

Shimpling Parish Landscape Appraisal

Character, Sensitivity and
Key Views

May 2025



Final Issue June 2025

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Part I: Introduction



Introduction

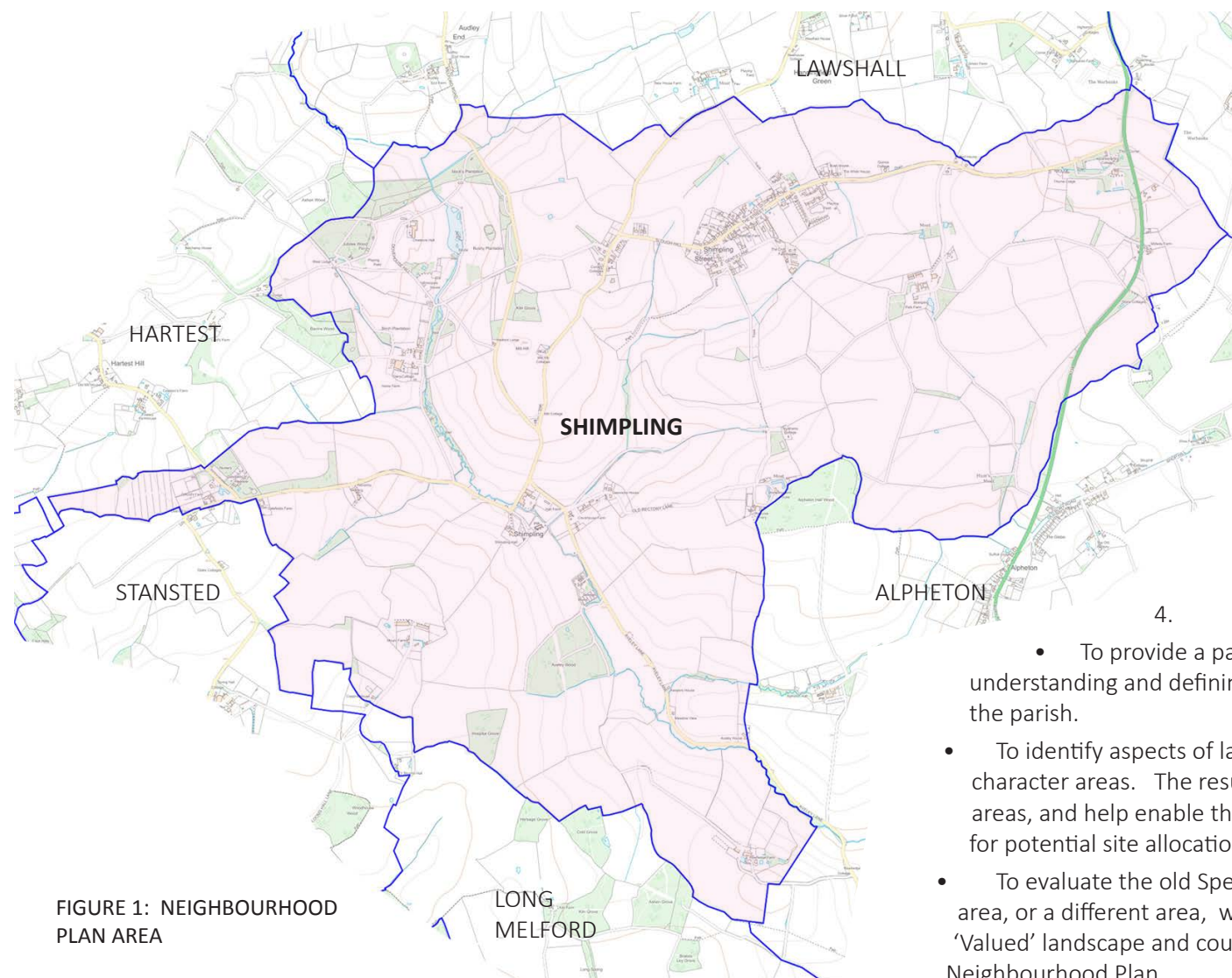


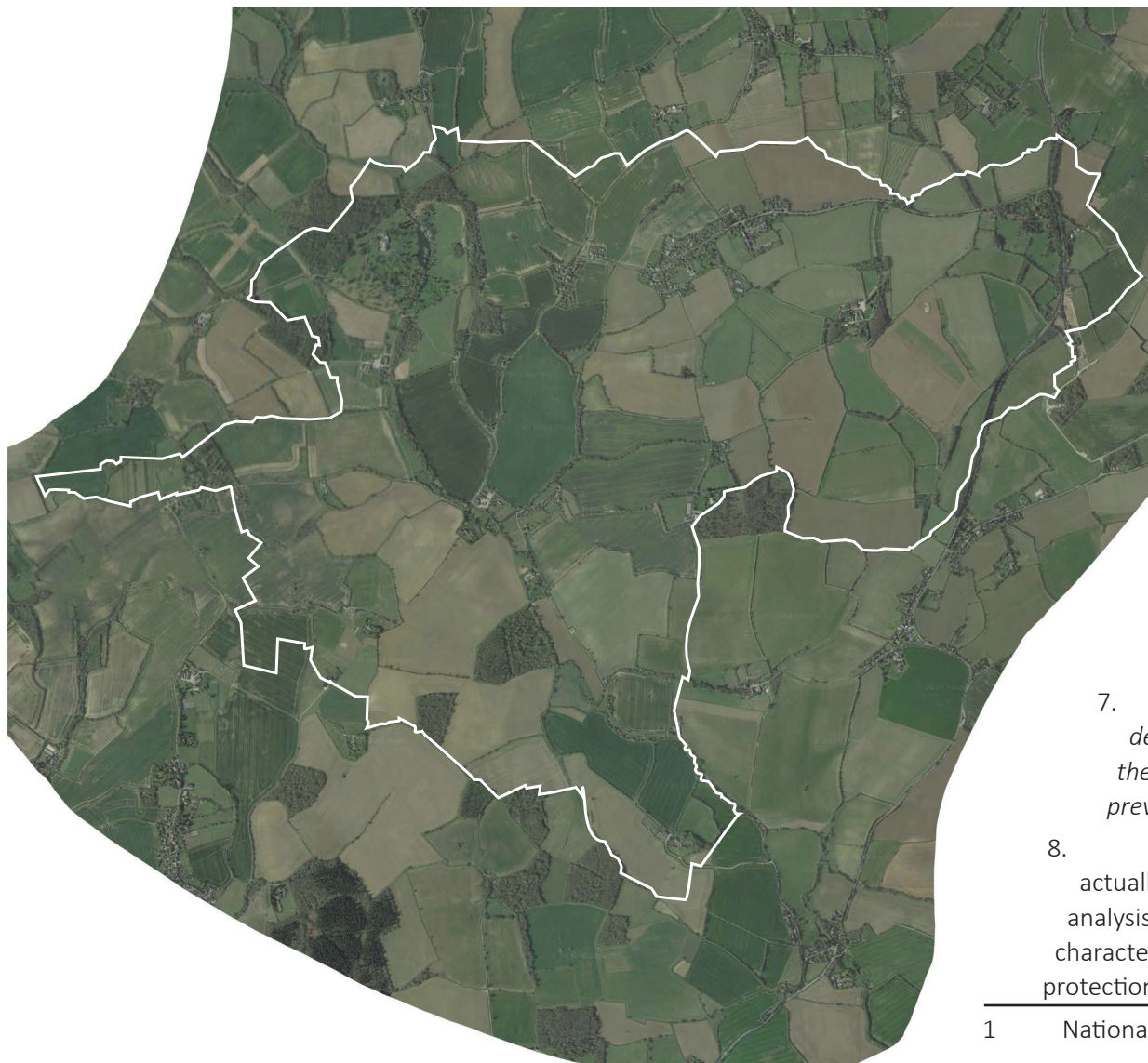
FIGURE 1: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

1.1 Introduction

1. Shimpling Neighbourhood Plan group commissioned this landscape assessment in autumn 2023 to assist the group in the making of their Plan, and to assist with land management change in the future.
2. This report is commissioned from Chartered Landscape Architect Lucy Batchelor-Wylam (CMLI) and constitutes an independent study, although the Neighbourhood Plan Group have had the opportunity to comment and contribute to the report. Its role is to become an evidence document to support the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. The assessment looks at the whole parish, although most focus naturally falls on the rural area that fringes the settlement clusters, outside the settlement boundaries.
4. The aims of the assessment are:
 - To provide a parish-wide character assessment as a framework for understanding and defining the character of the different landscapes around the parish.
 - To identify aspects of landscape and visual sensitivity in the defined parish character areas. The results of this will help identify the more sensitive areas, and help enable their protection. It would also support site selection for potential site allocation on less sensitive parcels of land, in future.
 - To evaluate the old Special Landscape Area and identify whether this area, or a different area, would meet the Landscape Institute's criteria for 'Valued' landscape and could be considered for a protective designation in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- To enable appraisal of important views to help form policy around protecting particularly valued views within the Parish.

