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**Sent:** 07 October 2022 15:48  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission from Goudhurst Parish Council 1 of 4  
**Attachments:** Submission to LG Boundary Commision 2210.pdf  
**Categories:** Submissions, Nicole

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a submission from Goudhurst Parish Council in relation to the proposed boundary changes for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council elections.

Best,



**Claire Reed (Mrs)**

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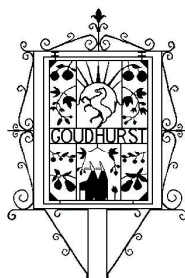
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# Goudhurst Parish Council

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## **RESPONSE OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL (GPC) TO THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (LGBCE) FOR TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL (TWBC) DATED AUGUST 2022 (THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This response is by GPC on behalf of the residents of Goudhurst, Kilndown and Curtisden Green. GPC comprises 8 councillors from Goudhurst, 3 councillors from Kilndown and 1 councillor from Curtisden Green. GPC has existed as an administrative body for more than 100 years though as an ecclesiastical Parish we go back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and as, we refer to below, our origins as a cohesive community go back to Saxon times and before.

GPC notes with considerable concern and dismay the LGBCE's proposal to separate the historically and geographically linked communities of Goudhurst, Kilndown, and Curtisden Green and place Kilndown within a new ward comprising Hawkhurst, Benenden and "South Goudhurst" (HBSG) with which it has no discernible links and which will almost inevitably deprive the residents of Kilndown of effective representation. We would ask the LGBCE to note that the term "South Goudhurst" is unrecognisable to local residents.

We note the LGBCE's comments at para 4 of the Draft Recommendations that their three main considerations are:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents, and

- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity, and
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

We also particularly note the LGBCE's comments that its task is to *"strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations."*

It is the view of GPC and its residents that the best balance between these three main considerations is for the Parish of Goudhurst to be kept together and that Goudhurst and Kilndown become a single member ward or Kilndown becomes part of the new Rural Tunbridge Wells (RTW) Ward. We do not accept that the proposal to jettison Kilndown off to the new HBSG ward *"best reflects communities while providing an acceptable level of electoral equality"* (para 51 of the Draft Recommendations) for the reasons set out below.

This is without prejudice to the argument which is being raised elsewhere that a system of "thirds election" as against "all out elections" deprives local communities of effective representation. GPC entirely support this view and would prefer a system of "all out elections" but the decision in this respect lies with TWBC and we can do no more than lobby for such a change, which we have been doing.

However we observe that the adverse impact of fixed 3 member wards is exposed most starkly in the case of Goudhurst and Kilndown, though there are other communities who are also adversely effected. The failure to recognise and champion our well established and cohesive communities within the context of this boundary review is of considerable concern given the importance of community focussed local government.

Our comments herein are confined to the Draft Recommendations in the context of TWBC maintaining its position as regards "thirds elections" though we understand that this may now be in doubt.

In accordance with the LGBCE's statutory function we will respond under each of the statutory categories.



## **2. ELECTORAL EQUALITY**

We note from the Draft Recommendations that the LGBCE are required to take account of projected elector numbers in 5 years' time (para 19) and that LGBCE regard a 10% variance as "*achieving good electoral equality*". We also note that electoral equality is only one factor that the LGBCE are required to take account of as part of an overarching balancing act.

GPC's alternative proposal to a single member ward, is to include Kilndown in the RTW Ward. We understand, based on projected numbers, that this would result in RTW elector numbers being increased from 6410 with the inclusion of 641 Kilndown electors, giving a total electorate of 7051. This would result in a + 15% variance.

We note from the Draft Recommendations that the LGBCE have rejected a + 18% variance at para 69, and a + 16% variance at para 105. There are also references in the Draft Recommendations to much higher variances which have also been rejected.

However at para 69 a +12% variance has been accepted and we particularly note that a -14% variance has been accepted in relation to the Cranbrook, Sissinghurst and Frittenden Ward.

We strongly contend that a + 15% variance should be acceptable in circumstances in which the community links Kilndown has with Goudhurst are so overwhelming as set out below and, as further set out below, to prevent the adverse impact on the effective representation of Kilndown residents if they are left as an isolated outpost of the HBSG ward.

## **3. COMMUNITY LINKS**

The historic and geographical links between Goudhurst and Kilndown are deep, immutable and continuing. We will refer below to the despair, concern and disappointment amongst residents that the LGBCE have proposed that our communities should be electorally split. There is disbelief within the Parish that such a proposal can have been made.

The Parish of Goudhurst has had a very stable population for hundreds of years. There has been and will continue to be little population movement which is a consequence of the limited scope for housing development in the Parish for a variety of reasons. Issues relating

to changing demographic patterns are not relevant in the case of Goudhurst and Kilndown. The stability of our population also reinforces the homogeneous nature of our community.

### **3.1 Historic Links**

We refer to the extract from Goudhurst and Kilndown Conservation Areas Appraisal (GKCAA) document published by TWBC in June 2006 (Appendix 1) which sets out in some detail the historic links between Goudhurst and Kilndown. We would ask the LGBCE to particularly note that Goudhurst and Kilndown are *“only 2 miles apart”* (para 3.1). We would ask the LGBCE to also note that Goudhurst and Kilndown are said to *“share an interconnected history and common evolution”* (para 3.1) and that *“Goudhurst and Kilndown are situated within the early Saxon administrative district of Scray Lathe and the later division of the Marden Hundred”*. (para 3.2).

The Parish Church of St Mary’s in Goudhurst is said to have been mentioned in the Domesday Book (para 3.6) and at para 3.7 the GKCAA document notes *“Kilndown ...[has] an early history allied to that of Goudhurst”*.

The GKCAA document refers at paras 3.13, 3.15, 3.16, and 3.23 to the links the Bedgebury Estate has to the communities of Goudhurst and Kilndown which continue to this day and we will comment on this aspect further below.

### **3.2 Geographical and Transport Links**

The GKCAA documents sets out at Section 4 the geographical connections between Goudhurst and Kilndown. We share a common environment and we have always worked together to preserve and enhance our environment. GPC’s Neighbourhood Development Plan which was supported by over 92 % of our residents in a recent referendum held in February 2022 was solely concerned with the future of the Parish comprising Goudhurst, Kilndown and Curtisden Green. If Kilndown was jettisoned off, as proposed, to the HBSG Ward the whole question of its “development” status would need to be revisited in the context of such re-warding.

### 3.3 Current Links

These deeply embedded and historic links going back to the earliest of times between Goudhurst and Kilndown have continued until today and lie at the heart of our community as we set out below:

- **Churches**

The local churches comprise the United Benefice St Mary, Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown and the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Goudhurst. In relation to St Mary's and Christ Church at Appendix 2 is the front page and first page of the Goudhurst and Kilndown Parish Magazine. Both communities share a monthly Parish Magazine. Please note the logo on the front page "*GKCHURCHGoudhurst&Kilndown*".

Until the 1840's there was one Church of England church serving both Goudhurst and Kilndown. Christ Church in Kilndown was built around this time and until the 1980's had its own vicar. Since then the two churches have become increasingly interconnected. Both churches share the same vicar and the congregations are interchangeable. At 9.15 a.m. on Sunday mornings Christ Church holds a traditional communion service which is attended by those from both Goudhurst and Kilndown who prefer that form of service. At 11.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings St Mary's holds a service which is more orientated towards family worship. This is attended by residents from both Goudhurst and Kilndown communities who prefer that form of service.

By way of another, and very recent, example of the interchangeable nature of the congregations following the sad death of the late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II St Mary's held a Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving on 18 September 2022. An extract from the Order of Service at Appendix 3 shows that the Anthem was sung by the choir of Christ Church, Kilndown.

The representatives of the Parochial Church Council comprise representatives from both Goudhurst and Kilndown. St Mary's and Christ Church run a number of

other facilities serving both communities such as Café Toddlers, for the little ones and their parents/carers, Blend which serves the older children and Café Connect which is an occasional lunch club for those in need. St Mary's also runs the Community Cupboard which is a foodbank serving those in need in our communities and also runs a clothing bank. The effectiveness of these facilities relies importantly on the local knowledge of those providing these of the needs of members of our communities. The breaking of these links could put support for our most vulnerable community members in jeopardy.

- **The Local Primary School**

Since the local school in Kilndown was closed in 1991 primary age children in Goudhurst and Kilndown have, subject to Kent County Council criteria, attended Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England Primary School which is now located in Beaman Close, Goudhurst. On their website the School says "*we are at the heart of the community of the beautiful Wealden villages of Goudhurst and Kilndown*". The School community is a very important part of community life and in respect of our younger children Goudhurst and Kilndown are intertwined.

- **Bedgebury Estate**

The historic and continuing impact of the Bedgebury estate in linking the communities of Goudhurst and Kilndown cannot be understated. We have referred above to the references to the Bedgebury Estate in the GKCAA document. At Appendix 4 is an advert for a talk on Bedgebury, the Beresfords and their legacy on 29 September 2022. In this reference is made to "*the impact of the family on those who lived and worked in Kilndown, Goudhurst and the surrounding area*".

The Bedgebury estate was formerly owned by the Culpepper family. Their memorial in St Mary's Goudhurst is an important relic which the Friends of St Mary's Church charity is actively raising money for now to restore and preserve it.

Bedgebury remains an important part of the local community under the stewardship of the Forestry Commission. Many of our residents have membership

of Bedgebury so that we can fully participate in the extensive range of activities run for all ages.

- **Old Parsonage Doctors Surgery**

At Appendix 5 we attach the catchment area for the Old Parsonage Doctors surgery based in Goudhurst and as you can see it encompasses Goudhurst and Kilndown. The surgery's Patient Participation Group contains representatives from both Goudhurst and Kilndown.

- **Shops**

Other than the Quarry Centre which is a small "pop up shop" run by volunteers in Kilndown on Saturday mornings, the local shops serving Goudhurst and Kilndown comprising a food village store, post office, hairdressers, antique shop, gift shop, and dress shop are based in Goudhurst. Kilndown does not have any shops of its own.

- **Hostelries**

Other than a Michelin starred restaurant, The Small Holding, in Kilndown which serves a particular and limited client base, Kilndown has no pubs or other drinking or eating establishments. There are three pubs in Goudhurst, The Star and Eagle, The Vine and The Goudhurst Inn which serve both the Goudhurst and Kilndown communities. Goudhurst also has a bakery/tea shop serving both communities.

