

## Appendix E - Local Green Spaces

E1. The list of Local Green Spaces (LGS) has been developed and tested following the Locality guidance “Making local green space designations in your neighbourhood plan”.

(<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/making-local-green-space-designations-neighbourhood-plan/>)

E2. Members of the Character Assessment Group and the Environment Focus Group drew up a long list (Table E1) of 16 potential green spaces. This included:

- Spaces identified from desk-top research and local walkabouts
- Spaces proposed by the community through the various local engagement activities

E3. A high-level review of the spaces was undertaken. Some of the spaces were considered to be already adequately protected.

Site name	Selected for designation?
LG1 Sparrows Green Recreation Field	No - Wadhurst Parish Council owned, hence considered to be adequately protected from inappropriate development.
LG2 Commemoration Hall Field	No - This field is managed and owned by the Wadhurst Institute Hall & Field Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO constitution requires a Wadhurst Parish resident meeting to be held and subject to approval by them if any sale or part sale of the field is proposed. A recent (Nov 2018) proposed development of a new Hall and 22 houses was rejected by the resulting resident's referendum. The Field was then removed from the WDC SHELAA.
LG3 Wadhurst Primary School Playing Field	Yes.
LG4 Uplands Community College Playing Field	Yes.
LG5 Cousley Wood Cricket Ground	No - The field is registered with Sports England as an active place and is an emergency area for Wadhurst Parish Council. The LGS designation is not considered to be required.
LG6 Sacred Heart School Playing Fields	Yes.
LG7 ex Wadhurst College Playing Field (Mayfield Lane)	Yes.
LG8 Jardin d'Aubers (World Wars Memorial, Gardens and Pond)	Yes.
LG9. Round Oak Allotments	No - Wadhurst Parish Council owned (which has a duty to provide allotments under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908). Considered to be adequately protected from inappropriate development.
LG10 Vicarage Green Allotments	Yes.

LG11 Turners Green Field 2	Yes.
LG12 Turners Green Field 3	Yes.
LG13 Bewl Water Reservoir Recreation Area	Yes.
LG14 Waters Reach Ecological Area	No - Owned by Waters Reach Management Company and designated as an Ecological Area in the S106 Planning Document for this new estate of 35 homes.
LG15 Wadhurst Castle Grounds	No – the grounds are a registered garden and are also included within one of the Green Gaps.
LG16 Stone Cross Farm Field	Yes.

*Table E1: Long-list of potential Local Green Spaces*

E4. The remaining 10 sites were all assessed using the criteria from paragraphs 101-103 of the NPPF as detailed below:

- The Focus Group checked to make sure none of the sites have been allocated for any other purpose or usage in the Local Plan or in any other statutory plan.
- The Focus Group also checked that the land or site in question has not already been granted any planning permissions for development.
- Landowners were notified of the possibility of using the Neighbourhood Plan to designate their sites.

E5. Table E2 provides a high-level review of the proposed sites. This is followed by a series of tables to provide the detailed justification for the sites considered appropriate for Local Green Space designation. The reference provided refers to the original reference assigned (see Table E2).

Ref	Site name	Proximity to community (yes/no)	Beauty (yes/no)	History (yes/no)	Recreation (yes/no)	Tranquillity (yes/no)	Wildlife (yes/no)	Extensive Tract of Land? (Size)	Owner	Allocated for any other use?	Public access (not essential)
LG3	Wadhurst Primary School Playing Field	Yes	Yes / Views	No	Yes	No	Yes	No (1.8ha)	ESCC Education	Yes, Annual School Fair and Open-Air theatre group.	Yes
LG4	Uplands Community College Playing Fields	Yes	Yes / Views.	No	Yes	No	Yes	No (3.0ha)	ESCC Education	Yes. Annual Village Fair	Yes
LG6	Sacred Heart Playing Fields	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No (0.6ha)	Catholic Church	No	Yes
LG7	Ex Wadhurst College Recreation Field	Yes	Yes / Views	No	Only dog walking currently	Yes	Yes	No (2.5ha)	Greymouth Homes	Highest point in Wadhurst Parish (Beech Hill)	Yes
LG8	Jardin d'Aubers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (0.4ha)	ESCC Fire Service	Village Green and wildlife area	Yes
LG10	Vicarage Green Allotments	Yes	No but Views.	No	Yes	No	No	No (0.3ha)	Ticehurst Parish Council	No	Yes
LG11	Turners Green Field 2	Yes	Yes / Views.	Yes	Yes Walking	Yes	Yes	No (1.0ha)	Privately-owned	Horse / Sheep grazing	Footpath 46
LG12	Turners Green Field 3	Yes	Yes / Views.	Yes	Yes Walking	Yes	Yes	No (1.3ha)	Privately-owned	Horse / Sheep grazing	Footpath 46
LG13	Bowl Water Reservoir Recreation Area	Yes	Yes / Views	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (13ha)	Southern Water (Salomons UK Ltd - Lessee)	Camping (3-year permission)	Major Recreation Area
LG16	Stone Cross Farm Field	Yes	Yes / Views.	Yes	Yes Walking/ Fireworks	Yes	Yes	No (0.7ha)	Privately-owned	No	Footpath 27a,

Table E2: High-level summary of the Local Green Spaces

### LG3 Wadhurst Primary School Playing Field

<b>Address and location</b>	Sparrows Green Road, Wadhurst, TN5 6SR
<b>Ownership details</b>	ESCC (Education)
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	This is a large integrated school playing grass field with sports pitches, for instance for football.
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No.
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No.
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves</b>	Yes, the site is located close to homes.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<p><b>Recreation:</b> The space provides an important facility for local school children attending the school. Importantly it is also used for outdoor public events like School fete and community events such as travelling theatre performers (Rude Mechanicals Theatre Company). Its use as a community space – in a parish where such space is at a deficit - is considered important to safeguard.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> There are valued views over the AONB open countryside to northeast.</p>
<b>Local character? in</b>	1.8 ha


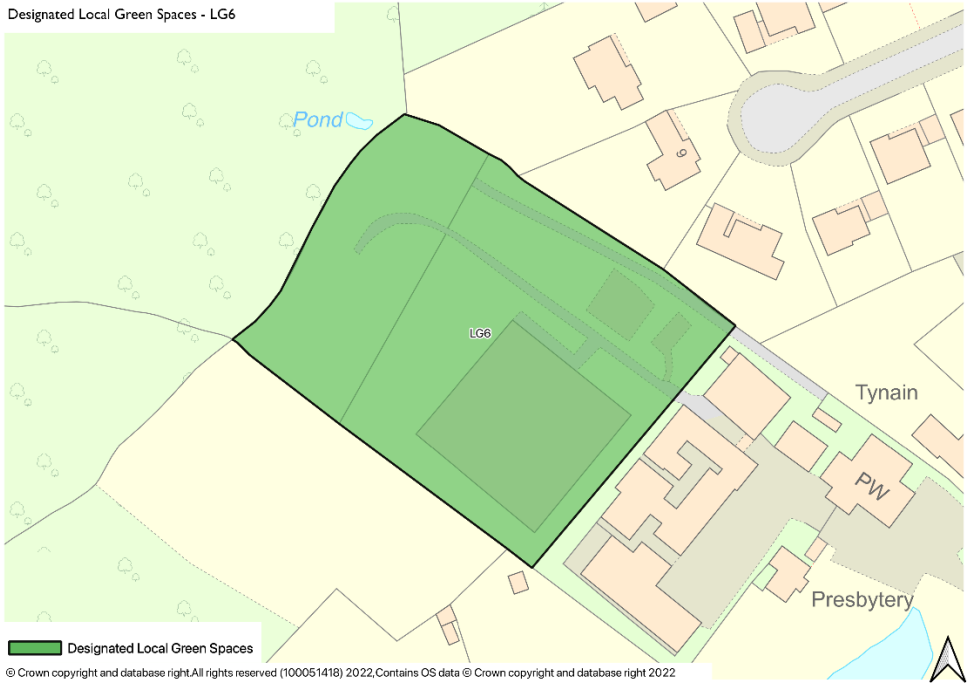
<b>Photo</b>	
<b>Location map</b>	 <p>Designated Local Green Spaces - LG3</p> <p>Tilehurst Cottages</p> <p>Wadhurst C of E Primary School LG3</p> <p>Fire Station</p> <p>Hill House</p> <p>Pond</p> <p>Designated Local Green Spaces</p> <p>© Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100051418) 2022. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2022</p>

#### LG4: Uplands Community College Playing Fields

<b>Address and location</b>	Lower High Street, Wadhurst, TN5 6AZ
<b>Ownership details</b>	ESCC (Education)
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	These are large integrated school playing fields, laid to grass.

