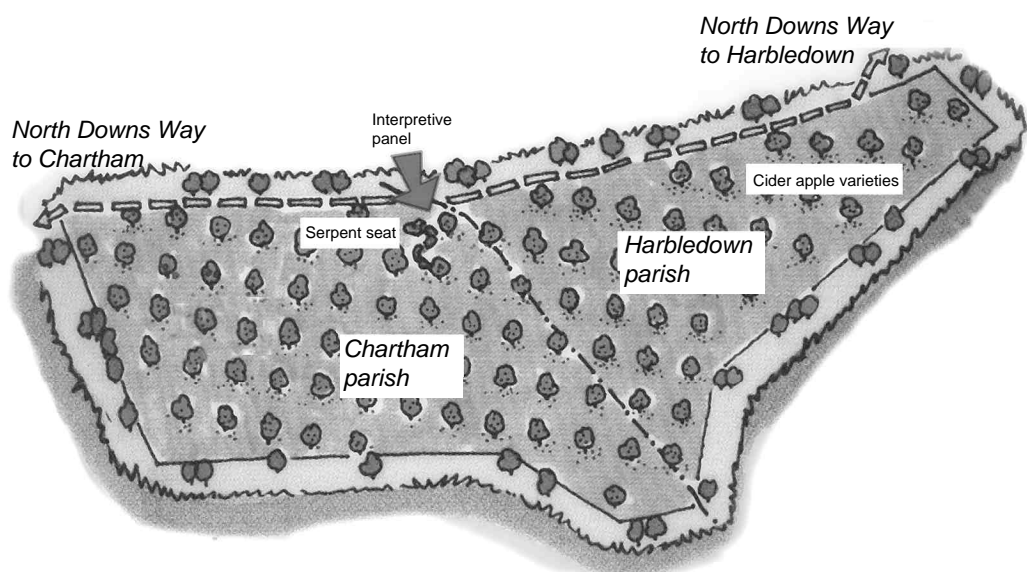


# NO MAN'S ORCHARD

The name "No Man's" was traditionally given to land that straddled more than one parish – no one man's land. At No Man's Orchard this is supported by the fact that the parish boundary of Chartham and Harbledown runs across the centre of the site. The orchard was purchased by Chartham and Harbledown Parish Councils in 1996.



The orchard is a peaceful and inviting place in all seasons, as beautiful in blossom-time as when a fair apple crop is ripe. In winter enjoy the character of the gnarled old trunks and huge branches, many now showing their age and leaning heavily, their decline providing homes to an even greater wealth of life. When a tree reaches the end of its lifespan it is replaced with a new planting of suitable traditional variety.

## A locally important site

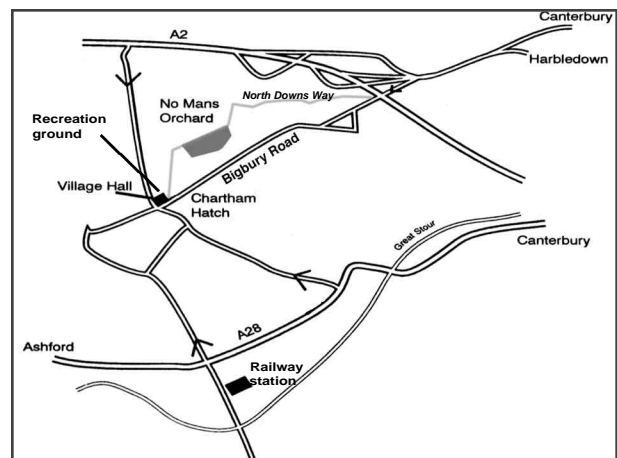
Canterbury City Council has designated the orchard a Local Nature Reserve in recognition of its value for wildlife and to encourage its educational use. This is the first orchard in the UK to be designated as such! The ten acre site is also a Local Wildlife Site designated by the Kent Wildlife Trust, mainly because of the number of lichens and mosses found on the fruit trees.

