



Community Conserved Areas in England:



Grassroots Discussions with Frieze Hill Community
Orchard Group and the New Ash Green Woodlands Group

As reported by Kira L. Johnson, July 2008

Executive Summary

There are more than 250 community orchards in England. Although most are small in size (generally around 1 hectare), they have been identified as hotspots for biodiversity in the countryside, supporting a variety of wildlife and containing important habitats and rare species. In addition to having biodiversity value, community orchards are valued as part of England's fruit growing tradition and associated cultural heritage, and also as a means of developing and enhancing local community and creating local distinctiveness. Within England's community orchards there is enormous diversity in the systems of governance and ownership, as well as overall community involvement in orchard projects. This report, which is part of the Centre for Sustainable Development's (CENESTA) 'Grassroots Discussion on CCAs', discusses two community orchards, one newly planted and the other with trees over 80 years old. Both of the associated community groups make decisions about the management and use of their orchard and value them for a wide variety of reasons. Discussions with both community groups provided interesting insight on CCAs in the Global North and clearly indicated that bureaucracy, paperwork, and rigidity of rights to use and manage the orchards were the primary concerns in regards to being designated as a CCA. These concerns suggest a need for caution during the process of designating Community Conserved Areas to ensure that increased administration does not hinder the communities in achieving diverse objectives. This research is also part of a wider master's degree dissertation on community orchards in England at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England.

Introduction

Among English landscape features, traditional community orchards have been receiving increased recognition for their heritage, biodiversity, landscape and community value. Orchards have been a part of the English landscape for at least 500 years and are therefore an important part of the nation's landscape heritage. The use of traditional orchards as community spaces is a relatively new concept but as such community orchards are championed as areas that create local distinctiveness through exemplifying local fruit varieties and wildlife. Community orchards also create and enhance community by encouraging knowledge in local nature, history and culture¹. They are valued as gene banks for heirloom and heritage varieties of fruit trees and as a source of local food. Traditional community orchards are frequently considered sustainable by their associated communities because they contribute to carbon sequestration and decrease food miles.

In cultural heritage, these orchards sustain traditions of fruit growing and preserve old and new cultural celebrations such as wassailing, which is a mid-winter tradition involving offerings to cider apple trees and singing and noise making to scare evil spirits away. Another tradition

¹ Clifford, S and King, A. 2000. The Common Ground Book of Orchards: Conservation, Culture and Community. Common Ground, Shaftesbury, England.

Photos on front Page: 1: Workday in Frieze Hill Orchard. 2: New Ash Green Community Orchard, All photos by K.L. Johnson

preserved by some orchard groups is ‘beating the bounds’, a tradition historically used to teach children the boundaries of their town (occasionally involving knocking a forgetful child’s head against a boundary post) but now refined into a gentler walk around the parish boundary. Community orchards have also inspired new celebrations such as Apple Day, a celebration created in the last 15 years to revive interest in England’s fruit growing heritage.

Traditional community orchards are managed in a less intensive way than modern commercial orchards, making them better for the conservation of biodiversity. These orchards contain well-spaced, large fruit trees with a floor of wildflower pasture, and are frequently surrounded by a hedgerow (a hedgerow is a fence made of planted trees and shrubs, and have also been identified as valuable areas for wildlife). The presence of woodland, meadow and boarder hedgerow offers a mosaic fusion of habitat types invaluable to many invertebrates and other wildlife that require a variety of habitats during the phases of their lifecycle². In the last five years, traditional orchards have been identified by English Nature as, “hotspots for biodiversity in the countryside, supporting a wide range of wildlife and priority habitats...”³ This biodiversity includes large numbers of lichens, fungi, bryophytes, invertebrates, epiphytic plants and other plant species. The fruit and large number of invertebrates also makes orchards very attractive to birds.

There are more than 250 traditional community orchards in England, and there is enormous diversity in the systems of governance, ownership, and overall community involvement associated with their management. The diversity in governance creates diversity in the orchards, which is expressed in the broad range of their objectives. Interestingly, most orchards include creating habitats for wildlife as one of the reasons for having an orchard as a community space regardless of who is responsible for decision-making. However, the diverse governance does have some implications for conservation activities depending on who makes decisions regarding the orchards future. Research has shown that one major difference between decision-making groups is that community run orchards tend to have fewer conservation designations. This interesting trend will be discussed in more detail below.