- **Community Groups**

A variety of community groups relating to a variety of interests serving both communities are run at the Goudhurst and Kilndown Village Halls and again the participation from Goudhurst and Kilndown residents is interchangeable. At Appendix 6 we attach a recent advert from U3a for a meeting on 21 September 2022. The advert expressly identifies the communities the Goudhurst and District U3a Branch serves including Goudhurst, Kilndown and Curtisden Green. At Appendix 7 is an advert for a recent meeting of the Goudhurst and Kilndown

History Society (the Society"). The Society also holds a number of historical artefacts from both Goudhurst and Kilndown and they are devastated at the thought that their collection will need to be broken up if these re-warding proposals proceed. For the younger ones the Goudhurst Dynamos is a football club which serves both communities as does the local scout group. The Goudhurst Club which was formerly the Ex-Serviceman's club provides a variety of facilities and events serving both Goudhurst and Kilndown and is an important hub for our communities. The community group links between Goudhurst and Kilndown range from the very youngest to the oldest members of our community. The community groups referred to above are a small example of the many groups which serve our community.

We cannot emphasise strongly enough how closely entwined the Goudhurst and Kilndown communities are, the roots of which go back to pre-Saxon days and which still subsist today. We can see no proper basis at all for the strong community identity of our residents to be broken. We endorse the view that the LGBC should create wards which reflect communities as it refers to in the Draft Recommendations at para 109 and we believe our community can only be properly reflected by keeping Goudhurst and Kilndown within the same electoral unit.

#### **4. IDENTIFIABLE BORDERS AND TRANSPORT LINKS**

At Appendix 8 we attach a series of maps which show the close road links between Goudhurst and Kilndown and the contrasting lack of road links between Kilndown and Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden. There are no transport links other than road links between the various communities in this area.

Within those maps we enclose a Parish Map which shows what we consider to be a clear and identifiable boundary encompassing the Goundhurst, Kilndown and Curtisden Green Boundaries. We believe any re-warding should reflect those boundaries.

## **5. PROVIDING ARRANGEMENTS THAT SUPPORT EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

We cannot overstate our, and our residents' concerns, about the proposal to jettison Kilndown off to a ward comprising Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden and the adverse impact that this will have on our community and the effective representation of our Kilndown residents.

We have set above the deep and extensive links between Goudhurst and Kilndown. However this should in our view be balanced against the complete lack of any community links at all between Kilndown and Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden. At Appendix 6 is the U3a flyer referred to above. We would ask the LGBCE to note that the Goudhurst and District U3a area does not include Hawkhurst, Sandhurst, and Benenden. From our researches we are unaware of any community links at all between Kilndown, Hawkhurst, Sandhurst, and Benenden. We understand that our neighbours in Hawhurst have also concluded from their researches that there are no community links at all between Kilndown, Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden.

We do not believe that Kilndown can be effectively represented as a community and geographical outpost of the HBSG Ward and we are concerned that the 600 or so Kilndown residents will be effectively disenfranchised by the current proposals.

However these are not just our fears. The Borough Councillors with whom we have spoken in Benenden, Hawkhurst and Sandhurst support our views. They recognise too that Kilndown cannot effectively be represented under their umbrella and that it should remain with Goudhurst in its electoral representation.

## **6. THE VOICE OF OUR RESIDENTS**

GPC Councillors who comprise Goudhurst and Kilndown based residents believe that the views set out above represent the overwhelming view of our residents. Many of us have had conversations with residents who have expressed their deep concerns and dismay that the Parish may be electorally split. Many of our residents are anxious about the effect this split

will have on them particularly where they rely on community support for their safety and well-being.

We are disappointed that the consultation period has taken place over August/September 2022. Being the summer period this has limited our ability to fully survey our residents. However at our recent Village Fete and at our Churches we have had a petition available which is at Appendix 9. We have also conducted an electronic survey and we have had some individual letters which are also at Appendix 9 we believe that other similar letters may have been directed to TWBC. In relation to our electronic survey we would ask the LGBCE to note that 98.62% of our 362 residents who responded did not want Goudhurst and Kilndown separated. Had there been more time available when summer holidays were not an impediment we believe the evidence of support from residents to keep Goudhurst and Kilndown together would be even more substantial.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

GPC believe that in balancing the considerations of electoral equality, the maintenance of community identity and in supporting effective and convenient local government the LGBCE can only meet its statutory duties by keeping the communities of Goudhurst and Kilndown together.

As we have said above GPC believe that this can be achieved in one of two possible ways. We observe that at para 23 of the Draft Recommendations the LGBCE comment that *“we will only move away from recommending this pattern of wards [uniform pattern of three councillor wards] should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria”*.

GPC ask the LGBCE to consider whether its statutory criteria will be best met by Goudhurst and Kilndown becoming a one-member ward to reflect the particular circumstances referred to above. We believe that the LGBCE’s statutory duties are best met by warding Goudhurst and Lamberhurst as a single member ward.

Alternatively and without prejudice to our primary argument above, GPC would strongly urge the LGBCE to include Kilndown in the RTW ward so that the communities of Goudhurst and



Kilndown can be kept together. It is our strong view that the resulting electoral equality tolerance being within 1% of tolerances accepted elsewhere, is fully justified to reflect the strong community identity of our residents and to ensure that the Kilndown residents are effectively represented at local government level.

If the LGBCE wish to undertake a site visit to verify the points we have made above we would be happy to facilitate this and we would be happy to address any queries which the LGBCE may have.

7 October 2022

# APPENDIX I

Tunbridge Wells Borough  
Local Development Framework

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## **Goudhurst and Kilndown Conservation Areas Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document**



Adopted  
June 2006

### 3 Evolution and Form of Goudhurst and Kildown

#### Pre-Conquest

- 3.1 Goudhurst and Kildown lie only 3.2km (2 miles) apart in the High Weald, with Goudhurst to the north and Kildown to the south, and they share an interconnected history and common evolution. People were using the High Weald from as early as the Bronze Age and the villages probably originated as clearings in the great forest of 'Anderida' that covered the Weald until the Saxon period.
- 3.2 Goudhurst and Kildown are situated within the early Saxon administrative division of the Scray Lathe and the later division of the Marden Hundred.
- 3.3 Little is known of the early form of these settlements. However, the use of the High Weald is better understood. The Saxons are known to have used the Weald for swine pasture. Swine were brought into the wooded high weald pastures known as 'dens', to feed on acorns, in a right known as 'pannage'. These seasonal pasture movements created radial lanes, or droves, that survive as the road system and Rights of Ways that we see today. The seasonal returning to the wood pastures led to more permanent settlements, of which Goudhurst may represent an example.
- 3.4 The name Kildown appears in a number of different forms, including Gilden Down and Killdown. Kildown takes its name in part from the ridge or down it lies on and perhaps latterly from the charcoal kilns which were required to make iron. This industry is known to have origins in the Romano-British period within the Weald and intensified over the years to its height in the post-medieval period. The village may have started as temporary camps from which the workers would produce the charcoal and moved to a more permanent and substantial settlement as the demand became greater.

#### Norman Conquest

- 3.5 The origin of the name Goudhurst is unclear, but it may mean 'battle wood'. 'Hurst' (or hyrst) means separated wood, but the origins of 'goud' may originate from the Old English guo, meaning battle. The name may commemorate battle(s) which were fought here in early times. The earliest record of a name is 'Guithyrste' and dates from 1095. The settlement name changes over the 13th century from Guthurst/Gulherste, Gudhersten to Guthurste (KCC, 2003).
- 3.6 Although the settlement is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, the church is listed in the Domesday Monachorum, compiled at roughly the same time. The church carries an early dedication to St Mary the Virgin and it has been suggested that the church may have earlier Saxon origins (KCC, 2003). The first rector of Goudhurst is recorded in 1160 and in 1119 the church was bequeathed to the Canons of Leeds Priory, who held it until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century.
- 3.7 Minimal investigations into the early history of Kildown have left a number of gaps in the knowledge of the origin of this area, although the pattern and layout suggest an early history allied to that of Goudhurst. The nearby manor of Bedgebury, one of the oldest in Kent, has existed since AD 815. It is this manor to which the village was associated in the post-medieval period when the Culpepers owned the manor.



- 3.8 A few miles south of Goudhurst was the Priory of Combwell, established by Austin Canons by 1160. Very little remains of the Priory; however, within the Conservation Area the building now the Star and Eagle was formerly the monastic house attached to the church. The original church entrance was from the south, where Back Lane now runs (the original east-west route skirted the church). From the churchyard path you can see the door leading out into the churchyard where the old flagged path to the monastic house survives.
- 3.9 By the end of the 13th century, Goudhurst was an established village with a well-established farming community. It is recorded in 1255 that John de Hope was found crushed in a marl pit, which may relate to lime fertiliser for agriculture, or was part of the iron industry. The pond in the old market place and east of the Old Parsonage may be the relict elements of these early marl pits, although their date is unknown.

### 14th Century

- 3.10 In 1380 a fire burnt down much of Goudhurst, leaving very few remains of the early settlement. Only the church retains some of its thirteenth century masonry. The Canons of the Priory of Leeds were asked for money to help rebuild the settlement.
- 3.11 It is from this period that the settlement became a village. The local economy relied heavily on farming and by 1309 the village had a weekly market held on a Wednesday and an annual fair. This market and fair were granted during the reign of Edward II to Joane, widow of Roger de Bedgebury. The original market and fairs were held in the triangular area on the Plain. The land is delineated by the converging land routes, and the village pond lay in its apex.
- 3.12 Stallholders at both the market and the fairs paid rents to the Bedgebury family, but by the late fourteenth century Goudhurst market paid an annual rent to the Manor of Marden. Most of the parish of Goudhurst was held by the Manor of Marden (which the Hundred is named after), who rented it to various sub-holders, such as the Bedgebury family.
- 3.13 During this period, Goudhurst was one of the Wealden villages that prospered greatly after the arrival of the Flemish weavers, encouraged by Edward III to teach their skills to Englishmen. Weaving became the primary local industry, together with the wool trade from local sheep, giving rise to a period of prosperity that lasted almost three hundred years.
- 3.14 In the 14th century (1341), the Archbishop of Canterbury decreed that the annual tithe due to the Vicar of Goudhurst should include "onions and all other herbs sown in gardens". This led to a local argument about whether hop should be included among other herbs; the vicar and his supporters believed they should and the argument went their way with the result that, ever since, Kent hops have been said to grow in gardens rather than in fields or yards. The 'gardens' associated with many of the buildings are the remnants of these early hops plots, centred around the core of the Conservation Areas.
- 3.15 The villages were also in the Kentish iron-working region. The nearby Manor of Bedgebury had a famous foundry owned by the ubiquitous Culpeper family, which cast guns for the fleet that fought the Spanish Armada in 1588.

