

Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan Review

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats
Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This screening report is to determine whether the content of the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040 (pre-submission draft December 2023) requires a strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2. This report also contains a habitats regulations assessment (HRA) screening to determine whether the plan would have a likely significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects as required by the Habitats Directive.
- 1.3. This draft has been prepared to inform consultation with the statutory consultees, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.
- 1.4. Hargrave is in the administrative area of West Suffolk Council and defined in the West Suffolk Preferred Options document as a "Type B village" - a settlement that has "a very limited range of, or no services and poor accessibility to public transport. It is likely that residents will rely on the private car to meet their day-to-day needs. In these villages no sites would be allocated through the local plan and only limited infill development, or affordable housing exception sites would be permitted, dependant on other environmental and infrastructure constraints, to meet local needs within the village."
- 1.5. The Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by Hargrave Parish Council (a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011).
- 1.6. The plan is in the pre-submission consultation stage and this screening is based on the information within the neighbourhood plan and accompanying documents that were on pre-submission consultation from 1 September to 20 October 2023. The information on the plan is in section two.
- 1.7. The legislative background, set out in section three, outlines the regulations that require this screening exercise. Section five provides a screening assessment of the significant environmental effects of the neighbourhood plan; section six is the habitats regulations assessment screening and section seven is the screening outcome.

2. Key information on the emerging neighbourhood plan

Vision, aims and objectives of neighbourhood plan.

- 2.1. The vision for Hargrave is set out in 4.1 of the neighbourhood plan and is as follows:

To protect and enhance the distinctive character and assets of the Village for the community both young and old.

- 2.2. To support the vision, the neighbourhood plan has the following objectives in six themes that have provided a benchmark for the preparation of its planning policies.

Planning strategy	1. Protect and enhance the distinctive features of the village settlement and its setting within the parish.
Housing	2. To improve residents' access to a range of energy efficient sustainable housing to meet lifetime and generational needs.
Services, facilities and the local economy	3. Where sustainable to improve residents' access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, including the facilities necessary to support home working • Communication and technology • Education, health and welfare • Shops, services and amenities • Sports, leisure and culture
Natural environment	4. Protect and enhance the natural environment of the parish, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife habitats • Public and private open space • The road environment, in particular grass verges, hedges and trees • Best quality agricultural land
Built environment	5. Protect and enhance the distinctive features of the built environment and its setting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local heritage and historical references • Building and streetscape • Reducing environmental impact
Transport and travel	6. Manage existing and future requirements by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebalancing the competitive demands on highways between dominant vehicular traffic and a safer pedestrian environment • Improving public rights of way to enhance accessibility and connectivity • Improving access to bridleways to offer safer equestrian facilities • Securing access to public transport

Neighbourhood area

- 2.3. The Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan area was originally designated by the former St Edmundsbury Borough Council on 18th November 2015. This is the area that the neighbourhood plan covers. The plan area includes the whole of the parish of Hargrave defined by the parish boundary and is shown on the map in appendix three.

Approach to development

- 2.4. The plan does not seek to allocate sites for development but recognises that there is a need for minor growth that will provide an opportunity to maintain and slightly increase the population of the village and this is reflected in the spatial strategy (HAR1). The plan therefore allows for new residential development comprising single dwellings or small groups of five homes or less within a defined settlement boundary (HAR2) and would also allow development of affordable homes adjacent. In certain circumstances some smaller dwellings would be required (HAR3).

Policies

- 2.5. The neighbourhood plan includes 15 draft policies as set out in table 1 below. All the policies address the types of development that would be supported, and the mitigation or enhancement measures required to protect the character and environment of the parish.

Table 1: summary of policies in the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan

Policy	Summary
Policy HAR 1 Hargrave's spatial strategy	<p>Development will be accommodated following the adopted local plan settlement hierarchy. New development will be focussed within the settlement boundary where there is no detrimental impact on the surroundings (amenity, environment and infrastructure).</p> <p>Outside the settlement boundary, protection of the countryside will be paramount, and development will only be supported where it is in accordance with national and district level policies or where;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• it is essential for agriculture, forestry, horticulture or equine use• is for small scale sporting/recreational uses• is in conformity with local plan policies• is affordable housing where there is a proven need• is replacement of an existing dwelling on one-for-one basis