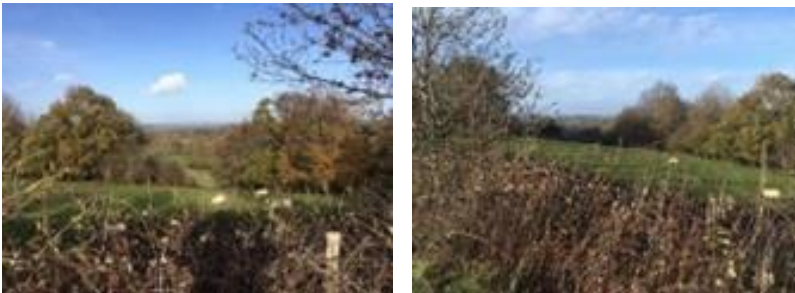
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No.
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No live applications. In 2020, a new School Accommodation Block was approved and built near to the field.
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves</b>	Surrounded by homes, within development boundary.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<p><b>Recreation:</b> In addition to providing an outdoor recreational facility for the school, the fields are also used by the community, for instance to host the Annual Village Fete.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> There are a number of mature trees bounding the fields, which provide an important habitat and part of the wider network of green infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> There are wonderful distinctive and valued views across the AONB to the southern ridges.</p>
<b>Local character? in</b>	3.0 ha
<b>Photo</b>	




	<p>playground and grassy areas for informal activities. The school hosts parent and toddler mornings, where those attending can use the grounds. The space is used by the public to access the Church cemetery.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> Parts of the field are left to wildflower, providing an important haven for wildlife and bringing a taste of the AONB landscape into the school and local community.</p> <p><b>Historic:</b> The school itself was established in 1938 by the Sisters of the Order of Notre Dame to provide an education to the children of local Catholic families. It has a close relationship with the Parish Church. The use of the site – including the field – is considered important to safeguard.</p>
Local character?	0.6 ha.
Photo	
Location map	<p>Designated Local Green Spaces - LG6</p>  <p>© Crown copyright and database right All rights reserved (100051418) 2022, Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2022</p>




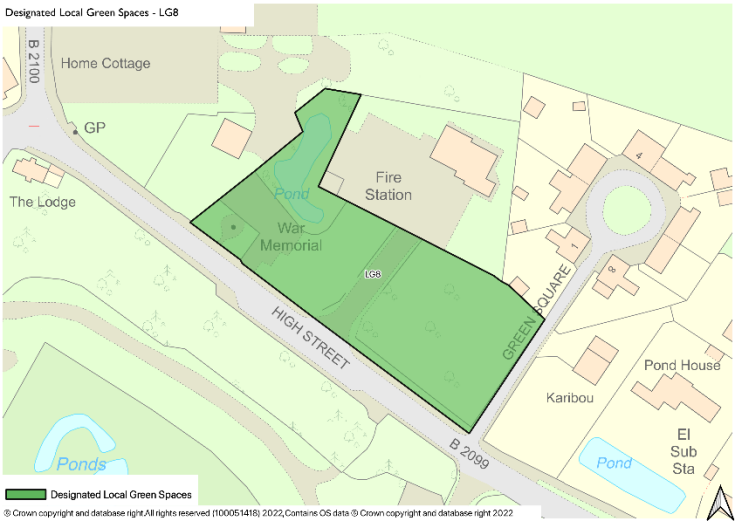
# **LG7: ex Wadhurst College Recreation Field**

<b>Address and location</b>	Mayfield Lane, TN5 6DQ
<b>Ownership details</b>	Greymouth Homes
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	Formerly the playing field of Wadhurst College (ex Bellerbys College – Grade 1 listed). In the past it has been used by local Brownies, Guides and toddler groups. Lacrosse has traditionally been played here.
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No.
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves</b>	This is the only sustainable recreation site for the new 41 executive homes and 17 apartments at the old Bellerbys college, located opposite (now Wadhurst Place). The field is now mainly used for dog / recreational walking.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<p><b>Recreation:</b> The site is used for informal recreation, for instance for walking and dog-walking (there is an image of Wadhurst Place dogwalkers meeting up at the site in the photos section below). There are numerous informal footpaths.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> Currently left to overgrow and a haven for wildlife. There is an established pond on the site.</p> <p><b>Tranquillity:</b> Because of its siting on the periphery of the main settlement and its elevated and distanced position away from the ‘B’ road – it is extremely tranquil.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> This is the highest point in Wadhurst Parish (Best Beech Hill) and the long-distance country views to the north/north-west are outstanding. Many people visit to view the sunsets. It also affords dark skies.</p>
<b>Local in character?</b>	2.50 ha
<b>Photo</b>	

	 
<b>Location map</b>	<p>Designated Local Green Spaces - LG7</p>  <p>© Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100051418) 2022. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2022</p>


#### LG8: Jardin d'Aubers (Memorial Gardens)

<b>Address and location</b>	Wadhurst High Street, TN5 6SR
<b>Ownership details</b>	ESCC (Fire Service) (leased to WPC)
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	A community recreational accessible area with picnic tables, mature trees, two ponds, village flagpole, the village sign (stone), and a War Memorial to both World Wars.
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB. The memorial is a Grade II listed building.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close</b>	Located within the development boundary and surrounding by homes.

to the community it serves	
Demonstrably Special?	<p><b>Recreation:</b> Being in close proximity to the local schools and nursery, the space provides a meeting point for the families with school children. They use it for informal recreation.</p> <p><b>Tranquillity:</b> The benches in the area encourage older members of the community to use the space as well. This provides a space to sit and reflect.</p> <p><b>Historic:</b> The space houses a village memorial to both World Wars and importantly to the 28 men from the Wadhurst area whose lives were lost on 09/05/1915 at Aubers Ridge in WW1 (hence the name). The Memorial is where the local schools will come to commemorate Armistice Day every year. The memorial is a Grade II listed building.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> There is an established small wildlife garden with mature trees and a wildflower section. Two ponds with the consequent rare wildlife.</p>
Local in character?	0.4 ha
Photo	
Location map	 <p>Designated Local Green Spaces - LG8</p> <p>Home Cottage GP The Lodge Fire Station Karibou Pond House El Sub Sta Ponds War Memorial LGS HIGH STREET GREEN SQUARE B 2100 B 2099</p> <p>Designated Local Green Spaces</p> <p>© Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100051418) 2022. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2022</p>

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#### LG10: Vicarage Green Allotments

<b>Address and location</b>	Vicarage Green, Wadhurst, TN5 6AA
<b>Ownership details</b>	Vicarage Green Allotments Association
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	An allotment site with approximately 20 spaces.
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No.
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No.
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves</b>	The site is located towards the edge of the village, accessible to the local community.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<b>Recreation:</b> This is one of two allotment sites serving parishioners. Allotments are valued as places for informal recreation and enable local people to have access to fresh air and to grow their own food. They are well used.
<b>Local in character?</b>	0.3 ha.
<b>Photo</b>	



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#### LG11: Turners Green Field 2

<b>Address and location</b>	Turners Green Road, TN5 6PX
<b>Ownership details</b>	Privately owned.
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	This is a sloped field, with historical significance, highly valued by the local community. It is currently used for horse grazing and as a widely-used and popular community footpath. Historically, this was the site of the last ever bare-knuckle fight in the Parish.
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No.
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No. In 2019, an application for 5 x Self Build Homes, WD/2019/2252/O, was submitted but it was robustly refused in July 2020 due to the impact on the High Weald AONB and views as well as the site's unsustainability. WDC commented on the application: <i>'In response to the recent planning application, there was robust community representation regarding the site's recreational, historical, and environmental value'</i> . The developer subsequently lodged an Appeal, APP/C1435/W/20/3265921, and a revised application, WD/2021/1056/O, was issued alongside the Appeal. The Appeal was refused in August 2021 and the revised application was refused in November 2021. A copy of the Officer Recommendation can be found on the Wadhurst Parish Council website.

