land is held for the benefit of the Diocesan Stipends Fund under section 19 of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 and Village Green status would be incompatible for this purpose³.

Legal tests

18. In dealing with an application to register a new Town or Village Green the County Council must consider the following criteria:

- Whether use of the land has been 'as of right'?*
- Whether use of the land has been for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes?*
- Whether use has been by a significant number of inhabitants of a particular locality, or a neighbourhood within a locality?*
- Whether use of the land 'as of right' by the inhabitants has continued up until the date of application or, if not, ceased no more than two years prior to the making of the application?*
- 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'?

19. The statutory scheme in relation to Village Green applications is based upon the English law of prescription, whereby certain rights can be acquired on the basis of a presumed dedication by the landowner. This presumption of dedication arises primarily as a result of acquiescence (i.e. inaction by the landowner) and, as such, long use by the public is merely evidence from which a dedication can be inferred.

20. In order to infer a dedication, use must have been 'as of right'. This means that use must have taken place without force, without secrecy and without permission ('*nec vi, nec clam, nec precario*'). In this context, force refers not only to physical force, but to any use which is contentious or exercised under protest⁴: "*if, then,*

³ This statement refers to the High Court's decision in the case of *Newhaven Port and Properties Ltd v East Sussex County Council* [2012] EWHC 647 (Admin). However, that element of the decision has been overturned in the subsequent Court of Appeal judgement in the same case: [2013] EWCA Civ 276.

⁴ *Dalton v Angus* (1881) 6 App Cas 740 (HL)

*the inhabitants' use of the land is to give rise to the possibility of an application being made for registration of a village green, it must have been peaceable and non-contentious*⁵.

21. In this case, there is no question of the land being used in secrecy or in exercise of any force; all users refer to entry to the application site being through open gates and many refer to having seen other people engaging in recreational activities on the land.
22. However, there is a question as to whether use of the application site has taken place by virtue of an implied permission. The question arises from the use of the application site for organised events and, more particularly, village fetes. Included in support of the application was a copy of a flyer advertising the 1994 village fete (see **Appendix D**), which included the statements '*by kind permission of the headteacher*' and '*entry by programme*'.
23. The landowner contends that this demonstrates that use of the application site took place by the permission of the landowner; the head teacher was entrusted by the landowner with de facto control over the application site and, so far as the public was concerned, their attendance at the fete was by virtue of his consent to the use of the land for holding the fete.
24. However, the applicant's position is that the headteacher was not in a position to grant such permission as the lease between the landowner and the County Council specifically restricted use to primary school children; the headteacher's consent was therefore only sought to ensure that the fete would not conflict with any school activities. In any event, the landowner was not aware that formal activities were taking place on the application site.
25. The issue of organised events was recently considered by the courts in the Mann⁶ case, which concerned an area of grassland, part of which was used 'occasionally' for the holding of a beer festival and fun fair. During these times, an entrance fee was charged to enter the affected part of the land, although public access to the remainder was not denied.
26. The judge considered the previous case of Beresford⁷ as authority for the proposition that a landowner must make it clear that the public's use of the land is with his permission and that may be shown by excluding the public on occasional days; such conduct need only occur occasionally and perhaps even only once during the relevant period. The Court found that⁸ '*the critical point was that the owner had unequivocally exercised his right to exclude and did not have to do more than [he] did to bring it home to the reasonable local inhabitant that this right was being exercised and that the use by the local inhabitants was pursuant to permission*'. Thus, it was held that occasional exclusion from part of the land was sufficient to communicate to users that their use of the whole land at other times was with the landowner's implied permission.

⁵ *R (Lewis) v Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council* [2010] UKSC 11 at paragraph 92 per Lord Rodger

⁶ *R (Mann) v Somerset County Council* [2012] EWHC B14 (Admin)

⁷ *R v City of Sunderland ex parte Beresford* [2003] UKHL 60

⁸ at paragraph 77 per Judge Owen QC

27. The parties have been invited to comment on the effect of the judgement in the Mann case.
28. The landowner's position is that entry to the fete was generally by programme which, effectively, amounts to the charging of a fee. This contention is supported by a statement from the local vicar confirming that printed programmes would be produced prior the fete and sold in local shops 'for the relevant entry fee'; on the day of the fete, the three entrances would be manned and those not in possession of a programme would be invited to purchase one prior to entry onto the field. The landowner asserts that this puts the application on all fours with the situation in the Mann case and gave rise to an implied permission in 1994 for local inhabitants to recreate on the land. As a result, the applicant cannot prove twenty years qualifying use.
29. The applicant's case, on the other hand, is that this case can be distinguished from the situation in the Mann case on the basis that the application site at Goudhurst is not secure and accessible via multiple entrances, as well as various holes in boundary vegetation. The path along the inside boundary of the application site, which avoids a busy main road, is used at all times regardless of any events taking place on the application site. The applicant concedes that the fete does take up a large part of the application site but does not prevent access for other users. Indeed, access to the field has not been controlled or restricted and it has been perfectly possible to access the field for recreational activities that are totally separate from the fete. In respect of the fee, the applicant states that this was not for entry to the land, but rather was a means of raising funds towards the cost of the fete; it cannot be interpreted as a 'manifest act of exclusion'.
30. In this case, there is therefore a conflict of fact as to what the position was on days when the application site was used for fetes and other organised events, and it is not possible to conclude that use of the application site has taken place 'as of right'.

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

31. Lawful sports and pastimes can be commonplace activities including dog walking, children playing, picnicking and kite-flying. 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*'⁹.
32. The summary of evidence of use by local residents at **Appendix C** shows the activities claimed to have taken place on the application site. The overwhelming majority use of the application site has been for walking (with or without dogs), but there is also evidence of use of the application for other informal recreational activities, including dog walking, bird watching and playing with children.

⁹ *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, ex parte Sunningwell Parish Council* [1999] 3 All ER 385

33. A number of people refer to use of the path along the inside northern boundary of the application site as a safe route of passage between the village centre and the primary school. Such use will generally be regarded as a 'rights of way type' use and, following the decision in the Laing Homes¹⁰ case, falls to be discounted. In that case, the judge said: *'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'*.
34. However, even discounting the linear path use, the user evidence summarised at **Appendix C** demonstrates that the application site has been used on a regular basis for a wide range 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?

35. 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.
36. 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 Builders¹¹ 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'*.
37. In this case, the applicant has specified the locality as being 'Goudhurst parish'. The plan at **Appendix E** shows the area within which the users reside and confirms that the application site is used by people living across the parish of Goudhurst.
38. The parish of Goudhurst is a legally recognised administrative unit and thus would constitute a qualifying locality.