Introduction continued:-

FIGURE 2: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA ON AERIAL VIEW

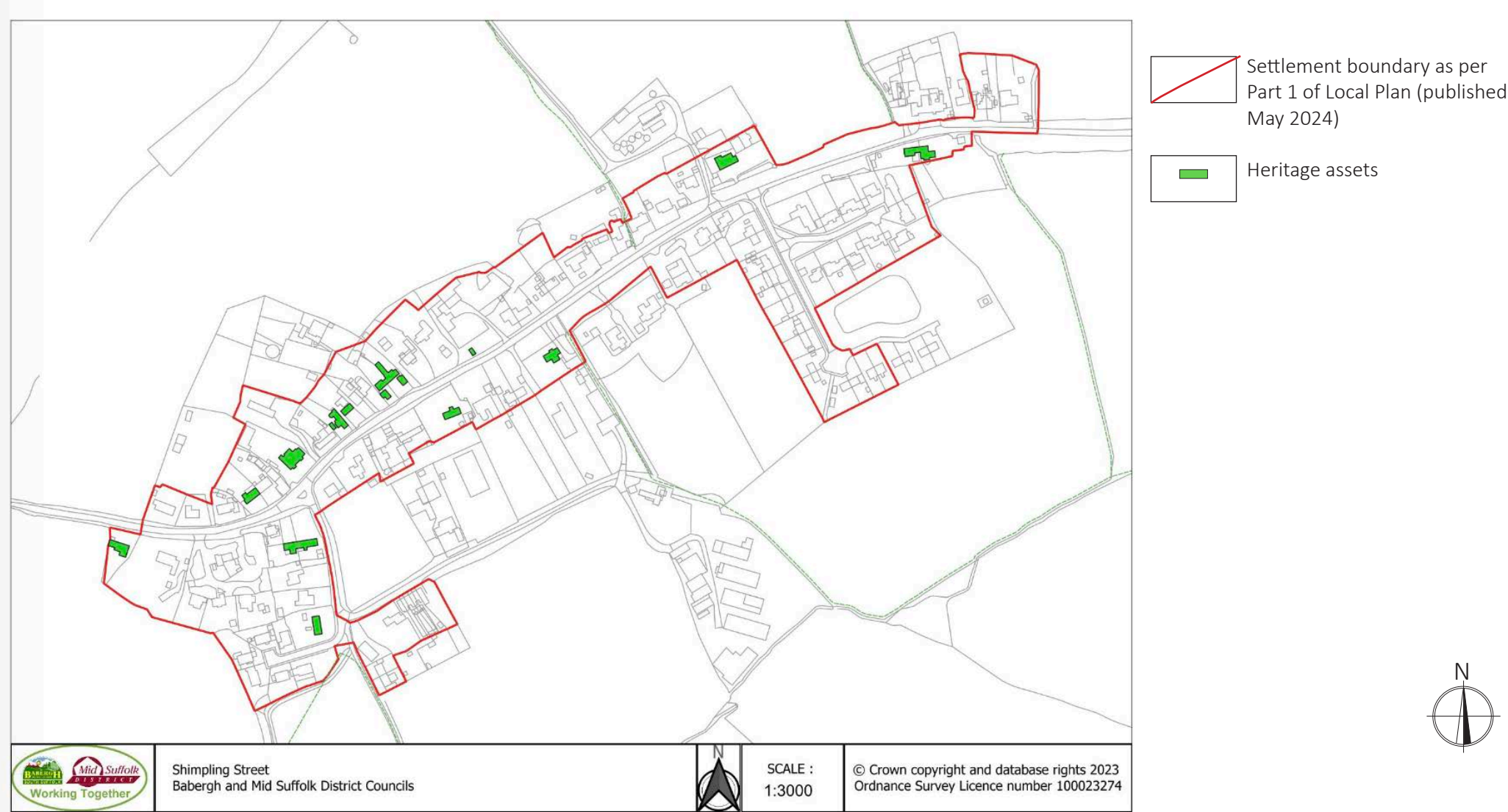


5. The overall aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to manage change so that the special character of the village is recognised, conserved and enhanced. This document will be useful to the Parish and District Councils with that objective but also for managing future applications for development, and for landowners to understand the parameters which might limit changes in land use, and to householders or developers considering development options.
6. This aim is consistent with current national planning which requires development to relate well to local character, offering sympathetic responses and enhancement measures. The National Planning Policy Framework states in para 132¹, *'...Design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics. Neighbourhood planning groups can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development, both through their own plans and by engaging in the production of design policy, guidance and codes by local planning authorities and developers.'*
7. Para 135 states, *'Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments..... are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change'.*
8. This document hopes to illuminate what 'being sympathetic to character' actually means for Shimpling in practical terms, translating assessment and analysis into useful guidance. A key aim of this study is to ensure the special characteristics of the valley are recognised and measures are put in place for their protection via the Neighbourhood Plan.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework December 2024.

Introduction continued:-

FIGURE 3: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA AND THE SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY



1.2 Shimpling's landscape and history

An introduction to Shimpling's landscape

1. Shimpling is in the district of Babergh and Mid Suffolk (BMSDC) and lies south of Bury St. Edmunds by about 7 miles, and north of Sudbury by about 6 miles. It lies on the western edge of the BMSDC area on the boundary with West Suffolk District. Lawshall lies to the north, Alpheton to the south east, Long Melford to the south, and Hartest and Stansted to the west.
2. A good starting point for understanding landscape character is understanding the history of a settlement and how it evolved into the parish seen today. This section aims to give a brief overview of the history of Shimpling and its key features.
3. Shimpling is an ancient, agricultural landscape. Bronze age finds and ancient earthworks indicate people have been living here for thousands of years, making use of the water supply from the Chad Brook, and the plentiful supply of wood that would have been present in past centuries. It was known as 'Shimplingthorne' in times past and still features ancient remnants of woodlands and hints of a medieval deer park. Shimpling retains a strong connection with farming and agricultural development, and Shimpling Park Farm is a showcase for organic farming and education in Suffolk today.

Topography and hydrology

4. Shimpling lies across a rolling, shallow valley landscape, focused around the Chad Brook- part of the headwaters of what will develop into the River Stour. Lowest lying land lies at around 35m AOD, forming a shallow trough through the centre and west of the parish. The rest of the area is gently sloping and gently rolling valleyside, with the northern edges of the parish rising towards the plateau at around 100m AOD. The rolling topography is a key part of the parish's scenic distinctiveness.

Soils Farming and enclosure

5. The soil profile varies only a little across the parish. The National soil mapping project LANDIS, maps most of the parish as 'Soilscape 9: Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage'. This makes it good farming country, particularly suitable for cereals. The quality of the soils is one reason there is a focus for organic farming in this area for which the Pawsey family at Shimpling Park Farm are well known.
6. Owing to the quality of the soils, enclosure of agricultural fields happened early in this area of Suffolk. Aerial maps and the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation map confirm the landscape is 'ancient'