<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves</b>	The field is located in Turners Green, on the outskirts of the village and outside the development boundary. It is close to homes with an ancient footpath (46) crossing it.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<p><b>Recreation:</b> The local community treasures their popular recreational value using them for walking, sledging on the slope, bird watching and wildlife spotting. The fields are currently used for horse pasture, which is a diminishing asset in Wadhurst. Ancient footpath 46 crosses the site.</p> <p><b>Historic:</b> Both this site and LGS12 are of significant historical interest. In December 1863, the last public Bare Knuckle Prize Fight took place between Tom King and John Heenan in December 1863. The fight lasted twenty-four rounds and thirty-five minutes. The fight had a significant impact on modern day boxing and led to the Queensbury rules for boxing. From then on boxing gloves were enforced, and a fighter could no longer seize an opponent round the waist and throw him to the ground; punching alone would decide any contest.</p> <p>There is a commemorative plaque about this in the Sparrows Green Pavilion.</p> <p>Wadhurst History Society have put up a further commemorative brass plaque at the entrance of the site (see photo section), although this was mysteriously removed in June 2022.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> Set within the AONB, and beyond the development boundary, the site affords beautiful long-distance views.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> The site sits within a darker area of the Parish and supports a range of flora and fauna including rare species such as dormice, common toad, bats, tawny owl, hedgehog, great crested newts, badgers, deer. The WDC assessment of the site for biodiversity purposes found: 'the site is mainly grassland.....the grassland is species rich and has a biodiversity value'. A habitat assessment of the site is included in the Evidence Base for the WNP. Additionally, the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre prepared an Ecological data search for land at Turners Green Road, Wadhurst, which can also be found in the Evidence Base.</p>
<b>Local in character?</b>	1.0 ha.

<b>Photo</b>	
<b>Location map</b>	

### LG12: Turners Green Field 3

<b>Address and location</b>	Three Oaks Lane, TN5 6PX
<b>Ownership details</b>	Privately owned.
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	A sloped field with historical significance, crossed by ancient footpath 46. Currently used for horse pasture and as a widely-used and popular community footpath.
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB.



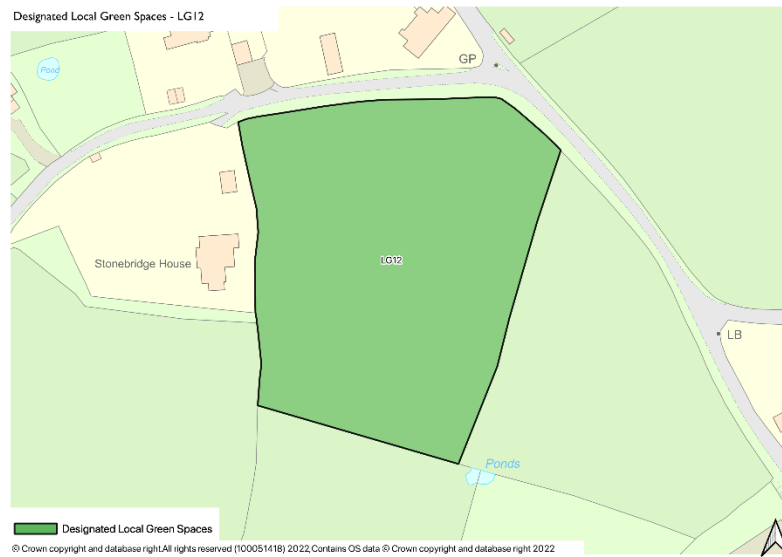
Site allocations in Local Plan	No
Planning permissions?	No
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	Located adjacent to LGS11, near to homes, although beyond the development boundary. Access is via FP 46.
Demonstrably Special?	<p><b>Recreation:</b> The local community treasures their popular recreational value using them for walking, sledging on the slope, bird watching and wildlife spotting. The fields are currently used for horse pasture, which is a diminishing asset in Wadhurst. Ancient footpath 46 crosses the site.</p> <p><b>Historic:</b> Both this site and LGS11 are of significant historical interest. In December 1863, the last public Bare Knuckle Prize Fight took place between Tom King and John Heenan in December 1863. The fight lasted twenty-four rounds and thirty-five minutes. The fight had a significant impact on modern day boxing and led to the Queensbury rules for boxing. From then on boxing gloves were enforced, and a fighter could no longer seize an opponent round the waist and throw him to the ground; punching alone would decide any contest.</p> <p>There is a commemorative plaque about this in the Sparrows Green Pavilion.</p> <p>Wadhurst History Society have put up a further commemorative brass plaque at the entrance of the site.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> Set within the AONB, and beyond the development boundary, the site affords beautiful long-distance views.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> The site sits within a darker area of the Parish and supports a range of flora and fauna including rare species such as dormice, common toad, bats, tawny owl, hedgehog, great crested newts, badgers, deer. A habitat assessment of the site is included in the Evidence Base for the WNP. Additionally, the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre prepared an Ecological data search for land at Turners Green Road, Wadhurst, which can also be found in the Evidence Base.</p> <p>Additional evidence noted below LG12.</p>
Local in character?	1.3 ha.



## Photo



## Location map



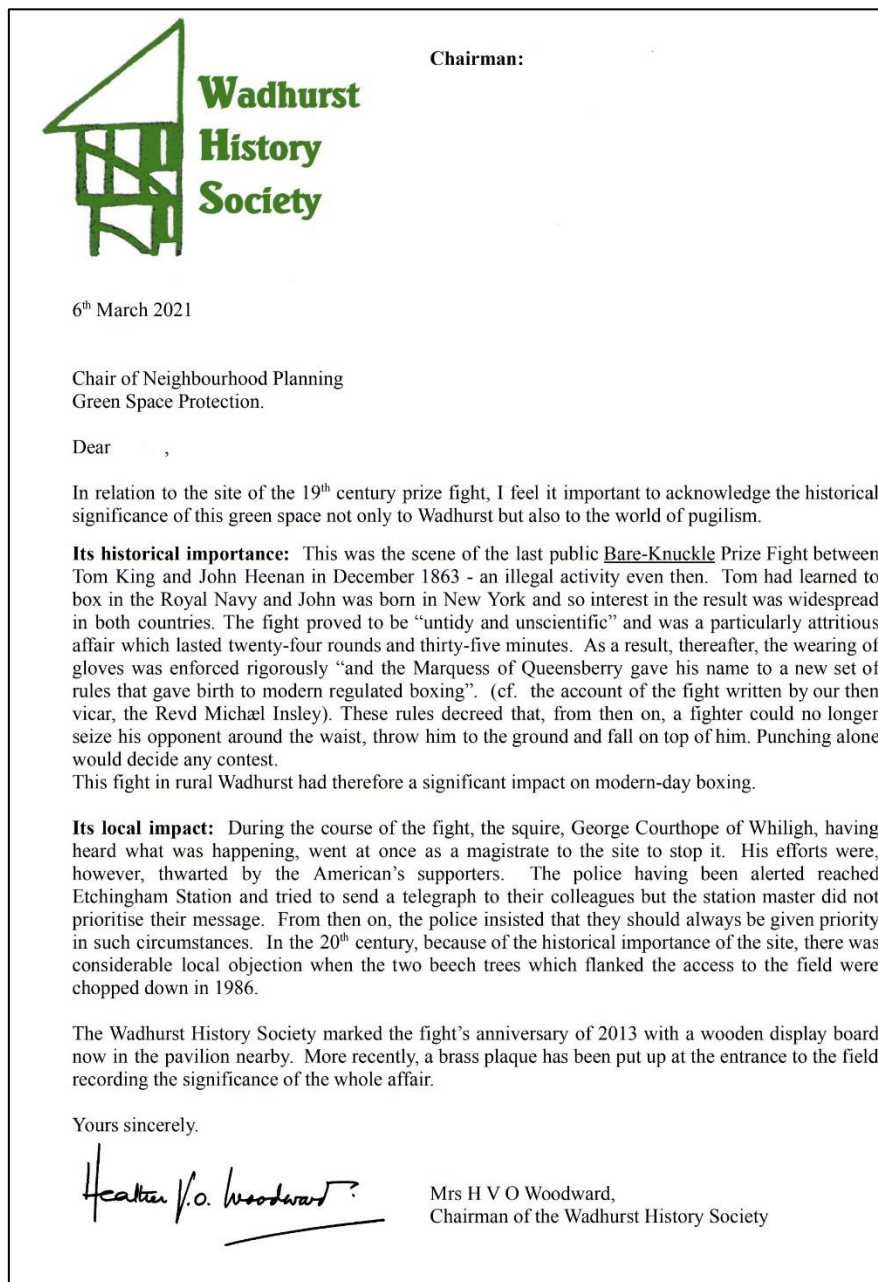
### Additional evidence supporting sites LG11 and LG12:

Additional evidence to support the designation of sites LG11 and LG12:

- Evidence 1: Landmarks Fall – newspaper article describing the significance of the two sites

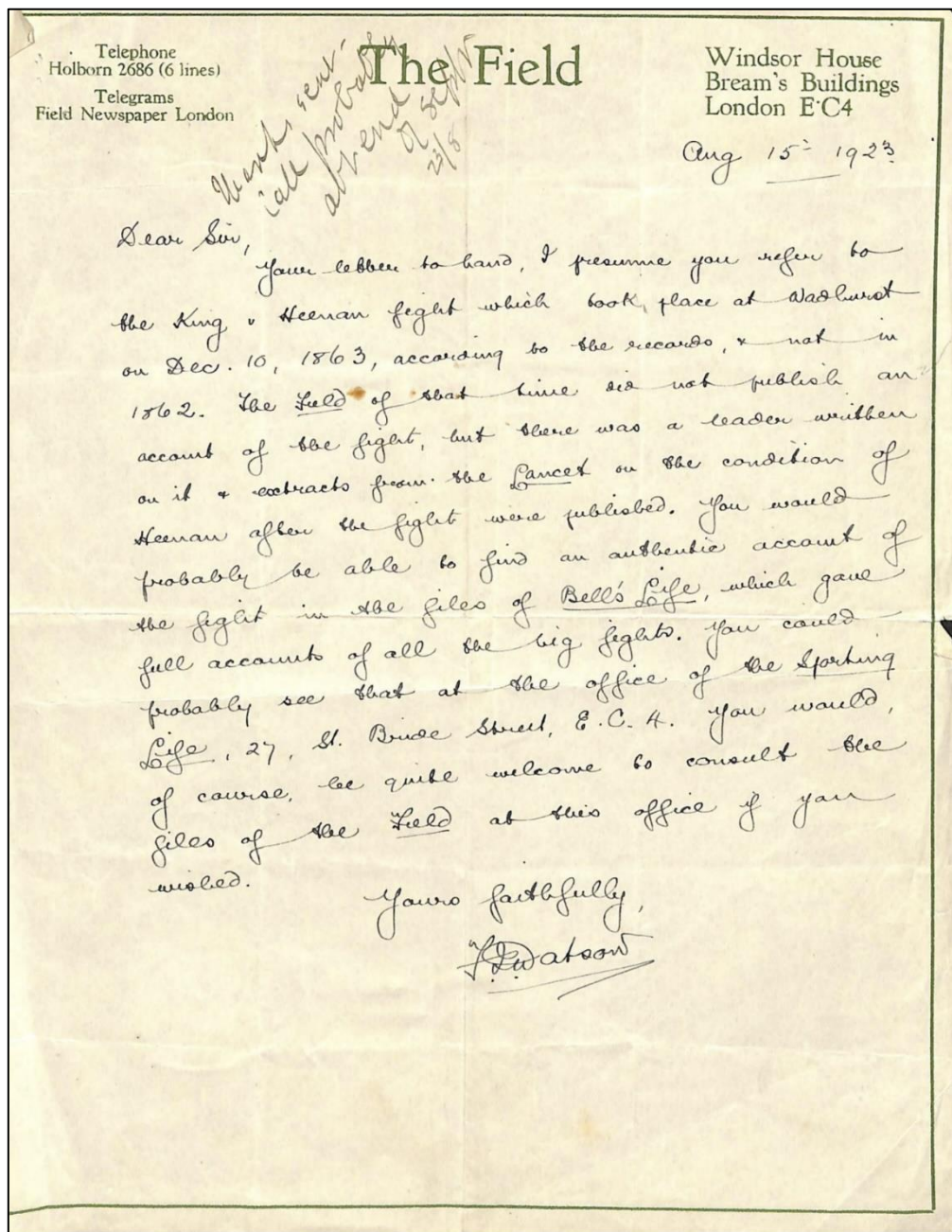


- Evidence 2: Letter from Wadhurst History Society detailing the historical importance of the two sites



- Evidence 3: Extended Phase 1 habitat survey – Turners Green Road – shown in Evidence Base and available on the [Wadhurst Parish Council website](#).

- Evidence 4: Historical letter to the Courier detailing the sites.





# COMMON LANDS.

CHB 112/129

REFERENCES TO THE KING-HEENAN PRIZE FIGHT  
OF 1863 - SEE CORRESPONDENCE FILED UNDER  
 T.W. COURIER 1977 & 1979/80.

OFFICE V.B. REFERENCES RETAINED ARE:-

1865 MCH. (V.B. 159) - WALLIS TO WACE

1848 OCT (V.B. 100) - EXORS W<sup>m</sup> WALKER  
 TO WACE: 1/ TENANT  
 THOMAS APPS

1882 MCH (V.B. 138) - VAL<sup>n</sup>. OF LANDS - WACE  
 TO WACE.

(THIS BOOK IS  
 NOW WITH  
 RECORD OFFICE  
 AT NEWES -  
 WITH OTHERS  
 TO 1869

? REC. TO  
 PURCHASE  
 FROM HYADAMS  
 (C. FOXES & N)

(FOLLOWING PAPER "ENQUIRIES" AS TO LOCATION OF  
 FIGHT IN 1844, RENEWED IN 1879, SEE ABOVE  
 CORRESPONDENCE FILED!)

AMPLIFICATION OF ABOVE - (V.B.'S (2) CHECKED 31.1.1980 BY CHB)

1848. OCT. 15, P. 46 : VAL<sup>n</sup>. OF TENANT RIGHTS<sup>(MANURES<sup>m</sup>)</sup> ON COMMON  
 LANDS - FROM EXORS. LATE W<sup>m</sup> WALKER TO - WACE.  
 INCOMING TENANT THOMAS APPS.

1882 - MCH 3<sup>rd</sup> P. 28<sup>a</sup> : INV<sup>n</sup> & VAL<sup>n</sup>. OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY.

CALLED "COMMON LANDS" IN THE PARISH OF WOODHORST  
 FROM THE REV. R.H. WACE TO HIS SON THE REV. HENRY WACE.  
 THOMAS APPS (TENANT) RENT 1/10 P.A. FREEHOLD.  
 GROWING TIMBER INCLUDED IN VALUATION. (TYPE)

28/2/1980

OS

MAP

REF<sup>s</sup>

(1909)

PLANTMENTS

SCHEDULE QUOTED:-

	ACRES.		
762	- 5.786	BEECH FIELD (PASTURE)	- 5A. 3R. 7P.
843	- 2.636	NORTH FIELD (MEADOW)	- 2A. 2R. 11P.
844	- 2.430	EAST FIELD ( " )	- 2A. 1R. 36P.
846	- 2.158	MIDDLE FIELD (PASTURE)	- 1A. 3R. 37P.
845	- 2.056	SOUTH FIELD (PASTURE)	- 2A. 0R. 23P.
849	- 4.574	UPPER MEADOW (MEADOW)	- 4A. 2R. 5P.
* 19.640 A.			19A 1R 39P *

\* 2 CATTLE LODGES & YARDS

(9/11 TO REV<sup>W</sup>  
 1/4/1882)

\* SMALL DIFFERENCE OF DECEASE PROBABLY  
 INCLUDES THAT BEING CATTLE LODGES AND  
 YARDS, WHICH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN  
 SHOWN IN ABOVE SCHEDULE.