"a significant number"

39. 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'*¹². Thus, what constitutes a

¹⁰ *R (Laing Homes) v Buckinghamshire County Council* [2003] 3 EGLR 70 at 79 per Sullivan J

¹¹ *R (Cheltenham Builders Ltd.) v South Gloucestershire District Council* [2004] 1 EGLR 85 at 90

¹² *R (Alfred McAlpine Homes Ltd.) v Staffordshire County Council* [2002] EWHC 76 at paragraph 71

'significant number' will depend upon the local environment and will vary in each case depending upon the location of the application site.

40. In this case, the application is supported by 112 user evidence questionnaires from various people living across the parish of Goudhurst, many of whom claim to have used the application site for informal recreation on an at least daily or weekly basis. Furthermore, many of the users also refer to having observed use by others on a regular basis.

41. The overall impression given by the user evidence is that the volume and frequency of such use is likely to have been sufficient to indicate that the land was in general use not only by a significant number of local residents but also the community in general throughout the material period.

(d) Whether use of the land 'as of right' by the inhabitants has continued up until the date of application or, if not, ceased no more than two years prior to the making of the application?

42. 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, section 15(3) of the 2006 Act provides that an application must be made within two years from the date upon which use 'as of right' ceased.

43. In this case, there is no evidence to suggest that use of the application site for recreational purposes ceased prior to the making of the application and it would therefore appear that the application has been correctly made under section 15(2) of the Commons Act 2006.

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

44. 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 'as of right' did not cease prior to the making of the application in 2011 and, as such, the relevant twenty-year period ("the material period") is calculated retrospectively from this date, i.e. 1991 to 2011.

45. Notwithstanding the debate as to whether such use has taken place 'as of right' (above), the user evidence (summarised at **Appendix C**) suggests that recreational use of the application site has taken place well in excess of the required 20 year period.

Conclusion

46. Although the relevant Regulations¹³ 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 Public Inquiry. This involves appointing

¹³ Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008

an independent Inspector to hear the relevant evidence and report his/her findings back to the Registration Authority.

47. Such an approach has received positive approval by the Courts, most notably in the *Whitney*¹⁴ 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'*.

48. In this case, it is clear that the application site has been a focus for informal recreational use by the local community. However, there is a serious conflict of fact in relation to the annual fete, which is central to the question of whether such recreational use took place 'as of right'. Both parties offer conflicting views on this key issue and it has not been possible to determine, on the basis of the available paperwork, what the correct position actually was in relation to the fetes. This is a question of fact which would be better resolved by way of oral testimony and which requires further, more detailed consideration before the application can be determined. Accordingly, it would appear that the most appropriate course of action would be for the matter to be referred to a Public Inquiry.

Recommendation

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

Accountable Officer:

Mr. Mike Overbeke – Tel: 01622 221568 or Email: mike.overbeke@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

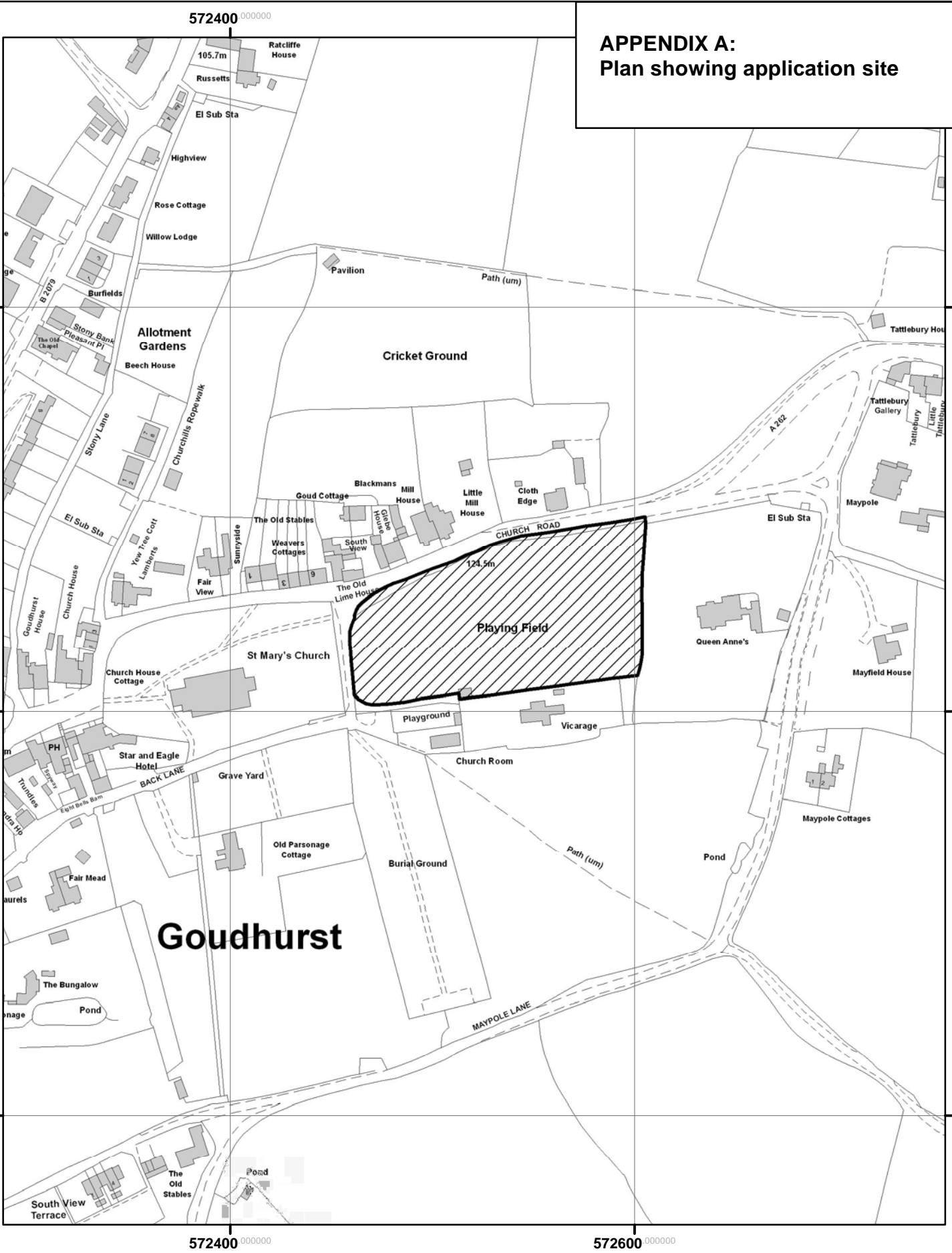
APPENDIX C – Table summarising user evidence

