



Historic England

EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

Customer Services Team  
Suffolk Coastal District Council  
Woodbridge Library  
New Street  
Woodbridge  
IP12 1DT

Direct Dial: 01223 582746

Our ref: PL00117246  
28 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Ref: Saxmundham Neighbourhood Area Designation**

Thank you for email of 26 June 2017 seeking Historic England advice on Saxmundham Neighbourhood Area designation application. Please find below our advice on this application.

Historic England has no objection to this designation, but we would like to take this opportunity to provide some initial advice on the matter and will send a copy to the Town Council for their use.

The Neighbourhood Area incorporates a number of designated heritage assets including:

- 2 GII\* listed buildings (known as 'Church of St John Baptist' and 'The Beeches including stable block')
- 48 Grade II listed buildings

It will be important that the strategy put together for this area safeguards those elements which contribute to the importance of these historic assets. This will assist in ensuring they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area and make sure it is in line with national planning policy.

The Design and Conservation team at Suffolk Coastal District Council are best placed to assist the Parish Council in the development of their Neighbourhood Plan and advising them to consider how the strategy might address the area's heritage assets.

We would also recommend that the Town Council speak to the staff at Suffolk County Council Archaeology and Historic Environment Service who look after the Historic Environment Record and give advice on archaeological matters. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may also be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway



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([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)). It may also be useful for the Parish Councils to involve local voluntary groups such as the local Civic Society, local history groups, building preservation trusts, etc. in the production of their Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans need to include enough information about local heritage to guide planning decisions and to put broader strategic heritage policies from the local authority's local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale. If appropriate this should include enough information about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions.

Further information and guidance on how heritage can best be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plans has been produced by Historic England. This signposts a number of other documents which the Town Council might find useful in helping to identify what it is about their area which makes it distinctive and how they might go about ensuring that the character of the area is retained. These can be found at:-

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Edward James  
Historic Places Advisor, East of England  
[Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

cc: Saxmundham Town Council



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