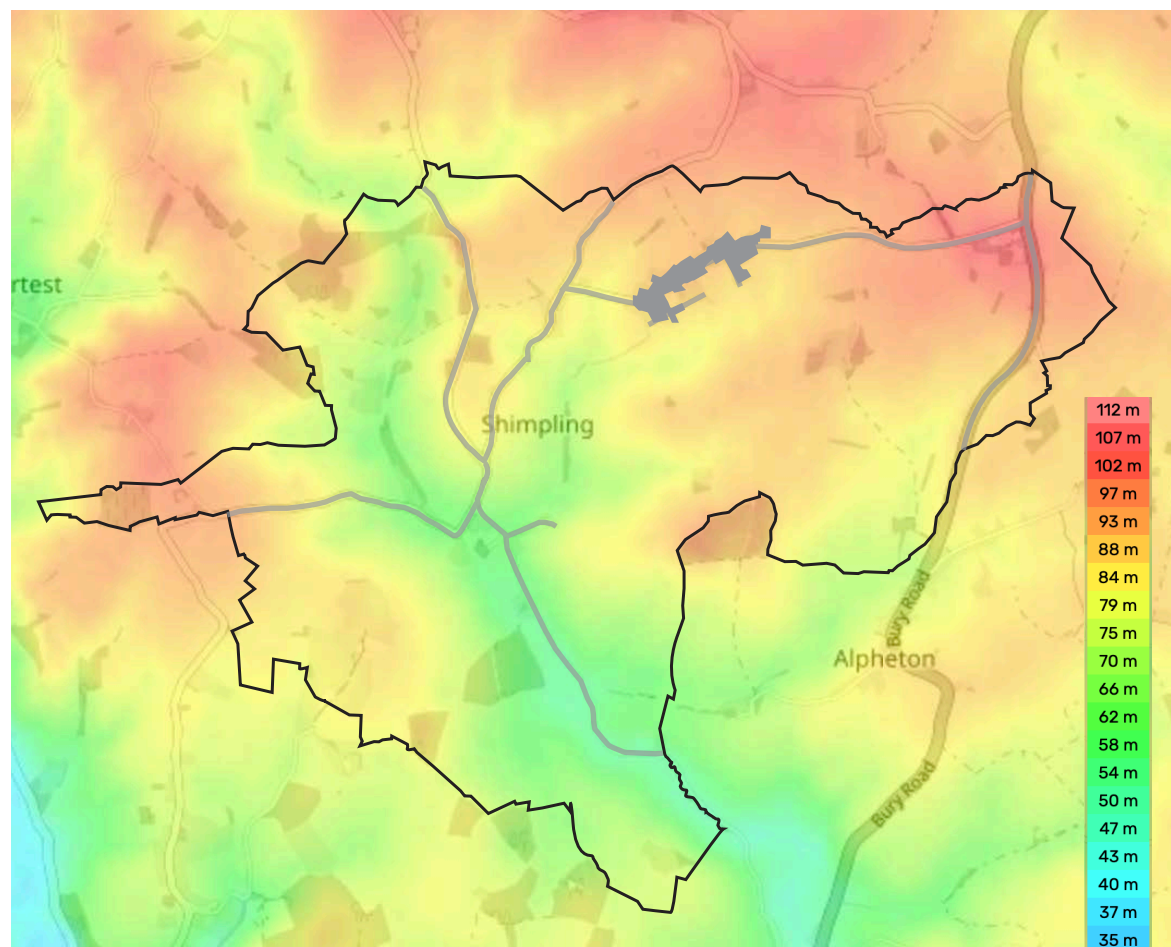


"Lonely Shimpling parish straggles through the rolling hills to the north of Glemsford, the lattice of narrow lanes dipping and doglegging between fields and copses. The church sits away from the road, and the setting is straight out of Trollope".

Simon Knott 2020 www.suffolkchurches.co.uk

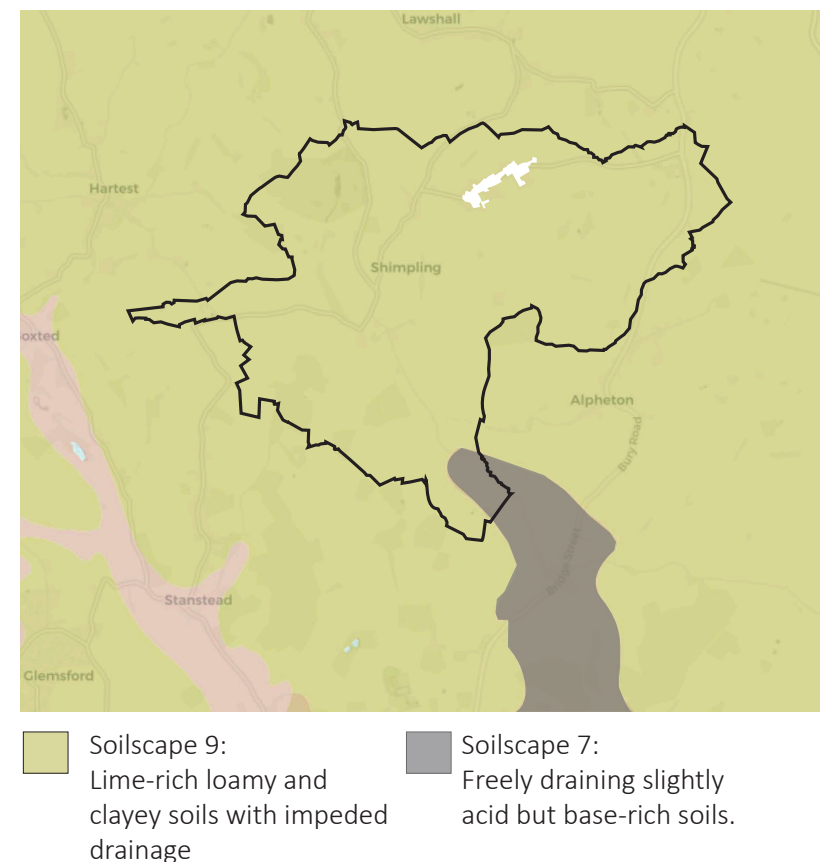
1.2. Shimpling 's landscape and history continued:-

FIGURE 4: TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



This map shows how topography varies across the parish. Shimpling straddles the shallow valley of the Chad Brook. The parish is predominantly made up of gently rolling valleysides where the Chad and its small tributaries produce folds in the landscape.

FIGURE 5: SOILS MAP (From: LANDIS)



Soils mapping shows that the parish has a unified soil profile with little variation. The soils are fertile and free draining - a good combination for arable farming.

1.2. Shimpling's landscape and history continued:-

i.e. understood to mean Shimplingthorne became enclosed well before the 18th-century enclosure acts.

7. The farmland has a 'random' look to its boundary shapes, is organic in form and arranged in an irregular pattern (i.e. without any dominant axis). Many such systems were in existence by the medieval period, but it is thought they could be earlier. Boundaries usually take the form of species-rich hedges with associated ditches and banks. There are, of course, also areas where there has been boundary loss, causing the amalgamation of fields into larger units, but the underlying random pattern is still evident.

Settlement history and heritage

8. The village has a dispersed settlement pattern. The sparse scattering of habitation is an important part of the landscape's intrinsic character and adds to the sense of ruralness and tranquillity. There is a small cluster of settlement near the church in the south of the parish, and there are two clusters in the north. There is a small group at Slough Hill, but the bigger grouping along Shimpling Street is the only one to have a defined Local Plan settlement boundary (as mapped in figure 3), and is referred to as the main village.
9. Settlement developed around some of the medieval manors which were Chadacre Hall, Shimpling Thorn, and Shimpling and Gifford's Halls. The church and hall at Shimpling Hall were two of the earliest buildings. The Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment states, *"In the Suffolk landscape there is a recurrent pairing of medieval churches and manorial halls, usually in prime valley side locations close to a water supply. The halls were often surrounded by water-filled moats in the 13th or 14th centuries as an indication of their status, but the actual 'hall-and-church' clusters are probably older. Evidence from Suffolk and elsewhere in England suggests that these clusters originate in the Late Saxon period (c.AD 850-1066), when the possession of a church was one of the indicators of thegnly rank. These complexes often consist of a roughly square area that contains a church in one quarter... In some cases the clusters have grown into hamlets or villages, but others have remained as small units."*



Figure 6. *In this part of Suffolk the field pattern is ancient, revealed by the organic, irregular shaped fields. There is usually some amalgamation, but the underlying random boundary patterns are clearly legible.*

10. Simon Knott's 'Churches of Suffolk' site records The Church of St. George as having an impressive setting at the end of avenue of lime trees. There said to be twelve trees, thought perhaps to represent the apostles or the twelve tribes of Israel, but in actual fact there are 14 trees down the right-hand side and 12 trees down the left. The building we see today is essentially 14th century, though it retains an earlier 13th-century doorway which has a frieze of traditional Norman dogtooth decorative carving. A comprehensive restoration in the 1860s swept away many medieval features but stained glass windows endure from this time.