APPENDIX D – Copy of 1994 village fete flyer

APPENDIX E – Plan showing area within which users reside

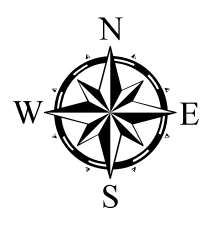
¹⁴ *R (Whitney) v Commons Commissioners* [2004] EWCA Civ 951 at paragraph 66

**APPENDIX A:
Plan showing application site**



Goudhurst

Playing Field
124.5m



Scale 1:2500

**Land subject to Village Green application
at The Glebe at Goudhurst**



FORM CA9

Commons Act 2006: section 15

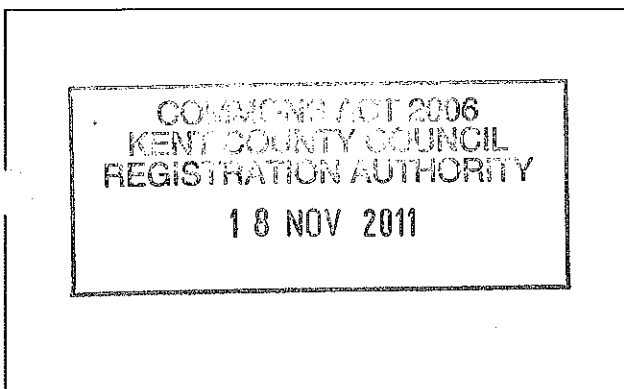
**Application for the registration of land
as a new Town or Village Green**

**APPENDIX B:
Copy of the application form**



This section is for office use only

Official stamp of the Registration Authority
indicating date of receipt:



Application number:

VGA639

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

[Empty box for VG number]

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

Name: *E. BATES*

Full postal address:
(incl. Postcode)

[Redacted address]

Telephone number:
(incl. national dialling code)

[Redacted telephone number]

Fax number:
(incl. national dialling code)

[Redacted fax number]

E-mail address:

[Redacted email address]

Note 3

This part should be completed if a 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

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 qualifying criteria

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:

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:

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:

THE GLEBE FIELD

Location:

THE FIELD BORDERED BY BACK LANE AND CHURCH ROAD IN GOUDHURST.

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):



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:

GOUDHURST PARISH

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

PLEASE SEE "SUMMARY" IN 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

OWNER :- DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

THE MOST REVEREND AND RIGHT
HONOURABLE THE LORD
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

LAMBETH PALACE
LONDON, SE1 7JU

OR c/o:-

DIRECTOR AND DIOCESAN SURVEYOR
OLD PALACE
CANTERBURY
KENT, CT1 2EE

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.

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 voluntarily 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

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

PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS.

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: 17th NOVEMBER 2011

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
Kent 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.

Glebe Field, Goudhurst: Village Green Application

Summary; The Glebe Field is situated within of the village of Goudhurst, adjacent to the medieval church of St Mary's. It is used on a daily basis by a significant number of local people for a variety of recreational purposes. It is the most significant area of accessible, flat open space within the village. The Glebe Field has been used by local residents for generations, with their use regarded as of right. This application is being made to secure that right for perpetuity.

The Glebe Field has been used by Goudhurst residents for a variety of sports and pastimes. It has also been used as the site for the celebration of major social and historic events which bring the local community together, for example: to witness the lighting of the beacon; special royal anniversaries such as Silver and Diamond Jubilees; to welcome the millennium; bonfire night celebrations. It has also been used by various village clubs and societies for their outdoor activities. (See appendix 5).

Permission has not been sought from the landowner for these uses and use has never been denied. Many local people have been eager to complete the Evidence Questionnaires which comprehensively cover the required period of twenty years of use, and these are attached.

Goudhurst & Kilndown Primary School had a lease which allowed its pupils to play sports on the Glebe Field. However, local residents continued their informal use of the land while ensuring that this use did not interfere with the school's occasional use of a part of the Field for sports activities.

The Glebe Field and the recreational activities that take place on it form part of and contribute to the character of the village. This application aims to confirm its village green status in the terms of section 15 of the Commons Act 2006.

History; In the Anglican Church tradition, glebe was land and property in the parish owned by the Church of England and held by the incumbent clergyman as part of the endowment of his benefice. Glebe provided the means by which the vicar could support himself and his church. Typically, glebe would comprise the vicarage or rectory, fields and the church building itself, its contents and its graveyard.

Each church was entitled to a house and glebe land. In short, clergymen's pay came not from the church but from rents and tithes, with rental income from glebe land being significant.

Glebe associated with the Church of England ceased to belong to individual clergy as from 1 April 1978, by virtue of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976; instead, it became vested on that date, "without any conveyance or other assurance," in the Diocesan Board of Finance of the diocese to which the benefice owning the glebe belonged.

Background; The land which is the subject of this application is owned by the Diocese of Canterbury and situated within Goudhurst village centre, to the West of St Marys Church. It is the northern section of the original glebe field which was divided by the construction of the Church Room and vicarage with associated driveway long before the period of this application.

The last recorded agricultural use was grazing on at least part of the Glebe Field, which ended in 1965. From here on the term "The Glebe Field", only refers to the northern part of the original field which is the subject of this application.

Kent County Council held two consecutive leases with the Diocese, for Goudhurst and Kildown Church of England Primary School's use of the Glebe Field. The first was from 9th September 1986, and the second from 10th June 1998. We believe the second lease was ended in October 2008. Both leases allowed use of the field under clause 2.(a), "Not to use the said premises or any part thereof for any purpose other than a playing field for Primary School children." The many other recorded activities were therefore carried out as though of right. Both leases and supporting information contained in emails are contained in appendix 1.

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new, replacement school building in 1997, subject to a number of conditions. Condition 6 required that prior to the building being "occupied or brought into use a footway shall be providedfrom Maypole lane to the Glebe Field, and around the Glebe field to Back Lane," "to enable children to walk to and from school in safety from and to the village centre." See appendix 2.

This requirement was met by the construction of a pathway parallel to the northern and western boundaries of the Glebe Field, parallel to Church Road and Back Lane respectively, and was granted planning permission in November 1997 under reference 97/1127 (see appendix 2.1). The path remains in frequent and regular use though is not believed to be a public footpath. It is clearly visible from the Google satellite photograph of the Glebe Field in appendix 3, printed in October 2011 (<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>).

The new school was built on Goudhurst United Football Club's pitch, with the terms of the planning permission obliging the developers to provide an alternative pitch. After a delay of approximately ten years, a new pitch was opened adjacent to the new school parking. Access to this new facility is significantly more convenient for the school's sports, making their use of the Glebe Field superfluous for other than access, and hence the end of the KCC lease of the Glebe Field in October 2010 as already detailed above. The markings of the school running lanes can still be seen in appendix 3, parallel to Church Road.

