

# HUNTINGFIELD CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

### **July 2012**



On 1 April 2019, East Suffolk Council was created by parliamentary order, covering the former districts of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council. The Local Government (Boundary Changes)

Regulations 2018 (part 7) state that any plans, schemes, statements or strategies prepared by the predecessor council should be treated as if it had been prepared and, if so required, published by the successor council - therefore this document continues to apply to East Suffolk Council until such time that a new document is published.

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**Public consultation:** this took place between 16/1/12 and 13/4/12 and included writing to all residents of the village to request views; writing to the Parish Council and providing printed copies; placing the draft on the Council's website; including a request for views via the Council's public magazine 'Coastline'; issuing a press release; making available printed copies at SCDC's planning reception; providing posters for display around the village; and inviting responses from Suffolk County Archaeology and Suffolk Preservation Society. A total of 4 responses were received which led to 3 additions, amendments and alterations to the draft appraisal, summary map and management plan prior to adoption in July 2012.

#### INTRODUCTION

The conservation area in Huntingfield was originally designated by Suffolk Coastal District Council in 1987 and confirmed by redesignation in 1991.

The Council has a duty to review its conservation area designations from time to time, and this appraisal examines Huntingfield under a number of different headings as set out in English Heritage's 'Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' (2011).

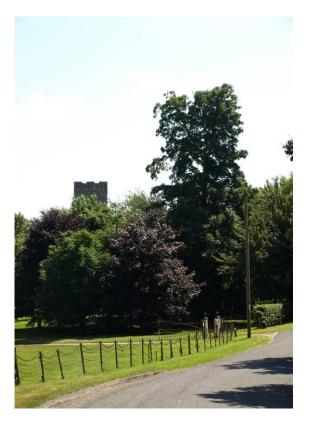
As such this is a straightforward appraisal of Huntingfield's built environment in conservation terms and is followed by a gazetteer describing the village in more detail.

The intent of this document is as a demonstration of 'quality of place', sufficient to inform those considering changes in the area. The photographs and maps are thus intended to contribute as much as the text itself.

As the English Heritage guidelines point out, the appraisal is to be read as a general overview, rather than as a comprehensive listing, and the omission of any particular building, feature or space does not imply that it is of no interest in conservation terms.



Village Sign



**View from West** 

### 1 CONSERVATION AREAS: Planning Policy Context

There are currently thirty four Conservation Areas in the Suffolk Coastal District.

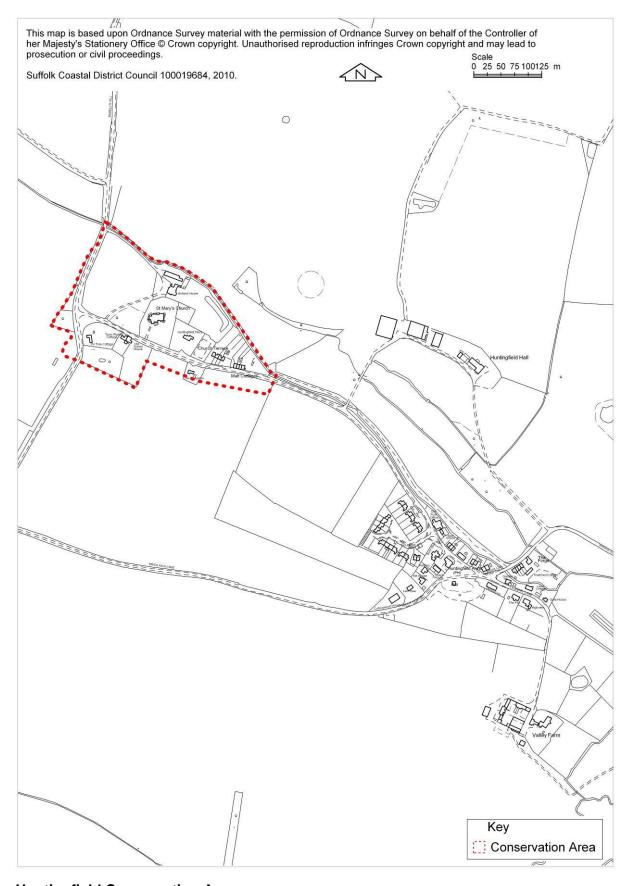
The identification and protection of the historic environment is an important function of the planning system and is done through the designation of Conservation Areas in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Conservation Areas are defined as 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. These areas make an important contribution to the quality of life of local communities and visitors by safeguarding their physical historical features which sustain the sense of local distinctiveness and which are an important aspect of the character and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside.

