



**Giggs Hill Green Conservation Area
(Designated by Elmbridge Borough Council – 24 February 1977)**

Statement of Designation

Giggs Hill Green forms a large open space south of Thames Ditton village. The derivation of this name appears to be from the family of Gyggs Hill who were once substantial landowners in the district.

For many years, before the green was drained, it was a low lying marsh by the River Rythe with a handful of cottages and an Inn on its northern and eastern sides, a large house 'Ditton Lodge' on its western side and farmland to the south. Cricket has been played on the green since 1838 and village functions have been held there for many years.

The present day visual character of Gigg Hill Green resembled that of a traditional village green. The northern side is lined with an attractive group of dwellings, the most picturesque of which are St. Leonards Cottages, former 18th Century almshouses. At the eastern end of the green the buildings remain of the old Ditton Brewery, once threatened with demolition. Opposite these the Angel Inn is situated in another group of attractive buildings. The old part of the Inn, built in the 17th Century probably survives behind later additions. The southern side of the green is bounded by the Portsmouth Road and a post-war flat and maisonette development lined with mature trees along the roadside. The western side of the green is bounded by the Head Offices of the Milk Marketing Board and is similarly lined with a large number of mature trees. The trees fronting both these developments combine to form a visual frame for the green.

There are only a handful of buildings around the green recognized as being of special architectural or historic interest, but some of the remainder form interesting groups of a similar architectural scale. It is this sense of scale that merits conserving in the light of any further development or redevelopment. Trees play an important part in forming the character of Gigg Hill Green and it is therefore intended to make Tree Preservation Orders.

For more information, please email us at tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk