

Copy of e-mail received from Hugh Hornby, author of 'Bowled Over: the bowling greens of Britain', published by Historic England

Dated 30th November 2017

To whom it may concern,

A letter of support for Wrotham Bowls Club from Hugh Hornby, author of 'Bowled Over: the bowling greens of Britain', published by Historic England (2015).

Wrotham BC plays on a green of historical significance, marked on a map of the village from 1759. To put this into context, extensive research for 'Bowled Over' was able to establish, with reasonable certainty and against a backdrop of many undocumented claims to great antiquity, an order of seniority for surviving greens.

Only nine are older than Wrotham:

Southampton (1600), Lewes (1639), Framlingham (1649), Chesterfield (1664), Milton Regis (1674), Hereford (1697), Great Torrington (1717), Guildford (1739) and Hurst (1747).

It is regrettable that we did not discover the Wrotham green while preparing the book as we would certainly have included it.

Clearly the club is of much more recent vintage and the green has been converted to conform to the modern standards of the 'flat' game under the auspices of Bowls England.

Nonetheless, it represents an important piece of evidence for the way in which bowls became a popular part of English social life in the 18th century, when greens were often located on vacant ground next to ruined castles and palaces or run in conjunction with inns. Uniquely, both these elements seem to be in play at Wrotham.

I hope this information may assist in making a case for saving this green from alternative use.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Hornby