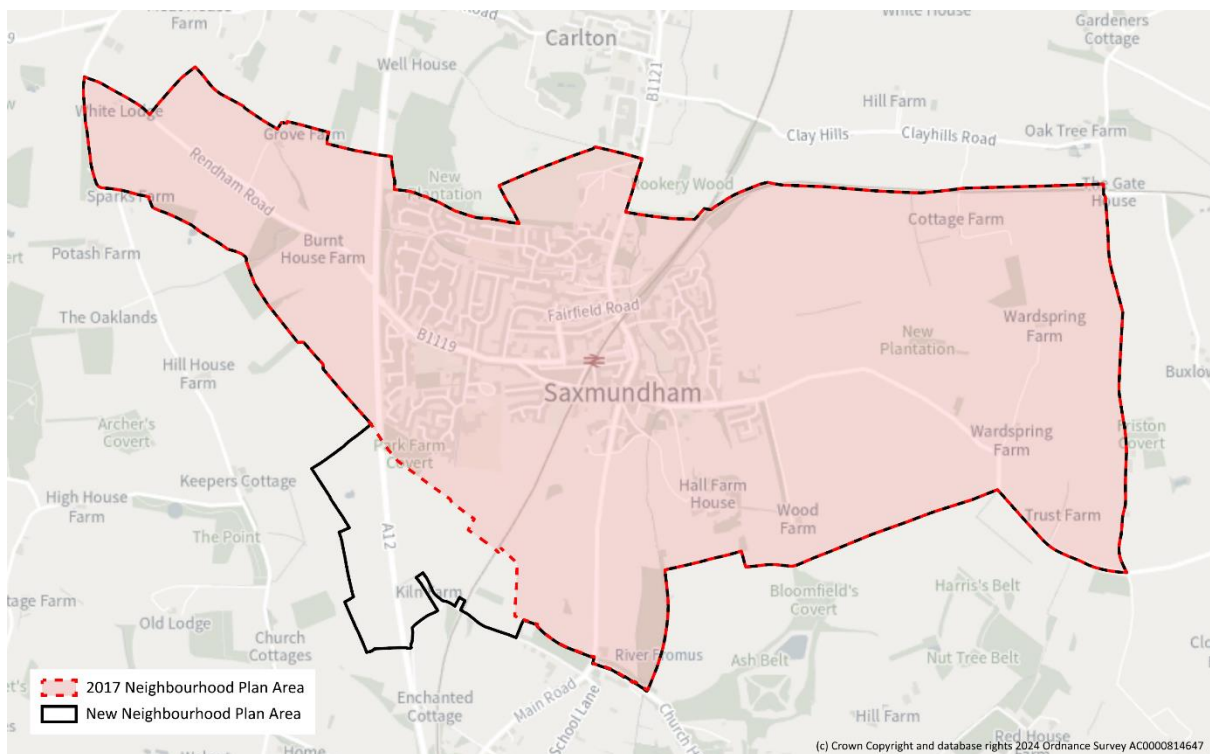




Neighbourhood Area Determination and Decision

DECISION UNDER REGULATION 7 OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012 (as amended)

Name of neighbourhood area	Saxmundham Neighbourhood Area (revised)
Parish /Town Council	Saxmundham Town Council



Background:

The procedures governing the production of neighbourhood plans are set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The first formal stage in

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the neighbourhood plan process is the application by the “relevant body” to the Local Planning Authority for neighbourhood area designation.

This neighbourhood area application relates to the Saxmundham parish area. The application was received by the Council on 13 December 2023. The application represents a revision to the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan Area which was previously designated on 29 August 2017.

The boundary of Saxmundham Parish was extended, with effect from 1st April 2023, following a Community Governance Review in 2022. The current Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan (made on 26 July 2023) relates to the previous Neighbourhood Plan Area (2017) which was concurrent with the parish boundary as it was prior to the Community Governance Review.

The new Neighbourhood Plan Area will align with the new Saxmundham Parish boundary, covering the entire parish.

Consideration:

Is the organisation making the area application the relevant body under Section 61G (2) of the 1990 Act?

Yes. Saxmundham Town Council submitted the area designation application.

Has the application been submitted in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012?

Yes. The application was accompanied by a map identifying the proposed Neighbourhood Area; a statement explaining why the area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area; and a statement that Saxmundham Town Council is the ‘relevant body’ to make the application.

Is the Neighbourhood Area considered appropriate? Section 61G (4)

Yes. The Neighbourhood Area comprises the whole parish of Saxmundham. The new boundary will be reflected in a reviewed Neighbourhood Plan in due course.

Has the application been properly publicised?

Yes. East Suffolk Council undertook consultation on the on the proposed new Neighbourhood Plan area for six weeks from 23 February 2024 to 5 April 2024. The consultation was publicised on East Suffolk Council website in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Saxmundham

Town Council were provided with consultation posters to display in appropriate places in the parish.

Were any comments received during the consultation period?

Yes. A total of 3 responses were received during the consultation period.

Summary of comments received:

- Historic England had no objection to the Neighbourhood Area, noting that the proposed amendment would align the Neighbourhood Plan area with the entire parish.
- Natural England did not wish to make comment on the suitability of the proposed plan area or the proposed neighbourhood planning body but did provide a copy of their general advice for neighbourhood planning groups.
- Savills Ltd, on behalf of Pigeon Investment Management Ltd, did not object to the new area on the basis that the made Neighbourhood Plan would not become applicable to the extended parish area until a formal review of the Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken.

Are any modifications required to the Neighbourhood Area? Section 61G (6)

No. The matters the Council is required to take into consideration at this time are:

- The desirability of designating the whole of the area of the parish council as a Neighbourhood Area; and
- The desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of areas already designated as Neighbourhood Areas

This neighbourhood area application relates to the Saxmundham parish area. The application represents a revision to the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan Area which was previously designated on 29 August 2017 and to which a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan applies (made 26 July 2023).

The new Neighbourhood Plan Area will replace the currently designated Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan Area, but the 2023 Neighbourhood Plan will continue to form part of the Development Plan for that area until such time as it is replaced.

The new Neighbourhood Plan Area will align with the new Saxmundham Parish boundary. The new Neighbourhood Plan area will cover the entire Parish. The new boundary will be reflected in a reviewed Neighbourhood Plan in due course.

There are no reasons not to designate the whole of the area of the parish.

Conclusion:

There are no valid planning reasons why East Suffolk Council should not designate the proposed revised neighbourhood area for Saxmundham as submitted.

Recommendation:

That following consideration by the Head of Planning and Coastal Management designation of the Parish of Saxmundham as a Neighbourhood Area is **Approved**.

DECISION UNDER REGULATION 7 OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012 (as amended)

The application for the designation of Saxmundham Neighbourhood Area (revised) is **APPROVED**.

Signed:

Dated: 30 April 2024

Andrea McMillan

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Interim Joint Head of Planning

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