## How to find No Man's Orchard

The orchard can be reached from the village of Chartham Hatch, which lies 0.5 km to the west, by walking along the North Downs Way. From Harbledown, 2.5 km to the east, access is also along the North Downs Way, from Faulkners Lane.

### By Car

From Canterbury follow the A28 towards Ashford. Take the right turn towards Chartham Hatch. Follow the road to a crossroads with the village hall in front of you. Turn right. The orchard can be accessed from the recreation ground 100m past the village hall. Alternatively take the road from Harbledown to Chartham Hatch. There is limited parking in the village. Please do not park at the village hall as it is in constant use.



### By Bus

The 667 bus is an infrequent service between Canterbury and Chartham Hatch. Contact Poynters for details. The 620 bus goes between Canterbury and Chartham (2.6 km away) approximately every 30 mins. Contact Stagecoach for details.

### By Train

There are regular trains, approximately every hour, between Canterbury and Chartham, and between Ashford and Chartham. Chartham railway station is 2.7km (1.7 miles) from Chartham Hatch village hall. Contact National Rail Enquiries for details.

## How to find out more

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Sidelands Farm, Wye, Ashford TN25 5DQ 01233 813307 [kentishstour@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentishstour@kent.gov.uk) [www.kentishstour.org.uk](http://www.kentishstour.org.uk)

Chartham Parish Council 01227 738110  
Harbledown Parish Council 05601 454363

This leaflet has been produced by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, and Chartham and Harbledown Parish Councils.



## Orchards - traditional and modern

Traditional orchards with old fruit trees are rapidly disappearing in Kent. They are less profitable than modern commercial orchards, but nevertheless they provide important habitats for wildlife. The trees have very large spreading crowns and are far taller than in modern commercial orchards, which have been specially cultivated for ease of picking.