Policy	Summary
Policy HAR 2 Housing development	<p>Within the settlement boundary and where they are in accordance with policies in the development plan the following will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new residential development of single dwellings or of five homes or less • residential conversion schemes • replacement of existing dwellings with one or more dwelling
Policy HAR 3 Housing mix	<p>Proposals of three or more dwellings within the settlement boundary will be supported where they incorporate homes with two bedrooms.</p>
Policy HAR 4 Housing design	<p>New housing proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be in compliance with latest space standards • make provision for storage of bins and cycles • provide suitable ducting for ultrafast broadband • provide electric vehicle charging points • meet current adopted parking standards • be adaptable to meet changing needs of the population, both young and old
Policy HAR 5 Community facilities	<p>New or enhanced community facilities will be supported where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are within or close to the settlement boundary and are accessible by foot • contribute to quality and sustainability of community life • there are no other more appropriate or convertible buildings for the proposed use • will not have significant adverse effects on environment, amenity and character of the village • benefits outweigh any loss of countryside <p>Loss of facilities (village hall or St Edmund's church) will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current use is no longer viable • there is no demand for alternative appropriate uses • that there is a suitable alternative facility locally that is accessible on foot or via green transport
Policy HAR 6 Village playing field	<p>No development will be supported on the village playing field unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is demonstrated that the space is surplus to requirement against the local planning authority's standards for the location and loss will not lead to a shortfall during the plan period

Policy	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a replacement is made available which is suitably accessible and is equivalent in quality to meet future needs of village • any replacement is fully accessible, inclusive and meets current adopted standards for play equipment.
Policy HAR 7 Communications technology	Improvements to mobile phone technology will be supported where mast numbers are kept to the minimum required for an efficient system and where they are sited to cause least visual intrusion and harm to the character and amenity of the village.
Policy HAR 8 Biodiversity and habitats	<p>Developments should avoid all harm to natural features and habitats wherever possible and if such harm is unavoidable should demonstrate how the benefits of the development outweigh the harm and provide mitigation through measurable biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>All proposals should deliver biodiversity net gain and will be supported where they can add improvements to biodiversity through habitat creation.</p> <p>Hedgerows should be protected but where lost, replacement native hedges should be planted and maintained to retain the hedgerow continuity throughout the village.</p> <p>Biodiversity and habitats should be integral parts of the design concept. Development design should be landscape led and have regard to ongoing management.</p>
Policy HAR 9 Protecting the landscape setting of Hargrave	<p>Outside the settlement boundary the landscape will be protected from development. Exceptions are where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposal is in accordance with current local plan policies for development in the countryside • it would not have detrimental impact to the landscape setting of the village • it would not result in the loss of settlement gap • it would maintain key views <p>New buildings would be required to produce a landscape visual impact assessment or other evidence to show how they would not cause detriment to the countryside setting of the village and how it could enhance the unique landscape and scenic beauty of the parish.</p>
Policy HAR 10 Local green space	Six local green spaces have been designated in the plan and identified on the policies map. All development

Policy	Summary
	within local green spaces will be consistent with national policy for green belts.
Policy HAR 11 Local heritage assets	Local heritage assets, buildings, structures, features and gardens of local importance will be protected from development that might lead to loss or harm. Any development proposals should provide an analysis of the significance of the asset and a demonstration of the wider benefits of the proposal.
Policy HAR 12 Development design considerations	<p>All new development must reflect and protect the local characteristics of the site and provide a high quality, safe and sustainable design that adheres to the design code in the plan.</p> <p>All developments should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to integrate into existing settlement patterns and reflect local characteristics of circulation and green spaces. They should have regard for road safety and sustainable transport appropriate to a village setting; • should adopt vernacular or reflective architecture and design and respect settlement gaps and views; • should relate well to topography and local landscape, incorporating existing landscape features wherever possible to maintain local distinctiveness; • should be of appropriate scale, form and style and well related to new and existing features; • should incorporate sustainable drainage systems and energy efficiency technology.
Policy HAR 13 Sustainable construction practices	<p>All appropriate developments will be supported if they incorporate best practice in energy saving and green technologies where they are integral to the design of the building. They should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise passive solar gain through layout • aim for maximum achievable energy efficiency • avoid fossil fuel-based heating systems • incorporate sustainable solutions where possible in all design and construction aspects of the build • Make best use of recycling and grey water solutions that minimise runoff and wastage
Policy HAR 14 Flooding and sustainable drainage	All development in flood zones two and three must be accompanied by a flood risk assessment and must satisfy the safety requirements in the Flood Risk National Planning Policy Guidance and any successor.