- 3.16 Goudhurst is at the centre of the Culpeper sites within Kent and Sussex, and was originally owned by the de Bedgebury family until 1450, when the Culpeper family purchased the estate. The Culpeper memorial is the most prominent in Goudhurst Church, commemorating four generations, but the painted effigies of the ironmaster, Sir Thomas Culpeper and his wife, form a rare monument of its kind.
- 3.17 The earliest memorial in St Mary's Church, Goudhurst, is a brass plate on the floor commemorating John, son of John de Bedgebury, who died in 1424. His home, Bedgebury Manor, was one of the oldest manors in England. His memorial shows him in a full suit of plate armour with his feet resting upon a lion. John de Bedgebury was recorded at the battle of Agincourt where he 'took five archers into the field'.

### 1500-1800

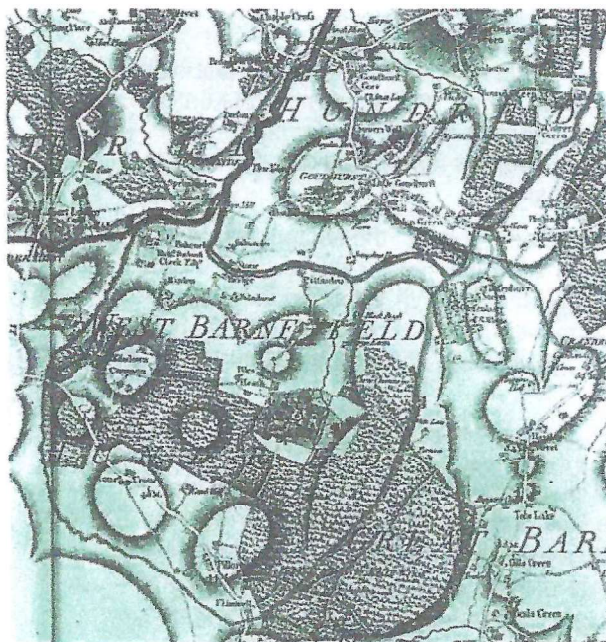
- 3.18 By the beginning of the post-medieval period, Goudhurst had a thriving cloth-making industry, a newly emerging iron-working trade and a strong agricultural base.
- 3.19 The prosperity of the 16th century led to a number of houses in Goudhurst, including Church House and Church Cottage and tenement plots along the north side of the High Street, the north side of the churchyard and east of North Road to name a few, being established along the Church Road, West Road, High Street and Balcombes Hill. It suggests that the use of Back Lane as the main road through Goudhurst had waned, with the creation of High Street. The Star and Eagle Inn is known to have been an inn since at least 1600, when it was called the Black Eagle Spread.
- 3.20 Locals will tell you that if you climb the top of Goudhurst church tower you will be able to see no fewer than 51 other churches from Romney Marsh to the North Downs. Some say it is 68 churches, but perhaps that was before the church tower was rebuilt, less loftily after the older one was struck by lightning in 1637.
- 3.21 John Speed's Map of 1610 depicts the village of Goudhurst (shown on the map as *Goodhurst*) and suggests that the settlement was considered to be of significance within the wider region. The 1769 Map by Andrews, Drury and Herbert shows how the location of the church would have served both Little Goudhurst, otherwise known as Tattlebury, in the north east part of the Conservation Area, and Goudhurst proper. Little Goudhurst appears as a cluster of large farmsteads and includes Maypole and Tattlebury House in the Conservation Area.
- 3.22 By the 18th century, after moving several times, the weekly Wednesday market failed and the annual fairs were reduced to one, and this was abolished in 1886 after a decline in the cloth and iron industry.
- 3.23 Kilndown's history and development is better known for this period than its earlier developments through its associations with the Bedgebury Estate and the later landowners, the Culpepers.



View from St. Mary's Church, Goudhurst



- 3.24 It was not until the 16th century that iron working became established in the Weald of Kent, and by 1574 two furnaces were established near Goudhurst: Sir Alexander Culpeper's furnace at Bedgebury, and Thomas Darrell of Scotney owned Chingley forge and furnace from 1574 to 1589 (now under the Bewl Reservoir). Sir Alexander encouraged iron foundries ('Furnace and Forge Farms') on his estate and cast guns for the fleet, which defeated the Spanish Armada. Kilndown was the hamlet that produced the charcoal and provided workers for the estate.
- 3.25 Charcoal burners and their families lived where they worked, setting up rudimentary dwellings of wood and turf for the duration of their stay in that particular area. Although not necessarily labour intensive, charcoal production required constant supervision during the three days it took for each kiln to burn through. This industry was short-lived and was superseded in the eighteenth century by coke smelting.
- 3.26 The 1769 map by Andrews, Drury and Herbert shows Kilndown as a number of farmsteads and associated gardens, and to the west of the site of the historic Bedgebury Manor (which was demolished by the 19th century). The map also indicates potential structures to the south of the former common and a number of large farmsteads to the south west of the modern settlement. An east-west routeway leads from the centre of the village towards the outskirts of the Bedgebury Estate to a settlement known as Piles Heath (this route survives today as Rogers Rough Road) which was probably part of the iron working process, and is thought to have been used as storage for either coppiced trees or charcoal, or both.



Andrews, Drury and Herbert Map  
1769

### 1800–2005

- 3.27 Smuggling flourished throughout the Weald and in 1747 the whole area was being terrorised by the notorious Hawkhurst gang, led by the Kingsmill brothers, Thomas and George. The reign of terror ended when the Goudhurst villagers resisted the gang in an armed struggle led by an ex-army corporal William Sturt. On Monday 20th April 1747, the villagers fought the gang and won, with one of the brothers killed in battle and the other hanged a year later.

- 3.28 During the 18th century the villages fell into depression following the decline of the weaving and iron industries and fell back upon the increasing importance of the local fruit and hop growing industries.
- 3.29 In Victorian times, the villages became a boisterous and colourful annual hop-picking spree when thousands of Londoners and their families flocked to the country for the autumnal hopping, a tradition which lasted until the mid-twentieth century. Some hops are still grown in the area, but there has been a drastic decline in production over the past decades. The Hops Marketing Board was inaugurated in the rooms of the Vine Hotel, Goudhurst. [HIST/4 Hop Pickers in Goudhurst, 1950s]
- 3.30 In 1836, Bedgebury was purchased by Marshal Viscount Beresford, one of the field commanders of Wellington in the Napoleonic Wars. It was under his ownership that the church at Kilndown was built in 1841 to provide nearby religious services for the estate workers and to signify the importance of the estate. [HIST/3 Kilndown]
- 3.31 The historic maps of Andrews, Drury and Herbert (1769) and Ordnance Survey maps (1867–1969) of the area show that little development has occurred within the villages. Goudhurst remains relatively small, having not experienced the growth like some of the other market settlements in Kent, with little building outside the historic core and, where there is building, it is largely of 19th and 20th century in origin.
- 3.32 The expansion of Goudhurst and Kilndown in these centuries is due in part to the creation of the railway from Cranbrook in 1892. This line was extended in 1900 to Hawkhurst and became part of the South Eastern Railway. The line and station at Hope Mill were closed in 1961.
- 3.33 The population of Goudhurst remained constant over the last two centuries, only once rising above 3,000 in 1911. Emigration of Kentish workers and their families to the Dominions and America coincide with this stagnation and the lack of workers left a relatively agricultural community, with little or no industry.
- 3.34 During WWII, Goudhurst was a nodal point for the eastern command line and as such was a focus of command for this area of Kent. Little changed within the village during WWII, although in 1940 two parachute bombs destroyed most of the glass in St Mary's Church, Goudhurst, and now only a small panel of salvaged 15th century glass remains.
- 3.35 Relicts of the early historic landscape features survive within the Conservation Areas. Many of the roads, footways, ponds and garden plots are testament to the beginnings and development of these villages. In Goudhurst, the lack of development has left an historic core with many of its medieval features intact, and the village is a heritage asset to the county of Kent as a well-preserved historic Kentish settlement. Kilndown, by contrast with Goudhurst, remains a quiet village and, despite the imposing church, retains a strong rural character.



#### 4 Landscape Setting of Goudhurst and Kildown

- 4.1 Goudhurst and Kildown are situated in, and surrounded by, the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), including the High Weald, are nationally important designations for landscape and scenic beauty. Historic and unspoilt settlements like Goudhurst and Kildown, which have a strong historical and continuing relationship with the surrounding landscape, are an integral part of the character of the High Weald AONB.
- 4.2 The predominant geology of the High Weald is a series of hard sandstone strata underlain by heavy clays, giving rise to a high plateau and a combination that occurs across the High Weald of sandstone ridges and clay vales. The Teise cuts a flat river floodplain between the steep slopes of the upland plateau, which elsewhere is incised by steep and narrow ghyll valleys. Goudhurst lies on a high round-topped sandstone ridge with the highest point in the village at about 127MAOD and is set above the Teise valley, which lies to the west at about 30MAOD. Occupying one of the most dramatic hilltop locations in the High Weald, Goudhurst is a familiar and visible feature over a wide area. There are numerous locations within the village that offer panoramic views and/or glimpses between buildings over the surrounding countryside.
- 4.3 The village of Goudhurst spreads down from the ridge top and is clustered around the main crossroads below the church, but spreads further down the south west facing slopes with a prominent area of 20th century development. The surrounding rural area is typified by intricate patchworks of fields and hedgerows with wooded streams and lanes scattered with farm buildings and large country houses, including oast houses and ancient timber-framed Wealden hall houses. Farms are frequently large-scale buildings, often in association with barns and fruit packing sheds. Land cover is varied and includes orchard, hop gardens, pasture and arable fields. Orchards, and particularly hop gardens, have declined over recent decades, but tall windbreaks planted for these crops remain. Traditionally, the windbreaks were of alder and poplar, but the area around Goudhurst has a concentration of more recent plantings of Leyland Cypress conifer. Notorious for their quick growth and large size when mature, Leyland Cypress hedges need regular pruning to maintain their shape and control their size. Where hops and orchards have gone, many of these conifer hedges are now unmanaged and are becoming strong features in their own right. Unfortunately, these hedges do not interact well with the local flora and fauna and locally reduce light and restrict views.
- 4.4 The steeper slopes immediately surrounding the village of Goudhurst are covered by semi-improved pasture which stand out from the more intensively managed surrounding land. These areas are particularly important below North Road, Maypole Lane and around Balcombes Hill. Significant groups of trees occur in conjunction with these slopes on the edge of settlement, and frame views of the village, with many containing evergreen or large ornamental trees associated with historical buildings. These include a large group around Clay Hill and The Knowle, trees along Balcombes Hill and south of The Parsonage and trees around Tattlebury House. From between these groups of trees, and from the ridge top above, there are panoramic views across the surrounding countryside, particularly across the Teise valley to the west and successive dark wooded ridges of Bedgebury Forest to the south east.