As part of this commitment there is a need to ensure there are the means available to identify what is special in the historic environment and to define through the development plan system their capacity for change. Such changes can act to help to address environmental quality in addition to achieving the aims of planning for sustainable development.

National planning advice on the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other heritage assets is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). At the District and local level, the Local Development Framework (LDF) recognises that development within conservation areas will need to accord with the requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Core Strategy of the LDF contains an objective 'to maintain and enhance the quality of the distinctive natural and built environment'. The Core Strategy also provides general advice supporting the retention and enhancement of Conservation Areas whilst minimising any significant adverse impact upon them. Conservation areas are also included under general development control policies, particularly those in relation to design where one of the key criteria requires that all new development must have regard to the character of the area and its setting.

This Conservation Area Appraisal provides details and identifies particular features which contribute to and justify its status. The purpose of this conservation area appraisal includes:

- a definition of the special character of the conservation area through its special qualities: layout, uses, architecture, setting, open spaces, topography and archaeology
- an analysis of the area's history, development and current status
- a guide to managing future change.



**Huntingfield Conservation Area** 

### 2 GENERAL CHARACTER SUMMARY

The small area of development, centred upon St Mary's Church and the Old Rectory at Huntingfield, comprises a very attractive group of widely-spaced historic buildings in a mature landscape setting.

The contrast between the spacious open setting for the individual buildings around the Church, including the spacious grounds to Holland House, the narrow country lane to the east, with enclosing banks and hedgerows, and the small terraced cottages is what gives this hamlet its particular character.

It constitutes the compact remnants of an early medieval enclave, which has thus far remained relatively free from inappropriate change, infill and suburbanisation. This is probably a result of the main village of Huntingfield subsequently developing at a bridging point over the local stream, a tributary of the River Blyth, further downstream. The two areas are joined by a Causeway (also known as the Carnser) which follows the course of the stream and, in itself, constitutes an ancient feature.



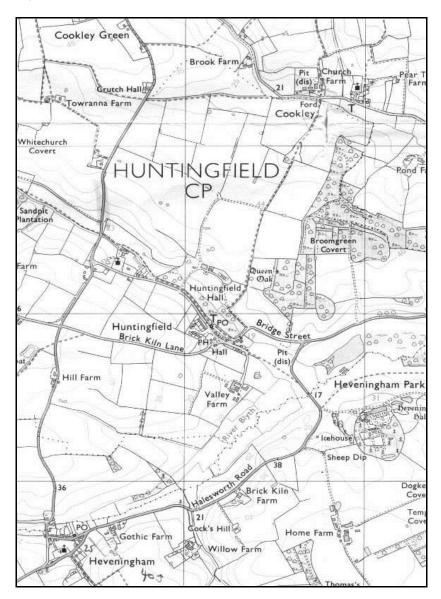
**Huntingfield: Aerial View 2001** 

#### 3 TOPOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Huntingfield is a small village in north-east Suffolk about four miles south-west of the market town of Halesworth. The village lies stretched out along the valley of an eastwards draining tributary of the River Blyth, which becomes estuarine at Blythburgh, eventually reaching the North Sea between Walberswick and Southwold. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the river was navigable up as far as Halesworth, but has long since become silted up.

Later in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century a branch of the Ipswich to South Town (Great Yarmouth) Turnpike Trust's roads served Halesworth en route for Bungay. From 1854 the East Suffolk line from Ipswich to Lowestoft has provided an alternative means of communication, again by way of Halesworth, the nearest railway station.

The village is sited on the eastern edge of the 'High Suffolk' claylands, where the heavy soils are best suited to arable farming. The underlying geology is essentially crag deposits, sands and gravels laid down during the Pliocene period over the chalk, which underlies all of Suffolk at depth. The village sits on sloping land within the valley of a tributary of the River Blyth to the southeast.