Policy	Summary
	<p>All proposals must demonstrate how water will be managed to avoid flooding, surface water and runoff.</p> <p>As appropriate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) should be installed.</p>
Policy HAR 15 Dark skies	<p>Dark skies should be protected whilst ensuring that new developments are safe and secure and meet highway safety needs. All exterior lighting should be energy efficient and minimise light pollution and glare. Lighting should have minimal impact on the environment and wildlife.</p>

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3. Legislative background

- 3.1. The basis for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC which requires a strategic environmental assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA regulations.
- 3.2. To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation nine of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.
- 3.3. Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.
- 3.4. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, a strategic environmental assessment needs to be carried out and an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs two and three of Regulation 12 of those regulations.
- 3.5. In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Hargrave Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested West Suffolk District Council to consider whether a strategic environmental assessment of the emerging neighbourhood plan is required due to significant environmental effects.
- 3.6. Sustainability appraisal is not legally required for neighbourhood plans, but it must be demonstrated how the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area. It is the responsibility of the qualifying body to demonstrate how its neighbourhood plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development.
- 3.7. Strategic environmental assessment is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. A habitats regulations assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out based on objective information.
- 3.8. European sites are defined in Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 and include special areas of conservation and special protection areas, potential special protection areas, and potential

special areas of conservation. The National Planning Policy Framework requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to listed or proposed Ramsar sites. The sites collectively are referred to as habitats sites in this document.

- 3.9. If the conclusion of the habitats regulations assessment screening is that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site then an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site, must be undertaken. If a plan is one which has been determined to require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive, then it will normally also require a strategic environmental assessment.

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4. Screening process

- 4.1. The environmental constraints of the site are set out in appendix one of this document.
- 4.2. The criteria from schedule one of the strategic environmental assessment regulations have been used in the consideration of environmental effects.

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5. Screening assessment

- 5.1. A neighbourhood plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within it and a case-by-case assessment is required. The criteria for undertaking this assessment are drawn from Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 as set out in table two below:

Table two: consideration of likely significant effects, using the criteria from schedule one of the strategic environmental assessment regulations.

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	
The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The Hargrave neighbourhood plan seeks to allow new residential development comprising single dwellings or small groups of five homes or less within the defined settlement boundary or potentially adjacent to it. The potential for an effect on the environment resulting from the Plan is therefore unlikely to be significant.
The degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The neighbourhood plan provides policies for the plan area, relevant to a local level only. The reviewed Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the strategic policies of the former St Edmundsbury area of West Suffolk. It does not influence other plans but will become a development plan document if made.
The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	A neighbourhood plan is required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The plan seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and the existing natural environment and habitats and supports sustainable development wherever appropriate.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	The environmental impact of the proposals within the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan are likely to be minimal due to the size and scale of

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	
	<p>development that would come forward as a result of the policies. Any potential environmental problems are likely to be of local scale and could be tackled through the planning application process.</p> <p>The location and form of any development will be restricted by the settlement boundary. The policy content of the previously adopted St Edmundsbury Local Plan and the emerging West Suffolk Local Plan will additionally apply to any proposals within the neighbourhood plan area. These policies have been or will be subject to sustainability appraisal and habitats regulations assessment screening.</p>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The neighbourhood plan is required to be in conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan. The local plan has had regard to European community legislation on the environment.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Development that could come forward through the plan would in general be of small enough scale that any effects are unlikely to be significant in terms of duration, frequency, and reversibility.
The cumulative nature of the effects	<p>Other policies in the plan (and other Local Plan documents that would continue to be relevant) protect local environmental assets; cumulative effects are unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan policies seek to safeguard the plan area from inappropriate development, individually and in combination.</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	
The transboundary nature of the effects	The scale and potential location of development in the plan are unlikely to lead to transboundary effects.
The risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents)	The level of development in the plan is unlikely to lead to additional risks to human health or the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The potential development that could occur as a result of the plan is limited physically in its geographical area; any effects are likely to be local and are unlikely to be significant.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values intensive land-use	The environmental sensitivities in the plan area and immediate vicinity are listed in appendix one. The plan includes policies that protect and enhance local environmental assets and cultural heritage. Other local plan documents would also continue to be relevant. The environmental effects arising from the plan are unlikely to be significant.
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	<p>Local, national and internationally designated nature conservation sites in the locality are listed in appendix one. The closest nationally designated site is Hay Wood SSSI in Whepstead which is three kilometres away from the closest area of the parish boundary. The level of development would not pose a risk to this site. The closest internationally designated site is Breckland SPA (4.6 km). HRA screening below has screened out likely significant effects.</p> <p>There are no designated landscapes in the vicinity of the Plan area. Given the scale of the development proposed there is unlikely to be any significant effects on designated areas which are close to the boundaries in the north and southeast.</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
The characteristics of the plan having regard to:	
	A review of local landscape designations has looked at locally valued landscapes (West Suffolk Preferred Options Local Plan consultation 2022) however Hargrave falls outside these identified areas.