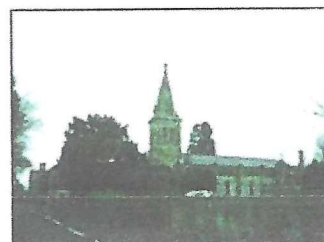
View over High Weald from Goudhurst



View between buildings to High Weald beyond



- 4.5 Kildown, at about 110M AOD, lies upon the middle of a long, narrow and heavily wooded sandstone ridge about 3.2km (2 miles) to the south west of Goudhurst, and is reached from Goudhurst by crossing a small ghyll valley stream (a tributary of the Teise) and the line of the former Hawkhurst railway. The character of the landscape as one crosses the ghyll valley changes from the orchards and pasture around Goudhurst to one of expansive woodland and wooded farmland with pastures and shaws. To the west, and following the boundary of Ranters Lane/West Road, are the managed woodlands of the Scotney Estate, an historic parkland now owned by the National Trust, that prohibit any views westward from Kildown. To the south east is the historic Estate of Bedgebury, with the vast Forestry Commission-owned Bedgebury Forest beyond. The slopes around Kildown are less severe and dramatic than those around Goudhurst and woodland dominates the ridge tops, giving rise to a more enclosed and secretive landscape. Goudhurst can be seen from the northern edge of the village, but no other settlements can be seen from on the ground at Kildown. Kildown, obscured by trees to views from the wider landscape, can, however, be discerned by the church spire and prominent trees in the surrounding woodland. Important in these views and from within Kildown in maintaining the wooded character of Kildown are the few large trees in the village, particularly those around the church and Quarry Pond.
- 4.6 The character of the distinctive landscape that surrounds both Goudhurst and Kildown is described more fully in the Tunbridge Wells Borough Landscape Character Area Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 4.7 In the area around Goudhurst and Kildown, the High Weald contains a number of important habitats including woodland, hedgerows, ponds, streams, grassland and parkland, with many areas designated for the wildlife interest as national, regional or locally important wildlife sites. Birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, many of which are protected by law, are highly mobile and can be found anywhere across the High Weald, including within built up areas for much or part of their lifecycle. Of particular importance to Goudhurst and Kildown are some species of bats and birds, which commonly occur in the area in older buildings and, indeed, rely upon these buildings for roosting and nesting sites. Where the village adjoins areas of countryside and suitable habitat occurs within, or adjacent to, garden or open space areas, dormice, badgers, reptiles and amphibians are often encountered.
- 4.8 Kildown is surrounded by large areas of woodland, much of which is classified as Ancient Woodland. The historic parks of the Bedgebury and Scotney Estates are also close by. These estates, and other areas nearby, contain a number of designated wildlife sites. The churchyard at Kildown is designated a locally important wildlife site as a consequence of the lichen species found on the stonework of the church and the memorials.
- 4.9 Goudhurst has areas of semi-improved grassland on the steep slopes to the south and west. A county wildlife site can be found on the western slopes and land adjacent to Balcombes Hill was formerly a local designated wildlife site.



Kildown Church

# APPENDIX 2

## GOUDHURST & KILNDOWN PARISH MAGAZINE



**October 2022**

**GKCHURCH**  
GOUDHURST & KILNDOWN

£1 (£10 per year)

**UNITED BENEFICE OF ST. MARY, GOUDHURST  
WITH CHRIST CHURCH, KILNDOWN**

**Vicar:** Revd. Rachel Robertson (*Day off: Saturdays*)  
The Vicarage, Back Lane  
Goudhurst, Kent, TN17 1AN Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: rachel.robertson@gkchurch.org

**Benefice Administrator:** Becky Addis, (*Monday to Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm*)  
Benefice Office, The Vicarage, Back Lane,  
Goudhurst, Kent, TN17 1AN Tel: 01580 211739  
Email: becky.addis@gkchurch.org

**GOUDHURST**

**Church Wardens:** Jo Alsop Tel: 01580 211739  
joanne.alsop@hotmail.co.uk  
Sam Davis Tel: 01580 211739  
sam.davis@gkchurch.org

**Sunday Groups:** Becky Addis Tel: 01580 211739  
becky.addis@gkchurch.org

**Community Cupboard:** Ali Mackey ali.mackey@gkchurch.org

**Church Room Bookings:** Jo Galloway Tel: 07483 262753  
joannegvp@gmail.com

**Ready Call:** Jayne Russell (*Chairman*) Tel: [REDACTED]  
Joe Meyer (*transport*) Tel: 01580 211750

**Village Hall Bookings:** Ellie Owens gphbookings@outlook.com

**KILNDOWN**

**Church Wardens:** David Denton Tel: 01892 890244  
Vacancy Tel:

**Flower Arranging:** Lynda Shepherd Tel: 01580 879549  
lyndashepherd@talktalk.net

**Village Hall Bookings:** Evie Banfield Tel: [REDACTED]  
bookings.kilndown@gmail.com

**PARISH MAGAZINE**

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dentondavidthomas@gmail.com

**Magazine Advertising:** Cliff Cochrane cliffcochrane@hotmail.com

**Subscriptions & Distribution:**  
Pam Stubbs (Goudhurst) Tel: 01580 211013  
Hilary Bird (Kilndown) Tel: 01892 890554



## The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,  
Long live our noble King.  
God save the King.  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us:  
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On him be pleased to pour,  
Long may he reign.  
May he defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause,  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the King.

*You are welcome to light candles in the Bedgebury Chapel in memory of  
Her Majesty and loved ones.*

*At 8pm this evening we are invited to observe a one-minute silence, in a  
national moment of reflection to mourn and reflect on the life and legacy of  
Queen Elizabeth II.*

*You are welcome to remain in the church to hold this silence or  
to return home.*

*The church will remain open until shortly after 8pm.*

*Bath Christ Church Kildown and St Mary's Goudhurst hold books of  
condolence, open until Tuesday 20th September.*

*Tomorrow, a two-minute silence will be held at 11.55am at the conclusion of  
the state funeral service.*

A Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving  
for  
Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
Sunday 18th September 2022  
St Mary's, Goudhurst, 7pm



# APPENDIX 3

He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem:**

**May the Grace of God our Saviour** written by John Newton, composed X  
by Simon Lofe, and sung by the choir of Christ Church, Kilndown.

**Address:** Revd Rachel Robertson

**Prayers:** led by Revd Neville Gallagher

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
**All And there shall no torment touch them.**

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,  
**All My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

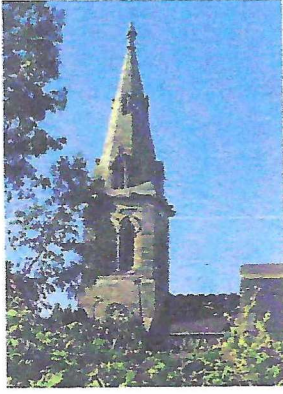
I will walk before the Lord  
**All In the land of the living.**

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH, for the love she received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with your servant QUEEN ELIZABETH and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection: that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus



# APPENDIX 4



## Bedgebury, the Beresfords and their legacy

**Thursday 29 September  
at 7:00pm  
in Christ Church Kilndown**

The Beresford family transformed Bedgebury from a modest country house to the handsome mansion we see today.



But what was the impact of the family on those who lived and worked in Kilndown, Goudhurst and the surrounding area? And how much of their legacy survives? Neville Gallagher investigates.

Followed by refreshments. There is no charge but donations are invited for Christ Church Kilndown.



# APPENDIX 5



## G82224 - OLD PARSONAGE SURGERY



**NHS**

South, Central and West  
Commissioning Support Unit

This map was produced @ www.healthpigs.nhs.uk on 16/03/2021



# APPENDIX 6

## u3a

Goudhurst and District

Serving  
Brenchley  
Horsmonden  
Lamberhurst  
Marden

Goudhurst  
Curtisden Green  
Kilndown  
Matfield  
Staplehurst

## OPEN AFTERNOON

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm  
Goudhurst Parish Hall



Wine Appreciation Group

Join us for refreshments and find out what our u3a can offer you.

Make new friends.

Develop a new interest.



Photography Group



Country Walking Group

We are a friendly local group with over 140 members and 21 interest groups.

For existing members, this is a great opportunity for you to renew your annual subscription and join new interest groups.

Annual subscription fee is £20 from November 1<sup>st</sup>. The subscription includes entry to all 11 monthly talks, and refreshments.



Garden Visits Group

### Upcoming monthly talks

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November Bobby Darbyshire – Where do novelists get their ideas from?  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December Tony Harris – History of Panto - my rubbish acting career!  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January Jane Scotchmer – Guatemala - a land of terrible beauty  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February Philip Richardson – Impressionism

Visit our Website: [u3asites.org.uk/goudhurst](http://u3asites.org.uk/goudhurst)



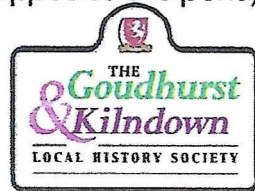
# APPENDIX 7



## See for yourself what our archives reveal

After our AGM on Tuesday, 4th October, you can explore, study and discuss usually unseen Goudhurst and Kilndown items from the History Society's archives. Titled 'Maps, Bones and Dog Collars' the artefacts on display give a fascinating insight into the past life and times of our two villages.

