

# Cockham Community Parkland

**A new public open space on  
the Hoo Peninsula**

**Community Consultation**

July to September 2020

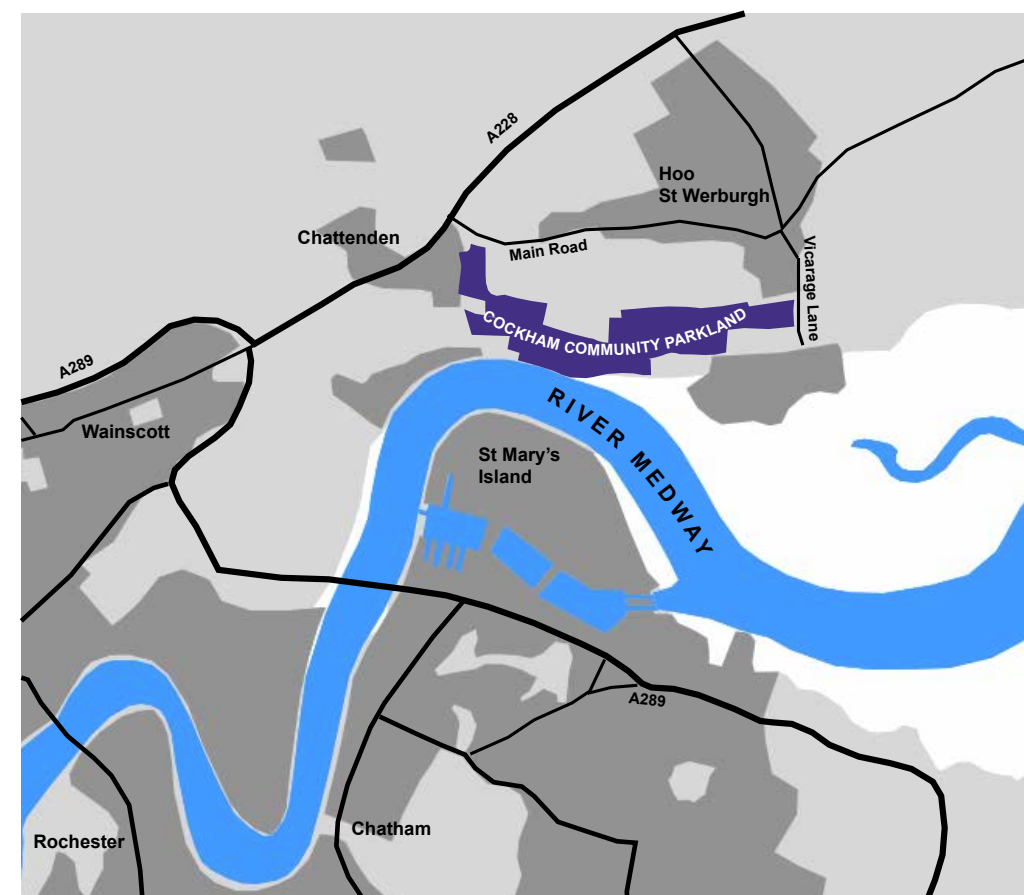


## Introduction

Medway Council have secured central government Housing Infrastructure Funding to support possible future growth on the Hoo Peninsula. Part of this funding will enable the establishment of a Strategic Environmental Management Scheme (SEMS), which will deliver a network of new public open spaces. These spaces are designed to provide recreational space for the benefit of local residents and, reduce pressure on more sensitive existing habitats around the Hoo Peninsula. Cockham Community Parkland is the first of these new spaces to be brought forward. Help shape this exciting project by giving us your thoughts and opinions. Medway Council will be submitting a planning application for the conversion of farmland into a new parkland running between Chattenden and Hoo St Werburgh in winter 2020. We would welcome your feedback on the emerging proposals. Detailed information and a feedback survey can be found at [medway.gov.uk/cockhamcommunityparkland](https://medway.gov.uk/cockhamcommunityparkland).

### Location

The proposed site for Cockham Community Parkland forms part of Cockham Farm. A series of fields currently in use for crop growing will be re-purposed to create the parkland. The fields lie to the south of Hoo St Werburgh and the east of Chattenden. The eastern edge of the park will meet Vicarage Lane. Saxon Shore Way (Upper) runs along part of the northern site boundary.