**Extract from Ordnance Survey Map** 

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record lists over twenty sites of archaeological interest for the parish of Huntingfield. The earliest of these is a Neolithic axehead and there are also finds of a Bronze Age axehead, Roman pottery and a coin; a Roman road crosses the south-western corner of the parish. More recent entries include the Medieval church and a pair of moated sites (one а Scheduled Monument) along with some Medieval pottery, whilst there are some undated items such as cropmarks, including a ring ditch, and a mound or motte, as well as the Causeway linking the area of the church to the village. Several windmills and brick kilns were also present in the Post Medieval period. The Queen's Oak is also recorded as a named historic tree.

The parish was listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 as Huntingafelda, held by Walter, Son of Aubrey, under the lordship of Robert Malet. The church with 14 acres was valued at two shillings and there was woodland for 150 pigs.

The village is essentially in two parts both on the south side of the valley, but separated by about half a mile. Upstream there is a loose cluster of historic buildings around the church; downstream to the east a tighter collection of buildings around a triangular green. This may represent a later migration of the village towards Laxfield-Halesworth road. A former moated site and nearby early earthworks suggest that the area around the church is the original settlement.

The principal historical occupation for residents of Huntingfield has been agriculture and early 19<sup>th</sup> century records confirm that by far most were employed on the land, with a smaller proportion in supporting trades including blacksmiths, wheelwrights and corn millers. Huntingfield fell within the wood-pasture region of Suffolk and farming included a mix of animal husbandry (pigs, cattle, goats, and sheep) and the growing of arable crops.

From a peak in population of 411 in 1851 present numbers are around 193.

Suffolk Historic Environment Record is now available online at www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/CHR



### St Mary the Virgin Church Tower

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Edric of Laxfield held mustringfield before 1066; now Walter son
of Aubrey holds (it) under Robert Malet; always 6 carcates of land.
Then and later 18 villagers, now 12; always 28 smallholders; then
1 slave.
Always 4 ploughs in lordship; always 18 men's ploughs.
Woodland then for 150 pigs, now for 100; meadow, 15 acres.
Always 2 cobs, 10 idle cattle, 30 pigs, 100 sheep, 60 goats,
6 beehives.
Value then £8; now [£] 7.
1 church, 14 acres; value 2s.

#### **Extract from Domesday Survey**

### 5 QUALITY OF BUILDINGS

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is Grade I listing. Its oldest parts are the Decorated chancel of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Century date and a 12<sup>th</sup> Century old window high in the nave north wall. Otherwise it is mainly Perpendicular in style of 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> Century origin.

Two Victorian restorations, however, have left it with an elaborate scheme of decoration to its arched brace and hammerbeam roofs. This was carried out between 1859 and 1866 by Mrs Holland, wife of the Rector. Pevsner describes this as 'the most attractive feature', but considers the rest of the church 'altogether too renewed to be of much interest'.

The wider parish has two grade II\* buildings in the form of Huntingfield Hall to the north, a late 18<sup>th</sup> Century house possibly by James Wyatt in red brick with 'Gothick' windows, and High House Farm to the south-west, a c.1700 farmhouse in red brick with Dutch gables, which is probably a rebuild of an earlier timber-framed farmhouse on the site.

Other listed buildings in the parish are all grade II, comprising mostly cottages and farmhouses, mainly timber-framed and rendered with clay plaintile or pantile roofs.

Obvious exceptions are Thatched Cottage in the eastern part of the village and the Old Schoolhouse just south of the church; both are timber-framed and thatched, the former retains its render, the latter has been recased in brick, now painted.

The minority of buildings within the conservation area are unlisted. This status does not diminish their value nor their important contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area, and their character-defining features should be retained. Those that make a positive contribution to the conservation area are identified on the Summary of Character Features Map on page 21. Loss of a building that makes a positive contribution to the Conservation Area will be treated as

substantial harm to the designated heritage asset.



St Mary's Church Roof



**Old School House** 

### 6 TRADITIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS

There are two terraces of cottages in Huntingfield Conservation Area (one of which is listed grade II) that leave a lasting impression through their great similarity of form and materials. From east to west these are Church Terrace and Malt Cottages (unlisted). These are 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> Century timber-framed and rendered all with red clay pantile roofs except the first which is plaintile, and all painted white with black detailing. This striking black and white theme is repeated at Town Pightle Cottage and the Old Schoolhouse opposite the churchyard.