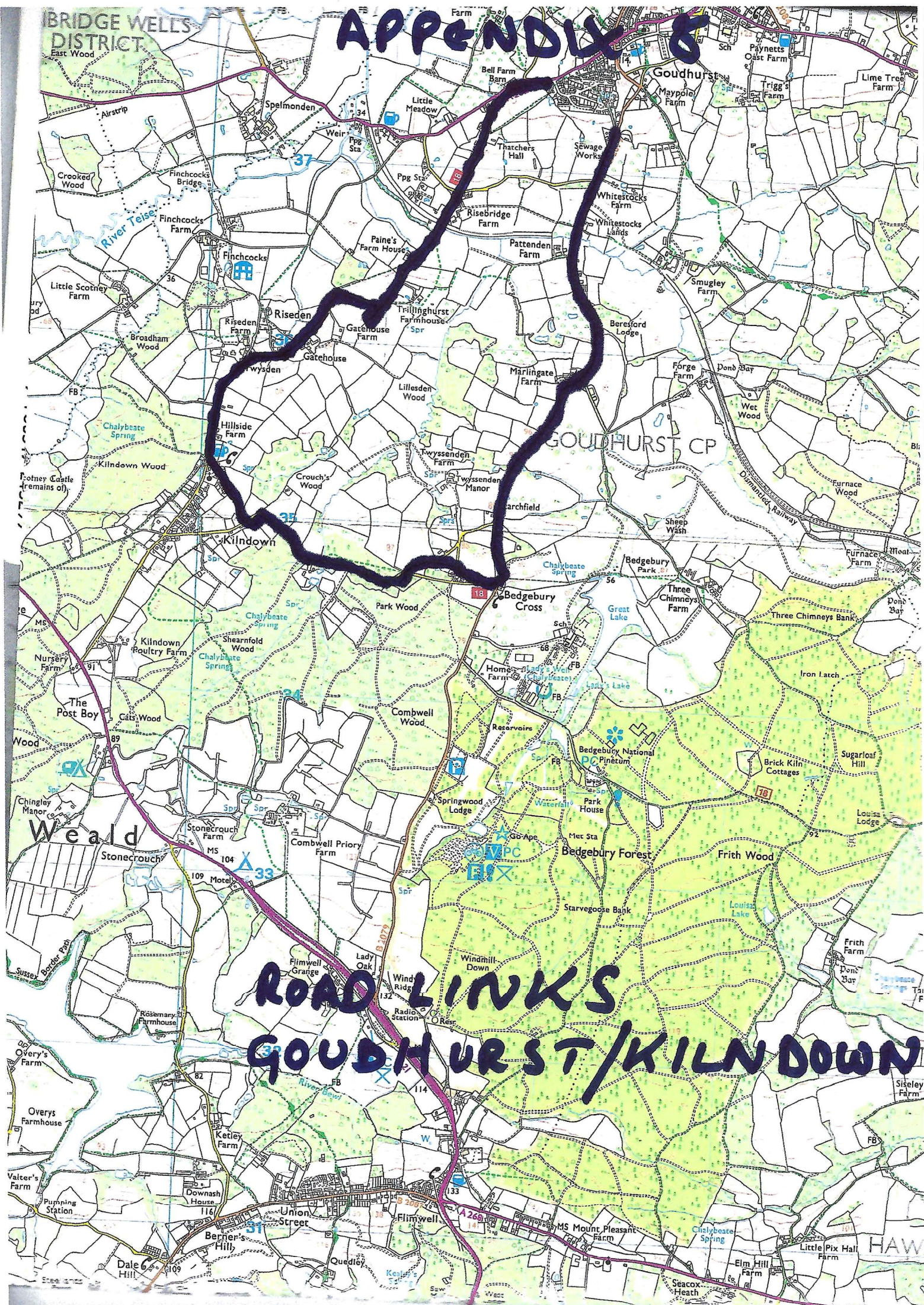
Meetings are at The Goudhurst Club, The Plain, Goudhurst  
(Opposite the pond)





BRIDGE WELLS DISTRICT

# APPENDIX 8



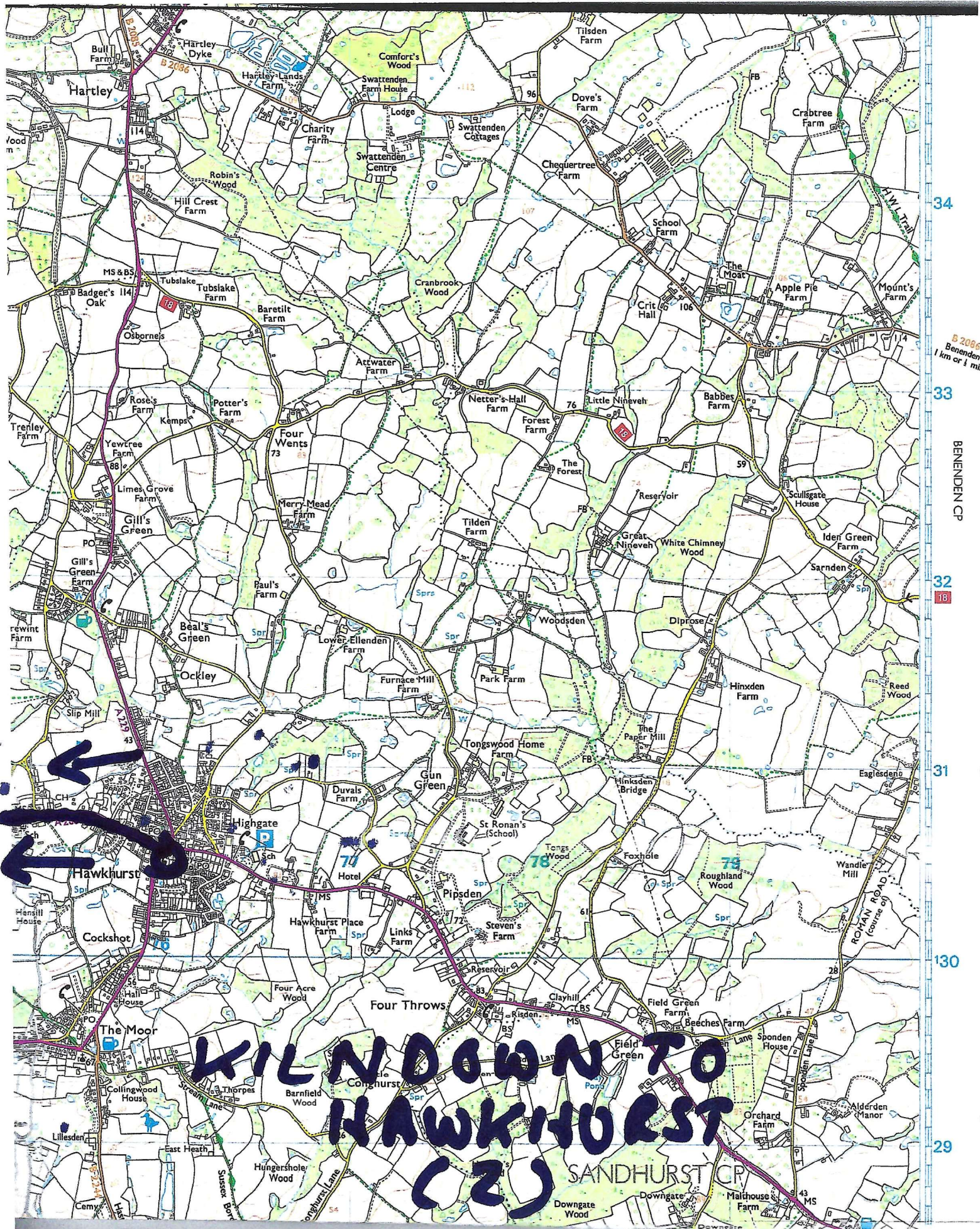
ROAD LINKS  
GOUDHURST/KILN DOWN





**KILNDOWN TO  
HAWKHURST  
(1)**





34

33

32

31

130

29

B 2066  
Benenden  
1 km or 1 mi

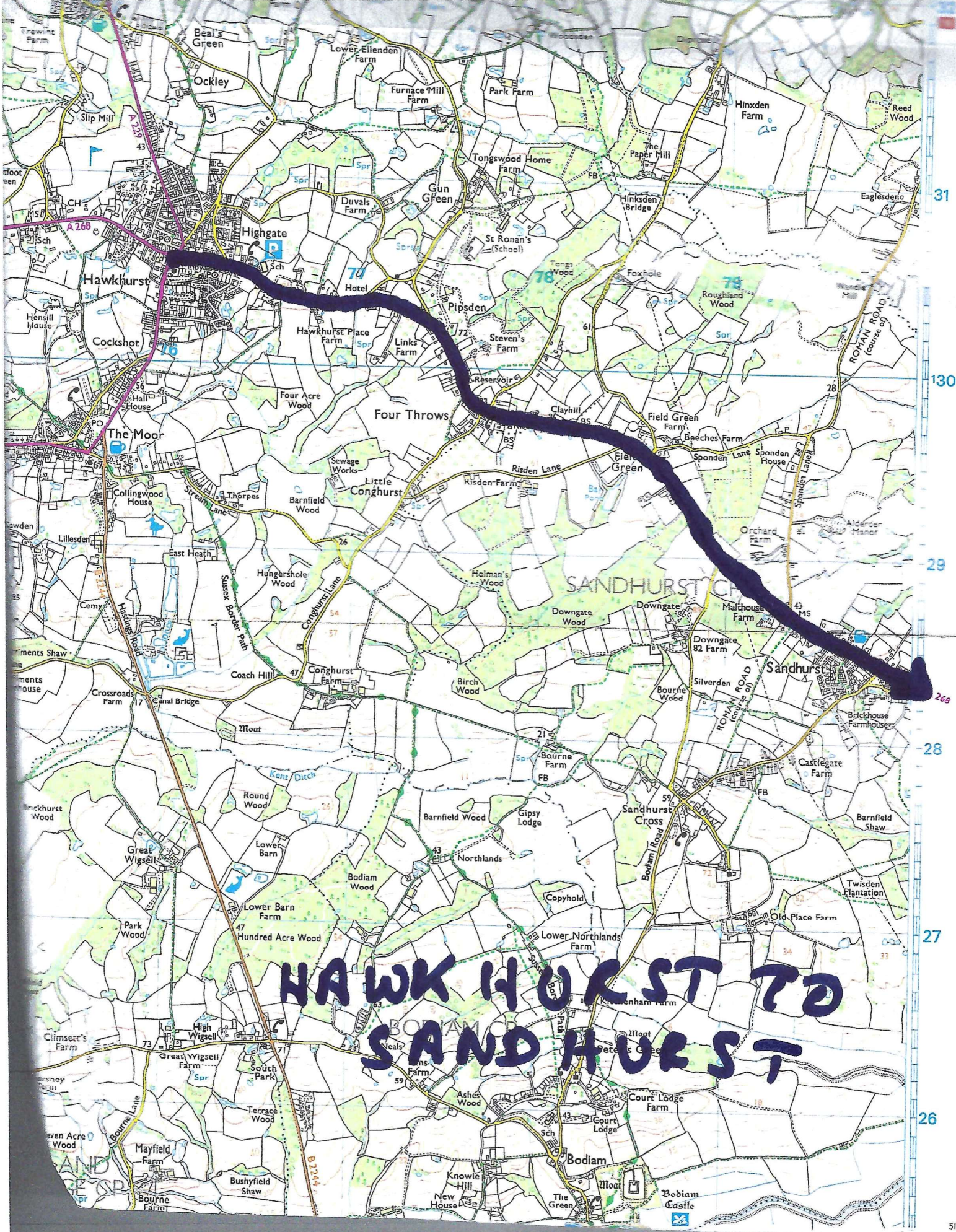
BENENDEN CP

ROMAN ROAD  
(course of)

WILN DOWN TO  
HAWKHURST  
(2)