Within current debates about Community Conserved Areas (CCAs), there has been relatively less attention paid to the role of CCAs existing in the Global North. However, the perspectives of individuals involved with CCAs in developed countries, such as England, are important in offering alternative perspectives on CCAs and illustrating what may be on the horizon for CCAs within countries undergoing development. Although the generally small size of community orchards (average size is less than 1 hectare) may prompt some to exclude them from discussions of protected areas, especially on an international scale, there are many that fit the World Conservation Union’s (IUCNs) definition of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs).

In order to add to the broader discussion on CCAs, I carried out two consultations involving the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group and New Ash Green Woodlands Group in accordance with CENESTA’s guidelines for facilitating a grassroots discussion on CCAs. In the following, which is part of the author’s MSc research on a similar subject, the two consultations will be

² 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.

³ English Nature is now known as Natural England and is the governmental organisation responsible for environmental programmes in England. 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*

introduced, followed by discussion on the perceived values, threats and sustainability, and formal recognition and finishing with concluding remarks concerning the relevance of these consultations in the framework of Community Conserved Areas internationally.

The Consultations

Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group

Frieze Hill Community Orchard is located in Taunton Deane, Somerset on 1.39 hectares of land that was donated to the town council (see text box about local government at the end of this section⁴) in 1918 for agricultural purposes. After its donation to the town council, part of the land was developed into allotments (an allotment is a piece of land divided into small plots, which are rented to people for the purposes of gardening), and the rest was leased out to a local farmer for other agricultural purposes. Following the expiration of the agricultural lease the land became fallow and overgrown.



Photo 3: Maypole dancing in Frieze Hill Orchard

In 2004, the borough council began the process of trying to develop the area as woodland in a wider scheme for creating green space (the council has now been given the title of borough because of the size of the town). At this time a community group was formed to plant and manage the orchard. As Mary Bagshawe of the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group recalls, “the council held a public meeting and it was in our back yard you see, so we wanted to know what they were doing, and we said no, it can’t be a woodland but it could be an orchard, and from that the committee was formed.” Due to the original commitment to use the donated land for agriculture, the council had to concede to the community’s wishes to plant an orchard.

The Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group (FHCOG) is responsible for making decisions about the orchard, although there is some contribution by the council, such as providing mowers and other large scale maintenance items, and also carrying out the process of designating the orchard a Local Nature Reserve. Decisions are made at meetings that are held by the community group every few months, when all members of the group are invited to attend. Decisions are put to a vote within the group, and are informed by the individual knowledge and expertise of group members as well as by the managers of other near by commercial orchards.

The trees planted in Frieze Hill Community Orchard are young and therefore do not yet attract the lichens and epiphytes that will exist there once the trees have aged. However, the orchard has

⁴ Information available on-line on the National Association of Land Councils (NALC) web-site at: http://www.nalc.gov.uk/About_NALC/What_is_a_parish_or_town_council/What_is_a_council.aspx

already become an attractive habitat for birds and other wildlife. The orchard has not been formally surveyed for wildlife; however, one member of the orchard has identified 60 species of bird during his walks in and around the orchard.

A workshop was held with the community on the 8th of June following a group workday. There were nine members of the community group present, including one child. Although the group has had as many as 60 paid members, there are generally 12 members who make the core decisions regarding the orchard. As such the number of participants in the discussion was a significant proportion of the group. After several hours of work, we had discussion for approximately one hour over lunch in the orchard.

Local Government in England:

Local government structures in England can be confusing. There are several structures in place and there have been multiple changes in structure over the years. However, it is important to have a basic understanding of these structures in order to contextualise Community Orchards with the greater concept of Community Conserved Areas.

Local governments are segmented into tiered systems with County and District Councils being the broadest and most overarching and Parish or Town Councils, which are the first and lowest tier of local government in England. Borough and City Councils also exist and are honorary titles given to towns of historic or contemporary importance.

Many Community Orchards in England are owned or managed by Parish or Town Councils. These local Councils provide a range of community services, which are generally funded by taxation of the local community and other grant funding. They usually do not receive direct funding from the central government, although in some cases they may receive funding from one of the higher tier councils, which does receive funding from central or national government. Local community members are free to run for the position of Parish or Town Councillor and the position is filled through local election.

