

Informal Outdoor Recreation Evidence Report for Fawkham Neighbourhood Plan



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Walking

Fawkham Parish has 17 Public Rights of Way (PROWs) which cover some 9.44 km. (5.87 miles) providing networks of footpaths extending along and across the valleys. These are well used for recreational walks, although there are few circular walks possible due to the distribution of the PROWs.

The Countryside Survey 2021 scored the PROWs highly as a feature residents like most about the countryside within the Parish, and almost 50% of respondents said they walked daily in the countryside. The recreational walks around the area using public footpaths were also seen as a benefit to living in Fawkham in the Village Survey, 2019.

There are also a number of organised walking groups:

- Fawkham Parish Council began to organise walks in the parish in response to the village survey feedback, the first of which was held in March 2020. These are planned to resume soon. <https://fawkhampc.org.uk/walks/>
- Fawkham and Hartley Church organises occasional walks within the ecclesiastical parish, including from St. Mary's.
- Hartley Health Walks, which were held weekly pre-pandemic, visited Fawkham on one of their regular routes, during which they enjoyed "fantastic viewpoints (views of Fawkham Valley)"¹
- Hartley Footpaths Group and the Meopham and District Footpaths Group say they, "Enjoy occasional walks in the Fawkham area and the beautiful views of the Fawkham Valley which can be seen from the hill to the west of Valley Road and the hill to the east of the valley".

Horse Riding

Horse ownership and riding is popular recreation within the Parish, with at least a dozen stables. 18% of respondents to the Countryside Survey 2021 ride horses, with 4.4% riding daily.

There are no bridleways or Byways Open to All Traffic within the Parish. There are areas available for off-road hacking.

Geocaching

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world.

There are known to be numerous geocache sites within the parish, with many situated in areas included within the Open Spaces Evidence Report and along PROWs. Almost 30% of respondents to the Countryside Survey 2021 stated they undertake geocaching within the Parish.

¹<https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/content/3-hartley-health-walk-tuesday-10am>

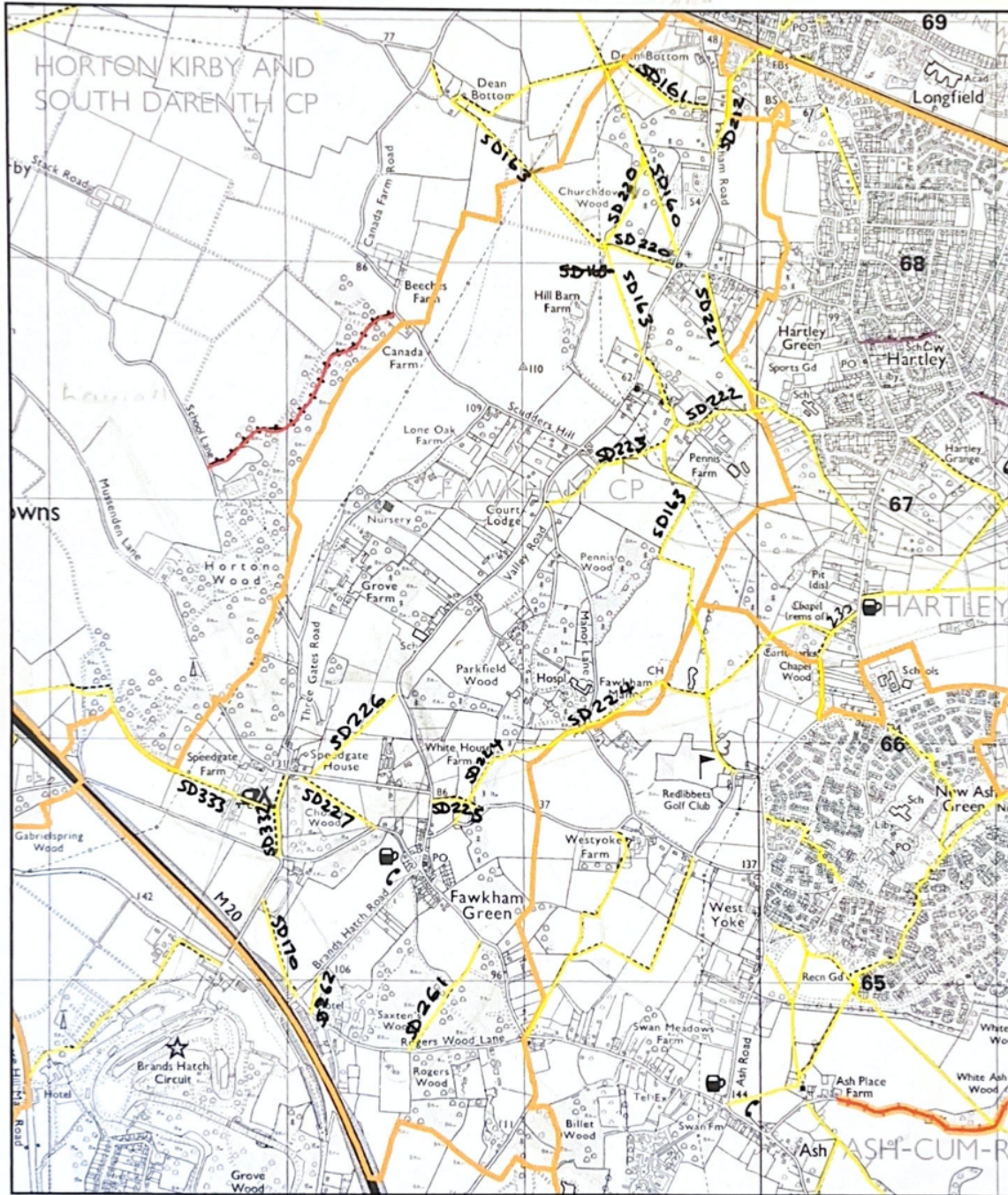
Other informal outdoor leisure activities

The Countryside Survey 2021 revealed that over two thirds of residents who responded view wildlife daily and 40% take outdoor photographs at least weekly. Those who cycle for leisure (rather than transport) tend to do it less often than monthly (23%).

Picnicing is also popular, with around 40% reporting they picnic, mostly less often than monthly.

**Fawkham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
January 2024**

Appendix 1: Public Rights of Way in Fawkham Parish



Key	
	Public Footpath
	Public Bridleway
	Restricted Byway
	Byway Open to All Traffic

Fawkham Parish
Extract from the Public Rights of Way Network Map data

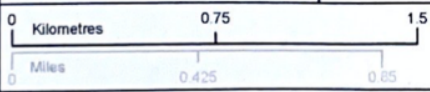
Produced by the KCC Public Rights of Way and Access Service

Please note: this map extract is not a legal record of the alignment or existence of a public right of way. No measurements should be taken from it.

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