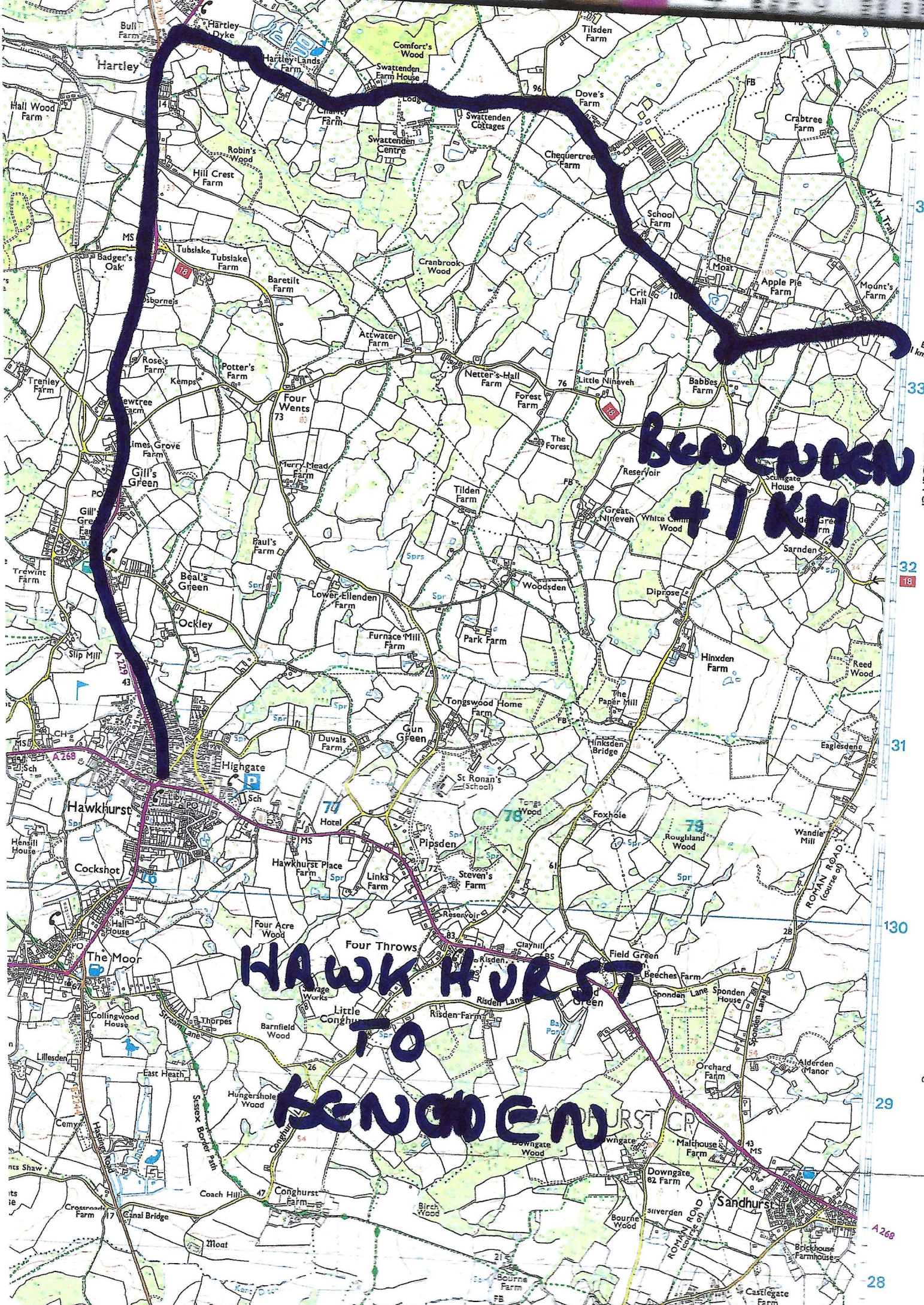
SANDHURST CP





HAWKHURST TO  
SANDHURST





**Benenden  
+ 1 km**

**Hawkhurst  
to  
Benenden**



# Goudhurst Parish Council

Risebridge Farm, Ranfers Lane, Goudhurst TN17 1HN  
clerk@goudhurst.co.uk

## Goudhurst Parish

SCALE :  
1 : 9809 @ A0

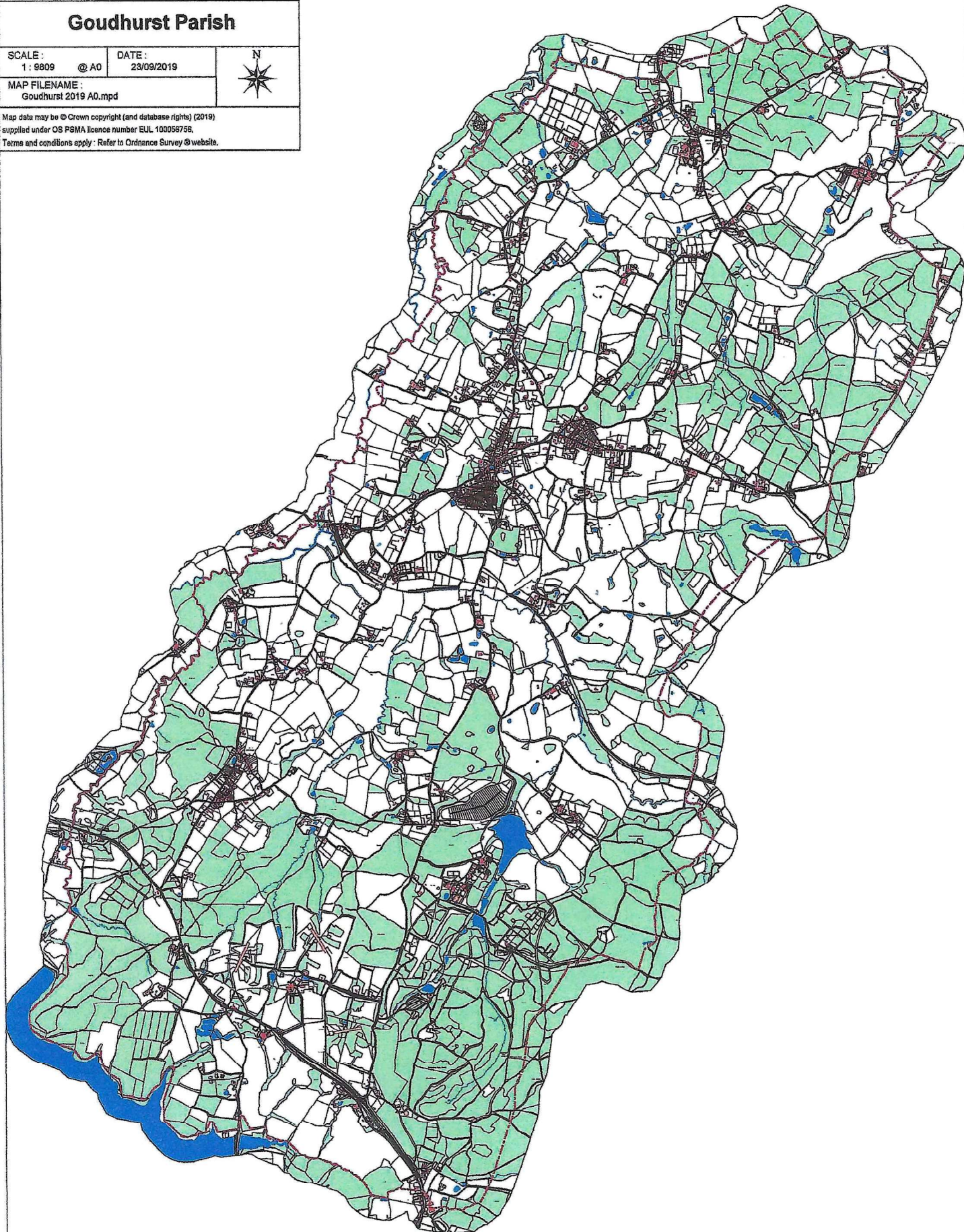
DATE :  
23/09/2019



MAP FILENAME :  
Goudhurst 2019 A0.mpd

Map data may be © Crown copyright (and database rights) (2019)  
supplied under OS PSMA licence number EUL 100056756.

Terms and conditions apply : Refer to Ordnance Survey @ website.





Q1

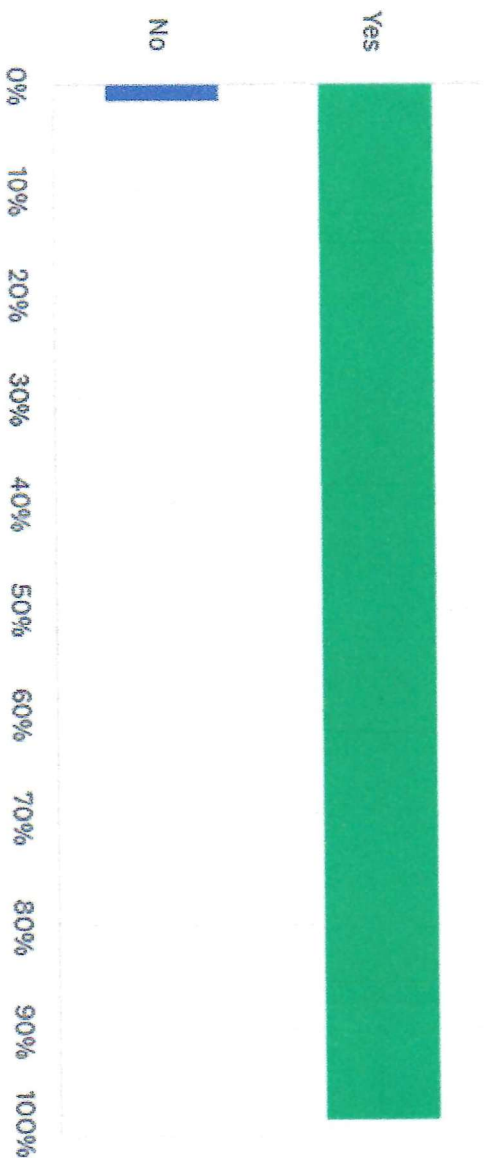


Customize

Save as ▾

I agree that Kilndown should remain in the same ward as Goudhurst and Curtisden Green for borough elections. I oppose the splitting of the Parish of Goudhurst.

Answered: 362 Skipped: 0



# APPENDIX 9

## ANSWER CHOICES

▾ Yes

▾ No

## RESPONSES

98.62%

357

1.66%

6

Total Respondents: 362



**Claire Reed**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2022 11:41  
**To:** [REDACTED] reviews@lgbce.org.uk  
**Subject:** Tunbridge Wells Electoral Review

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes to the electoral voting system in Tunbridge Wells. It is undemocratic at a local parish level to split Goudhurst and Kilndown into different wards and to lump them together with other villages that have different local issues.