1.2. Shimpling 's landscape and history continued:-

11. The Hallifax family, who built and lived in Chadacre Hall in the 19th century, left a significant mark on Shimpling. Chadacre Hall was previously the seat of the Plampin family and it shows up on Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk. Thomas Hallifax (d. 1850) was a wealthy London banker and his family became significant local benefactors. After building a new Regency-style mansion in around 1834, he created the designed parkland landscape around it - such features were very fashionable accompaniments to a grand house in the 18th and 19th centuries. The family built a a little crow-stepped gabled rectangular building in the churchyard which is referred to as a Faint House but is more likely to have been a small school room ¹. They were also responsible for a schoolhouse in The Street, the schoolmaster's house opposite, other houses in the village, a coal house, as well as helping pay for restoration work to St George's church. Shimpling no longer has a primary school- it closed in 1989 and instead Shimpling's children attend primary school in Lawshall and other villages.
12. During the 20th century the Hall was the base for the Chadacre Agricultural Institute, opening in 1921 under the custodianship of Earl Edward Cecil Guinness, the first Earl of Iveagh. He was born in 1847 in Dublin and was fourth in line to the Guinness dynasty. He is described as a man with a high sense of public duty, his philanthropy was on the grand scale. In 1894 he purchased the Elveden estate of 23,000 acres near Thetford but his interest in agriculture led him to found and endow the Chadacre Agricultural Institute in Shimpling. Lord Iveagh believed in the need to provide sound practical training for people working in agriculture and it was one of the first such institutions in the UK. At its inception its purpose had been to provide *'free agricultural education for the sons of farm labourers, small-holders and small farmers together with the sons of those engaged in trades ancillary to agriculture in Suffolk and neighbouring counties'*.
13. The Institute closed in 1988 and the estate went into private ownership. The proceeds of the sale were used to found the Chadacre Agricultural Trust which



Photo: Simon Knott

¹ <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/shimpling.htm>

1.2. Shimpling's landscape history continued:-



Portrait of John Pamplin (c. 1752) by Thomas Gainsborough is thought to have been set against the rolling landscape around Chadacre

From: www.nationalgallery.org



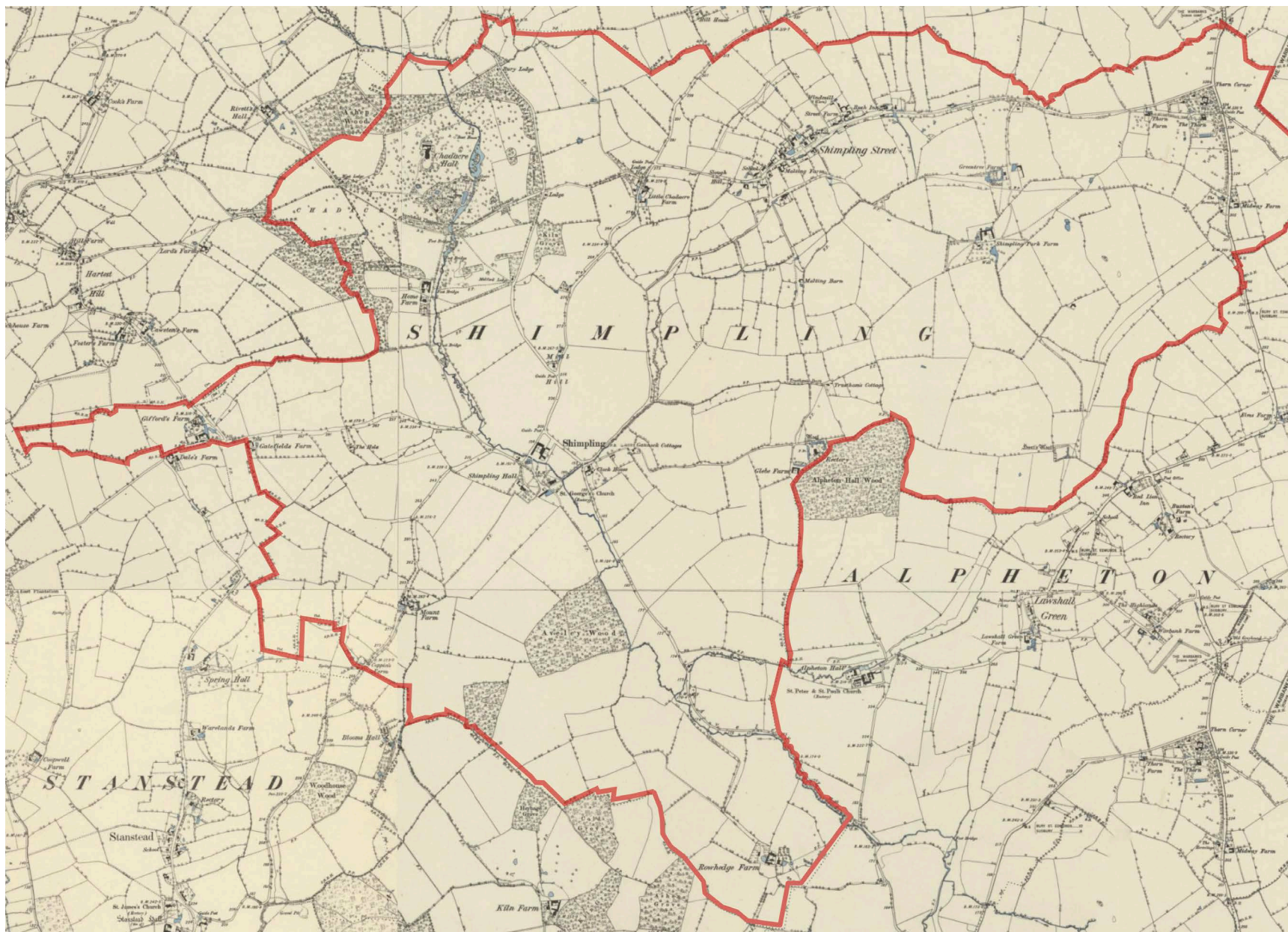
An aerial view of the park around Chadacre Hall showing the plantations, parklands and lake.



The Hall built circa 1834

1.2. Shimpling's landscape history continued:-

FIGURE 7: OS map from 1884. Note the multitude of small fields around the village edge. During the 20th century hedge and tree removal amalgamated the fields into larger units. Nevertheless the original organic shapes are still evident on modern-day aerals.



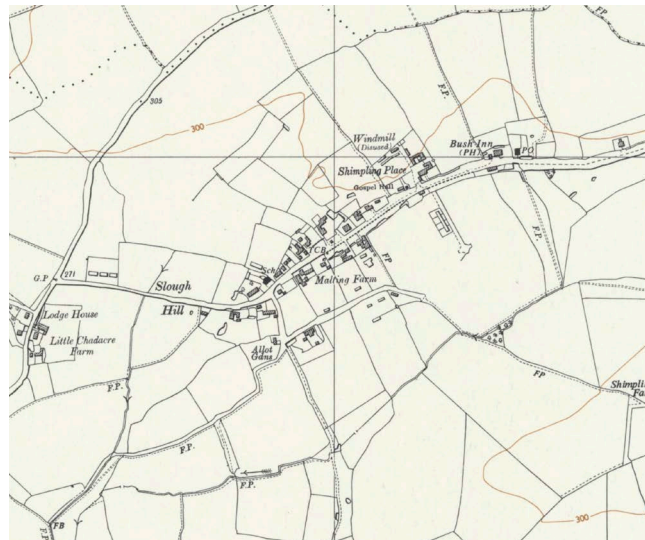
1.2. Shimpling's landscape history continued:-

FIGURE 8: COMPARATIVE IMAGES SHOWING SHIMPLING STREET OVER TIME

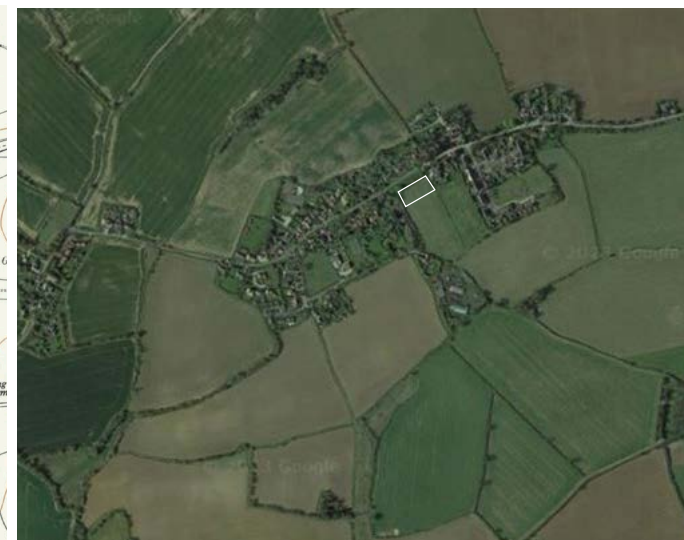
1880's



1950's



2020's



continues work into educating the public about agriculture. Today, the 'objects and purposes of the Trust are to advance the education of the public in all aspects of agriculture and farming by providing grants for training and research'. They have put over £4 million into projects in the last 20 years.

