

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN SOMPTING PARISH

A Survey has been undertaken of the green spaces within Sompting to identify any that would merit protection as “Local Green Spaces” as they are possible sites for future small scale development that would be to the detriment of the existing environment.

A map of Sompting illustrates these parcels of land that to the belief of the Parish Council, do not have protection due to a conservation area, a registered Common or allotments. We have discarded those green spaces that are really just large grassy verges that are too small to note.

1: Sompting Recreation Ground



Photo: Sompting Recreation Ground looking westwards from Whitestyles Road.

Sompting Recreation Ground is managed by Adur District Council and includes a children’s playground, football pitches, youth shelter and public conveniences (managed by the Parish Council). It is used by the Parish Council to hold its annual Sompting Festival in June. It is also used by Sompting Football Club for their matches and as a training ground for their youngsters. It is the largest open space in Sompting. It has a public footpath through the site leading from West Street to Sompting Village Primary School.

2: Meadow Space at Malthouse Meadows



Photo: Malthouse Meadows as seen from St Mary's Close

Malthouse Meadows was created from when the adjoining development of St Mary's Close was built. It is managed by Adur District Council. The Parish Council has planted a bank of deciduous trees and natural scrub as a further buffer to the housing development. The picture shows the land after a recent mowing of the total area but usually public use meandering mown footpaths throughout the area. It adjoins an area of horse grazing land to the west. The area is surrounded by ancient flint walls from its former glasshouse industry and has an important landscape view of the South Downs, the Norman Parish Church and the Sompting Abbotts School (both listed). It is a particular favourite place for walkers as it has contact with the public footpath in the eastern field and hence the South Downs, dog walkers and children learning to identify meadow grasses, flowers and wildlife.

3. Halwick Park, North Sompting:



Photo: Halewick Park taken from north part of Halwick Lane looking Eastwards

Halewick Park has a children's playground, natural car park and adjoining allotments. It is a large open space extending eastwards from Halewick Lane towards the South Downs, a favourite location for walkers, cyclists and horse riders as it provides the best gateway to the Downs bridleway network. It is managed by Adur District Council although within the South Downs National Park. It is reached through a residential estate and as such is a welcome green space on the fringe of the residential area. Development of this area would be detrimental to the overall open environment of this part of Sompting and the National Park.

4. Hamble Road Recreation Ground:



Photo: Photograph of Part of Hamble Recreation Ground looking southwards from Hamble Road

This area of open space holds a children's playground, Skate Park and a BMX track and is managed by Adur District Council. The Ground is surrounded on three sides by high density housing and can only be described as a breathing space for the residents due to its location and the amount of both deciduous and evergreen trees planted within the Ground. This area is within walking distance of the proposed site of 420 houses and must be retained to form a greenway linking the developments.

5. Western Road Green Space:



Photos: The green space alongside the mainnorth/south route through Sompting looking Northwest from Western Road

This area is an important site within Sompting providing a grassed open space planted with some large mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees. It is managed by Adur District Council. Due to its location it is a welcomed green space within this urban development and a contrast to the main road environment. Development of this site would be detrimental to the overall open environment.

6. Western Road/Ulswater Road linking open space



Although not very wide this open space may afford a development opportunity on a small scale. This site is highway land managed by West Sussex County Council and forms a natural greenway link from Western Road to Ulswater Road. It is planted with a collection of trees and has a footway to the south. It also forms a natural break between housing on both sides.

7: Lower Cokeham Recreation Ground:

This area is owned and managed by Lancing Parish Council (neighbouring Parish Council) although it lies within Sompting Parish. It provides football pitches and has a bank of trees and shrubs along its boundary. It has a public footpath through the site. The site is located with high density housing developments.