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6. Habitats regulations assessment screening

- 6.1. There are no Natura 2000 (European Sites) sites within the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan area. European sites outside of the Neighbourhood Plan Area but within 20 kilometres include Breckland SPA (nearest component is 4.5km), Breckland SAC (nearest component is 10km), Rex Graham Reserve SAC (11km), and Devils Dyke SAC (13km).
- 6.2. Recent habitats regulations assessment (HRA) work in West Suffolk (West Suffolk Issues and Options Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment September 2020) has highlighted possible effects associated with the international sites as follows:
 - Direct loss or physical damage due to construction.
 - Disturbance and other urban edge effects from construction or occupation of buildings.
 - Disturbance from construction or operation of roads.
 - Recreational pressure.
 - Water quantity.
 - Water quality.
 - Air quality.
- 6.3. The Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development. The plan area is 4.5 kilometres from the closest site Breckland SPA, and 13 kilometres from Fenland, and does not propose development within the 1500 metres buffers of any of the sites.
- 6.4. The potential for effects to occur in combination with any small-scale development in the local plan and with other projects has been considered. However, it is judged that the scale of additional development likely to occur as a result of the plan is unlikely to lead to in-combination effects.
- 6.5. It is concluded that likely significant effect on any European site can be screened out.

7. Screening outcome

- 7.1. This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to strategic environmental assessment as required by Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and appropriate assessment as required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The assessment for both these requirements has been undertaken on the basis of the growth set out in the neighbourhood plan and summarised in section two of this report. Based on the environmental information, and the scope of the policies in the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan, the preliminary outcome of the assessment is:
- In respect of strategic environmental assessment, significant environmental effects can be screened out (section five).
 - In respect to habitats regulations assessment, likely significant effects can be screened out (section six).
- 7.2. This report has been prepared to inform consultation with statutory consultees, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. The screening will be reviewed in light of any comments received through the consultation process.

Appendix 1 – environmental constraints

Biodiversity

There are no internationally important sites within the plan area. The closest habitats site to the plan boundary, including special areas of conservation (SAC), special protection area (SPA) and Ramsar sites are listed in the table below.

SAC	SPA	Ramsar
Breckland (10.8 km) Rex Graham (10.8 km) Fenland (13.1 km)	Breckland (4.5 km)	Chippenham Fen (13.1 km)

There are no nationally important sites within the plan area.

There are a few nationally important SSSI sites in the vicinity including:

- Hay Wood 3.0 km
- Breckland Farm 4.7 km
- Horringer Court Caves 5.6 km
- Ten Wood 9.3 km

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) risk zones of Natural England give an indication of the types and scale of development that might have an effect on these SSSI. The criteria listed are in the following table.

Development category	Description	Comment
All planning applications	All planning applications outside or extending outside existing settlements or urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings and structures.	There are no allocated sites outside the settlement boundary that would lead to loss of arable farmland or landscape features.
Infrastructure	Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.	There are no such proposals or policies in the plan
Air pollution	Livestock and poultry units with floorspace more than 500 square metres (m ²), slurry lagoons more than 750 m ² and manure stores more than 3500 tonnes.	There are no such proposals or policies in the plan
Combustion	General combustion processes more than 50 megawatts energy input. Including energy	There are no such proposals or policies in the plan

	from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis or gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration or combustion.	
Discharge	Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 20 cubic metres per day to ground (for example to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream (please note: This does not include discharges to mains sewer which are unlikely to pose a risk at this location).	There are no such proposals or policies in the plan

There is one non statutory roadside nature reserve (RNR St Edmundsbury 140) within the plan boundary – for crested cow wheat and pyramidal orchid – located on both sides of Barrow Hill between Willow Farm and Wash Cottage. To the immediate south of the Parish is roadside nature reserve (RNR 206) for Boulder clay flora.