The settlement clusters

14. The various settlement clusters have a distinctive appearance, often seen in this part of Suffolk. The clusters are generally linear in form, and in The Street, the main defined cluster, feature a mix of old cottages and more modern infilling. Streets didn't develop here, there are no pavements usually, houses are set back from the edge of the lane, behind deep verges or deep front gardens, often hedged. Attractive thatched cottages don't always sit comfortably alongside newer properties, although the mixture of dwellings are somewhat unified by the common pattern of low density and roomy plots. Even in the larger groupings the feel remains very rural.

15. In the late 19th century, the main village cluster was almost entirely linear although a handful of cottages had been built on Gents Lane. The two separate clusters west of Slough Hill and Shimpling Street had already developed. Settlement was surrounded within a network of small fields, radiating out to the north and south, often arranged along a common axis. The positions of individual trees on these early OS maps is known to be reasonably accurate, so views out of the village at this time would have felt quite wooded.
16. The pattern of the settlement has not changed fundamentally over time and the village retains its core identity as a historic linear settlement. Gaps in the road frontage have gradually been filled in, and a small modern estate was added to the east, Halifax Place and Streetfield Close sometime in the 1950s. Recently, in the centre of the village, the only undeveloped section of frontage has been developed into two low-level dwellings (site outlined in white on the aerial above).

1.2. Shimpling's landscape history continued:-

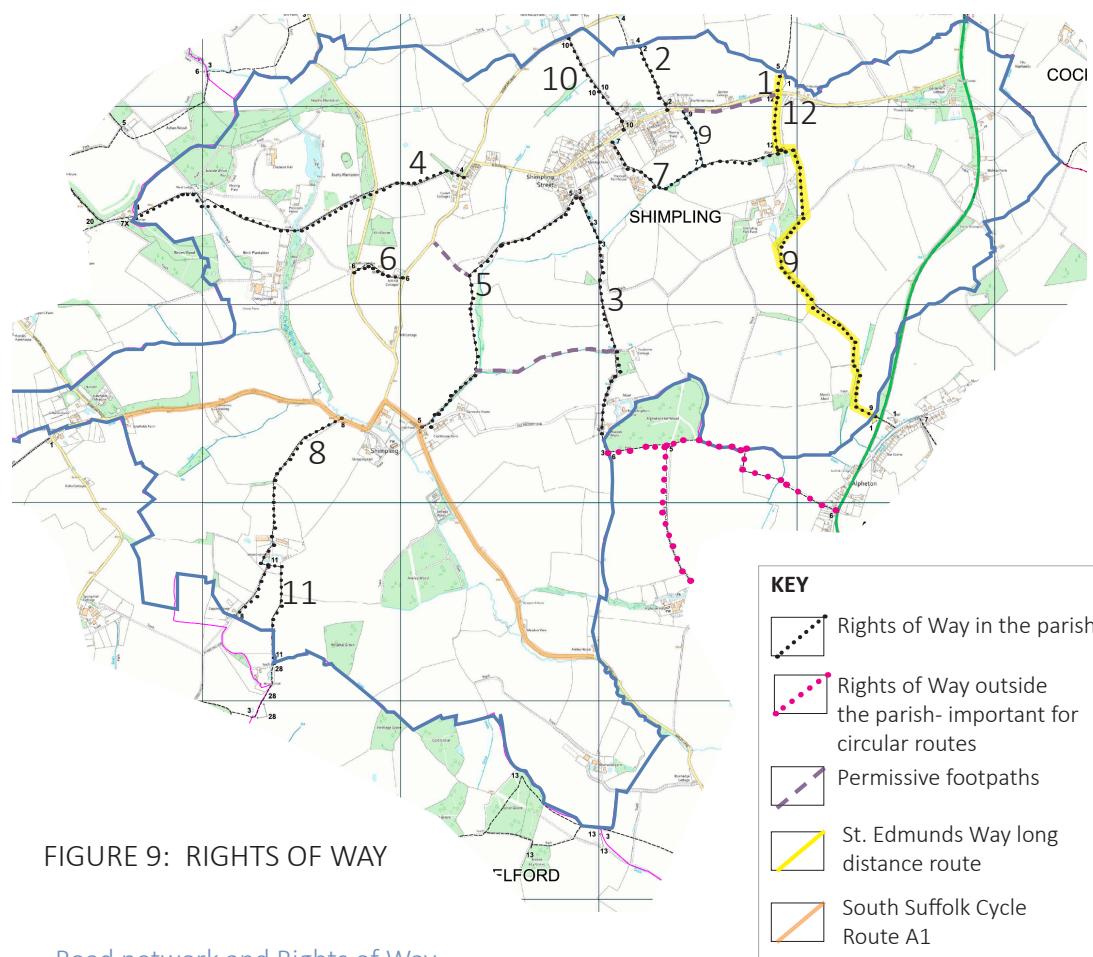


FIGURE 9: RIGHTS OF WAY

Road network and Rights of Way

17. Shimpling has a somewhat isolated and remote feel but is connected to the main route between Sudbury and Bury- the busy A134- that passes through the north eastern part of the parish. The rest of the parish is served by a network of narrow and winding lanes that radiate through the farmland to connect the settlement clusters and the outlying halls and farms.
18. Shimpling is moderately well served by footpaths. Most of them are focused in the north of the parish, radiating out from Shimpling Street to link with other

clusters and other villages. In terms of networks for health and fitness, the winding lanes provide some amenity, but speeding cars and large HGV vehicles serving the farms, means they are often a somewhat dangerous option for pedestrians. However, they do link up with the footpaths to help provide various circular routes.

19. Three of the paths form a section of the St Edmund Way, an 80 mile designated recreational long distance route that begins at Manningtree and ends at Brandon. A national cycle route also passes through the parish - Suffolk Cycle Route A1.

Challenges and Opportunities:

20. Issues facing Shimpling in the future might include:

- Potential change in the agricultural sector resulting in land use and diversification in response to post-Brexit changes to agricultural policy.
- Potential increasing reliance on solar and wind turbine generated energy in response to climate change and energy security. Green energy provision should be supported but good site planning and mitigation measures should come along side.
- Settlement expansion in the main village.

21. Neighbourhood Plans are also an opportunity to start a dialogue about environmental improvements and future new directions. These could include:

- Enhance and extend existing PRoW network, particularly where new circular routes can be created.
- Ensure any new development is an exemplar for sustainable build methods, yet reflecting the vernacular aesthetic to conserve sense of place
- Meaningful biodiversity enhancements to strengthen, extend and connect the ancient woodlands on the boundaries of the parish and other existing green infrastructure throughout the parish;
- Habitat creation, such as community woodland, as a result of developers' contributions, such as meeting Net Gain requirements particularly where it links habitats.
- Support farmers to identify further opportunities for Stewardship-type schemes, habitat conservation / restoration and water quality initiatives.

Part 2: Designations and policy



2. Designations and policy context

Landscape policy

1. The need for Local Authorities and applicants to understand and respond to local character is now emphasised at all levels of the planning system. Following the lead of the District Council, the Shimpling Neighbourhood Plan group must also integrate a requirement for the protection of landscape character and settlement identity into their plan making process. This makes for better design outcomes and ensures compliance with the planning framework that the Plan will sit within.
2. At the National Level the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out principles for how landscape character must be considered. Paragraph 135 requires 'good design' and states that planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:
 - *will function well and add to the overall quality of the area,*
 - *are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;*
 - **are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change.**
3. In addition, Para 139 also guides new design. It states, in determining applications;
 - ‘.. significant weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, **so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings**’.
5. Further upstream, beyond the boundaries of the National Landscape, the Stour valley continues to have special qualities. The very rolling area around the picturesque villages of Bures, Lamarsh, Alphamstone and Henny is mapped by the NL/AOBN Group as the 'Stour Project Area'. The Group believe the policy protection afforded to the NL should be extended to this area. Their campaign continues.
6. Here, higher in the valley, before the flood plains have developed, the basin topography can be more subtle and the lack of the valley floor means the traditional meadows are absent and modern farming has been able to take more hold of the landscape. Nevertheless, there is evidence that the landscape in Shimpling was noted as being of higher value. The recently replaced 2006 Babergh Local Plan defined a 'Special Landscape Area', (SLAs) that covered most of Shimpling and five of the adjoining parishes to the west and south (see figure 10). This is now considered a 'historic' policy designation.
7. SLAs were first proposed in the 1980 and 90s, to provide an additional layer of protection for landscapes of higher value, and the principles were set out at County level in the Suffolk Structure Plan. This defined SLAs criteria broadly as:
 - River valleys which still possess traditional grazing meadows with their hedgerows, dykes, and associated flora and fauna;
 - Historic parklands and gardens;
 - Other areas of countryside where undulating topography and natural vegetation, particularly broad-leaved woodland, combine to produce an area of special landscape quality and character.
8. The SLA designation was attached to a district planning policy that guided how development in these defined areas was to be approached. Policy stated that development proposals in Special Landscape Areas would only be permitted where they 'maintain or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area' and ensure that the proposal is designed and sited so as to 'harmonise' with the landscape setting
9. The district councils were tasked with defining the geographical areas of SLAs in

District Landscape approach

4. Shimpling is not in any formally designated landscape but is in the upper reaches of the Chad Brook valley that feeds into the Dedham Vale Stour Valley National Landscape (previously known as AONB), downstream. That area is designated for its traditional, scenic lowland valley character, the setting to many a Constable and Gainsborough painting.

