



Hargrave

Neighbourhood Plan

CHARACTER APPRAISAL

DECEMBER 2017

HARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL



Prepared for Hargrave Parish Council by
Places4People Planning Consultancy
December 2017

Introduction

As part of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, an appraisal of landscape features, the built and natural environment characteristics and important views was undertaken. The findings of these appraisals are contained in this report, which forms a supporting document for the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan. Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan refer to the information contained in this document, which should be taken account of in considering development proposals.

Context

Hargrave is located close to the highest point in Suffolk and, as a consequence, enjoys many fine views out of the village. The landscape therefore plays an important part in defining the character and environment of the built-up areas. Across Suffolk a Landscape Character Assessment has been undertaken that identifies the many varied types of landscape found across the county. In the Neighbourhood Plan Area there are three distinct character areas, defined as:

- Undulating Ancient Farmlands
- Undulating Estate Farmlands; and
- Wooded Chalk Slopes

Typical of these landscapes are the dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads within an undulating landscape with ancient woodlands. The villages in this area are often associated with greens or former greens and this feature remains and has shaped the built-up area of Hargrave. The distinctive features of these typologies have been used to inform the objectives and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Character Appraisal has used the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment as a basis to identify important natural and built features around the parish that, combined, create the distinct character of Hargrave today. The following pages contain:

1. An appraisal of important views
2. Information on the design characteristics of buildings in the village; and
3. The Character Appraisal maps