The closest National Nature Reserve is at Cavenham Heath 10.7 kilometres away from the plan area.

There are no other local nature reserves within five kilometres of the plan boundary.

Ancient woodland – Whilst ancient woodland is commonly found in the vicinity, there are none in the plan area.

There are six ancient woodlands within one kilometre of the plan area:

- Denham Thicks (0.1 km)
- Park Wood (0.4 km)
- Hearse Wood (0.45 km)
- Easter Wood (0.6 km)
- Littly Wood (0.64 km)
- Jennison's Plantation (0.9 km)

Only the ancient woodland protective buffer zone for Denham Thicks falls within the northern edge of the plan area.

Soil

Land within the Plan area is grade II and grade III Agricultural Land.

Water

A small stream, a tributary to the River Lark, emerges in Hargrave Plan area and flows through the village. There is a corresponding narrow corridor which is susceptible to flooding (Flood risk 2 and 3).

Air quality

There are no air quality management areas within the plan area.

Noise

There are no major sources of noise pollution within the plan area or vicinity.

Access and recreation

There are several public rights of way within the plan area, and the plan seeks to improve and connect the network where possible. Policy HAR 5 is concerned with leisure provision within the village.

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

There are no Scheduled Monuments in the plan area. The closest in the vicinity are Denham Hall ((0.7 km) and Depden Hall (0.8 km). The nearest Historic Park and Garden is Ickworth House located 1.5 kilometres away from the boundary of the Plan area.

There are a number of Listed Buildings within the Plan Area. There are no buildings on the at-risk register. There are also some Areas of Archaeological Interest as identified in the Suffolk County Council register.

Landscape

A Suffolk wide Landscape Character Assessment has been undertaken which identifies the different landscape types across the county. The plan area contains three landscape types – Undulating ancient farmlands, Undulating estate farmlands and Wooded chalk slopes. These landscapes have the following characteristics:

- Undulating ancient farmlands – a landscape of open undulating arable farmland of random field pattern with occasional regular fields associated with former medieval deer parks. Oak, ash and field maple are the predominant hedgerow species. The landscape is studded with blocks of ancient woodland. Dispersed settlement patterns of loosely clustered villages and hamlets and isolated farmsteads. Villages often associated with greens or former greens. A large-scale landscape with long open views and prominent treescape.
- Undulating Estate Farmlands – an organic field pattern of undulating arable land rationalised through estate ownership. Complex arrangements of plantations, occasional landscape parks and ornamental trees. Oak, ash and field maple are the predominant hedgerow species and landscape is often well-wooded. Open areas created for airfields and agricultural improvement post WWII. Landscape has a well-kept appearance and settlements are loosely clustered but become more clustered further south.

- Wooded Chalk Slopes – rolling valleys of shallow free draining chalk soils. Scattered plantation woodlands and fringed with ancient woodland. Planned rectilinear field patterns bounded by hawthorn hedges. Fewer landscape trees. Compact villages and scattered farmsteads.

A review of local landscape designations has looked at locally valued landscapes however the Hargrave area falls outside of the identified areas. There are areas to the northeast and southwest of the plan areas that are designated locally as special landscape areas.

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Appendix 2 – Internationally designated sites

Site	Conservation objectives of the international site
Breckland Special Protection Area	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features. • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features. • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely. • The population of each of the qualifying features. • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. <p>Qualifying features: A133 <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>; Stone curlew (breeding). A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>; European nightjar (breeding). A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i>; Woodlark (breeding).</p>
Breckland Special Area of Conservation	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the favourable conservation status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species. • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species. • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely. • The populations of qualifying species. • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>Qualifying Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H2330. Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands; Open grassland with grey-hair grass and common bent grass of inland dunes. • H3150. Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed. • H4030. European dry heaths. • H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H91E0. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae); Alder woodland on floodplains. (Important orchid site.) • S1166. <i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great crested newt.
<p>Rex Graham Reserve Special Area of Conservation</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the favourable conservation status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species. • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species. • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely. • The populations of qualifying species and • The distribution of qualifying species within the site <p>Qualifying Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)
<p>Devil's Dyke Special Area of Conservation</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the favourable conservation status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species. • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species. • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely. • The populations of qualifying species and • The distribution of qualifying species within the site <p>Qualifying Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)

Appendix 3 – plan area