Without KCC maintenance, the field quickly became overgrown with the Parish Council arranging occasional cuts to enable the long accepted and established access for sports and pastimes such as the village fete to continue.

It was perhaps inevitable that children crossing the Glebe Field to access both the old and new school buildings took advantage of the opportunity to play. Two football goals set permanently in concrete were installed by Goudhurst Parish Council (GPC) for casual, unauthorised football more than fourteen years ago, verified by the author who moved to the Parish in November 1996. Record of the exact date of the installation has been lost, but the goals remain the property of GPC, who has straightened the crossbar and repainted at least twice during the last five years. Again this is verified by the author who helped with this maintenance on both occasions. The goal posts and wear associated with play can be seen in appendix 3.

After the KCC lease ceased, GPC approached the Diocese with a request to buy or lease the field and take on responsibility for ground maintenance. The Diocese confirmed in writing 1st February 2011, "that the Diocese was unaware that use was being made of the field by the Parish and by the Fete Committee", (See appendix 4). At the time of writing the Diocese has indicated no inclination to take up either offer, leaving continued access and the condition of the field of great concern to local residents (see appendix 4.1 and 4.2 for GPC reports of meetings with Diocese).

Description; the northern boundary is along Church Road, the A262 main road, with a dividing hedgerow.

The eastern end is wooded, showing signs of camps and other games by local children. A dilapidated metal rail fence marks the boundary with the adjoining residential property garden.

The southern border is marked by hedge and undergrowth.

The western boundary is along Back Lane, and marked by an attractive old, low stone wall.

Maintenance of the grounds by KCC under the terms of their lease, has now given way to an unkempt field with mole and rabbit earthworks becoming a hazard to footballers. Ragwort has become common; with residents including the author removing it manually to safeguard children playing to whom it represents a health hazard.

Approximately midway along the southern boundary there are concrete foundations and some steel framework from a small pavilion that was used long ago as changing rooms for children from the primary school. It is now entirely derelict and only used in the village fete, when with a tarpaulin draped over it makes one of the stalls. This is obscured from view in appendix 3, by the tree midway along the southern boundary.

Method; The end of KCC's lease of the Glebe field in October 2010 raised significant concern among residents of the parish that their continued access could not be taken for granted. At a well attended public meeting called by GPC in March 2011, residents gave a clear message that they wished their long established access and use to be continued and the field to be maintained. To date this has not been achievable through GPC's negotiations with the Diocese, and a group of residents set up the Save the Glebe Field Committee in July 2011 to prepare a Village Green application. In August 2011 committee members hand delivered a letter to the majority of households in Goudhurst Parish (See appendix 8). Commercial premises in the centre of Goudhurst Village were also approached, with the majority agreeing to display a poster (See appendix 8.1). Readers of the letter and poster were invited to help by passing on the message and by contacting the Chairman of the Save the Glebe Field Committee by dedicated email or telephone for a questionnaire to record their use of the field.

A specimen Evidence Questionnaire and map noting the Glebe Field as "playing field" (scale 1:1250), supplied by KCC, were used. Goudhurst Parish boundary does not fit within A4 format at this scale, and it was subsequently agreed with KCC staff by phone that it would not be possible to fulfil

question 2 or the last part of question 3 on the Evidence Questionnaire, requiring addresses to be marked on the map.

A small number of Evidence Questionnaires were handed out at meetings by prior invitation, such as at the Goudhurst and Kildown History Society. The majority were delivered by hand on demand following receipt of an email or telephone message.

Several elderly residents asked to dictate their answers for the questionnaires. In these cases Ed Bates, Chairman of the Committee, visited these people at their homes. Care was taken not to ask leading questions or place any pressure for a particular answer. The answers were all read out to those dictating prior to signature, and questionnaires completed in this way are clearly marked as such.

Susan Shannon, responsible for Evidence Questionnaire 86, was elderly and in failing physical health, but was very determined to help by completing the questionnaire. Sections left blank were later that day completed by Ed Bates during a telephone conversation with Susan's adult daughter, who was able to converse with Susan. It is accepted that this complicated situation may be imperfect, but the circumstances compel her questionnaire to be included.

Where a section or page was left blank or where the response meaning was unclear or appeared contradictory, the resident was approached for clarification at the point of collection by the collecting committee member. Where there was no contact at collection, questionnaires have been reviewed by two committee members and some who completed were then approached by telephone. This was most common where the answer to question 6 was given as a number of years rather than the date as required. Some also seemed to find answering question 8 confusing. Questionnaires with information altered by anyone other than by the original completing resident, such as following a telephone conversation, are clearly indicated and signed by the person making the addition. No amendments were made without asking the completing resident first if that was what they intended, wished to happen and had their complete approval.

Use; The Glebe Field has therefore been used by residents for sports and pastimes as though of right for significantly longer than the Village Green twenty year qualifying period. It has been treated as a public recreational ground without challenge. The diversity of use recorded in answer to question 13 of the completed Evidence Questionnaires with this application are indicative of full and long use (See appendix 5). The usage dates covered by the questionnaires are summarised in appendix 6.

The annual Church Fete became known as the Village Fete more than twenty years ago. The author has been unable to trace permission for the Village fete during the last twenty year Village Green qualifying period, except for 2011, when following the end of the KCC lease permission was obtained from the Diocese.

There is inadequate parking available in the village for big events held in St Marys' Church such as weddings and funerals. The Glebe Field has long been occasionally but regularly used for parking. During the period of the KCC lease this was arranged by St Marys Church Wardens in direct liaison with the school. As far as the author is aware this was without reference to the Diocese. Although

not a qualifying Village Green activity, it should be recorded in any Village Green status as a long established practice managed by St Marys' Church Wardens to be continued as of right.