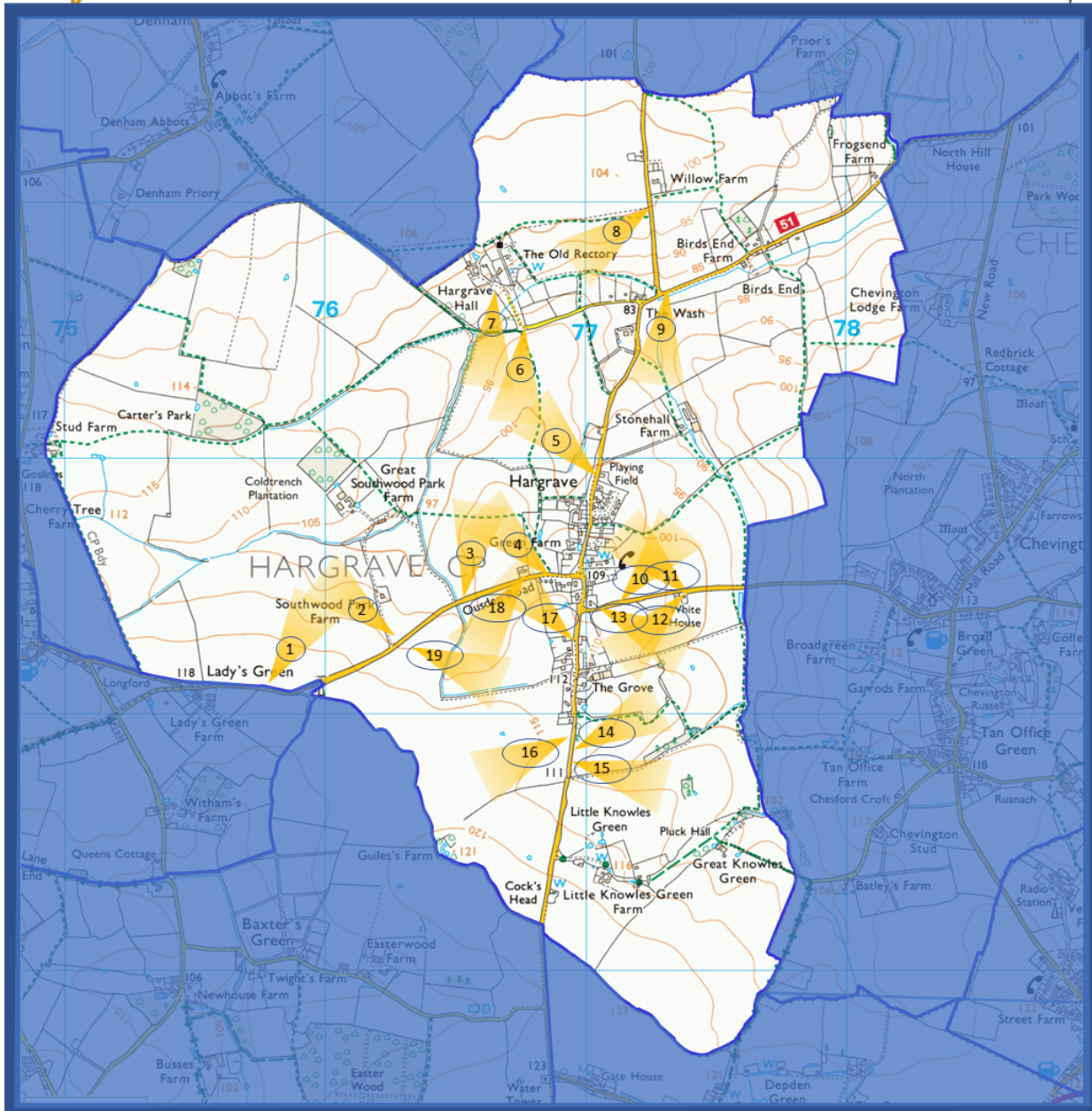


Identifying Important Views

Given Hargrave's prominent location at one of the highest points in Suffolk, as well as the nature of the historic landscape, the views in around the village play a significant role in defining the character of the settlements and how development should be accommodated within the landscape.

An appraisal of important views from public areas has been undertaken as part of the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan and this appendix identifies the important views in the Plan Area that illustrate the distinct landscape characteristics of Hargrave that should be retained and preserved. The views are also identified on the Proposals Map and are the views that are referred to in Policies HAR4 and HAR6 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Important Views



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View 1

View from Ousden Road North-East with Coldtrench Wood in the centre and the wooded edge of the village around Green Farm on the right.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



View 2

View from Ousden Road North-West towards Ousden with Carter's Park wood visible in the right distance.

Dwellings are visible on the horizon, but further development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



View 3

Northerly view from Ousden Road illustrating the wooded edge of the village around Green Farm on the right.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.





View 4

North-east view from Green Farm, Ousden Road illustrating the important hedgerows and glimpses of distant views towards Ousden.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on the long-distance views.



View 5

The view west from next to the village hall towards Church Lane. The important hedgerows on Church Lane can be seen on the right horizon and Coldtrench Wood is visible on the left horizon. Unsympathetic development could have a significant adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



View 6

The view south from Church Lane. The public footpath to Ousden Road can be seen heading through the wheat field and over the horizon. The important hedgerows behind the village hall can be seen on the left horizon. Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.





View 7

The view south from Church Lane near Hargrave Hall.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



View 8

The view south-west from Barrow Hill. The important hedgerows to the north or Church Lane are visible in the foreground and the extensive views south over the rolling landscape of western edge of the village are clearly visible. Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.

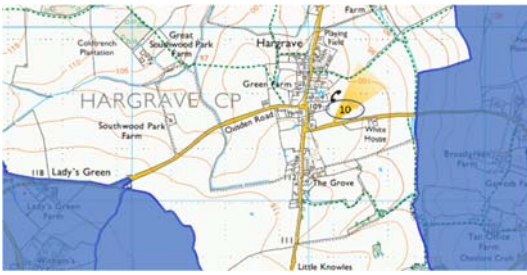


View 9

The view south-west at The Wash towards Mill House. The short view provides an initial glimpse of the village setting of buildings set within a woodland and hedgerow environment.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.





View 10

The view north-east from The Wash illustrating the open rolling landscape towards Barrow.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



View 11

The view north-west from Chevington Road illustrating the open rolling landscape, the woodland edge to the village with the built environment relatively invisible, except for School Cottages.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.

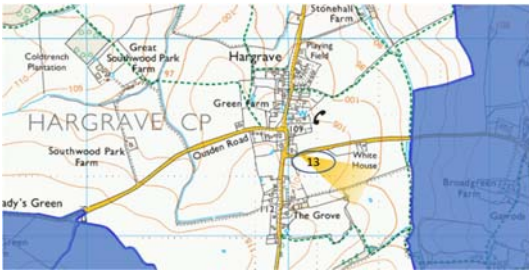


View 12

The view south-west from Chevington Road illustrating the open rolling landscape towards Knowles Green and the important woodland and hedgerows around it.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.





View 13

The view south-east from Chevington Road with Chevington village on the left horizon. Unsympathetic development on the edge of Chevington could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



Views 14 and 15

The view east from Wickhambrook Road with the woodland and hedgerows around Knowles Green.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.



View 16

The view west from Wickhambrook Road illustrating the extensive open nature of the plateau.

Unsympathetic development could have a significant adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.





View 17

The view north-east from Wickhambrook Road illustrating the important gap between The Grove and The Green.

Development that erodes this gap could have a significant adverse detrimental impact on the character of the village.