New Ash Green Woodlands Group

The New Ash Green Orchard is located in New Ash Green, Kent, is 0.8 hectares in size, and was planted over 80 years ago by private owners for the purposes of commercial fruit growing. This use continued until the orchard and surrounding land was purchased during the 1960s for the development of a village. Housing soon grew up around the orchard and sometime during the late 1980 the orchard became derelict and overgrown by bramble (*Rubus* sp.), nettles (*Urtica* sp.) and other plants. Early in 2004, residents of New Ash Green secured funding from a programme called Living Spaces, which is funded by a government organisation called the Department of Communities and Local Government. The intention of this funding body is to enable communities to claim areas that have become unusable. Following receiving the grant, members of the local community were encouraged to get involved and the New Ash Green Orchard Group was formed. The first workday attracted over 50 people and began the process of restoring the orchard to its former state as a habitat for wildlife and a community space.

Community members regularly survey the orchard for wildlife and there have been formal surveys conducted of ground flora and for the presence of an endangered beetle known as the noble chafer. Although no rare species have been discovered in this orchard, the community group continues to take measures to create wildlife habitat such as installing bird boxes, making habitat piles out of wood and by leaving un-mown areas and dead wood on trees.

The village of New Ash Green is unique in comparison to many English communities. The developers and designer envisioned creating a new way of community living. The houses were built to encourage residents to interact with one another, which was accomplished architecturally (by constructing rows of attached houses) and otherwise by allocating lawns and other green space as communal areas. In New Ash Green, all land that is not in a house's back garden is owned collectively by the community through a Village Association, which all residents of the community pay dues to.

In the last year the New Ash Green Orchard Group has found less work to do around the orchard during their monthly workdays and, as a result, have begun hosting some of the workdays in a wood adjoining the orchard. Since then their name has since been changed to the New Ash Green Woodland Group, to encompass the expanding spectrum of their interests and to include the adjoining woodland and meadow as part of their CCA. Decisions are made by a planning group, which Jerry Ash explained is, "very informal. We don't call ourselves a committee... we keep a very loose structure and meet very loosely once a month, but in most ways we are very democratic, we communicate with the wider group and the planning group primarily via email."

The information presented here is from individual conversations that focused on questions posed in the grassroots guidelines. A workshop was scheduled to coincide with a workday, however it was not possible given the structure of the activities that were planned.



Photo 4: New Ash Green's 80 year old apple trees with wildflowers beneath and a nettle patch in background.

National Networking for Community Orchards:

- When discussed with the orchard groups, Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group, noted that they have a website, so other orchards could contact them if they needed to, otherwise there appeared to be some hesitation for any networking that would add additional paperwork or bureaucracy.
- Contrarily, The New Ash Green Woodlands Group asked about other orchards and the possibility of networking within the County.

There are two options for networking between traditional Community Orchards in England.

- The NGO (non-governmental organisation) Common Ground: this organisation has acted as a connection point for orchards to get in touch with one another.
- The National Orchard Forum: any orchard is able to join and contribute or receive advice through the Forums quarterly newsletter.

Overall, networking nationally seems less popular than networking locally within counties.

Perceived Values

The values of Community Orchards are as diverse as their ownership and management. Some people “are motivated by wildlife, others...by varieties of fruit, horticultural interest, nature, or the social side of it, others are absolutely hooked on history, they actually want to follow the geographical patterns of orchards, the history of wassailing, or cider making through the centuries”⁵. Others, such as Carol from the New Ash Green Woodlands Group insist “[it] is about community, bringing community into the woodlands and woodlands into the community”. Roger and Linda Conway from the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group (FHCOG) also highlight the diversity of values that their young orchard represents. They “feel [the orchard] is their immediate community” and that it is important



Photo 5: Event at Frieze Hill Orchard.

⁵ Personal interview with Sue Clifford and Angela King of Common Ground. Common Ground is a Non-governmental organisation that works for championing local distinctiveness and connecting nature and culture. They have done extensive groundbreaking work with helping communities develop the concept of a community orchard, and have created a new holiday ‘Apple Day’ which takes place in October and is dedicated to England’s fruit heritage.

“to bring greenery, fresh air, and recreation space to the centre of a town....” Caroline, another member of the FHCOG also noted that it is important to be “putting something back, its knowing that in a few years time I will be able to look back and Joshua (her son) will be bigger and Ill be able to say ‘look we helped initiate this’”.

Traditional community orchards are also perceived as incredibly valuable as places for educating adults and children alike about conservation, horticulture and cultural heritage. Sarah Heal of FHCOG appreciated that she “learned so much about the old varieties at the last Annual General Meeting” and, “that it is really important for young people as well, its just to do some hands on rather than sit in front of a computer all the time or a TV, and to actually come out and engage in the local community”.

