

## 2. Local Character Area

### 2.1. Introduction

Horsmonden is a village located in the Weald of Kent. The nearest towns are Tunbridge Wells, 8 miles to the West, Maidstone, 13 miles to the North and Cranbrook, 8 miles to the East. Horsmonden is in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

The nearest railway station to Horsmonden is Paddock Wood. Horsmonden Station closed in 1961. There are numerous bus routes serving Horsmonden giving access to Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook, and Tenterden.

There is a Primary School and a Kindergarten, a Church of England church, and a Methodist Chapel. Furthermore, there are several meeting places -the Village Hall, the Village Institute (the Social Club), the Methodist Hall, the recently refurbished Sports Club and the Church Hall.



Figure 7: Sprivers Mansion.



Figure 9: Sprivers, The National Trust.



Figure 8: Detached and semi-detached houses along Goudhurst Road.



Figure 10: Local example of family house.

## 2.2. Local Character Analyses

	HORSMONDEN
<b>Streets and Public Realm</b>	Horsmonden has been developed far from the original village centre. The village is approximately a 2 miles apart from the original nucleus (around St Margaret's Church). The spine of Horsmonden lays along Branchley Road and Goudhurst Road (east-west direction) and Maidstone Road and Lamberhurst Road (north-south direction). Other streets connect the village through these four main streets. In general there is a good level of accessibility and walkability which can be attributed to a connected street network. There are several cul-de-sac developments in the village sprouting close enough from the main distributor roads. The village has well located and accessible public open spaces and paths that lead to the countryside.
<b>Pattern and Layout of Buildings</b>	There is a good mix of house typologies spread in Horsmonden. The most common house typology present in the village consists of detached houses, followed by less popular types like semi-detached and terraced buildings.  Orientation of buildings varies with most of the buildings fronting the street and only a few addressing the street with the end gable.
<b>Building Heights and Roofline</b>	Building heights vary between one and two and a half storeys. Typically the roofline is either pitched or hipped, other less frequently used types of roof present in the village include shed roofs, cross hipped and half hipped roofs. Many buildings have chimneys and on the roofs gabled dormers are frequently present.  A particularity of Horsmonden (and Kent in general) are Oast houses with conical tall roofs and pointed skyline (cowl).
<b>Car Parking</b>	There are different approaches to car parking within the village. A characteristic of the village is garage parking or on plot parking. It is common that these garages have one or two parking spaces. Other parking modes include: parking in the front garden, parking on the side of the house and also parking on the street.

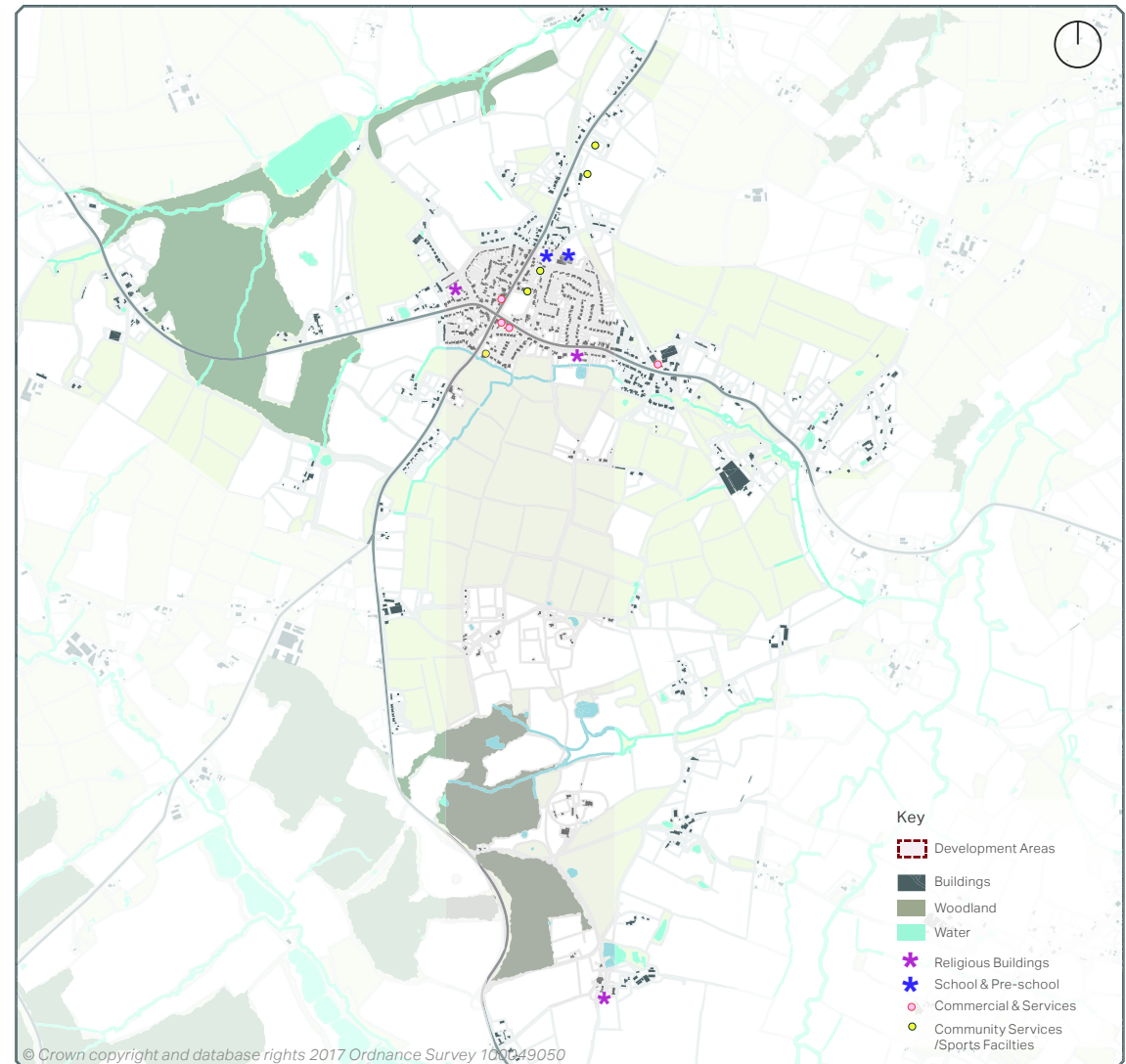


Figure 11: Horsmonden land use diagram.



## 2.3. Architectural Details

Building details and materials contribute to local distinctiveness and vernacular. The following section showcases a good amount of local building details which should be considered as positive examples.

Specific particularities of the built environment are further discussed in Chapter 3, as sub-chapters where local materials palettes, architectural details and features are explored.



Timber frame with painted infill.



Decorative bargeboards on gables and shingles on the main facade.



Bay window.



Chimney detail.



Porch with decorative bargeboard.



Gabled dormers.



Half-timbered with red brick below.



Decorative brick work on buildings main facade.





Combination of building materials along the main facade: clay tile, shingles and stone.



Painted weatherboarding.



Multiple dormers.



Shopfront detail.



Bow window.



Window wall in a contemporary family house.