The Editor  
Kent & Sussex Courier  
Grove Hill Road  
Tunbridge Wells

Wadhurst. 225 21

Sept 9th 1977

Dear Editor,

The Line-Moonm Prize Flight 1863

With reference to the notes by 'Warwick' in today's issue of 'The Courier' (South Eastern Edition), <sup>EAST SUSSEX</sup> I say that a very detailed account of this occurrence appears in 'The Story of Wadhurst' (a record of local history from Mrs Rhys David's lecture notes of 1894, collated and edited by Mr Alfred Vase). This booklet was published by the 'Courier' in early 1924.

A full account and historical record - under a title of 'The Prize Flight' occupies several pages (105-109) and it is only possible here to refer to and quote a few salient points. There are several acknowledgements by the author for notes from 'The Field', 'The Lancet', and 'Lugistics'.

The flight was not however near Wadhurst Station, but was in the Sparrows Green area. 'The story' quotes ... 'A special train of 30 carriages, closely packed, left London Bridge at 6.15 a.m. for Wadhurst .... It drew up at a secluded spot (writes the lugistics reporter) short of Wadhurst Station at 9.15 a.m. .... a toad of up a steep clayey hill ... for about 1 1/2 miles (i.e. past Greens Farm, Three Oaks and Stonebridge) to the Two Bitches on the Common Land .... stakes were pitched and the flight began at 10 a.m.'. It is quoted as being fought out in a corner of the Common Land on Hill House Farm on December 8th 1863.

One point however is not clear even now. The date quoted above was Dec 8th; according to an 'Evening Standard' report on July 3rd, 1904, under a '100 years ago' feature, which gave various recorded history of Moonm's life story and giving the date of this flight as December 10th 1863.

GIVE

← \*\*  
THIS  
POINT  
NOT  
QUOTED  
IN PRESS  
REPORT!

Yours faithfully,

P.S. It is possible your own files may have a copy of 'The story' as it was your publication - if so, and you wish to amend or add to the above, please do so!



126

Cousley Wood  
Wadhurst. TN15 6HA

Sept 29th 1977

The Editor  
Kent & Sussex Courier  
Grove Hill Road  
Tunbridge Wells

Dear Editor,

The 1863 Prize Fight

My apologies for returning to  
but since my notes appeared in your issue  
had several enquiries as to the location  
as a result of some further research into  
apparently took place on Common Lands at  
(Sparrows Green). The lands referred to  
holding of about 19½ acres, in six enclos  
the Two large Beech Trees (which still ex  
junction at Fairhaven corner. The Wace Family who lived at Hill  
House and Farm for many years seemed to have owned these common  
lands, as I have now seen a record of a transfer of the freehold  
from Father to Son in 1882 - the tenant of the fields being a  
Thomas Apps. My own Grandfather is also recorded as having seen  
this fight as a boy - he was born in 1849. \* Gpa Ashby!

**1863 prize fight**

MY APOLOGIES for returning to the above subject but since my notes appeared in your issue of Sept 16, I have had several enquiries as to the location of this fight, and as a result of some further research into the incident, it apparently took place on Common Lands at Turners Green (not Sparrows Green). The lands referred to comprise a small holding of about 19½ acres, in six enclosures, approached by the two large beech trees (which still exist) at the road junction at Fairhaven Corner.

The Wace family who lived at Hill House and farm for many years seemed to have owned these common lands, as I have now seen a record of a transfer of the freehold from Father to Son in 1882 - the tenant of the fields then being a Thomas Apps. My own grandfather is also recorded as having seen this fight as a boy - he was born in 1849.

CHAS. N. BOCKING  
Springfield  
Cousley Wood  
Wadhurst

(T.M.C.  
7.10.77)

C.W. Ashby

Yours faithfully,

16/2/81  
NOTE: G.P. BORN IN 1849  
FIGHT 1863  
PROBABLY SAID AT YOUNG MAN AGE!  
HE CAME TO WORK 1852  
FROM HINDFORD  
DID NOT FIGHT ABOVE  
NEAR THE CORNER  
G.P. BOCKING  
1852 Here  
1863 11 years!!



# THE KING-HEENAN FIGHT.

FROM THE TAN COURIER OF 14.12.1979.

## FINAL FIGHT OF A GREAT CHAMPION

DOES anyone know the site in WADHURST where John Heenan, the great American bare-knuckle fighter and one-time champion of the world, had his last fight, against Tom King, in 1863. After 40 desperate minutes Heenan was well beaten, and so ended the career of one of the most popular ring champions.

The Wadhurst fight was probably held in a field close to the railway, for it was the practice then for the "Fancy" to hire a train to follow their heroes and set up the encounter in a place where they were unlikely to be disturbed

by the police.

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NOTEBOOK

P. 12.

COURIER

ADVISED BY ME

ON

21.12.79

BY

PHONE TW

(26262)

(1 REPLY RECEIVED)

? FAIR VIEW

PREVIOUS ENQUIRY BY T.W.C. - ISSUE OF SEPT 9. 1977

MY FIRST REPLY " " " 16 "

MY FOLLOW-UP LETTER " OCT 4 "

(AFTER CHECKING LOCATION OF COMMON LANDS)

## LOCATION OF BIG PRIZE FIGHT FOUND

THE MYSTERY surrounding the location of the King v Heenan prize fight in Wadhurst in 1863 has been solved with the aid of a Courier publication, The Story of Wadhurst, printed in 1893 and three local residents.

The booklet, which has now become a collector's item valued at £12, states that the fight, which caused a sensation in its day, was fought out in a corner of the Common Lands, on Hill House Farm.

It mentions two enormous beech trees which still stand today in a field owned by Mr and Mrs S. Rowles, of Fairhaven, Turners Green, opposite the Sparrows Green recreation ground.

Mr and Mrs Rowles have a copy of the book, as does Mr G. Hook, stationmaster at Wadhurst Station. It gives a detailed account of the fight which was hard and savage. After only 40 minutes, a relatively short time as these fights could last hours, Heenan was defeated.

### PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

An interesting footnote to the fight is the patriotic fervour levelled against Heenan. As an American from the northern states public opinion was biased against him. Britain was protecting her cotton interests by supporting the rebel Confederate States in the American civil war.

On the day of the fight Wadhurst was swamped by the prize fighting fraternity. A special train stopped half a mile outside the station to let the supporters off — thus avoiding the police who

often swooped on illegal prize fights.

Traders and publicans had a field day supplying fight fans with refreshments both liquid and solid.

The fight itself was a bit of a let-down as Heenan, once a world champion, had never recovered from an earlier bout with Tom Sayers which lasted a mammoth 41 rounds and left him temporarily blinded. He was past his prime and his performance, much to the delight of the patriotic crowd, was not up to his old standard.

Heenan faded from the public eye after the fight and became a bookie. He was injured in a train crash at Ascot in 1864 and died a broken man in the United States in 1873.

EX T.W.C. COURIER  
21.12.1979



Jan 6th 1980

Springfield,  
Cousley Wood  
Wadhurst.

Mr. R.J. Baldeck  
Wadhurst Parish Council  
The Briars  
Western Road, Wadhurst

Dear Mr Baldeck,

Local History.  
Famous Prize Fight - King/Heenan

No doubt many of your Members will have read of the recent revival of interest in the above matter - and as Wadhurst does not appear to have had any great items of Historic Interest recorded (with the exception of course of the Charter of 1253), may I suggest that now would be an appropriate time, now the location of the Common Lands have been established and the two famous beech trees identified at the entrance thereto, to apply for a Preservation Order on these, so that they may become 'ancient Monuments' or something similar! The trees I believe are still in fairly good order - and after all, other places have their 'Famous Trees'!