Historically and religiously Kilndown and Goudhurst have functioned as a single parish served by elected residents who understand the issues affecting their community at a local level. The proposal is an exercise in numbers, not local democracy.

Why encourage the formulation of Neighbourhood Development Plans which take many years of local consultation to achieve only to negate this by lumping Goudhurst and Kilndown with other villages as a ward of rural Tunbridge Wells? It makes no sense at all. With the continuing growth of Tunbridge Wells local representation will become more remote and less local community based.

I urge a rethink of this damaging proposal.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Sent from Gmail Mobile

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Claire Reed

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 September 2022 16:49  
**To:** Claire Reed  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tun.Wells Electoral Review regards the splitting of Kilndown from Goudhurst

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Sep 23, 2022 at 8:55 AM  
Subject: Tun.Wells Electoral Review regards the splitting of Kilndown from Goudhurst  
To: <[Reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:Reviews@lgbce.org.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] with land in Goudhurst & Kilndown since [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I live on the Bedgebury road [REDACTED] which is in Kilndown but shop daily in Goudhurst which is nearer & has many more shops.  
It is absolute madness to even think about putting Kilndown with Hawkhurst, Benenden & Sandhurst & then Goudhurst with Lamberhurst ( nearer to Kilndown ) Horsmonden, Brenchley, & Matfield just to achieve more equal numbers on three large Borough Council wards. If anyone parish has not got a representative on the BC then nothing will ever get done in that parish . Goudhurst & Kilndown with one Councillor might get things done . But Kilndown alone with possibly their nearest representative as far away as Sandhurst have no chance.  
It is imperative that Goudhurst & Kilndown stay together with one Council representative living in either village. Why do we need equal numbers in wards ? Reduce the number of Borough Councillors if you like but make sure they live in different areas so as residents get equal representation.  
In short with respect please see common sense.  
Kind Regards [REDACTED]

---

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**Claire Reed**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 September 2022 09:57  
**To:** 'Claire Reed'  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed new electoral arrangements for Tunbridge Wells

Morning Claire,

As promised my email re new electoral arrangements for you to forward to your TW contact.

Happy to help you with the distribution of the printed NDP booklets when you have them.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 September 2022 11:24  
**To:** 'reviews@lghce.org.uk' <reviews@lghce.org.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed new electoral arrangements for Tunbridge Wells

As [REDACTED] Goudhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan which was finally made last February after 5 ½ years' work, I would like to add the following critique of the proposed new electoral arrangements.

It was very noticeable how the bonds between the 2 satellite communities of Curtisden Green and Kilndown to Goudhurst have developed historically and have today forged a strong identity as a unified parish – one of the largest in the South East albeit with a population of only some 3,500. The topography of the parish, its position in an AONB and the routes of the A21 and A262 have given us quite a different set of concerns to those of even our nearest neighbouring communities such as Horsmonden and these are reflected in great detail in our NDP document. To date our Borough councillors have been able to speak solely for our interests without their message being diluted by the differing concerns of neighbouring villages.

Moreover I believe Horsmonden and Brenchley have yet to complete their NDP's. So under the proposed new ward 'Rural Tunbridge Wells' the councillors may have to tailor their representations according to the legal mandates given by Goudhurst and Lamberhurst and the divined wishes of the rest of the ward instead of being able to speak authoritatively with one voice as at present.

I am therefore in favour of an arrangement which links each community with their own dedicated councillor.

Finally the proposed new name is more appropriate to Rusthall or Southborough. Better "Goudhurst, Lamberhurst & Horsmonden" or 'Central High Weald' if we have to accept the current proposal.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

---



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 August 2022 22:25  
**To:** reviews@lgbce.org.uk  
**Cc:** clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I live in Kilndown therefore my comments in general relate to the proposed new ward of Hawkhurst, Benenden & South Goudhurst. - I have never heard of an area called South Goudhurst and it certainly has no relationship to our village of Kilndown. A made up name in the effort to create a solution to a problem perhaps. I have read the draft proposals with interest and make the following comments.

In principal I am in favour of a reduction in Councillors **IF** this will improve and make local government more efficient. I would highlight 'more efficient' as I personally do not believe the proposals will meet the criteria as you are trying to implement a one size fits all when you are dealing with two distinct and widely differing communities. Urban and Rural. All the proposals work well in the Urban areas but fail miserably in the Rural areas and in essence you are proposing ideas to disadvantage our Rural communities that have worked well for many years and have created local areas that work together and interact efficiently - especially I might point out to our wider Parish Council of Goudhurst that includes Kilndown. Our church is also a benefice of both villages. GPC were instrumental in getting our village a new Village hall and recently their efforts brought Fibre Broad Band (overnight my speed went from 0.8 to 350.) Your proposals are to remove Kilndown from its working neighbour of Goudhurst and include us with Benenden, Hawkhurst and Sandhurst all villages which are I am sure are worthy partners but have no connection with our village other than I think one village is passed through by one of our one a day buses.

Para 149 says they should -

- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries - perhaps someone from the council could explain what these are in relationship between Kilndown and the other villages mentioned.

I also understand how the average of electors per representative is calculated. Here we have a major problem. The average spread over an Urban area compared to the same average calculation over a Rural area disadvantages those in a rural location and is at odds with good electoral equality (para149) Would a single elected member have the time or knowledge to cover the needs of such a rural area (HBSG) as proposed.

The average is based on electorate rather than area and electorate. To have a meaningful average you need to take rural location into account due to the diversity of needs in a rural environment over those of an urban conurbation.

Further for efficiency here in Kilndown we are part of Goudhurst Parish Council who liaise with the local TWBC members where we have a need or help. I am assuming we will continue to be part of Goudhurst Parish Council. GPC will now have to deal with SIX ward members to cover the needs of the Parish - I

question that all six will have the knowledge our current two councillors have to our needs within our two villages. This does not bode well for delivering 'effective Local Government' and is at odds 'to Improving electoral equality' Para 4

Under Para 135 your draft report states there are good road transport links between the parts of each of the wards. I have searched for transport links between the villages of Benenden, Sandhurst and Hawkhurst and find very little to substantiate this statement for our proposed ward. Yes there are road links but it is quicker to drive to TWells than Benenden or Sandhurst from Kilndown and we do have a bus that goes to TWells!!! Not very frequently though.

I have struggled to find any community interests that links which is stated in Para 149 perhaps you could enlighten me with the evidence that Para 149 eludes to regarding community links - we did share with St Mary's Goudhurst the services of the Benenden School chaplain but that was not the present but in the past.

I have also struggled to find any proposals of how these new wards will be served by the new members and how they propose to cover their much wider area. How are they proposing to deal with current issues. Our current councillors are involved with our village activities and serve on our various village amenities - village hall, Quarry Centre etc.. Will the members covering such a wide area still be prepared to be involved on a village basis as they will have a greater number of villages under their remit. Until I read to the opposite I have to assume will no longer receive such a good service- Does this comply with Para 149 - Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government. - short answer - NO

I strongly believe you should rethink how the small local areas will be better served by your council. TWells is fine you will have plenty of councillors covering small areas as against the new members covering much wider areas with a much more diversified community.

Regarding the name of the Ward we in Kilndown have no recognition in it as South Goudhurst does not exist and Kilndown is definitely not South Goudhurst. By creating this new huge ward covering an area that has no relationship to our productive village you are creating something that will put of your electors in Kilndown from being interested or involved with TWBC. A terrible shame and a great disappointment and a major failure by TWBC to deliver what it currently delivers.

Good ideas but in trying to resolve them a major failure - please think again.

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# **Boundary Changes Petition**

## **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

### **We Request**

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
- B. that the Borough adopts a community based warding for local representation

**Name**

**Address**

**Post Code**

24 September 2022

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24 September 2022

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## K- and C-Channel and Kileadown Together

## We Request

- ### Section 2: How many UKIP votes are lost in the same Borough?