Cockham Community Parkland - Site Location



View looking West towards Hoo Lodge



## What is the purpose of the parkland

### The Parkland will:

- Provide a local public open space, designed predominantly for walkers and cyclists.
- Support other local initiatives such as Birdwise.
- Respond to Natural England guidance.
- Deliver Strategic Environmental Management Scheme (SEMS) objectives by helping to mitigate impacts of development on the environment.
- Be predominantly natural landscape.
- Provide passive recreation for walkers and cyclists, with opportunities for informal play and picnicking.
- Be ranger managed and free to enter.
- Have minimal facilities including footpaths, small car park and toilets.

### The Parkland will not:

- Include formal sports uses or recreation that detract from the natural character.





## Design Objectives

The key objectives for Cockham Community Parkland are to:

- Create a substantial public open space of at least 50 hectares.
- Showcase the Peninsula's landscapes.
- Celebrate nature through nurturing existing habitats and creating new ones.
- Provide users with an opportunity to further enjoy views across the River Medway.
- Educate visitors about the importance of the estuary and need to protect it.
- Provide appropriate visitor facilities including extensive space for passive recreation including space for picnics, play and woodland trails.
- Create a network of safe and attractive routes for dog walkers, walkers and cyclists.
- Design in flexibility for additional visitor facilities to be added in the future such as a visitor centre.





## Site Boundary





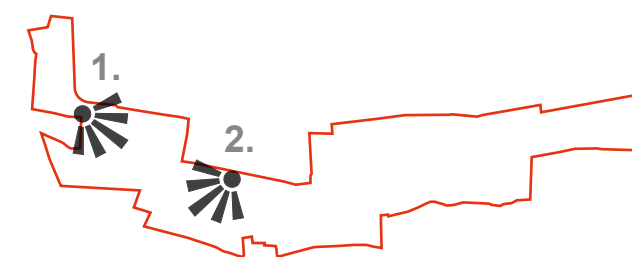
## Views across the Medway Estuary



1. Looking East across the site with the Medway Estuary in the distance



2. Looking SW towards Upnor, Rochester and Chatham





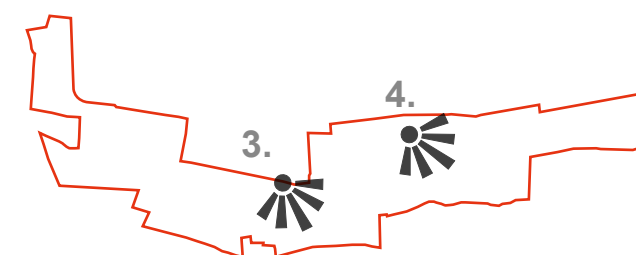
## Views across the Medway Estuary



3. Looking East down the Medway Estuary



4. Looking SE down the Medway Estuary





## Creating New Habitats

New habitats will be created across the parkland, substantially enhancing the biodiversity value of the site and supporting wildlife.

- ① Trees and Woodland
- ② Hedgerows
- ③ Meadow Grassland
- ④ Orchards
- ⑤ Damp Meadows

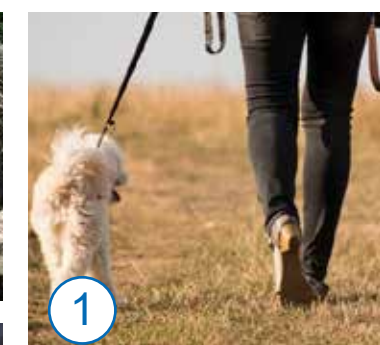




## Things to do

The parkland will provide a place for walking and cycling, where people can enjoy views across the Medway Estuary. Natural play areas for children, picnic spots and woodland trails, will offer opportunities to explore the different habitats and natural features on offer.

- ① Walking
- ② Cycling
- ③ Natural play
- ④ Picnic spots
- ⑤ Woodland Trails





## Access and Facilities

People will be encouraged to walk or cycle to the parkland. Car parking facilities will also be provided to make the park accessible to all users. We are looking at opportunities to provide either one or two car parks accessed from Main Road or Vicarage Lane. A variety of accessible routes will be provided across the park.

- ① Car parks
- ② Pedestrian / Cycle access
- ③ Toilets
- ④ New pathways





# Concept Proposals Plan for Cockham Community Parkland





## What Happens Next

Thank you for taking the time to look at the emerging proposals for Cockham Community Parkland. We look forward to receiving your comments which will be used to inform the design of the parkland.

### Have your say - how to contribute

- Visit: [medway.gov.uk/cockhamcommunityparkland](https://medway.gov.uk/cockhamcommunityparkland) to find out more about the proposals.
- Complete the online questionnaire by **7 September 2020**.
- If you are unable to access the internet and would like to participate please phone: **01634 333333**.

## Project Timeline