Regular events such as the annual village fete and one off events such as a meeting place for cycling fixtures as well as the popular casual daily use take place on the field as it is the only accessible flat area in the village centre of sufficient size. See appendix 7, of photographs kindly made available Goudhurst and Kilndown Local History Society, recognisably of the Glebe Field with their dates (http://www.goudhurst.co.uk/Pages/local_history_society.html)

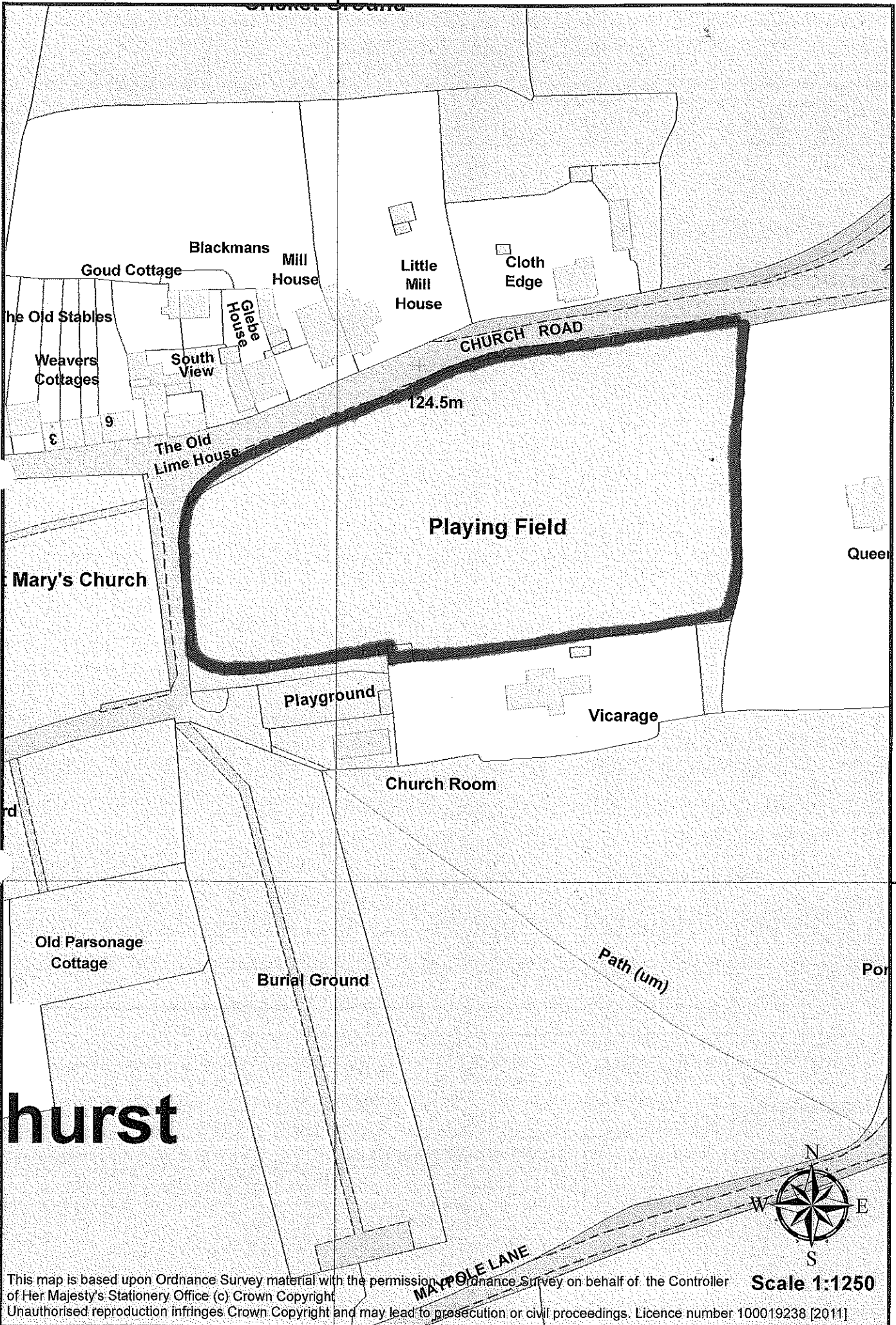
The Glebe Field is an extremely popular public meeting place where local people and visitors, young and old meet, gather, stroll and play. The Church Room on the southern boundary acts as a village hall and is home to a preschool nursery. It is normal for parents to spend time at the playground and on the Glebe Field outside the nursery school's operating times. The field links many elements of the village – High Street shops, St Mary's Church, several pubs and a restaurant, Parish Hall and village pond to the west, with the primary school, nursery school, graveyards and housing to the east. It is surrounded by many significant and old buildings situated at the heart of the village and at the heart of the community, which is why its protection is so important.

The purpose of this Village Green application is therefore to protect the long established general access and use, and prevent the possibility of development.

Access; The Glebe Field is very approximately a tapered rectangle (see appendix 3). There are three points of entry;

- A pedestrian gate in approximately the South West corner, which is permanently unlocked, links to the pathway.
- A pedestrian gate in the North East corner, which is permanently unlocked and links to the pathway.
- The only vehicular access is in approximately the North West corner. There is on occasion a low chain across this entrance which allows pedestrians to step over with ease. The chain can be secured by padlock at the Western side of the entrance to a wooden post, with the key held by St Marys Church Wardens. However, the Eastern end of the chain is placed over a metal hook which is all that remains of an original loop fixed to another wooden post. In its present state it is therefore not possible to secure this entrance. (This entrance is clearly visible between cars parked on Church Road in appendix 3.)

Conclusion; The Glebe Field is a green area in the middle of Goudhurst, linking a number of key village facilities. It is demonstrably special to the community and holds a particular role because of the beauty and historic importance of its surroundings. It forms part of, and contributes to the character of the village. It also has considerable recreational value and yet at many times it can also be a valuable area of tranquillity within pedestrian access for many village residents. As the village expands the green heart becomes all the more valuable to preserve.



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Scale 1:1250

APPENDIX C:
Table summarising evidence of use

Name	Period of use	Frequency of use	Type of use	Access to the site	Comments
ALDEN-SMITH, J	A986 – present	Regularly, sometimes twice daily	Annual fete, football matches, picnics, dog walking and training	Originally gaps at either end of field, replaced with gates	
ALDEN-SMITH, R	1986 – present	Daily	Dog walking, ball games	Through the gate	
ARMSTRONG, A	1984 – present	Occasionally	Village fetes and car boot sales, bonfires	Through gate/ opening in hedge	
BARRY, N & E	2006 – present	Daily	Walking on path to playground, playing with children, attending fete, parking	Entrance on Church Road and gate next to playground	
BISHOP, J	1993 – present	2/3 times per week	Dog walking, attending fetes and other activities	Via Church Road	
BOURNE, A	1986 – present	Monthly	Playing and cycling with children, wildlife observation, kite flying, family picnics, attending fete		
BUSHROD, L	1989 – present	Daily, weekly and monthly	Bike riding, playing as a child, football, dog walking	Entrance on Back lane	No longer resident in parish
BUSHROD, R & S	1985 – present	Occasionally	Playing with children, walking to school, events, sports days	Entrances at Church Road and Back Lane	
CLARKE, G	1983 – present	Weekly	Village fete, church fund raising, school sports, pancake race	Gate off A262 near Maypole Triangle	A much needed amenity for the village and safe environment
CLARKE, T	2005 – present	Twice daily	Dog walking, picking blackberries and mushrooms, village fete, car parking	Through entrance gate on Church Road	Used every day - you always see other people walking walking dogs and using the field.
COLLINS, A	1990 – present	5 days per week	Dog walking, picnics, village events, sports days, ball games, walking to village	Through access gate at either end of the field	It is rare for me to walk through the field and not see other people
COBURN, Ph	1988 – present	Weekly	Playing with children, games, fetes	Gate off Church Road	
COBURN, Pt	1995 – present	Weekly	Football, running, cycling	Entrance opposite church	
COLLINS, I	1990 – present	Weekly	Playing with children, football, dog walking	Gated entrances at each end	Local children have always used the land for football etc.
COOPER, A	2010 – present	Daily	Walk to village, attending fete	Entrance near church	
CROSS, A	2008 – present	Weekly	Walking, football	From Church Road	