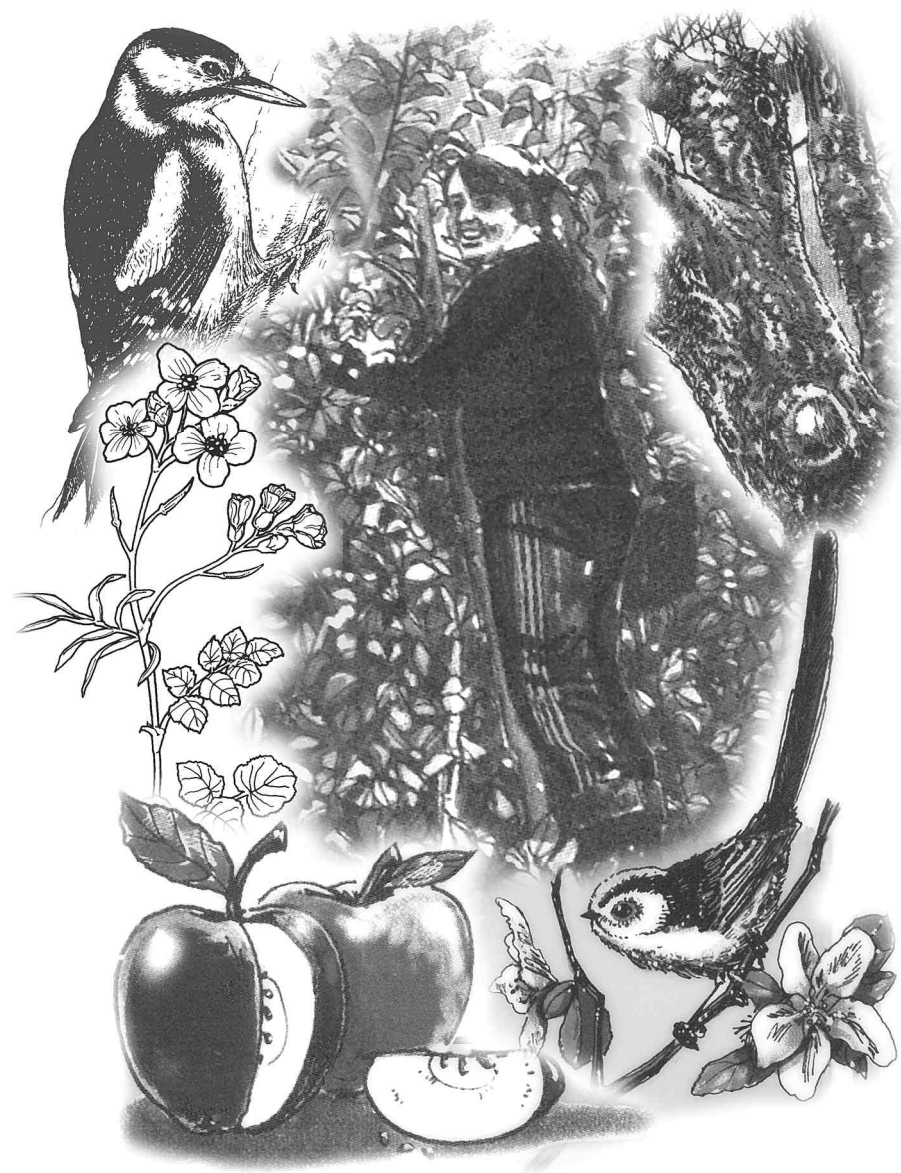
No Man's Orchard

A modern commercial orchard



## Apple trees

The orchard, covering eight acres of mainly Bramley apple trees, was planted in 1947. Six cider apple varieties at the eastern end were planted in 1996 on a further two acres. In subsequent years traditional apple varieties including Flower of Kent and Kentish Fillbasket have been planted to replace Bramley trees that have died. This work was carried out by volunteers from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and local villagers, and continues as needed.