Suffolk's other vernacular materials are also represented within the village: the Church in its flint and rubble with stone dressings and a plaintile roof, the former Rectory, now Holland House, in 'Suffolk White' brick, concealing much older work, with a characteristic early 19<sup>th</sup> Century hipped low pitch slate roof. Near this last we find the old Tithe Barn, with its black weather-boarding and 'Suffolk Red' brick gable, with a roof of pantile and plaintile on different slopes.

The variety of walling and roofing materials, finishes and colours is characteristic of the Conservation Area and should be respected when changes to existing buildings are made or new development added. There is also a fine variety of traditional window types including 9-pane 'Suffolk' windows; multipaned sliding sash windows; multipaned casement windows; and Gothic Revival windows.



**Church Terrace** 



**Former Rectory** 

### 7 CHARACTER OF SPACES

The existing conservation area covers only the western grouping of buildings centred on the Church. This is an area of historic buildings well spread out in a wooded landscape, bounded to the east by the road from Heveningham northwards to Linstead Parva.

The principal spaces in the Conservation Area include the grounds to Holland House; and the Churchyard. The former is extensive and open in character bounded by mature trees and has an aspect of parkland character to it which is worthy of retention. Its extent reflects the former function and significance of the House (rectory) and forms an important setting to it. It is essential that these characteristics are retained.

The Churchyard forms an attractive, verdant setting to the Church and is an established well treed space that contributes significantly to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

The character of spaces within the village reflects its historical development and can be seen in the interesting contrast between the open extensive grounds and setting to Holland House and the Church; and the tighter, narrow strips that form the plots to Church Terrace.

This village layout, expressed in the character of its spaces, is an integral feature of the Conservation Area and should be respected when proposals for change to it are considered.



The grounds of Holland House



**Church tower and Churchyard** 

### 8 TREES AND GREEN SPACES

One of the key elements of the Conservation area is its trees and green spaces. Treed and planted spaces usually enhance the buildings and spaces around the village and provide an appropriate setting for the conservation area.

Within a conservation area all trees over a certain size are afforded some protection. Notice to fell or prune trees has to be submitted to the local planning authority for consideration. Specific trees, groups or woodlands throughout the conservation areas may sometimes be protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) by virtue of the fact that there has been a previous request or proposal to remove the tree or develop a site. Protected trees may have particular amenity, historic and ecological value.

The conservation area at the west end of the village is particularly rich in tree cover, the result of a positive planting scheme introducing a good few non-native ornamental specimens such as Copper Beech, Horse Chestnut, Black Pine and Redwood.

Further east adjoining the Causeway, between it and a parallel field drain some fifty yards to the north, there is a strip of wet woodland comprising mainly native species such as Alder, Hazel and Willow.



Trees North of Churchyard to Holland House



Tree group at entrance to Holland House looking east

### 9 COUNTRYSIDE SETTING

The settlement area at the east end of Huntingfield is generally only one plot deep. In the Conservation Area itself the development pattern is even more sparse with buildings dotted around, the only difference to the countryside setting being the prevalence of non-native trees in their grounds.

Running along the northern edge of the conservation area, the Causeway provides a kilometre long path along the northern bank of the stream, all the way from the main village centre to the Linstead Parva road and beyond west towards Linstead Magna. This is definitive footpath 1 reached at the eastern end of the conservation area via a footbridge over the stream.

Important to the countryside setting of the Conservation Area are the avenue of Hornbeam trees to the Causeway; and the woodland adjacent. These form an important green link between the Conservation Area and the remainder of the village.

Also important to the setting are the farmed fields that come right up to the rear gardens of the village's houses and which accentuate the rural character of the village's location.



Footbridge to The Causeway



The Causeway

### 10 FORMER USES

Huntingfield is one of those villages where the commercial and residential centre as such has grown up away from the site of the Church. Its origins remain agricultural, with 4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen and a carpenter listed as resident in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century directories indicate a range of supporting village industries including a wheelwright, corn miller, tailor, blacksmith, bootmaker, plumber/glazier present along with 8 farmers. In 1835 75 people are recorded as being occupied in agriculture.