CROSS, K	2008 – present	Weekly	Playing with children, frisbee, ball games	From Church Road	
CURD, R	1998 – present	Monthly	Football, Frisbee, ball games, kite flying, snow games, cycling, fete, sports days, sitting in park	Gate by road	
CURD, Te	1998 – present	Daily or weekly	Football, walking, sports activities, socializing, fete, parking, kite flying cycling	By playground or vehicular access gate	Land has been in constant use by residents for years
CURD, Th	1970 – present	Occasionally	Football, kite flying, walking, Frisbee, car parking, walking through	By playground or main gate	Land has been used continuously by villagers as a public space
DALLEYWATER, R	1971 – present	Daily/ weekly	Observer of fetes, games etc	Through gates on Cranbrook Road	
DAVIDSON, J & M	1996 – present	Occasionally	Walking, fetes, events		
DAWES, V	2009 – present	Occasionally	Village fete and events, childrens' play space	Via footpath or gate or from playground or graveyard	The land is centrally located and central to the community. It also provides a safe route to school for many local families.
DEENEY, D	2005 – present	Twice weekly	Jogging, walking, playing football, cricket, rounders, family picnics	Gate at Maypole Green end or gate closest to church	The field is a very important space for the village, lots of people use it.
DEENEY, V	2005 – present	About four times per week	Family activities and games, exercise with children, blackberrying	Gate at one end or gap in hedge at the village end	It is an area we all use informally for relaxation, exercise and socialising
DESFORGES-SHEARMAN, L	1987 – present	Daily	Playing with children, fetes, use pathway to exercise dog, walking	Via village hall and Church Street	This is the only public open space available to be used for recreational purposes and the hub for community activities.
DIGNAN, L	2006 – present	Occasionally	Playing with children, attending sports days, fetes, church parking	Path/gate	
DOWNES, M	1944 – present	Occasionally	Village fete, boot fair	Through gate	
DRUMMOND, E	1993 – present	Occasionally (previously monthly)	Playing with children, village fetes, Drama Club plays, picnics		
EDWARDS, D	1992 – present	Occasionally	Village events, walking dogs	Opening opposite cottages or single gateway by play field	
EDWARDS, L	1992 – present	Occasionally	Village events, walking across	Opening opposite cottages or single gateway by play field	

ENGLAND, A	1998 – present	Weekly	Pathway to village, playing with children, ball games, cycling, events	By gates at either end	On every occasion I use the land I have seen others enjoying this facility
FERDINANDO, B	1996 – present	Occasionally	Village fete, walking on footpath, church activities and car parking	By main gate or either pedestrian entrance	
GARDINER, S	1978 – present	Weekly to monthly	Dog walking, shortcut to village, fetes, events, picnics	Entrance ways from Church Road and the back of the field	
GEAREY, D	1996 – present	Daily	Dog walking, playing with children	Through public gateway	
GRAY, M	2000 – present	3/4 times per week, less often latterly	Dog walking, village events, picnics/ BBQs, attending drama productions, watching sport	Openings at Queen Annes, Church Road and near playground	I thought it was a village green until this year, it has certainly been treated as such
GREENHILL, A	1998 – present	3 times per week	Walking, running, snowman making, footpath/rugby, village fetes, informal gatherings/ celebrations, picnics	'through the open gates'	Used 5 times per week between 2000 and 2006 to walk children to school.
HADDON, P	1997 – present	Daily	Running, dog walking, attending fetes	Either through small side gate or main car entrance on Church Road	
HAMILL, P	1998 – present	At least weekly	Walking, fete, football, school sports days	Via gate at junction with Church Road and Back Lane	
HENLEY, B & B	1951 - present	Occasionally	Parking for church functions, fete, jubilee functions	Through the gate	Only restriction to use has been when gate blocked by parked cars
HILLIER, R	1985 – present	Occasionally	Dog walking, attending annual fetes and village events	Through the gate opposite The Old Lime House or pedestrian access in north-east corner	
HILLIER, Ro	1981 – present	Three times per year	Village fetes/ events, football	Through entrances	
HODGES, J	1957 – present	Occasionally	Walking, parking, fetes, celebrations	Through the gate	
HUME, M & H	2001 – present	Monthly	Walking, fetes, playing with children	From Church Road	
HUMPHREY, J	1983 – present	Monthly, more during holidays	Village fete, car parking, sports days, dog walking, picnics, family games	Via footpath through green	
JEFFERY, G	1999 – present	At least weekly, often daily	Walking to village and church, attending fetes, playing with grandchildren	From the 2 entrances on Church Road and from entrances between playground and vicarage	During time as caretaker of local school, have told people that they could not park on the land and padlocked the chain to prevent others

					doing so.
JONES, L	2008 – present	Weekly	Playing with children, dog walking, attend fete	From the playground	The size of the field enables it to be of good use for larger community gatherings
JOYE, G	1999 – present	Weekly	Drama production, chestnut collecting, walking	Three entrances to field	Used by others on a daily basis.
KANE, D	1997 – present	Daily	Dog walking, walking to/from village, fetes, local events, socializing, games, enjoying views	Through gates/ entrances at either end	The land has been fully used by the village communally and villagers individually – an essential part of village life
KIRWAN, L	1999 – present	Daily/ weekly	Picnics, wildlife observation, conker hunting, ball games, cycling, reading, walking, running, fetes, sports days	Via any of the gates	
KLOPPER, S	1960 – present	Frequently	Activities with local pre-school, informal and organised football, group church picnics, village events, car parking	Through the field gate or the little gate on the south side	
LETHAM, T	2007 – present	Weekly, sometimes daily	Dog walking, exercise	Via Back Lane	
MANTLE, J	1992 – present	Occasionally	Watching formal games of football, village events, dog walking	Either of the entrances	
MANTLE, P	1976 – present	Occasionally	Village events, dog walking, children playing	Through one of three gates	
MASCALL, M	1987 – present	Monthly	Village fete and other events, walking, kite flying, ball games, enjoying green space	Playground entrance and Church Road entrance	
MARTIN, S	1995 – present	Daily/ weekly	Walking children to school, exercising dog, attending village fetes, playing with children	'through open gateways'	
MASON, B	2005 – present	Weekly	Walking	Entry points of Church Road (2) and opposite playground	
MASON, G	1997 – present	Weekly/ monthly	Dog walking, playing with children, attending school fete and sports day	Public footpath	
MAXWELL-JONES, J & E	1995 – present	Weekly	Walking, visiting community events	Via gateways	