2. Designations and policy context continued:-

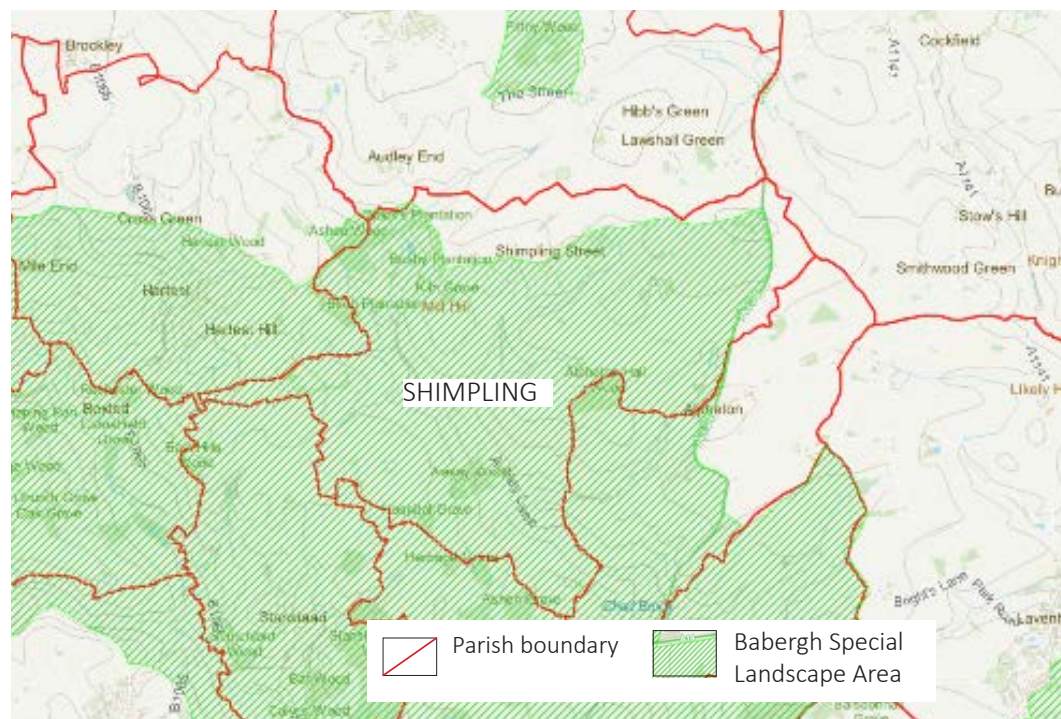


FIGURE 10; THE 'HISTORIC' LOCAL PLAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA (SLA)

their respective local plans and providing accompanying policy wording. Babergh mapped a number of SLAs that included the valley of the Chad Brook. Policy criteria were set out in Local Plan policy but there is no record of any assessments undertaken which justify the extent of each SLAs. This is one reason why SLAs have been removed across the County as the districts renew their Local Plans.

10. At the time of preparing this Assessment the District Council had adopted Part 1 of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. Part 1 contains the strategic planning policies and the development management policies for the area. The adoption of Part 1 meant that Special Landscape Areas previously identified in the

Local Plan have now fallen away. Instead, the new Joint Local Plan (JLP) will take the approach that all landscapes have value, and that all development proposals must demonstrate sympathy with local character and distinctiveness. The exception will be landscape that falls inside Suffolk's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which are subject to additional protection, through policy LP19 of the JLP.

11. The Neighbourhood plan must also sit within, and be consistent with the requirements of BSMDC Landscape policy. Policy LP17 of the new JLP specifically focuses on landscape and character. It states:

Policy LP17 - Landscape

1. To conserve and enhance landscape character development must:
 - a. Integrate with the existing landscape character of the area and reinforce the local distinctiveness and identity of individual settlements;
 - b. Be sensitive to the landscape and visual amenity impacts (including on dark skies and tranquil areas) on the natural environment and built character; and
 - c. Consider the topographical cumulative impact on landscape sensitivity.
2. Where significant landscape or visual impacts are likely to occur, a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) or a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) must be prepared to identify ways of avoiding, reducing and mitigating any adverse effects and opportunities for enhancement.

12. Planning in relation to landscape is also supported at District level by the 'Joint Landscape Guidance' noted above which was published in 2015. Guidance is provided for each landscape character type found in Babergh. The implications for this are set out in the next section.

Designations

13. The following table sets out the designations that are found in the parish. These are mapped on figure 11.

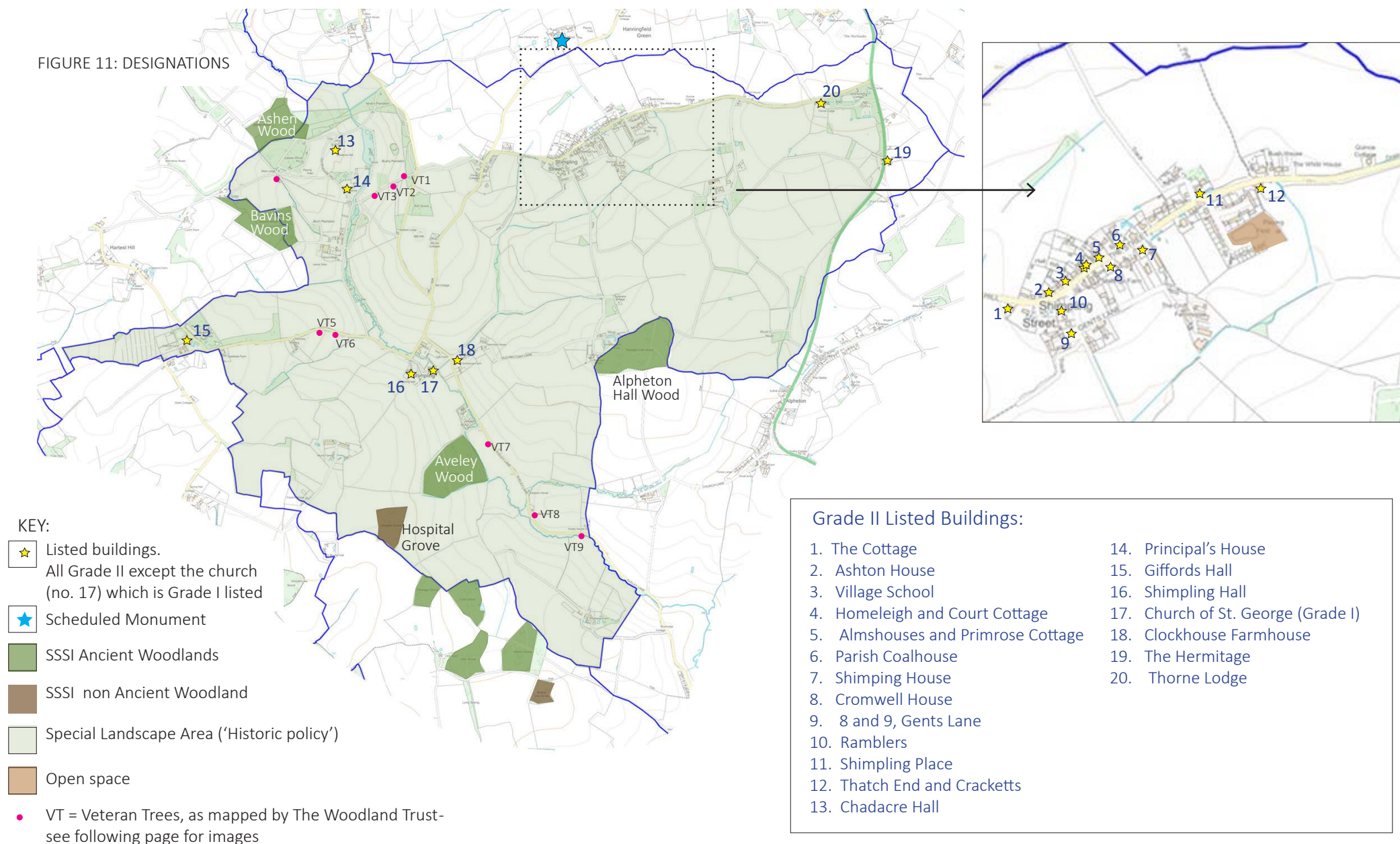
2. Designations and policy context continued:-

