

1. Introduction

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Through the Ministry of Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Neighbourhood Planning Programme led by Locality, AECOM has been commissioned to provide design support to Horsmonden Parish Council and Horsmonden Neighbourhood Plan Group.

The Steering Group is making progress in the production of its Neighbourhood Plan and has requested to access professional advice on design guidelines for future development within the village and in relation to defining a landscape buffer to the north of the village. This document should support Neighbourhood Plan policies that guide the assessment of future development proposals and encourage high quality design.

1.2. Objectives

This document has 3 main objectives:

- To provide general design guidance that can be applied to any new development proposals in the parish to help ensure that they are designed in response to local character;
- To produce plans that illustrate proposals for 4 development sites identified in the Draft Local Plan; and
- To provide a general landscape strategy for the village.

1.3. Process

The following steps were agreed with Horsmonden Neighbourhood Plan steering group members to produce this report:

- Initial meeting and site visit;
- Urban design and landscape assessment;
- Follow up site visit by landscape architect;
- Preparation of design principles and guidelines to be used to assess future developments;
- Preparation of landscape design options for the proposed green buffer;
- Illustrative masterplanning proposals for development sites: 108, 297, 82 and 324;
- Draft report with design guidelines and illustrative masterplanning proposals; and
- Final report.



Figure 1: Streetscene from the village centre.



Figure 2: Typical facade rendering, red brick and shingles.



Figure 3: Long distance views towards the country side.

1.4. Area of Study

Location and population

Horsmonden is a village in the Tunbridge Wells district of Kent, England. The village is located in the Weald of Kent. It is situated on a road leading from Maidstone to Lamberhurst, three miles north of the latter place.

At the 2011 census the population of Horsmonden was 1,620 and there were 800 homes.

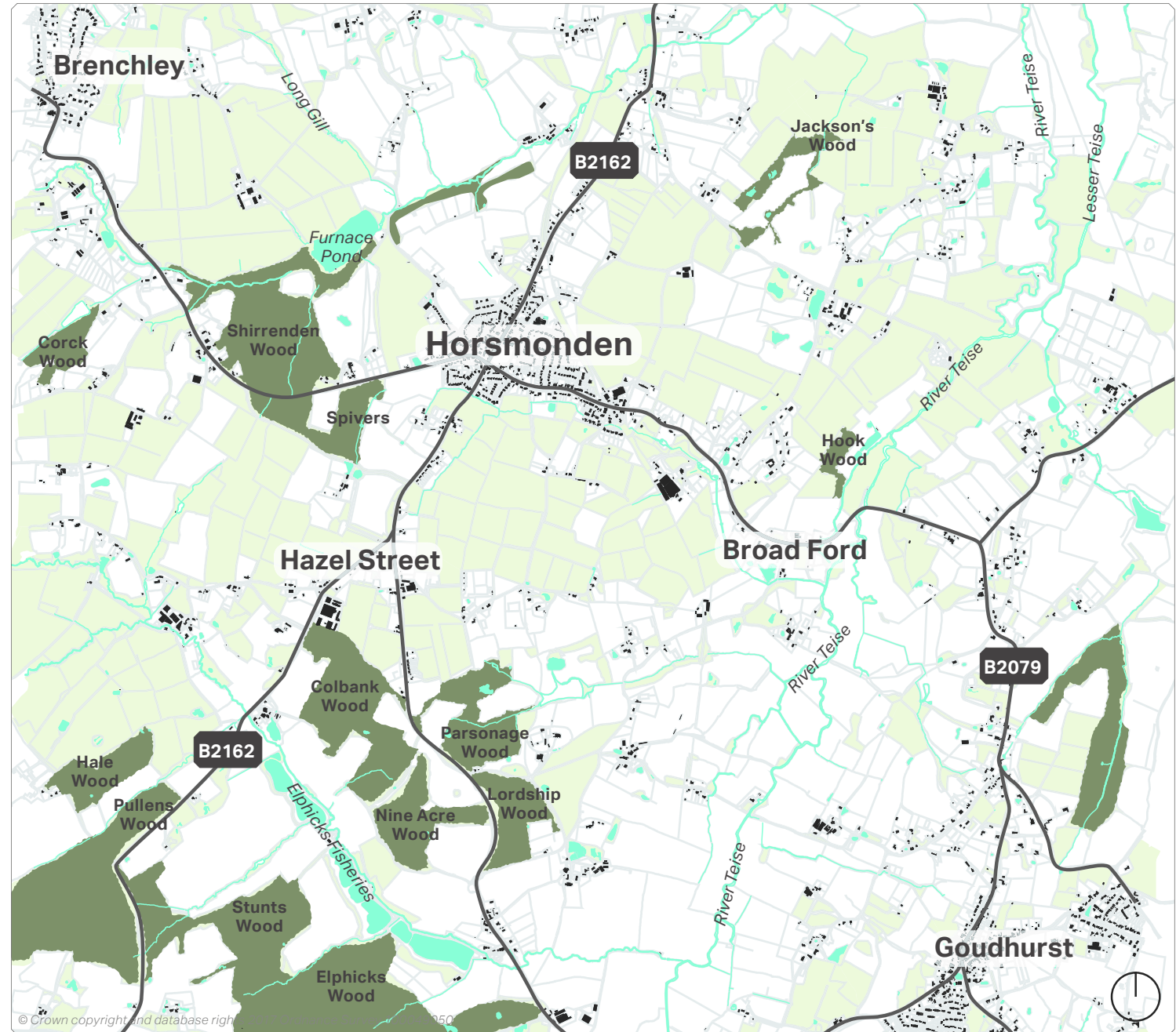


Figure 4: Horsmonden within the local context.



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Figure 5: Horsmonden village centre plan showing heritage assets.



Figure 6: Horsmonden village centre plan, aerial image base.