

## Area 6: Special Green Areas

One of the very important factors regarding the town and its ambience is created by the green areas that are within the townscape. Predominantly, these areas comprise Sturt Farm, woodlands at Holy Cross Hospital and woodland between Weydown Road and Bunch Lane.

Sturt Farm has a high visual impact on the approaches to Haslemere from the south or west. Its height is approximately 180m above sea level and it has an aquifer beneath. The land is designated as being 'Countryside beyond the Greenbelt Policy'. Historically, a number of planning applications have been made for development within the fields associated with Sturt Farm but these have been resisted.

The woodland on the southern slope of Holy Cross Hospital is designated as being of 'Special Visual Importance' and again is designated as 'Countryside beyond the Greenbelt Policy'. Part is designated as an 'Area of Strategic Visual Importance' whilst the whole is 'Countryside beyond the Greenbelt Policy' where development will be strictly controlled.

In addition the woodland between Weydown Road and Bunch Lane is designated as 'Countryside beyond the Greenbelt Policy' and is an 'Area of Strategic Visual Importance'. Partly it is a site of nature conservation and it also falls within the 'Low Density Residential Area'.

These areas are an integral part of the character and intrinsic value of the Town and should be retained. They create green screens between residential developments and are particularly visual on numerous approaches to the town. Providing a safe haven for wildlife both fauna and flora, they are also effectively the green 'lungs' within the townscape of Haslemere. They are designated as 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and 'Area of Great Landscape Value', part of which is also included within the Surrey Hill AONB Policy.



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Sturt Farm