Table 2.1: Designations

	Designation	Importance	No. present	Location	Description
Ecological	RAMSAR, SPA, SAC	European	0	n/a	n/a
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI	National	2 entirety: 2 partial:	Kentwell Woods SSSI- Aveley Wood & Hospital Grove Frithy and Chadacre Woods SSSI Bavins Wood (most in Hartest parish) & Ashen Wood (most in Hartest parish)	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodlands
	National Nature Reserve	National	0	n/a	n/a
	Local Nature Reserve	District/Local	0	n/a	n/a
	County Wildlife Sites	County/regional	0	n/a	n/a
	Ancient Woodland	National	3	Aveley Wood Part of Bavins Wood Part of Ashen Wood	Broadleaved woodland, medieval earthworks
Heritage	Conservation Area	National	0	n/a	n/a
	Listed Buildings Grade I	National	19	See fig 11	Refer to Historic England web resource for listings
	Listed Buildings Grade II	National	1	See fig 11	Refer to Historic England web resource for listings
	Scheduled monument	National	0 in parish	1 Scheduled Monument just outside the parish. See fig 11	n/a
Landscape	Statutory designation eg National Landscape	National	0	n/a	n/a
	Policy designation	County	1	Much of the parish was Special Landscape Area. See figure 11.	(Historic policy designation now.)
	Veteran trees, as mapped at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk (ancient tree may have legal protection if habitat to legally protected species but otherwise have little legal protection).	National	9	In the lower lying valley bottoms in the west side of the parish.	Community survey took place to check the trees still present. See photos on page 20.

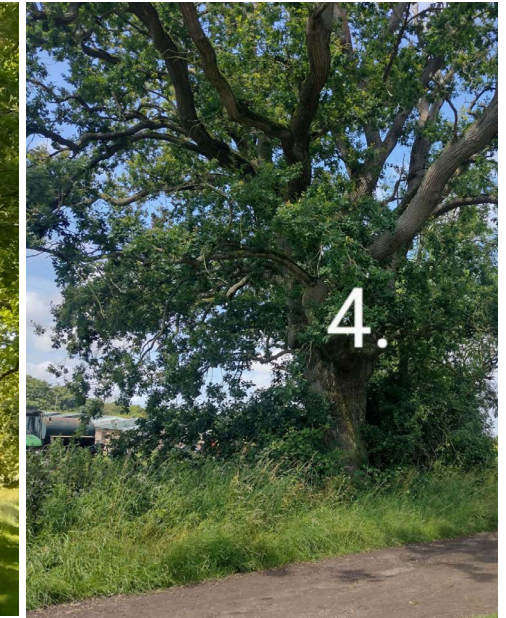
2. Designations and policy context continued:-

FIGURE 11: DESIGNATIONS



Veteran Trees as mapped on previous page

Photos supplied by parish group



Part 3: Character context



3. Landscape Character Context

1. Parish level character assessments fit into a wider structure of landscape characterisation that has been developing over the last 25 years in the UK. The English landscape is assessed and mapped at larger spatial scales- there is a National Character assessment and also a County level assessment available in Suffolk. Both of these are relevant and provide the context into which this parish level study fits.
2. 'Landscape' is understood as a result of the interaction of the natural, physical components of the environment with the human elements- historical and cultural, land use and human interventions over time. Character maps describe the variations in physical, natural and cultural attributes that relate to the landscape, as well as its experiential characteristics, such as tranquillity. Landscapes are not just experienced visually, but through sounds, smells, memories and cultural associations. Landscape Character Assessment presents descriptions of these attributes in a consistent, robust and structured way so the characteristics of different areas can be understood and compared. The process analyses the differences which combine to create unique and distinctive sets of characteristics.
3. Character Assessment helps provide an understanding of 'sense of place' in Shimpling by looking at;
 - how the village developed historically, its position in the landscape, and how this should limit or influence any future growth;
 - the factors that make it distinctive
 - how character varies across the parish from valley bottom to plateau top.
 - how its location, heritage, and open spaces and vegetative features contribute to character and how these, and other aspects of value, should be subject to protection;
 - where and how any important views within the village contribute to its identity
4. Taking a landscape character-led approach to the Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that local distinctiveness is maintained and enhanced, highly valued places and views are identified and development is directed to the 'right' places. The assessment will also seek to identify opportunities for landscape enhancement that could be the subject of future projects.
5. This parish study identifies rural landscape character *areas* but references the relevant *types* identified in Suffolk County Council's Landscape Character Assessment.

Landscape typologies explained:

Landscape character types are landscapes with broadly similar combinations of geology, landform, vegetation, land use, field and settlement patterns. They might repeat across Suffolk so that landscapes of a particular type, such as 'Valley meadowlands' or 'Plateau estate farmlands', can be found in several different places across the county. They are labelled according to the position in the landscape along with a label relating to soil profile and/or farm type.

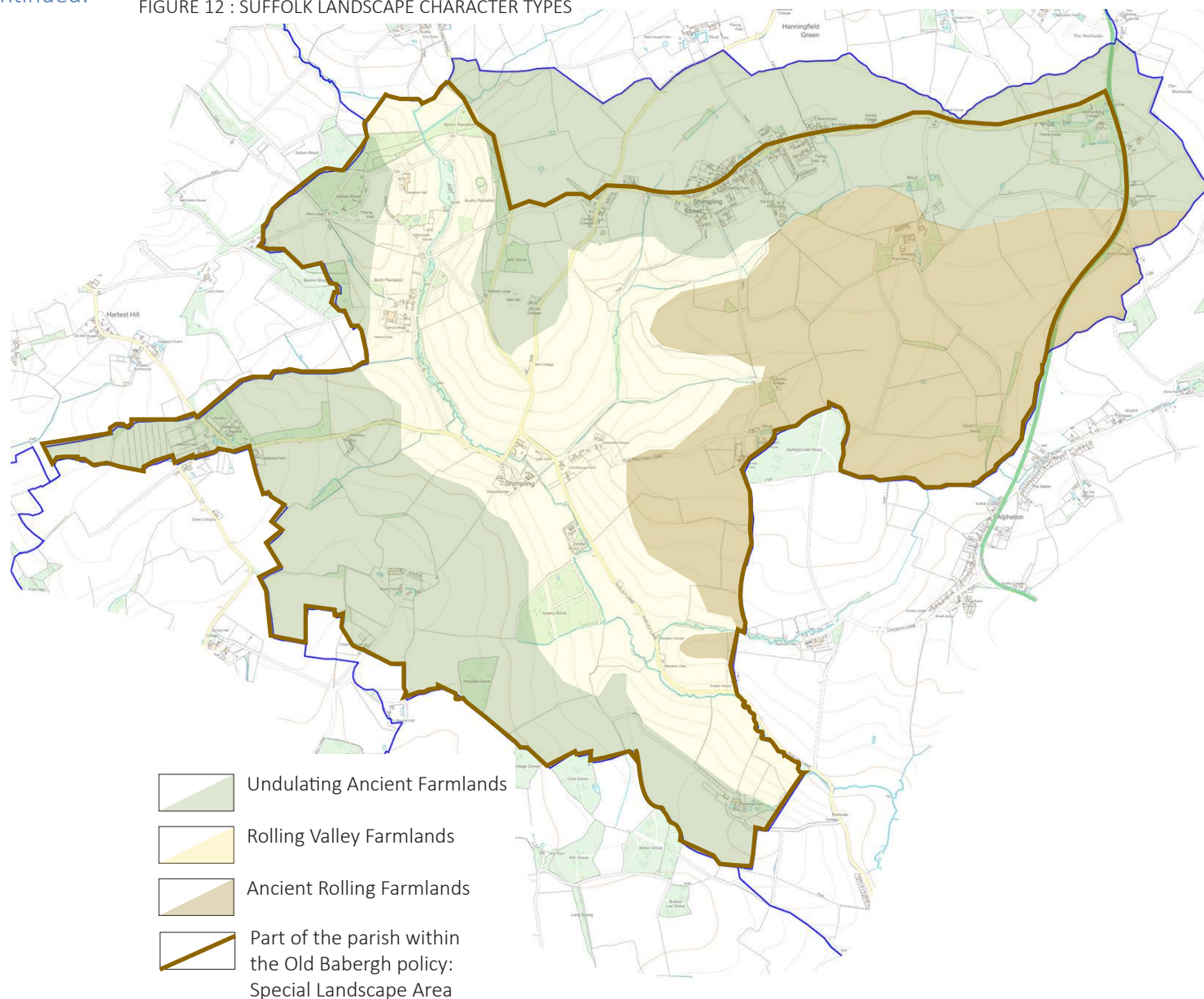
Landscape character areas are unique units that occur in only one place and are therefore geographically specific. They have their own individual character and identity and are labelled according to some local place or feature.