# NO MAN'S COMMUNITY ORCHARD

## local nature reserve

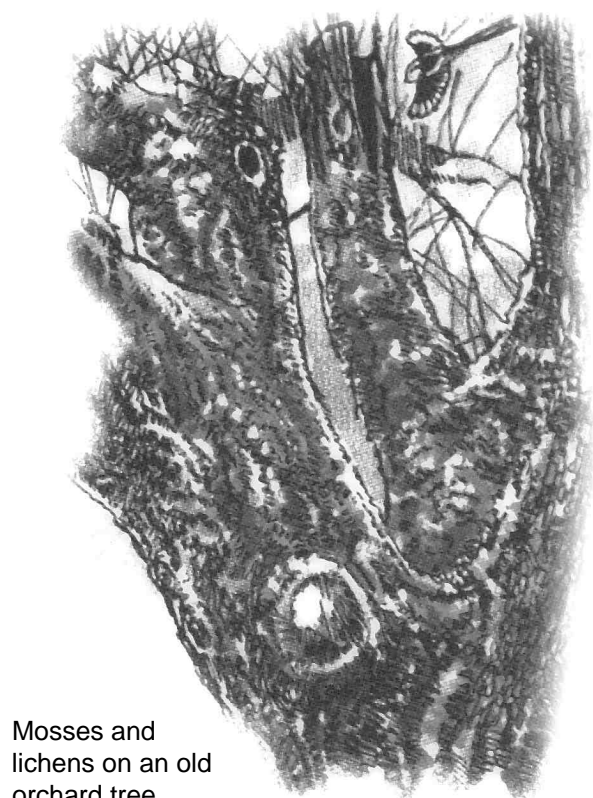
Chartham and Harbledown Parish Councils

## Wildlife

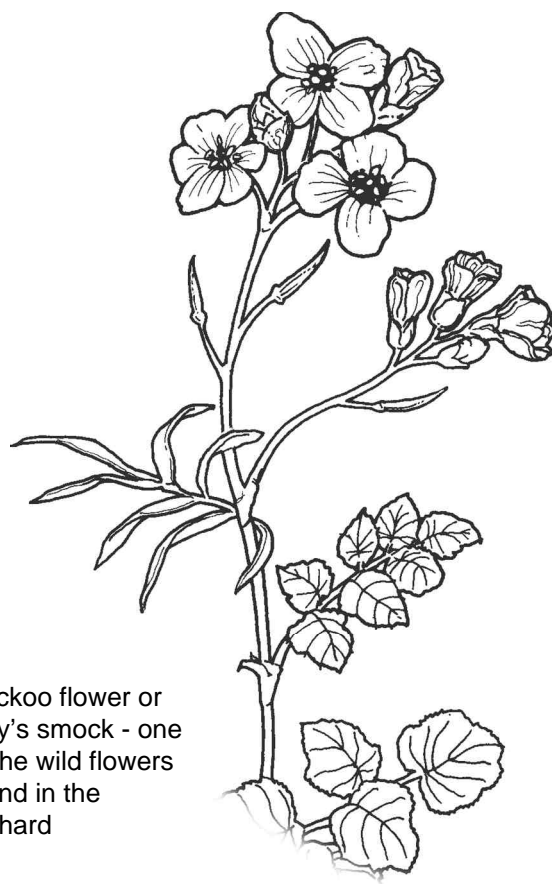
There are a staggering 33 different species of lichens and mosses to be found on the fruit trees at No Man's Orchard!

A lichen is not a single organism in the way that most other living things are, but rather a combination of two organisms - a fungus and an alga - which are dependent on each other to live.

Mosses are usually small simple plants - they do not produce flowers or seeds, and most have no internal means for transporting water or nutrients.



Mosses and lichens on an old orchard tree.



Cuckoo flower or lady's smock - one of the wild flowers found in the orchard

Until 1993 the grassland under the orchard trees had been fertilised and sprayed with herbicides. However, an end to the practice of spraying together with positive management (mowing in mid-June and October) has led to a noticeable increase in the number and diversity of wildflowers growing.

Some dead or decaying trees are left as they provide ideal habitat for dead wood specialists such as beetles and fungi. Dead wood habitats are declining nationally as there is often a tendency to 'tidy up' the countryside, sometimes to the detriment of wildlife.

Look out for birds such as great and lesser spotted woodpeckers, song thrushes, wrens, and starlings that all use the fruit trees to nest in. Willow warbler, chiffchaff, kestrel, jay, house martin, swift and long tailed tit are just some of the birds seen amongst the branches or flying overhead.

The orchard is also home to many insects. A recent moth survey recorded dozens of species, and the old trees, blossom and windfall fruit provide homes and food for a variety of beetles, flies and bees.

Foxes, rabbits, badgers, stoats, slow worms and grass snakes are just some of the other wild animals that use the orchard.



Great spotted woodpecker

## Community



Unveiling the new serpent



Morris dancing at a summer event

### Sculpture

There has been a serpent seat sculpture in the orchard since 1996, when two local art students created one from oak and apple wood with help from volunteers. When this original serpent reached the end of its life, artist Steve Portchmouth was commissioned to make a new one. This new oak sculpture was installed in 2008 and unveiled that year (as pictured above).

### Events

The orchard has been a venue for many events over the years, from Apple Day to woodland events and poetry days. It is available for the local community to use for events. Contact the Parish Council for details (see reverse).

### Adopt an apple tree

This scheme allows you to take as much fruit as you like from the tree you adopt. Trees can be adopted for a year or for life. Contact the Parish Council for details (see reverse).

### Volunteers

Should you wish to get involved in the management of No Man's Orchard, or other countryside sites, please contact the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (see reverse).



Apple picking



Volunteers at work

### Orchard Management

The orchard is managed by Chartham and Harbledown Parish Councils, assisted by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. Funding is provided by a Countryside Stewardship Agreement (a national countryside conservation scheme administered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

### Access

The site is an open access site and is maintained for the quiet enjoyment of everyone. You are welcome to take the time to wander in amongst the trees, or stop and have a picnic (although there are no bins so please take your litter home).