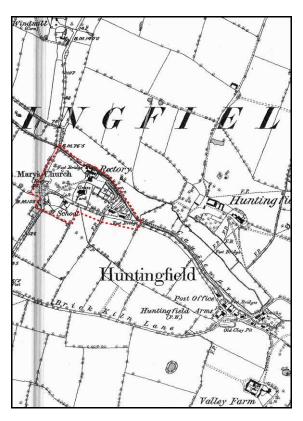
Huntingfield's tithe apportionment of 1847 confirms this picture of a small agriculturally based village with field names such as Mill Hill, Ozier Ground Meadow, Great Fish Ponds and one area as part of Winding Field, this last perhaps indicative of the not-too-distant Waveney valley based linen industry.

There is also a preponderance of extractive industry based names such as Brick Kiln Meadow, Old Clay Pit, Sand Pit Piece and Gravel Pit Field indicating a useful if variable local geology.

Three windmill sites are recorded in the wider parish, all post type mills on higher ground away from the river valley. Barrell's Mill was north of the conservation area towards Cookley and Whitehouse Farm and Aldridge's Mills some distance to the west.



**Old School House** 



19<sup>th</sup> Century Map

### 11 PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS

Compared to the rest of the village, the historic integrity of the Conservation Area part of Huntingfield remains reasonably intact. The railings around the parkland at the eastern end of the conservation area are still there but rusting a little and should perhaps be given a coat of paint.

Only two of the unlisted Malt Cottages remain as they were, two having had uPVC windows installed. The appearance of this type of window invariably detracts from the character of traditional buildings and their impact on the village's overall appearance should be carefully considered before use.

Suffolk Coastal District Council's Parish Tree Scheme is available to Parish Councils who wish to carry out sensitive planting schemes to enhance spaces within the Conservation Area.



**uPVC** Windows



**uPVC Windows** 

## 12 STREET – BY - STREET APPRAISAL



### 12.1 St Mary the Virgin Church and Holland House

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is a fine Grade I listed medieval Church, with a well-proportioned and detailed 15<sup>th</sup> Century tower. The open parkland that forms the grounds to Holland House to the west helps to create an appropriate setting for the Church and the other historic buildings in the area. Individual trees set amongst grassland, bounded by attractive metal park railings and gates and hedgerows, are all important features in this part of the Conservation Area.



Behind the Church to the north is **Holland House**, the former rectory. The rear of the building is 16<sup>th</sup> Century but it was considerably altered and extended in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The front is constructed in white brick with a slated roof. It has attractive sash windows with slender glazing bars. The scale and architectural quality of the House and the extent of its grounds ensures that it makes a significant contribution to the Conservation Area.



Next to Holland House is the former **Tithe Barn**, which is over 400 years old. The building is impressive, being over 36 metres long. The roof is plaintiled to the front and pantiled to the rear, and is mainly weather-boarded, apart from red brick at the east end, with some plasterwork to the rear.

The group value of the barn, Holland House and St Mary's Church is high and together these buildings make an exceptional contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.





### 12.2 The Old School House

Holland House, with its barn, and the Church are complemented in character by **Town Pightle Cottage** and **The Old School House**, which were originally a single dwelling. Part of it was once adapted as a school, but the building now comprises two houses.



Most of the main range, which is set dramatically at right angles to the road, is timber-framed, rendered and thatched. The gable closest to the road is a 19th Century brick extension, which is now colour-washed to match the rest of the range. This gable has large windows with arched tops and ornamental bargeboards. To one side is a simple, single-storey leanto; to the other is a contrasting one-and-ahalf storey timber-framed, rendered and pantiled wing, with interesting an configuration of lean-to extensions and dormer windows. The building makes a very good contribution to local character through its appearance and former use.



**The Hawthorns** to the west is a simple one-and-a-half storey thatched cottage, set in attractive landscaped grounds, with a frontage of park railings which complement those opposite.



To the east **Huntingfield Place** is a modern house, well screened by mature hedges and trees.