McLOUGHLIN, D	1998 – present	Weekly	Dog walking, attend fair, play football with children, keep fit, nature observation walking to village/church	Main gate, south stile, upper gate and playground gate	The field is a focal point of our community and access to an area of beauty where I spent many hours.
McLOUGHLIN, G	1998 – present	Weekly (daily for 10 years)	Dog walking, walking to village, attending fetes, watching events	Various accesses off A21 and opposite playground	Always considered the land to be an important part of our local community for meeting other villagers and enjoying events
McKENZIE, V & J	1998 – present	Weekly	Through gates	Use the footpath to walk to village, village events, school sports	
MEYER, J	1976 – present	Occasionally	Footpath used to walk children to school and play on way home, casual play/football with family, drama club performances and village events	Open gates from main road	
MITCHELL, L	1996 – present	Monthly	Dog walking, playing football, village events, church parking, blackberry picking	By walking through gates/entrances	
MOLE, K & M	1967 – present	Daily	Fetes, school sports, dog walking	Back Lane	
NEWELL, M	1996 – present	Weekly	Access to village, dog walking, village fairs, school sports days, parking for weddings, amateur dramatics	Back Lane or Church Road	
NEWELL, R	1996 – present	Weekly	Dog walking, access to village, village fetes, school sports, church parking	Back Lane, Church Road or via the church	
NICHOL, D	1995 – present	Occasionally	Village fetes, church parking, relaxation, passage from school to village	Through access adjacent to vicarage and two accesses adjacent to Church Road	
NUTT, M	1984 – present	Daily	Walking, supporting local events	Walking through the gates	
PARRIS, C	1982 – present	2 or 3 times per week	Exercising the dog, gathering fruits and chestnuts	Via three gateways	Many others use this land to walk their dogs, children use it as a route to school. Children and adults use it for ball games and other recreation. Additionally, a useful car park for major church services.

PAUL, D	1966 – present	Not stated	Village fetes and celebrations, blackberrying, walking, picnics	Through gate which fell down about 10/15 years ago.	
PHIPPS, M	1950 – present	Occasionally	Football, village fetes, bonfires	Gateway on Church Road	
PRENTIS, E	1999 – present	Between daily and weekly	Playing with children, dog walking, picnics, village events		
PRENTIS, M	1999 – present	Weekly	Jogging, village fetes	Gate near playground	Has always been one of the key social points of the village
PRESTON, A	2010 – present	Weekly	As part of a running circuit, attending fetes, playing with children	Via footpath access from Church Road	
RATHMELL, F	1985 – present	Daily	Village fetes, dog walking, playing with children, picnics, school sports days, football, cycling	Main gate, gate near playground or near triangle	
RATHMELL, J	1985 – present	Weekly	Cycling, football, socializing, dog walking, fetes	Playground gate, main entrance or triangle opening	
RATHMELL, R	1985 – present	Monthly	Village fetes, dog walking, game playing, picnics, football matches, riding bikes, sports days	Through the main gate	
RATHMELL, S	1990 – present	Weekly, now monthly	Village events, football, socializing, walking, playing, sporting events, dog walking, tree climbing, kite flying, parking	Park entry, road entry, path entry	
REID, C	2006 – present	At least daily	Dog walking, walking with children to village shops and play area, ball games, bike riding, socializing, running	Opening along Church Road	The land is used by others for a range of activities on a daily basis. Also used for village events.
RELF, F	1929 – present	3 or 4 times per week	Football (both formal and informal), walking, fetes and shows, dog walking	'through open gate'	
REOCH, D	1986 – present	Daily	Dog walking, attending annual church fete	Through small gate set in hedge by children's play area	
RICHARDS, A	1991 – present	Daily	Walking, sitting, reading, playing with children, attending village events,	Via footpath entrance which runs parallel with Church Road and gate from playground	The land has been used so widely and for so long by local residents that was surprised to learn it was privately owned
RICHARDS, C	1991 – present	Weekly	Village fetes, celebrations	Via all entrances usually on foot or on bike	

RICHARDS, J	1990 – present	Weekly	Walking, playing games, parties, fetes	Through gates/gap in hedge on Church Road	Regular football matches are played there as there are goal posts in place
RICHARDS, M	1990 – present	Weekly	Football, rounders, games, walking, blackberrying	gates	Whenever I have been there other people have been using it as well
RICHARDS, O	1994 – present	Weekly	Walking, playing with family, football, fetes, sports days and millennium celebrations	Gate at east end, gap in hedge at west end and to south	
ROW, A	2001 - present	Weekly	School activities, walking with family		
ROWE, N	1961 – present	Daily in fine weather	Attending fetes and events, scouts	From the vicarage end and main road	Entry from main road is prohibited by padlock and chain at times
RUSSELL, J	2005 – present	Daily	Playing with children, picnics, football, holiday fun days	Gates at either end of pathway	The land is an integral part of the community being the only open green field within the village – used daily
RUSSELL, B	1987 – present	Daily	Football, firework displays, dog walking, fetes, picnics, rounders	Gates	
SANTINI, J	1999 – present	Occasionally	Walking, village fetes		
SAWYER, M	2001 – present	Monthly	Walking, visiting fete, jogging, watching sports, entertaining family and friends		
SEGALLER, A & A	1987 – 2004	Daily/weekly	Dog walking, ball games with children	Through opening on Church Road	Local residents consider the land as a village green.
SHANNON, S	1981 – present	Occasionally	Parking, village fete	Through gate	
SHARP, J	1993 – present	Weekly, then daily	Dog walking, fete, school events, activity days, football club	Both ends of field and main gate	Land in constant use by local residents and primary school
SMITH, S	1994 – present	Monthly	Walking to shops, taking granddaughter to swings, meeting people on the green	Crossing over Church Road near 'Cloth Edge'	The path on the inside of the hedge is the only safe way for people to walk to get to school.
STAFFORD, B	1993 – present	Monthly on average	Walking	Any of the three entrances	Parish Council has installed goal posts, mowed field and pruned trees
STONEMAN, C	1983 – present	Daily	Dog walking, attending fetes	Gates	
STROUD, L	1959 – present	occasionally	Church/village fete, walking around the field	either through parking gate or through little gate at end	Was on church fete committee. Stopped using recently (2011) as cannot walk across rough grass