Yours sincerely,

*Randy RJB. 630p 25/1/80 - Enquiries proceeding!*

# THE KING-HEENAN PRIZE-FIGHT 26

EX T.W.C  
11.1.1980

TONBRIDGE  
EDN  
↓

T.W.C 18.1.1980

## Fight venue

IN YOUR issue of December 14 (Page 12) you ask where, in Wadhurst the King and Heenan took place.

It was in a field at Turners Green on December 8, 1863. This is confirmed (1) in The Story of Wadhurst (Published in 1924) which gives the location as "the second field south of the road" from the two Beech Trees standing opposite "Fairhaven". It also refers to "the few cottages round the site". And (2) by Mr C. H. Bocking's letter which appeared in your issue dated October 7, 1977.

"Greenhurst"  
Old Station Road  
Wadhurst

## venue

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F. C. BOORMAN

## Prize fight

I HAVE read with some interest the report on the above matter appearing in your issue of December 21 last. While I do not find fault with the quoted extractions from the booklet, I do query other comments made!

A similar inquiry was made some two years ago, and my replies of September 16 and October 1977 do not need further comment.

I agree that "The Story" was printed by your good selves, but certainly not in 1893! The lecture, upon which the book was based was not given until 1894 (as the frontispiece quotes) and the late Mr Alfred Wace added various later items of local interest up to about 1922/3. The book contains the rolls of honour of service

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Cousley Wood  
Wadhurst . TN5 6HA

Jan 4th 1980

The Editor  
Kent & Sussex Courier  
Longfield Road  
Tonbridge Wells

Dear Sir,

## Prize Fight at Wadhurst

I have read with some interest the report on the above matter appearing in your issue of Dec 21st last. Whilst I do not find fault with the quoted extractions from the Booklet, I do query other comments made!

A similar enquiry was made some two years ago, and my replies of Sept 16th and Oct 7th 1977 do not need further comment.

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I purchased a paper-back Edition of the booklet at about the time of publication - and the date I recorded on it was Feb 23rd 1924! Future historians, please note!

Yours faithfully,



# PRIZE - FIGHT (WADHURST)

124

JOHN C. HEENAN AND TOM KING

DECEMBER 1863

**100 YEARS AGO \***

From the Evening Standard, Friday, July 1, 1864.

**Dangerous Condition of Heenan.**  
—Among the most serious sufferers from the recent railway accident at Egham, is John C. Heenan, the Benicia Boy. It appears that Heenan looked from his carriage window when the first alarm was given, and finding a collision was inevitable, jumped on to the platform as the train was moving, and falling heavily, injured his spine so severely, that he has suffered from a continuous succession of fits ever since.

NOTE: Born on May 2, 1835, John Carmel Heenan's first fight in England was against Sayers, on April 17, 1860. After 37 rounds the referees declared the fight a draw. The American Press denounced the decision as due to British partisanship. On December 10, 1863, he fought "Sailor" Tom King at Wadhurst, losing in the 25th round. The American Press claimed Heenan was drugged. Heenan stayed in England as a bookmaker until the end of the Civil War when he returned to face charges of corruption. He established a gambling parlour and fought as sparring partner to Jem Mace, and died suddenly on October 25, 1873.

FROM THE  
"EVENING STANDARD"  
JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 1964

\* NOTE STILL UNDER QUERY:

THE REPORT ABOVE  
QUOTES DEC 10<sup>TH</sup> 1863  
THE STORY OF WADHURST  
(WACE)  
QUOTES DEC. 8<sup>TH</sup> 1863.

## Big fight

DOES ANYONE know the site in WADHURST where John Heenan the great American bare knuckle fighter and one-time champion of the world had his last battle, against Tom King in 1863?

After 40 desperate minutes Heenan was well beaten, and so ended the career of one of the most popular ring champions.

The Wadhurst fight was probably held in a field close to the railway, for it was the practice then for the "Fancy" to follow their heroes and set up the encounter in a place where they were unlikely to be disturbed by the police.

Heenan was never the same man after his terrible 41-round inconclusive fight to a standstill with Tom Sayers in a

field beside the railway at Farnborough, Hants., in 1860.

Heenan was temporarily blinded, and Sayers' right arm on which he had taken hundreds of blows, was black and swollen to nearly double its normal size.

Tom Sayers took to drink and debauchery and died in 1865, aged 38 and a physical wreck.

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This Wadhurst battle is regarded as one of the minor epics of the bare-knuckle ring, but little is known of the venue and circumstances today.

Heenan became a bookie, but it brought him little luck. He was severely injured in the crash of an Ascot race train in 1864, and after seven years of poor health died suddenly in the United States in 1873.

FROM THE T.W.  
"COURIER"  
SEPT 9<sup>TH</sup> 1977

(SEE C.H.B.'S REPLY!)

## 1863 fight

THE BARE-knuckle battle between John Heenan, one-time champion of the world, and Tom King at WADHURST in 1863 — referred to in a recent Week by Week story — took place in the Sparrows Green area, according to Mr Charles Bocking, of Springfield, Cousley Wood.

A detailed account appears in The Story of Wadhurst, a record of local history from Mrs Rhys David's lecture notes of 1894, collated and edited by Mr Alfred Wace. Mr Bocking quotes:

"A special train of 30 carriages, closely packed, left London Bridge at 6.15 am for Wadhurst. It drew up at a secluded spot short of Wadhurst Station at 9.15 am . . .

We toiled up a steep clayey hill . . . for about 1½ miles (past Greens Farm, Three Oaks and Stonebridge) to the Two Beeches on Common Land. Stakes were pitched, and the fight began at 10 am".

Mr Bocking says the contest is quoted as being fought on a corner of the common land at Hill House Farm.

T.W.C. 16.9.1977

(SEE LETTER) →

SEE MY COPY →  
LETTER  
OVER-PAGE

# PRIZE FIGHT KING & HEENAN

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*See Wadbury  
(Red album)*

TWC. 9.9.77

(Dup)

# KING - HEERNAN FIGHT

CHECK ON 22.9.1944 (see Grace)  
 REPEATED ON

VAL BK 133 (P 49) Hill Farm (1860) WADSWORTH  
 OCT 31. WADSWORTH TO LUCE

VAL B 138 (P 28) COMMON LANDS  
 (1882) REV. R. H. LUCE  
 LUCAS John P. 2nd

SEE PRESS CUTTINGS IN LOCAL HISTORY VOLUMES

VAL B 138 (P 28) MENTIONS HILL FARM  
 (1882) EAST GREENFIELD  
 (NO MENTION OF LUCE)  
 WALL & LUCE - HILL FARM

OS MAP 18.4 E Sx SEEN 22/9/44  
 copied at Burn Alone (10p)

