

Global ICCA Database
Frieze Hill Community Orchard, United Kingdom

Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	Frieze Hill Community Orchard
Country (include State and Province)	Taunton Deane, Somerset, United Kingdom
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	1.39 ha
GIS Coordinates (if available)	
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no)	No
Marine (Y or N)	N
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group (unincorporated)
Is the community considering itself an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	No
Is the community considering itself a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Yes
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	No- confidently, most individuals own their own houses.
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognized?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	Yes, recognised as a Local Nature Reserve, a status that was sought by the community and secured in 2005.
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	The orchard is located on land that is owned by the Borough Council (a form of local government). In an effort to decrease bureaucracy and paperwork, the community group decided to accept an annual lease as the land tenure agreement. As of this writing the lease has been renewed each year since the community group became involved. In spite of the consistent lease renewal, the community group continues to have concerns about the resilience the land tenure agreement. Even if there are no changes in the land tenure agreement, the community group has problems with securing grant funding, because most grants

	<p>require that the community group has a 25 year lease on the property.</p> <p>Taunton Deane is a growing town with a growing population in need of additional housing. Because of this, there are concerns that the land that the orchard exists on, may eventually needed for expanding housing development.</p> <p>In England, there are no statutory measures available for the protection of fruit trees, so there is no legal support for the trees security.</p>
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	<p><i>To create and sustain a community orchard at Frieze Hill on the site adjacent to Turner's Allotments, increase, improve and develop the community orchard for the benefit of local residents and the wider Taunton community, respect and respond to local environmental issues in the development and management of the community orchard, enable the local community to participate in the development and management of the community orchard, consult with the local community over the development and future of the community orchard, ensuring that all sections of the community have opportunity to have say in determining its future development, use, develop and increase the skills of local people in the development and management of the community orchard, raise public awareness of the activities of The Frieze Hill Community Orchard, encourage other local organisations and businesses to support the aims and activities of The Frieze Hill Community Orchard.</i></p> <p>This is extracted from the group's constitution: the constitution specifies the structure for group decision-making and guidelines for membership.</p>
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category ¹ do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	Category V-Protected Landscape or Seascape

Additional qualitative information

Main ecosystem type	Orchard / Woodland pasture
Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	Bats, frogs, roe deer, invertebrates and lichens, rabbits, agrobiodiversity.
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	English
Broad historical context of the CCA	<i>In 1918, land at Frieze Hill was conveyed to the town council for the purpose of allotments (areas for</i>

¹ Please see http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/pdfs/outputs/pascat/pascatrev_info3.pdf

	<p><i>communal food growing), agriculture, or the production of food by a Mr. H G Turner. Part of the land became allotments and the remaining was leased to a local farmer. Following the end of the leasehold, part of the land became unused, so the Council began to investigate the feasibility of having initially a community woodland, and then a community orchard. Officers at the council invited local people to discuss the future of the land and from this the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group was formed.</i></p> <p>The community group has turned the 1.39 ha field into a community orchard. There are approximately 100 trees that have been planted since 2004, with the objectives of being both a community space as well as an area that is beneficial to wildlife. Orchards in the UK have been identified as hotspots for biodiversity in the countryside by English Nature and are important habitats for invertebrates and rare plant life including lichens, fungi, and various other plant groups. Italics taken directly from a flier that the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group created before the orchard was planted.</p>
Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)	The Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group makes all decisions concerning the orchard. The core group consists of nine individuals, however, all decisions are made at group meetings and all members of the community are invited to join. Decisions are made by a show of hands and decided by simple majority.
Length of time the governance model has been in place	Since 2004
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	The land is owned by the Taunton Deane Borough Council
Type of land use in the CCA	Fruit picking, dog walking, picknicking, community events (Spring Celebrations, Wassailing)
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	There is a group constitution.
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Land Tenure and Funding. Noise from nearby railroad operations, which is perceived as a nuisance, and a threat to the peaceful experience of being in the orchard.
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	

Contact individuals and organizations: Margaret Gibson: margaret@somertext.co.uk

References:

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Lush *et al.* 2005. "The extent, distribution, biodiversity and management of traditional orchards in England, Volume 2: Case studies English Nature. *Biodiversity Action Plan, Traditional Orchards Proposal Annex II*

Key, R. 1999. Orchards and Invertebrate Biodiversity in C. G. a. E. Nature, editor. Orchards and Wild Life. Common Ground and English Nature, Much Marcke and Ledbury, Herefordshire.