### 12.3 Church Terrace and Malt Cottages

Towards the eastern part of this small Conservation Area, the road to the main part of the village drops and there are two rows of attractive cottages, which provide an interesting contrast to the more imposing buildings nearer the Church.



Set back behind simple front gardens with hedges and picket fences, numbers 1 to 4 Church Terrace is a row of four cottages dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Timberframed and rendered, they have a steeplypitched roof which is plaintiled at the front and pantiled to the rear. Two storeys, with traditional small paned casement windows in a local vernacular style, there are wooden drip moulds over the windows and attractively simple front porches. The Terrace makes a very fine contribution to the Conservation Area and listing has preserved the unity of their appearance in unfortunate contrast to the Malt Cottages close-by.



Beyond Church Terrace to the east, numbers 1 to 4 Malt Cottages were built close to the road. They have a similarly traditional vernacular form, with clay pantiled roof, traditional bargeboards and pentice boards to the gable ends. Unfortunately, two of the four have installed unsympathetic modern windows.



The cottages are all set in plots which back onto the stream, which here runs right along the northern boundary of the Conservation Area. The trees hedgerow alongside the stream create an important backdrop. The stream then eastwards, following carries on impressive 400 metres long causeway which runs parallel to the road into the remainder of Huntingfield village. Opposite is **The Bungalow**, the contribution of which to the Conservation Area is modest, but which has an attractive treed garden setting.

### 13 CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The overall character of this part of Huntingfield remains one of an old Suffolk hamlet, which still retains much of its traditional form and appearance. There has been little intrusive 20<sup>th</sup> Century development, nor has much small-scale incremental change taken place. The area, therefore, continues to retain the special characteristics which strongly justify its Conservation Area designation.

These special characteristics include, amongst other things, the quality of its traditional buildings, the relatively unique shape, form and layout of the hamlet, and the attractive relationship which exists between the older buildings, the spaces between and around them, and the wider landscape. Important natural features, such as trees and hedgerows, make a major contribution. It is vitally important therefore, that these special characteristics are retained and reinforced.

There are however other characteristics which only serve to undermine the traditional qualities of the Conservation Area. These can include intrusive overhead wires and their supporting poles, large modern street lights, standard concrete kerbs and large prominently sited highway signs. Inappropriate car parking, causing the erosion of grass verges can have an impact on the appearance of an area. Physical measures to control parking including signage, lining and bollards must be very carefully considered to minimise their impact on the quality and importance of open spaces and streetscenes within the conservation area and alternatives should always be considered preferable.

Inappropriate new developments and the cumulative effect of incremental change are a constant threat to the special architectural and historic interest of the Conservation Area. Detrimental change can take many forms, from infill with poorly designed new houses to modern replacement windows and doors in older buildings.

Other undesirable changes can include inappropriate alterations and extensions which do not respect the scale, form and detailing of existing buildings, the use of modern materials and details in the area, insensitive highway works and signage, unsympathetic advertising and the construction of intrusive walls, balustrades, fences, driveways, garages and other structures.

The use of concrete tiles, artificial slates, plastic and aluminium windows and doors, cement render and modern bricks should all be avoided. So, too, should the use of brown stain on timber joinery, windows and doors, as it invariably appears as a particularly discordant feature. The use of concrete tiles, artificial slates, plastic and aluminium windows and doors, cement render and modern bricks should all be avoided. So too should the use of brown stain on timber joinery, windows and doors as it invariably appears as a discordant feature, particularly where the traditional use of white paint provides a unifying element in the street scene.

In order to protect the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, wherever possible the District Council will seek to prevent such inappropriate developments from taking place. To this end the Council is publishing design guidance and other advisory material and, as opportunities arise, will assist with implementing specific projects aimed at positively enhancing the area.

### 13.1 Alterations to existing buildings

The particular character of Huntingfield, with its strong prevailing historic appearance, renders it particularly sensitive to the cumulative loss or alteration of key features that contribute to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Such features include windows, doors, front boundaries, chimneys, and roof coverings. Whereas some conservation areas can benefit from the enhancement of their mixed character, others will be slowly degraded over time through the exercise of permitted development rights.