NEAR OPPOSITE FAIRHAVEN

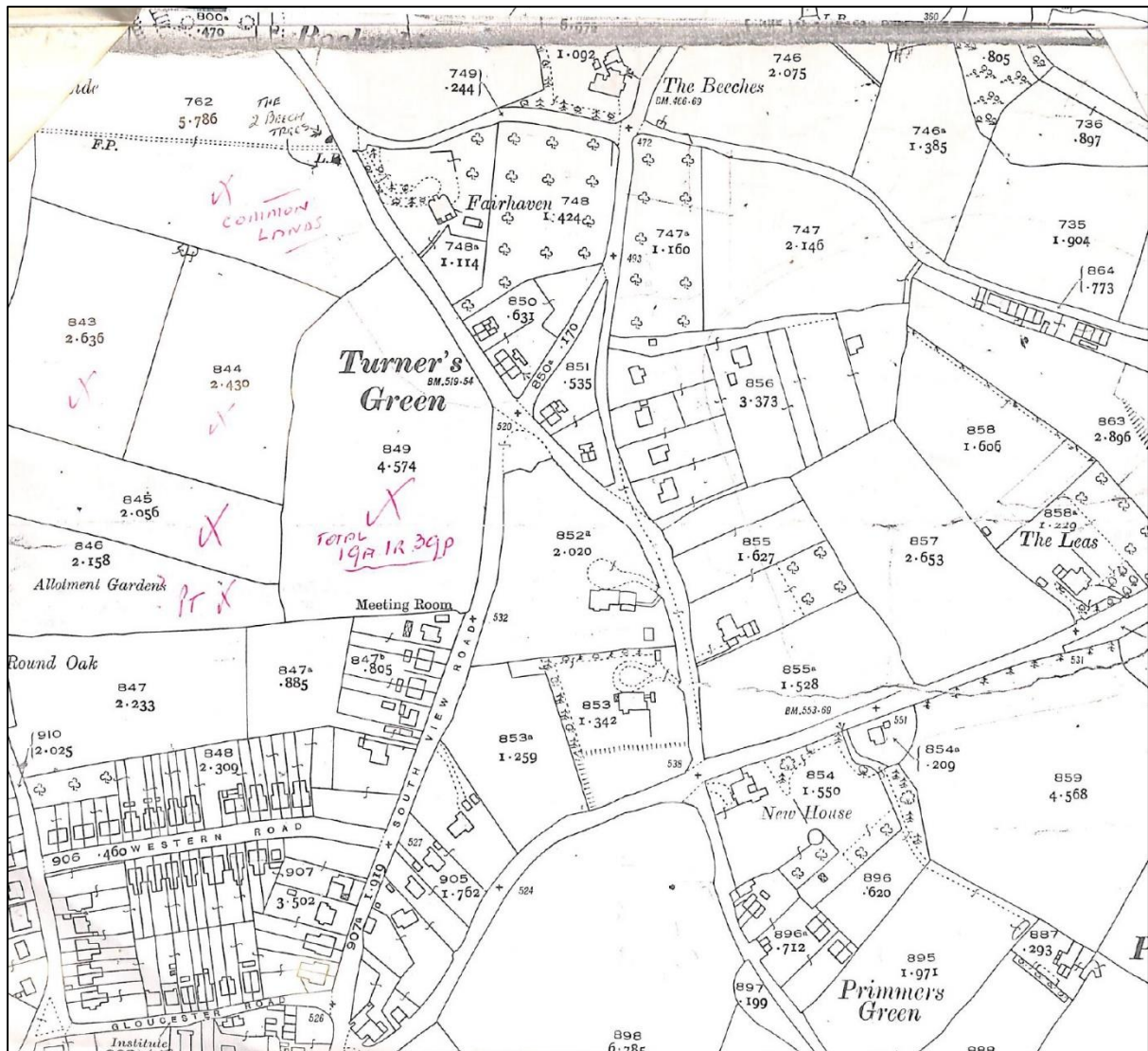
MORTONS LAND - OS NO 450 - 4.150 acres  
 OPPOSITE FAIRHAVEN - OS 462 - 5.456 ac  
 2 BEECH TREES  
 COMMON LAND / LUCE  
 FIELD POSSESS PRESENT PLAYING FIELD  
 (OS NO 849, ALSO 843 & 844)

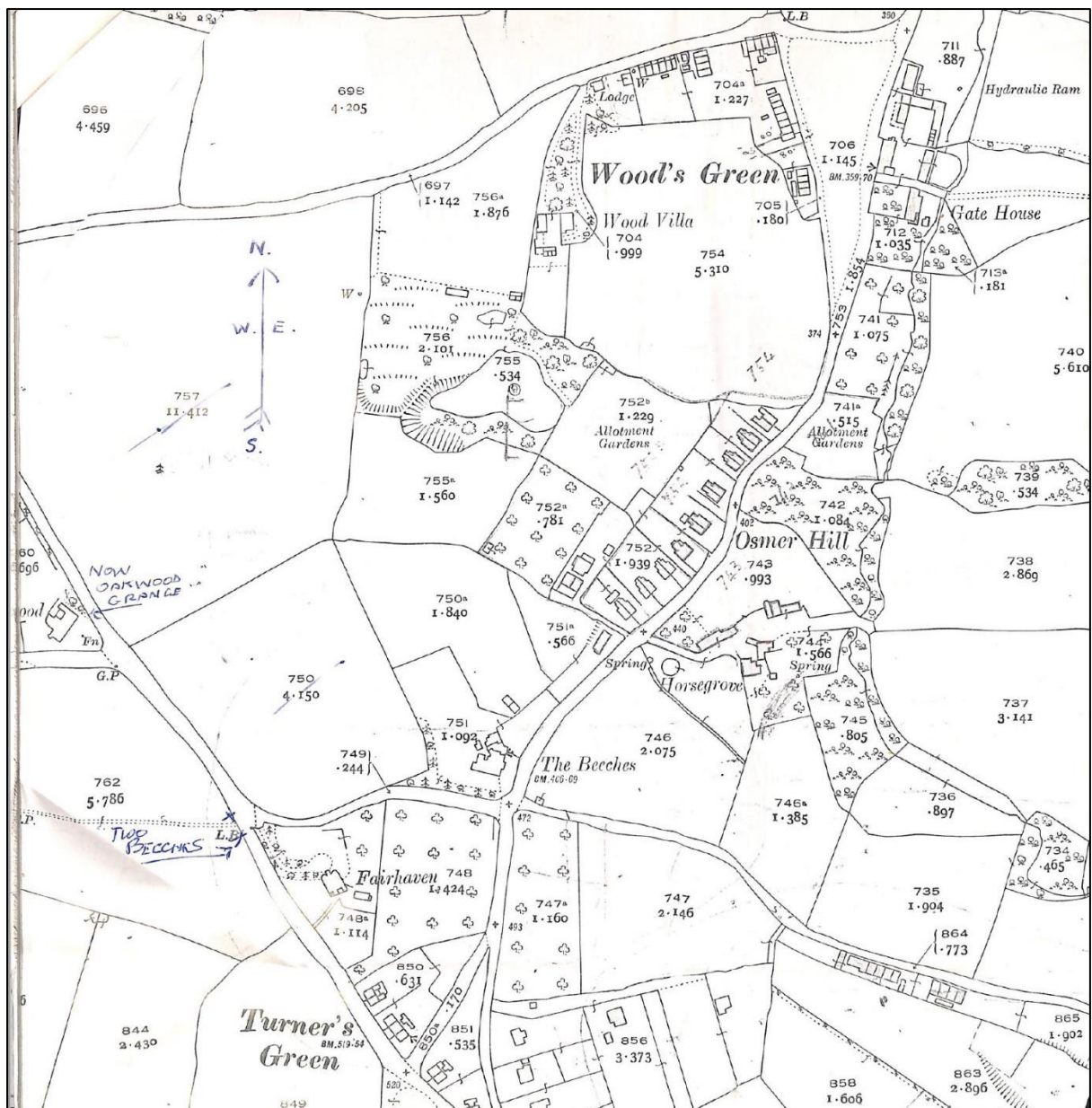
SEE CW FISHER'S OBIT. W. FISHER FIVE - SPO  
 FIGHT AT TURNERS GREEN AS A BOY - BOAR 1849  
 REBORN 1853