Community orchards are also valued for their practical uses and are utilized for a variety of purposes generally by local community members who live in proximity to the orchard. Both the Frieze Hill and New Ash Green Community Orchards are consistently used for activities such as dog walking, picnicking, fruit picking and wildlife watching. They both have annual events in their orchards, which include spring festivals, bonfire nights, beating the bounds, and wassailing.

Threats and Sustainability

With the diversity of management, ownership, tenure and local situations come a large variety of threats. These range from direct threats such as vandalism, usually involving theft or damage to young trees and damage to surrounding areas by motorbikes, to more indirect threats involving land tenure and funding. In some cases, such as Frieze Hill Community Orchard, tenure and financial threats may be connected to one another. In order to avoid bureaucracy and paperwork, the Frieze Hill Community Orchard Group agreed to a license for the land instead of a lease. Their license is awarded on an annual basis, and according to Roger Conway the treasurer of FHCOG, they are ineligible for most grant funding because, “in order to go in for most grant funding, [such as] lottery money, you must have at least a 25 year lease”. Other threats include the acquisition of land for housing development, and the lack of available statutory measures for protecting old orchards.

The trees in orchards do have a positive value for the sustainability of the orchard in addition to their contributions to food and climate, as Mary Bagshawe of the FHCOG clearly describes, “that’s the great thing with trees isn’t it, they wouldn’t be pressed to say, now all these trees have to be dug up and thrown away. A lot of people would raise their voices. So trees are a good thing.” In some ways, the longevity, strength and cultural value of the trees planted in the orchard may offset the threat of insecure land tenure. The life span of fruit trees is another consideration for sustainability. Apple trees generally have a lifespan of 150 years at the most, and while pears and cherries may live longer, there is the inevitable truth that these are living things and will not live on indefinitely.

Formal Recognition

Discussion on the subject of formal recognition and the value of a concept such as that of CCAs revealed some interesting implications and considerations. Additionally, the contrast between the Frieze Hill Community Orchard, and the New Ash Green Orchard, gave some interesting insight on the subject of conservation designations.

Frieze Hill Community Orchard carries a national protected area designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR)(See text box)⁶. The process of designation at Frieze Hill however, was initiated and carried out by a member of the parish council, which owns the land. The Frieze Hill Group state that they were not involved in the process of pursuing the designation nor were they affected by it, as it appears not to have changed their freedom to make decisions or use the orchard as they desire. Mr. Conway recognised that one of the main effects that the designation has had is creating an additional obstacle for anyone who would attempt to plan the area for development. This perspective was reinforced by Caroline Turner of FHCOG who said, in relation to CCAs, that she “would be happy for our orchard to be a [CCA] if it meant that we could definitely hang on to it for longer. At the moment we only have a one-year lease on [the land] from the Council. If it had conserved area status it might be another way of us trying to hang on to it for longer if the Council wanted the land for another purpose. International status would be okay if it didn't tie us up in too much red tape, which is part of the reason we didn't go down the route of asking for lottery funding, making bids to the Council, etc. We are people who want to enjoy watching the orchard flourish and seeing it being enjoyed by others, we are not paper pushers.”

National and Local Recognition

While it is beyond the scope of this report to describe the multitude of national and local protected area categories in England, there are a variety of designations that might apply to the Community Orchards described in this report. Often, district and county councils may have their own conservation designations, which differ from those available at a national level in criteria and level of protection.

The designation that applies to Frieze Hill Community Orchard is the national category of **Local Nature Reserve**, these protected areas represent areas conserved for people and wildlife, which have value for education, geology, and local special interest.



Photo 6: Frieze Hill LNR sign.

In contrast, the New Ash Green (NAG) Orchard carries no conservation designations, and has no plan to do pursue formal recognition. When asked about designation Jerry Ash of the NAG Woodland Group explained, “the issue that I come back to all the time is what would the benefits be for the wildlife that we don't already capture? We manage it, ...the grass could perhaps be managed slightly differently, but more labour intensively... If you wanted to re-create the meadow sward for example, you would only cut it once a year and remove all the trimmings, but then it becomes not a very attractive place for people. It's a community orchard and we want people to come in.” This clarifies the objectives and priorities of the group to maintain the

⁶ Local Nature Reserve information was obtained from the Natural England website. Available on-line at <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/Special/lnr/office.htm>

orchard as primarily a community space for recreation, where biodiversity conservation is noticeably a secondary objective. These experiences also highlight the importance of flexibility and simplicity in designating any area being conserved by a local community. These factors represent the represented communities clear desire for reduced bureaucracy and paperwork, and for the freedom to manage the area as best suits the needs of the community.