### 13.2 Design of new development

In a conservation area such as Huntingfield the prevailing historic character can make it a challenge to consider what is appropriate for the design of new development and can include high quality modern design. Pastiche or historicist re-creation can be acceptable but is not always achieved well, particularly where existing buildings abound in decorative features. Certain characteristics can be used as inspiration without resorting to copying – perhaps a high degree of modelling (three-dimensional effect), the use of projecting bays, or a bold scale or character. Such an interpretation can ensure that new design is both creative and contextual. New development should always respect the grain of the conservation area, including preservation of building lines, relationship to gardens, streets, parking and farmland, scale, density and uses.

Proper account should also always be taken of the impact that new development adjacent a conservation area can have on its setting. Although a conservation area boundary represents a demarcation enclosing a special area of historic interest, changes immediately outside of it can still have a significant impact on character and appearance. The setting of the conservation area, therefore, has an intrinsic value that must be acknowledged in any proposals for change to it.

### 13.3 Conservation area boundary

On completion in 2012/2013 of appraisals for all 34 of the District's conservation area a review will be commenced of their boundaries as a separate exercise. There is no timetable as yet proposed. Full public consultation will be undertaken on any suggested revisions to the position of the boundary that may be proposed as part of the future review.

The Street serving the buildings that form the Conservation Area heads east towards the more built up area of the village. Although this area is of lesser quality, it does include a number of listed buildings grouped around a central green, and could be considered for inclusion in a conservation area at the next review. Suggestions for inclusion within the conservation area that were made during the public consultation process on the adoption of this appraisal are: the Causeway; and the aforementioned area around the Huntingfield Arms PH and the village green.

### 13.4 Demolition

Huntingfield has a finite quantity of historic buildings which are integral to the character of the conservation area. Their loss, through unwarranted demolition or neglect, would erode the special status and distinctive character of Huntingfield and undermine the conservation area. English Heritage in its draft guidance on 'Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' (March 2011), which takes full account of PPS5, provides a checklist to determine if a particular element within a conservation area makes a positive contribution, provided that its historic form and values have not been eroded (p15). Planning Policy Statement 5 describes at Policy HE9 the tests that are applied to the loss of a heritage asset that makes a positive contribution to a conservation area.

### 13.5 Enhancement opportunities

Only limited opportunities to enhance the conservation area have been identified by the appraisal. Where possible the Council will work, through its enforcement role and in conjunction with utilities framework providers to promote the visual improvement of the conservation area. The Council will also work to ensure that in terms of the highway, footpaths and open spaces, the distinctive character of Huntingfield is maintained and protected.

### 13.6 Landscape and Trees

The positive management and design of the landscape of the conservation area is a key consideration in planning related work. Inappropriate planting (design and species) can detract from the character of the settlement. Using plants which are found naturally within the locality and taking guidance available from the Suffolk landscape character assessment website (<a href="www.suffolklandscape.gov.uk">www.suffolklandscape.gov.uk</a>) and Suffolk Coastal District Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance can be useful tools.

The key consideration regarding trees is to ensure that the spaces they need to grow and thrive are preserved and enhanced.

Suitable replacement planting to ensure longevity and succession in the treescape of the settlement will be encouraged in addition to the positive management of existing trees. Where space for larger trees is not available character can be achieved through other species, climbers and distinctive shrubs.

New boundary treatments to property can also provide enhancement to the conservation area and here the use of materials which in character with the settlement should be considered. Walls, fences, railings and hedges (whether native or ornamental) can be carefully chosen to reflect local styles and respond/create a sense of local distinctiveness.

#### 13.7 Contacts

Further advice, information and support can be provided by officers of Suffolk Coastal District Council:

### **Conservation and Design Service**

### **Landscape Officer**

Tel. 01394 444420 <u>communityandeconomicservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk</u>

#### **Arboricultural Officer**

### 14 REFERENCES & FURTHER INFORMATION

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For further information regarding Conservation Areas and Listed buildings please visit the Councils web site <a href="www.suffolkcoastal.co.uk">www.suffolkcoastal.co.uk</a> or contact the Design + Conservation Team, Planning Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, WOODBRIDGE, Suffolk, IP12 1AU Tel: (01394) 383789 or email: <a href="conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk">conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk</a>.