349 TAMPSETT 12/1911  
 NO DATE OF DEATH SHOWN

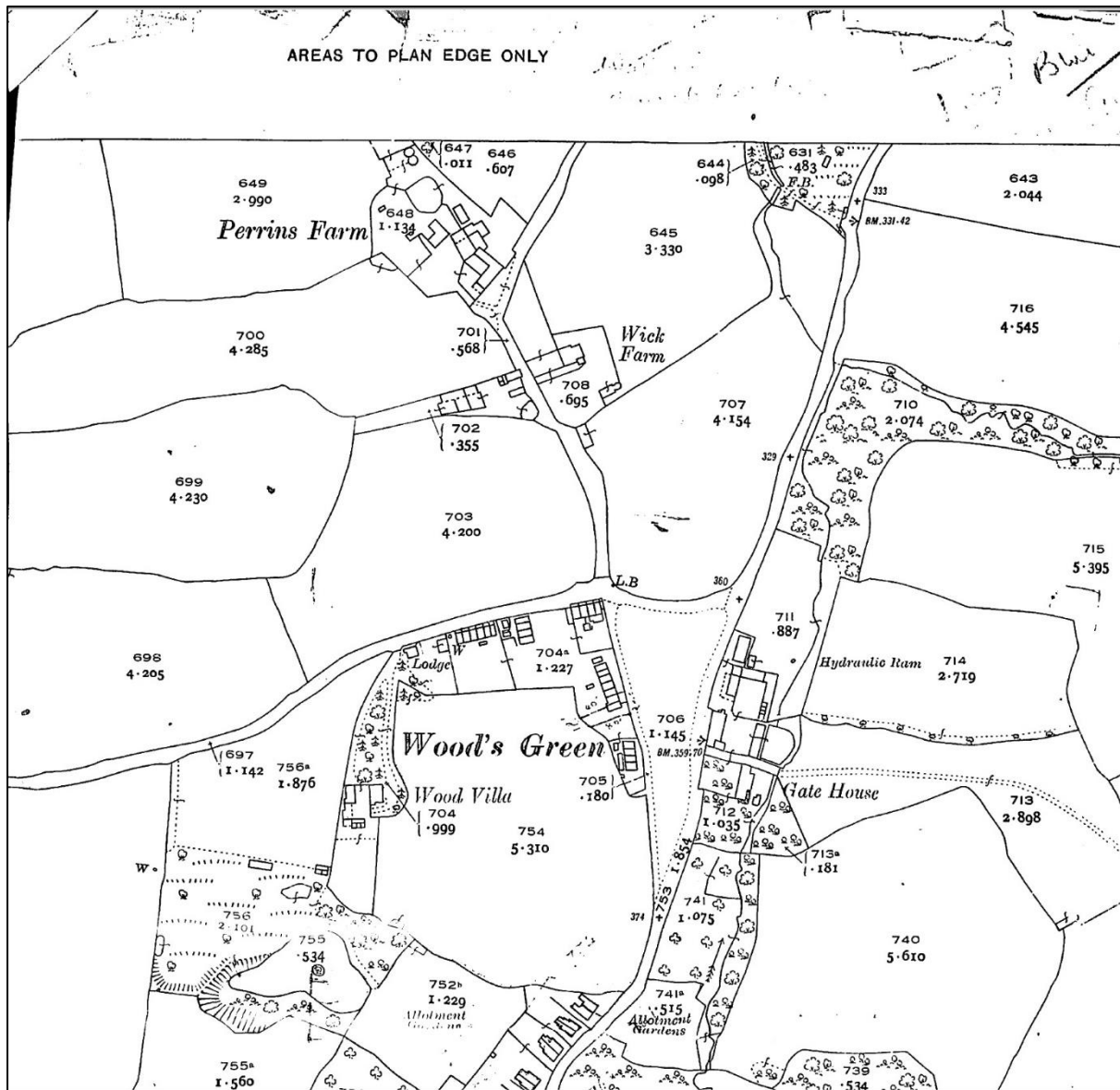











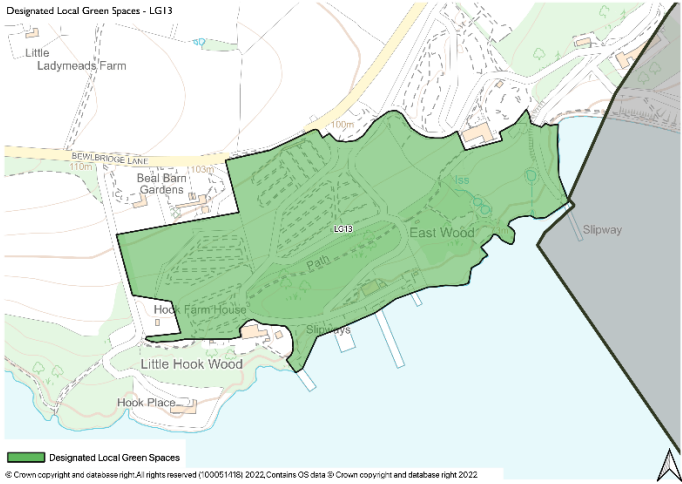


- Evidence 4: Ecological data search for land at Turners Green Road, Wadhurst, prepared by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. Report reference SxBRC/20/921. Prepared on 16/03/2021. Full report available on the Wadhurst Parish Council [website](#).

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### LG13: Bewl Water Reservoir Recreation & Leisure Area

<b>Address and location</b>	Bewl Reservoir, Bewlbridge Lane, Wadhurst, TN3 8JH
<b>Ownership details</b>	Southern Water (Salomons UK Ltd - Lessee)
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	<p>A much-valued multi-use leisure and recreation area for community use. Landscaped to a design by award winning landscape architect Dame Sylvia Crowe PPILA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mainly large open grassed areas, ancient woodland, and foreshore for walking and informal recreation</li> <li>reservoir foreshore with slipways and bases for rowing, sailing and canoe clubs and outdoor boat storage areas</li> <li>a base for fishermen, with boat hire and tackle shop</li> <li>camping</li> <li>children's adventure play-area and soft play area</li> </ul> <p>Nearby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>landscaped car parking area</li> <li>cafe</li> </ul>
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB, within a Local Wildlife Site and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No.
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	Various applications have been made in the past, most recently: 80 earth lodges – application rejected. Campsite for 80 pitches granted for 3 years from 2021. Currently applications outstanding for change of use to overnight accommodation for the former clubhouse and the race box.
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves</b>	The main visitor and vehicle entrance is from the A21 but Wadhurst residents typically access Bewl via the B2100 to Bewlbridge Lane and Hook Hill Lanes, parking there and walking in via Bewl's 'back door' or its vehicle exit. Some also walk from Wadhurst village and Cousley Wood via the footpath network. Within 1km of Lower Cousley Wood and 2.4km of Cousley Wood.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<p><b>Recreation:</b> In answer to a question in the Household Survey regarding public open spaces used or valued as an asset to the community, Bewl Reservoir was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>used for informal activities by 61% (571) of respondents,</li> <li>used for dog walking by 42% (392) of respondents,</li> <li>used for organised sport by 11% (107) of respondents, &amp;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not used but valued by 19% (178) of respondents.</li> </ul> <p>There is no alternative site of at least 20 Ha. in the Parish to meet Natural England's ANGSt standard.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> Wonderful views throughout this area across Reservoir and across the High Weald.</p> <p>Additional evidence noted below this table.</p>
Local in character?	Circa 13 ha.
Photo	
Location map	

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## LG16: Stone Cross Farm Field

<b>Address and location</b>	Lower High Street, TN5 6LR
<b>Ownership details</b>	Privately owned.
<b>Description and purpose / current use</b>	This a community-valued sheep grazing field, featuring a popular public footpath (Wadhurst 27a).
<b>Any designations</b>	AONB and borders to the Wadhurst Conservation Area.
<b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>	No, but submitted as a potential site in the WDC 2020 Call for Sites.
<b>Planning permissions?</b>	No.
<b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves (in meters)</b>	Located close to homes crossed by Footpath 27a.
<b>Demonstrably Special?</b>	<p><b>Recreation:</b> Since 2011 this field has been used (bar Covid and severe weather) to host the annual Parish Bonfire and Firework display by the Wadhurst Warriors Charity. The slopes are used for tobogganing on snow days. The site offers the first and only distinctive and highly valued views to the southern ridges as you enter Wadhurst from the B2099 (southeast). It is beautiful, tranquil and has a historic, well-used public footpath 27a (Snape 4) running through it, leading to Birchetts Wood and Forestry Commission Snape Wood. This footpath represents the one public access to these ancient woods without having to walk on pavement- less roads or take the car and is the only footpath able to be directly accessed from Wadhurst village High Street. This unique footpath is highly valued by the community and used for walking and bird watching.</p> <p><b>Beauty:</b> The site affords beautiful views to the southern ridges and sunset views to the west.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> The site supports badgers, deer, and rare species such as great crested newts in the nearby pond.</p>
<b>Local in character?</b>	0.7 ha.

## Photo



## Location map