Name	Address	Post Code
Mr. J. K. Smith	123 Main St.	12345
Ms. A. B. Jones	456 Elm St.	67890
Mr. C. D. Brown	789 Oak St.	11111
Ms. E. F. Green	101 Pine St.	22222
Mr. G. H. Black	202 Maple St.	33333
Ms. I. J. White	303 Birch St.	44444
Mr. K. L. Gray	404 Cedar St.	55555
Ms. M. N. Blue	505 Spruce St.	66666
Mr. O. P. Red	606 Willow St.	77777
Ms. Q. R. Purple	707 Ash St.	88888
Mr. S. T. Yellow	808 Hickory St.	99999
Ms. U. V. Orange	909 Walnut St.	00000
Mr. W. X. Silver	1010 Cherry St.	11111
Ms. Y. Z. Gold	1111 Peach St.	22222
Mr. A. B. Platinum	1212 Apple St.	33333
Ms. C. D. Diamond	1313 Pear St.	44444
Mr. E. F. Ruby	1414 Grape St.	55555
Ms. G. H. Sapphire	1515 Lemon St.	66666
Mr. I. J. Emerald	1616 Lime St.	77777
Ms. K. L. Garnet	1717 Orange St.	88888
Mr. M. N. Amethyst	1818 Lemon St.	99999
Ms. O. P. Topaz	1919 Peach St.	00000
Mr. Q. R. Zircon	2020 Apple St.	11111
Ms. S. T. Opal	2121 Pear St.	22222
Mr. U. V. Jade	2222 Grape St.	33333
Ms. W. X. Malachite	2323 Lemon St.	44444
Mr. Y. Z. Onyx	2424 Lime St.	55555
Ms. A. B. Obsidian	2525 Orange St.	66666
Mr. C. D. Quartz	2626 Lemon St.	77777
Ms. E. F. Turquoise	2727 Peach St.	88888
Mr. G. H. Ruby	2828 Apple St.	99999
Ms. I. J. Sapphire	2929 Pear St.	00000
Mr. K. L. Emerald	3030 Grape St.	11111
Ms. M. N. Amethyst	3131 Lemon St.	22222
Mr. O. P. Topaz	3232 Lime St.	33333
Ms. Q. R. Zircon	3333 Orange St.	44444
Mr. S. T. Opal	3434 Lemon St.	55555
Ms. U. V. Jade	3535 Lime St.	66666
Mr. W. X. Malachite	3636 Orange St.	77777
Ms. Y. Z. Onyx	3737 Lemon St.	88888
Mr. A. B. Obsidian	3838 Lime St.	99999
Ms. C. D. Quartz	3939 Orange St.	00000
Mr. E. F. Turquoise	4040 Lemon St.	11111
Ms. G. H. Ruby	4141 Lime St.	22222
Mr. I. J. Sapphire	4242 Orange St.	33333
Ms. K. L. Emerald	4343 Lemon St.	44444
Mr. M. N. Amethyst	4444 Lime St.	55555
Ms. O. P. Topaz	4545 Orange St.	66666
Mr. Q. R. Zircon	4646 Lemon St.	77777
Ms. S. T. Opal	4747 Lime St.	88888
Mr. U. V. Jade	4848 Orange St.	99999
Ms. W. X. Malachite	4949 Lemon St.	00000
Mr. Y. Z. Onyx	5050 Lime St.	11111
Ms. A. B. Obsidian	5151 Orange St.	22222
Mr. C. D. Quartz	5252 Lemon St.	33333
Ms. E. F. Turquoise	5353 Lime St.	44444
Mr. G. H. Ruby	5454 Orange St.	55555
Ms. I. J. Sapphire	5555 Lemon St.	66666
Mr. K. L. Emerald	5656 Lime St.	77777
Ms. M. N. Amethyst	5757 Orange St.	88888
Mr. O. P. Topaz	5858 Lemon St.	99999
Ms. Q. R. Zircon	5959 Lime St.	00000
Mr. S. T. Opal	6060 Orange St.	11111
Ms. U. V. Jade	6161 Lemon St.	22222
Mr. W. X. Malachite	6262 Lime St.	33333
Ms. Y. Z. Onyx	6363 Orange St.	44444
Mr. A. B. Obsidian	6464 Lemon St.	55555
Ms. C. D. Quartz	6565 Lime St.	66666
Mr. E. F. Turquoise	6666 Orange St.	77777
Ms. G. H. Ruby	6767 Lemon St.	88888
Mr. I. J. Sapphire	6868 Lime St.	99999
Ms. K. L. Emerald	6969 Orange St.	00000
Mr. M. N. Amethyst	7070 Lemon St.	11111
Ms. O. P. Topaz	7171 Lime St.	22222
Mr. Q. R. Zircon	7272 Orange St.	33333
Ms. S. T. Opal	7373 Lemon St.	44444
Mr. U. V. Jade	7474 Lime St.	55555
Ms. W. X. Malachite	7575 Orange St.	66666
Mr. Y. Z. Onyx	7676 Lemon St.	77777
Ms. A. B. Obsidian	7777 Lime St.	88888
Mr. C. D. Quartz	7878 Orange St.	99999
Ms. E. F. Turquoise	7979 Lemon St.	00000
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Mr. O. P. Topaz	8484 Orange St.	55555
Ms. Q. R. Zircon	8585 Lemon St.	66666
Mr. S. T. Opal	8686 Lime St.	77777
Ms. U. V. Jade	8787 Orange St.	88888
Mr. W. X. Malachite	8888 Lemon St.	99999
Ms. Y. Z. Onyx	8989 Lime St.	00000
Mr. A. B. Obsidian	9090 Orange St.	11111
Ms. C.		

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Mr. J. K. Smith	123 Main St.	10001
Mr. A. B. Jones	456 Elm St.	10002
Mr. C. D. Brown	789 Oak St.	10003
Mr. E. F. Green	101 Pine St.	10004
Mr. G. H. White	202 Cedar St.	10005
Mr. I. J. Black	303 Birch St.	10006
Mr. K. L. Gray	404 Spruce St.	10007
Mr. M. N. Blue	505 Willow St.	10008
Mr. O. P. Red	606 Ash St.	10009
Mr. Q. R. Yellow	707 Hickory St.	10010
Mr. S. T. Purple	808 Magnolia St.	10011
Mr. U. V. Pink	909 Sycamore St.	10012
Mr. W. X. Brown	1010 Dogwood St.	10013
Mr. Y. Z. Green	1111 Redwood St.	10014
Mr. A. B. White	1212 Cypress St.	10015
Mr. C. D. Black	1313 Juniper St.	10016
Mr. E. F. Gray	1414 Fir St.	10017
Mr. G. H. Blue	1515 Palm St.	10018
Mr. I. J. Red	1616 Cedar St.	10019
Mr. K. L. Yellow	1717 Birch St.	10020
Mr. M. N. Purple	1818 Spruce St.	10021
Mr. O. P. Pink	1919 Willow St.	10022
Mr. Q. R. Brown	2020 Ash St.	10023
Mr. S. T. Green	2121 Hickory St.	10024
Mr. U. V. White	2222 Magnolia St.	10025
Mr. W. X. Black	2323 Sycamore St.	10026
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Mr. C. D. Pink	3939 Redwood St.	10042
Mr. E. F. Brown	4040 Cypress St.	10043
Mr. G. H. Green	4141 Juniper St.	10044
Mr. I. J. White	4242 Fir St.	10045
Mr. K. L. Black	4343 Palm St.	10046
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Mr. S. T. Yellow	4747 Willow St.	10050
Mr. U. V. Purple	4848 Ash St.	10051
Mr. W. X. Pink	4949 Hickory St.	10052
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Mr. A. B. Green	5151 Sycamore St.	10054
Mr. C. D. White	5252 Dogwood St.	10055
Mr. E. F. Black	5353 Redwood St.	10056
Mr. G. H. Gray	5454 Cypress St.	10057
Mr. I. J. Blue	5555 Juniper St.	10058
Mr. K. L. Red	5656 Fir St.	10059
Mr. M. N. Yellow	5757 Palm St.	10060
Mr. O. P. Purple	5858 Cedar St.	10061
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Mr. O. P. Gray	8484 Fir St.	10087
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Mr. S. T. Red	8686 Cedar St.	10089
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Mr. W. X. Red	3636 Magnolia St.	10039
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Mr. A. B. Brown	9090 Ash St.	10093
Mr. C. D. Green		

The image consists of a single, uniform black rectangle covering the entire area. There are no discernible features, text, or patterns.

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# **Boundary Changes Petition**

## **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

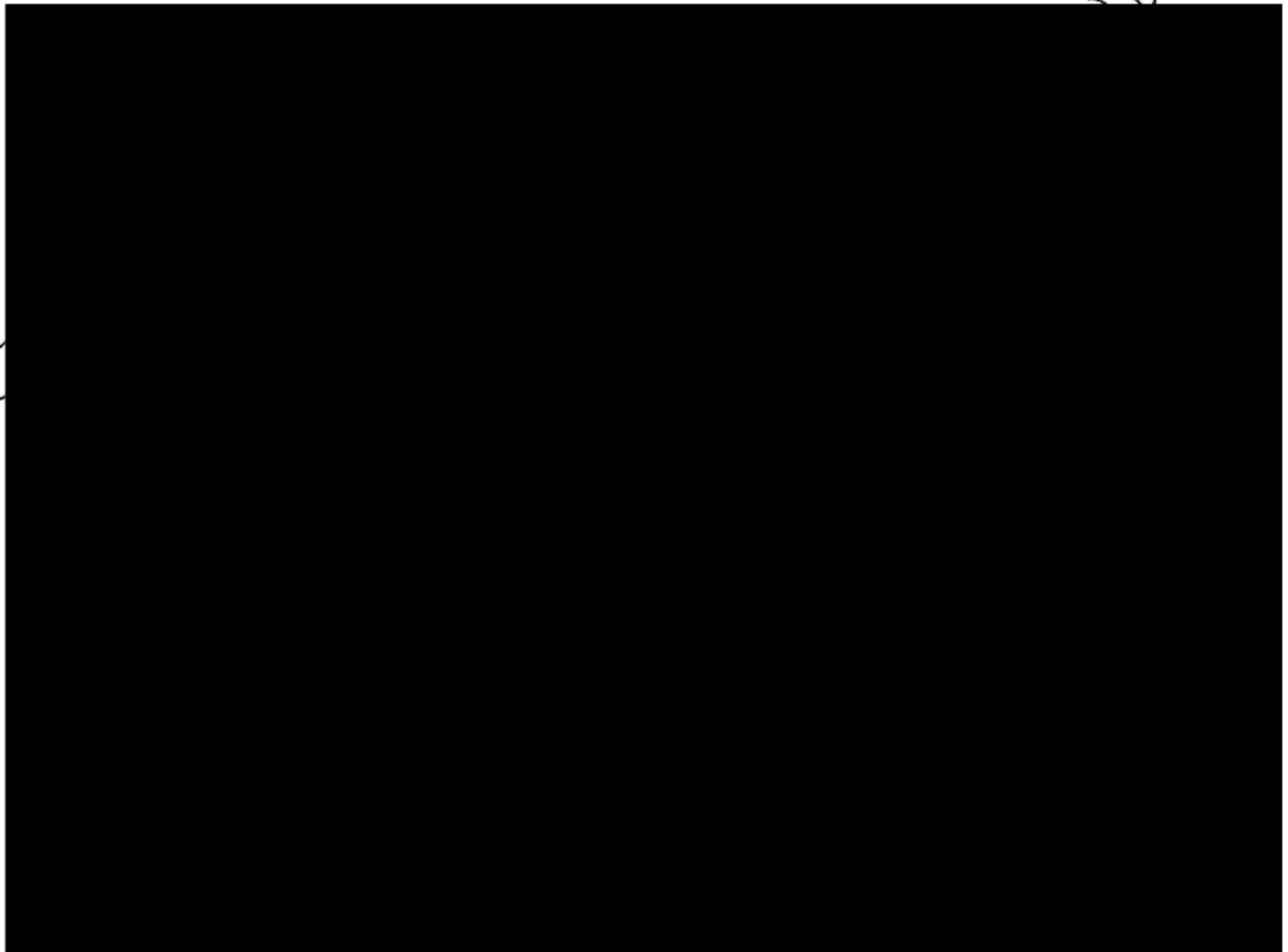
### **We Request**

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
- B. that the Borough adopts a community based warding for local representation

Name

Address

Post Code



24 September 2022

## Boundary Changes Petition

## Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
- B. that the Borough adopts a community based warding for local representation

Address

Name

Address

Post Code

24 September 2022

# **Boundary Changes Petition**

## **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

### **We Request**

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
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Name

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Post Code

24 September 2022

# **Boundary Changes Petition**

## **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

### **We Request**

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# **Boundary Changes Petition**

## **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

### **We Request**

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
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**Name**

**Address**

**Post Code**

24 September 2022

0121

## **Boundary Changes Petition**

### **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

#### **We Request**

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
- B. that the Borough adopts a community based warding for local representation

Mr. ... ... Post Code



# **Boundary Changes Petition**

## **Keep Goudhurst and Kilndown Together**

### **We Request**

- A. that Goudhurst and Kilndown are kept in the same Borough Council ward
- B. that the Borough adopts a community based warding for local representation

Name

Address

Post Code

24 September 2022