Conclusions

There is enormous diversity among community orchards in their biology, governance and community participation. Diversity in governance may benefit community orchards, because in situations where communities desire involvement, broad based local government is generally happy to devolve power in decision-making to the local people. However in situations where the local community is not interested or does not have the time or experiential resources necessary to become involved, a local government body can maintain control. Also, some of the governance structures may allow for local government to assist communities in management and provide services that communities may not have the means to acquire. The small size of these orchards may influence the willingness of local government to release control over these sites. However, there is still research necessary to better understand the effects of diverse governance on CCAs and community orchards in England.

The grassroots discussions held in these orchards have reinforced several important factors concerning considering the possibility of formally recognising a Community Conserved Area in the Global North as well as in other parts of the world. In community orchards (and possibly other CCAs) where the objectives of the management may not be the conservation of biodiversity, and indeed conservation may be a side effect, flexibility in formal recognition is necessary so that the community may continue to achieve other cultural or livelihood activities. Simplicity is also necessary, specifically, reduced amounts of paperwork and bureaucracy. In traditional Community Orchards most individuals involved will have other obligations necessary for their livelihood, and prefer avenues that require the least amount of administration and management.

In the greater scheme of Community Conserved Areas, I believe the extent that international recognition would tangibly benefit the areas that have been discussed in this report is questionable. The one exception to this perspective is the prestige and broader recognition a potential international designation could offer, including possibly some degree of increased security from development threats. However, the experiences of Frieze Hill where national recognition resulted in little change, and the New Ash Green Woodland Group's reluctance to receive formal recognition, suggest the process of designation should be carefully considered before being offered to community orchards. Any recognition would need to be done in a way that involves the least amount of bureaucracy and administration possible, while providing the international recognition necessary for increased protection of the site. Otherwise, based on the experiences mentioned in these consultations, it appears that international recognition would provide limited benefits to the affected communities and the biodiversity that they contain.

Acknowledgements

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Annex 1: Format for the preliminary database of CCA sites being tested for UNEP/WCMC

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

	<p>with securing grant funding, because most grants 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 be 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 ⁷ 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</i>

⁷ Please see http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/pdfs/outputs/pascat/pascatrev_info3.pdf

	<p><i>town council for the purpose of allotments (areas for 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

Annex 2: Format for the preliminary database of CCA sites being tested for UNEP/WCMC

Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	New Ash Green Community Orchard
Country (include State and Province)	Longfield, Kent, England
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	
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)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	New Ash Green Woodlands Group, 7-50? Population of NAG
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 members 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?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	The current land tenure situation in New Ash Green has been satisfactory to the Woodlands Group. Mr. Ash of the group does not feel that there are any immediate threats to the orchard other than the age of the trees, which require special care to maintain their health and fruit production. The New Ash Green Woodlands Group has developed the orchard primarily as a community space where people are a part of the landscape. As such, most conservation designations could create conflict relating to ideas of practical management of the orchard ground flora. Because the community owns the orchard and has complete power in deciding whether or not the orchard has a conservation designation, their choice not to designate the orchard has resulted in a situation with few conflicts over

	natural resource use.
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	Cultural
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category ⁸ 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	Bird life, plant species, abundant and diverse insect and lichen populations. agrobiodiversity
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	English
Broad historical context of the CCA	The trees in the orchard are estimated to be 80 years old, however the exact date of their planting is unknown. The Community Group was formed around restoring the orchard in 2004, following receiving grant funding from Living Spaces. The community group has continued to evolve and now works on projects in the orchard as well as a surrounding woodland all of which is owned by the Village Association which is paid into by all village residents.
Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)	The NAG woodlands group
Length of time the governance model has been in place	4 years
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	NAG Village Association
Type of land use in the CCA	Rambling, scrumping, teaching, learning, wildlife watching, educational walks, cultural traditions (beating the bounds, bonfire nights, Apple day)
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Plans made by core group of 10 community members
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	None currently perceived by the community. Previous problems with motorcyclists/vandalism
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	

Contact individuals and organizations: Jerryash41@hotmail.com

References:

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