STUBBS, P & R	1986 – present	Occasionally	Village fete, millennium celebrations, car parking for church events, start of 10k race	'Lime House', playground, gate off church Road	
TAYLOR, S	1998 – 2008	Daily	Dog walking, attending fetes and village events, football, holiday activities	Open entrances on three sides	
TURNER, H	1989 – present	Weekly	Village events, watching football, walking, photography, running/fitness	Using entrances (x2) on Church Road or entrance next to playground	Glebe field has been a recognized part of village life for many years. It is used regularly and frequently by villagers and visitors
VELLINO, GI	1979 – present	Variable	Picnics, football, sports days, kite flying, fetes, bonfires, access to amenities	Through one of the two, latterly three, openings	Did not use between 1996 and 1999.
VELLINO, Go	1970 – present	Weekly	Playing with children, football, kite flying, access to village facilities, village fete	Through two gates and one opening in hedge	This is the only area in Goudhurst which is available for unrestricted use by residents and village activities
VELLINO, M	1970 – present	Weekly	Walking, playing with children, cut through to amenities	Three openings around the field	Only green area central to the village for all age groups to use for informal activities and organized events
VINCENT, C	1987 – present	Daily since 2006	Attending annual fete, running a junior football club (matches and training)		
WEEKS, G	2001 – present	Weekly	Picnics, national celebrations, local fetes, play area for children	Through gates and access road	The Glebe Field is used for and by the village frequently throughout the year
WILLIS, C	1993 – present	Occasionally	Village fete, drama club performance	Open gates	
WINDSOR, D	2003 – present	Weekly	Playing football and frisbee with grandchildren, running, walking to/from village	Gates at north-east and south-west corners	The land also serves as an invaluable path to reach the Church/ village centre without having to walk along busy roads
WRIGHT, D	1980 – present	About 4 times per year	Village fetes, parking for funerals, dog walking	Through gate and footpath entrance	

GOUDHURST VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 23rd July
Opening at 2 pm

In aid of
GOUDHURST PARISH HALL
IMPROVEMENT FUND



Celebrity Opening
by
GOUDHURST "ROYAL FAMILY"
(Arrival in a 1927 4½ Litre Bentley)
Come and see who??

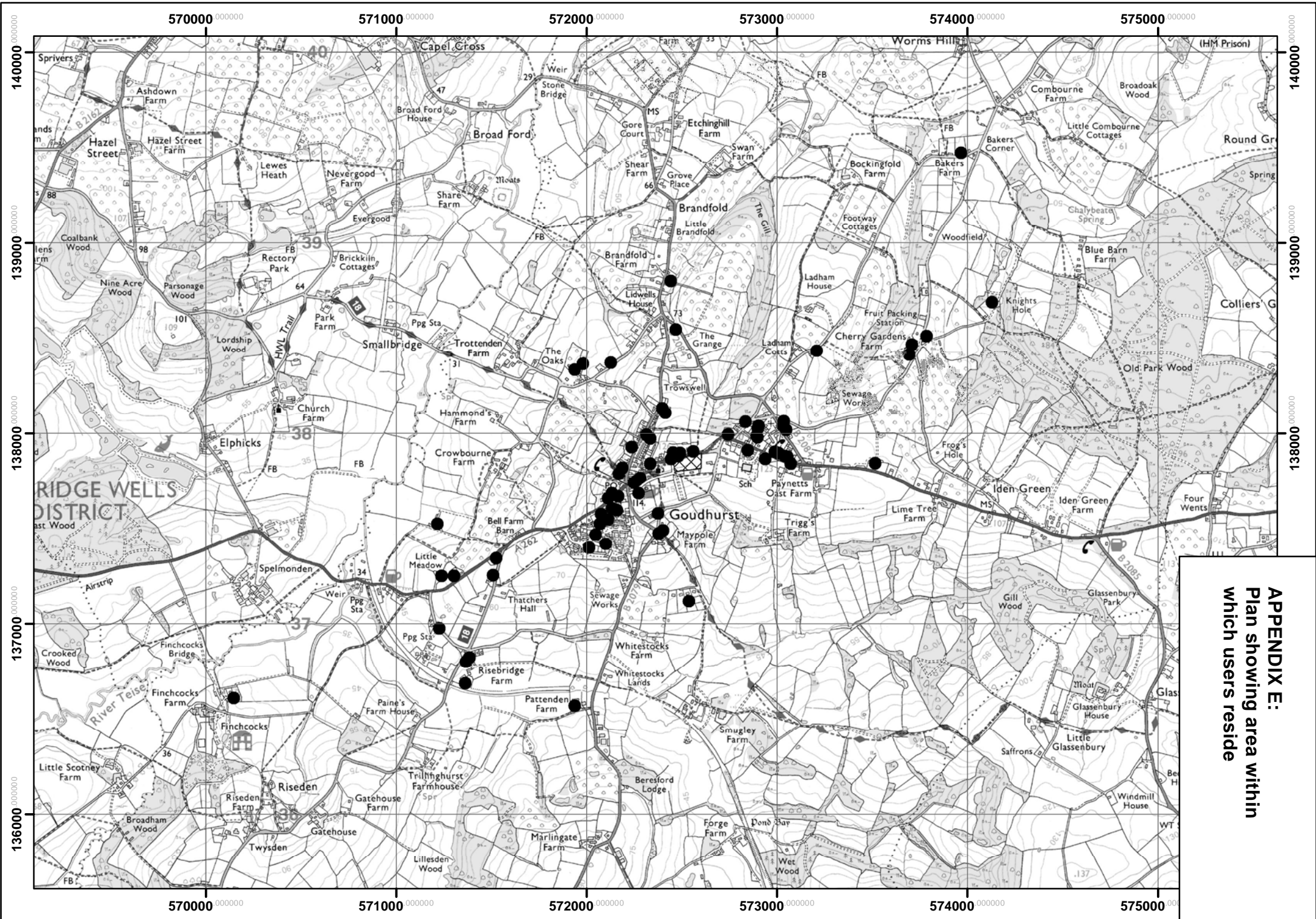
On the School Field
(by kind permission of the Headteacher)

Entry by Programme

Adults	50p
14 - 18	30p
Under 14	Free

12

DON'T FORGET THE COWPAT COMPETITION
TICKETS £1 FROM THE GOUDHURST
NEWSAGENTS
£200 PRIZE



APPENDIX E:
Plan showing area within
which users reside