View 18

The view south-west from Ousden Road illustrating the important hedgerow on the left that defines the edge of the built-up area.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.

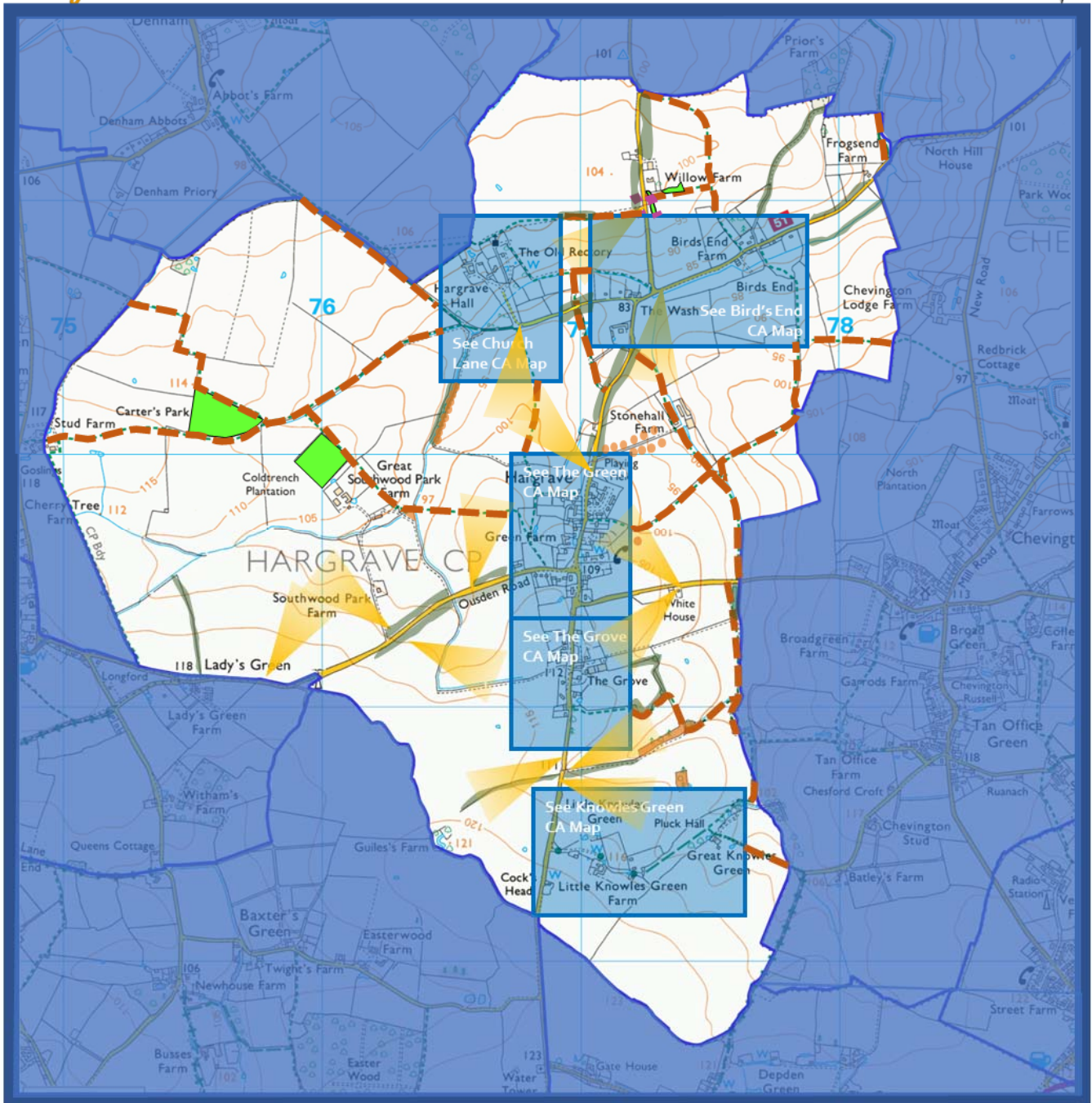


View 19











The view south-east from Ousden Road towards The Grove illustrating how the hedgerows and trees hide the existence of any development.

Unsympathetic development could have a moderate adverse detrimental impact on this landscape.

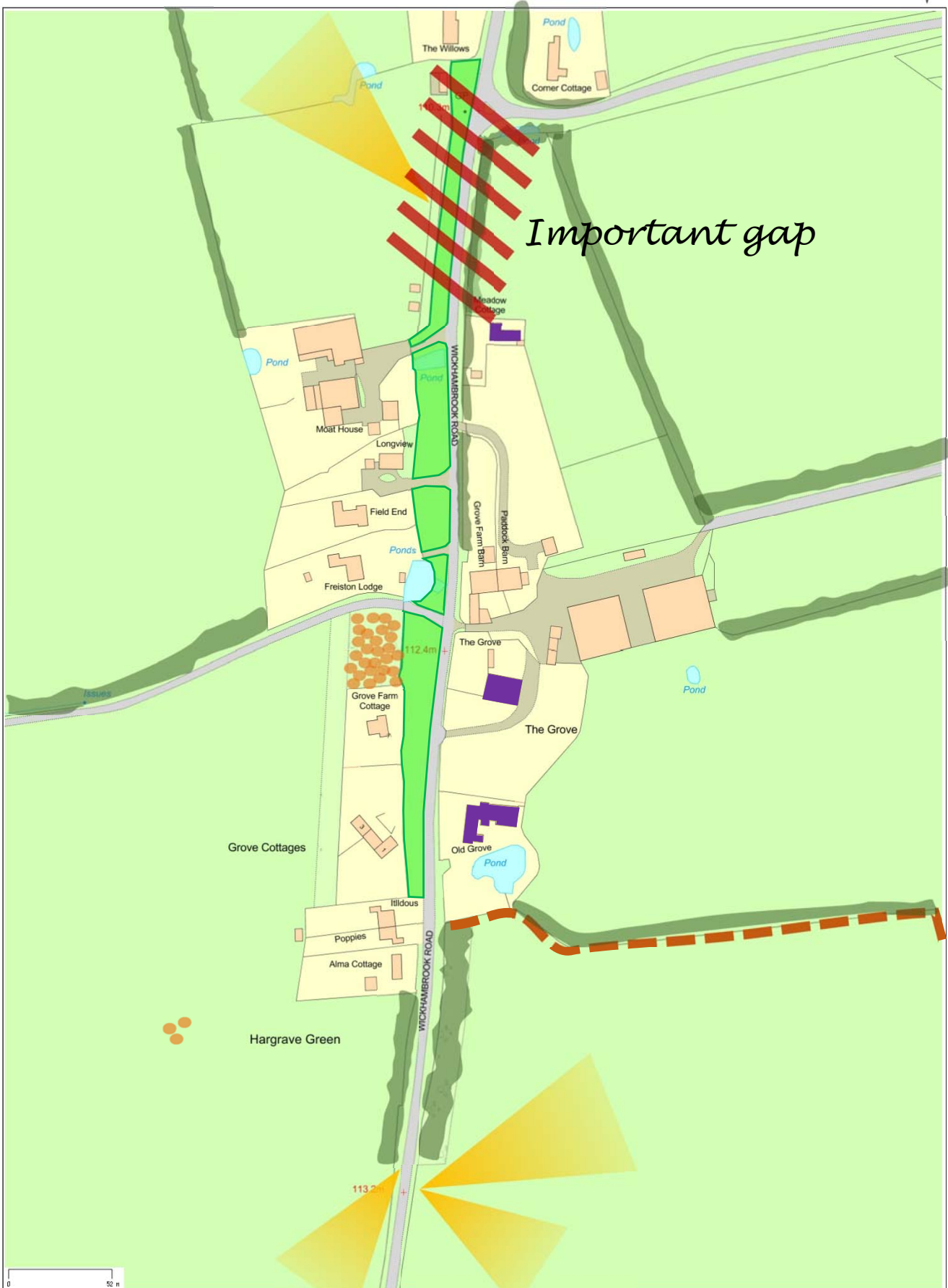




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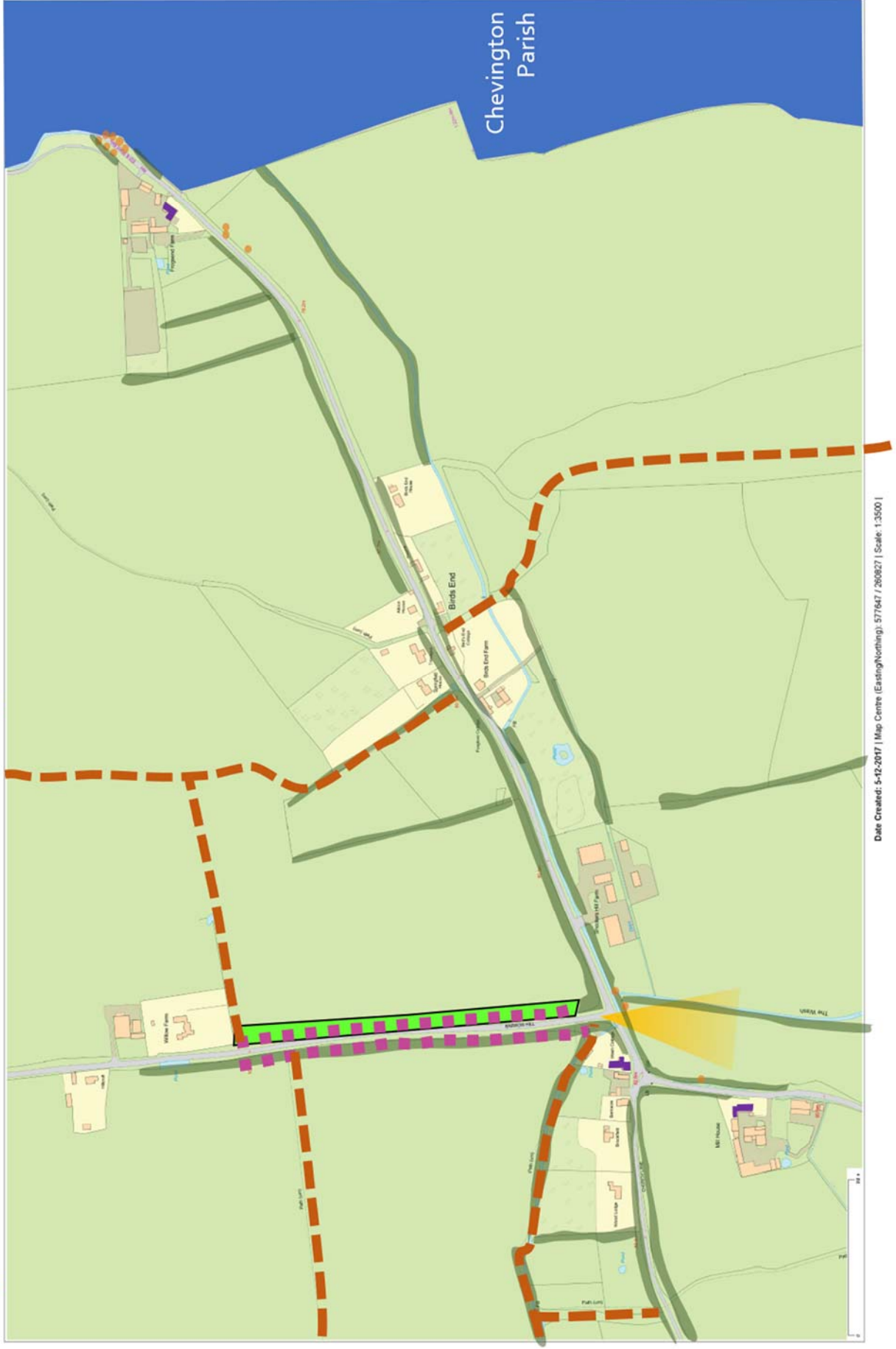
-  Important Woodland and Trees
-  Important Hedgerow
-  Tree Preservation Order
-  Important View
-  Listed Building
-  Important Unlisted Buildings
-  County Wildlife Site
-  Important Open Space / verge
-  Public Rights of Way
-  Playing Field







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Building Design Characteristics

Hargrave is a diverse mix of a settlement with mix of historic and more recent contemporary houses, single and two storey, with often generous land around and between plots within an open landscape with extensive views across the rolling countryside. An appraisal of typical characteristics found in buildings and their boundary treatments has been undertaken and the results are illustrated in the following pages.

Element

Typical examples

Architectural and Historical Anchors



House Styles



A Palette of Quality Materials



A Green Village



Green and Other Boundaries



Fit for the Skyline



Typical examples



Positive features

The Village's 1000 year+ history has provided many examples of quality sustainable buildings that anchor its distinctive character and guide its future.



The Village offers exemplars across a range of styles and ages that contribute to a memorable and loved place.



Many of the Village's buildings display quality materials that positively guide selection for future development.



The Village street scene is greened with verges, hedges and trees, and buildings are invisible or subordinated to nature.



Property boundaries predominately follow the natural, historical and rural form of hedges, plants and trees to contribute strongly to the Village's character.



The Village's buildings blend seamlessly in to its hilltop skyline without intrusion or discomfort to the attractive rolling countryside of this part of West Suffolk.