National level Assessment

6. At the largest scale there are 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). The descriptions for these are available on the Natural England website. The parish of Shimpling is within NCA 86 'South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland'.
7. The published NCA describes an ancient landscape of wooded, arable countryside with a distinct sense of enclosure. The overall character is of a gently undulating, chalky boulder clay plateau, the undulations being caused by the numerous small-scale river valleys that dissect the plateau. There is a complex network of old species-rich hedgerows, ancient woods and parklands, meadows with streams, and rivers that flow eastwards. Traditional irregular field patterns are still discernible over much of the area, despite field enlargements in the second half of the 20th century. The widespread moderately fertile, chalky clay soils give the vegetation a more or less calcareous character. The parish landscape certainly fits this description well.
8. In terms of settlement the text describes an area of notable medieval towns and villages, such as Long Melford, Lavenham, Cavendish and Thaxted, which support many vernacular buildings dating from the 13th to 17th centuries when the wool and cloth trades brought considerable wealth. Traditional settlements are characterised by organic street patterns, large churches – sometimes overlooking village greens – and groups of colour-washed medieval houses. A strong network of public rights of way provides access to the area's archetypal lowland English countryside.
9. You can access the full description at <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5095677797335040>

3.1. Landscape Character Context continued:-

FIGURE 12 : SUFFOLK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES



County Level Assessment

10. Offering a finer grain of detail is the Suffolk County Council Landscape Character Assessment¹ which was first published in 2008 (updated 2011). It is a good and comprehensive assessment and describes 31 character types within Suffolk as a whole.
11. The assessment maps three Landscape Character Types in the parish of Shimpling as presented on figure 12. The valley bottom is Rolling Valley Farmlands. The adjoining valley sides are Undulating Ancient Farmlands to the north and west, and Ancient Rolling farmlands to the east. The differences between these two types are, when considered at the County level, relatively subtle. A summary of the published text for each character type is shown on the following pages.
12. The guidance that accompanies each type, from the Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Landscape Guidance is also provided as it helps set direction for change management that should be carried through to parish character areas. This is a useful reference for Shimpling Parish Council in shaping Neighbourhood Plan policy or for responding to planning applications.

Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment: Rolling Valley Farmlands - summary

Key Characteristics

Gentle valley sides with some complex and steep slopes
 Deep well drained loamy soils
 Organic pattern of fields smaller than on the plateaux
 Distinct areas of regular field patterns
 A scattering of landscape parks
 Small ancient woodlands on the valley fringes
 Sunken lanes
 Towns and villages with distinctive mediaeval cores and late mediaeval churches
 Industrial activity and manufacture, continuing in the Gipping valley
 Large, often moated, houses

Forces for change and sensitivities

- Expansion of settlements.
- Construction of large agricultural buildings.
- Expansion of garden curtilage.
- Change of land use, especially the creation of horse paddocks.
- Impact of deer on the condition of woodland cover.
- Mineral extraction.

Land Management Guidelines

- Reinforce the historic pattern of sinuous field boundaries.
- Recognise localised areas of late enclosure hedges when restoring and planting hedgerows.
- Maintain and increase the stock of hedgerow trees.
- Increase the area of woodland cover; siting should be based on information from the Historic Landscape Characterisation and in consultation with the Archaeological Service.
- Maintain and restore the stock of moats and ponds in this landscape

Guidance from the BMS Joint Landscape Guidelines (2015):

Aims

- To retain, enhance and restore the distinctive landscape and settlement character.
- In particular strengthening the rolling valley landscape with appropriate planting and safeguarding the dispersed settlement pattern

Objectives

- To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape and settlement pattern.
- To safeguard the parkland areas, Village Greens and Tyes
- To safeguard and appropriately increase the woodland cover

BMS Key Design Principles

I. Due to the rolling landscape, development in this area is considered to have a wide zone of visual impact. All development must take into consideration the cultural and historic importance of this area and the potential visual impact on AONB and Conservation Areas

II. Reinforce the parkland and village green features in new developments.

III. Woodlands are to be protected and maintained within this landscape character.

Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment: Undulating Ancient Farmlands - summary

Key Characteristics

Undulating arable landscape

Field pattern generally a random ancient pattern with occasional areas of regular fields associated with former mediaeval deer parks.

Oak, ash and field maple as hedgerow trees

Substantial open areas created for airfields and by post WWII agricultural improvement

Studded with blocks of ancient woodland

Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads

Villages often associated with greens or former greens

Rich stock of mediaeval and Tudor timber-framed and brick buildings and moated sites

A large scale landscape with long undulating open views trees, either in hedges or in woods, are always a prominent feature

In the undulating landscape, crop production, especially oilseeds can be visually prominent

Forces for change and sensitivities:

- Expansion of garden curtilage
- Change of land use to horse paddocks and other recreational uses
- Settlement expansion eroding the characteristic form and vernacular styles
- Conversion and expansion of farmsteads for residential uses
- Impact of deer on the condition of woodland cover
- Large-scale agricultural buildings in open countryside
- Development of wind turbines

Land Management Guidelines

- Reinforce the historic pattern of sinuous field boundaries
- Recognise localised areas of late enclosure hedges when restoring and planting hedgerows
- Maintain and restore greens and commons
- Maintain and increase the stock of hedgerow trees
- Maintain the extent and improve the condition of woodland cover with effective management
- Maintain and restore the stock of moats and ponds in this landscape.

Guidance from the BMS Joint Landscape Guidelines (2015):

Aims

- To retain and enhance the landscape and settlement character. In particular strengthening the setting of the historic and cultural features with appropriate planting and safeguarding the dispersed settlement pattern

Objectives

- To maintain and enhance the landscape and the settlement pattern, ensuring the sense of separation between settlements is maintained.
- To reinforce and enhance the rural, quiet ambience of the area
- To safeguard the ancient woodland and hedges

BMS Key Design Principles

- I. Ancient woodlands and old existing hedges are to be protected and maintained within this landscape character.
- II. Reinforce the village green open space features in new developments.
- III. To maintain the character and condition of the landscape any major developments will enter into a Section 106 Legal Agreement for landscaping.
- IV. Settlement screening, where appropriate, is essential when considering all new development proposals

Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment: Ancient Rolling Farmlands - summary

Key Characteristics

Rolling arable landscape of chalky clays and loams

Dissected widely, and sometimes deeply, by river valleys. Dissection action by the area's rivers has produced a variety of soil types including patches of sands and gravels resulting in small heaths.

Organic pattern of species-rich hedgerows and associated ditches demonstrating ancient random enclosure. The hedges are frequently high and wide and have a strong visual impact- hawthorn and elm with oak, ash and field maple as hedgerow trees.

Substantial open areas between the river valleys were used for military airfields. Some areas of openness also created on plateaux as a result of 20th century farming practice amalgamating small fields systems into larger units.

Scattered with ancient woodland parcels containing a mix of oak, lime, cherry, hazel, hornbeam, ash and holly

Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads of mediaeval origin

Farmstead buildings are predominantly timber-framed, the houses colour-washed and the barns blackened with tar. Roofs are frequently tiled, though thatched houses can be locally significant

Villages often associated with village greens or the remains of greens

This area has a network of winding lanes and paths often associated with hedges that, together with the rolling countryside, can give a feeling of intimacy. However, the areas of field amalgamation have also created longer views of a rolling lightly wooded countryside.

Forces for change and sensitivities

- Historic patterns within parishes are easily lost to infill and ribbon development.
- The recurring airfields are often the focus of industrial and transport orientated development that can have a considerable local visual impact.
- Ancient woodland can be at risk from inappropriate management and neglect including a lack of deer control.
- Important array of moated sites and farmsteads which are often the focus for redevelopment and modification. Includes potential loss of individual buildings/features, development of garden curtilages. Cumulative effects can result as pattern repeats.
- Intake of greens commons and tyes into domestic curtilages has a detrimental effect.
- Potential for considerable visual intrusion from modern day agricultural sheds if the siting, finish, and planting is not appropriate.

Guidance from the BMS Joint Landscape Guidelines (2015):

Aims

- To retain, enhance and restore the distinctive landscape and settlement character. In particular safeguarding the influences of the area.

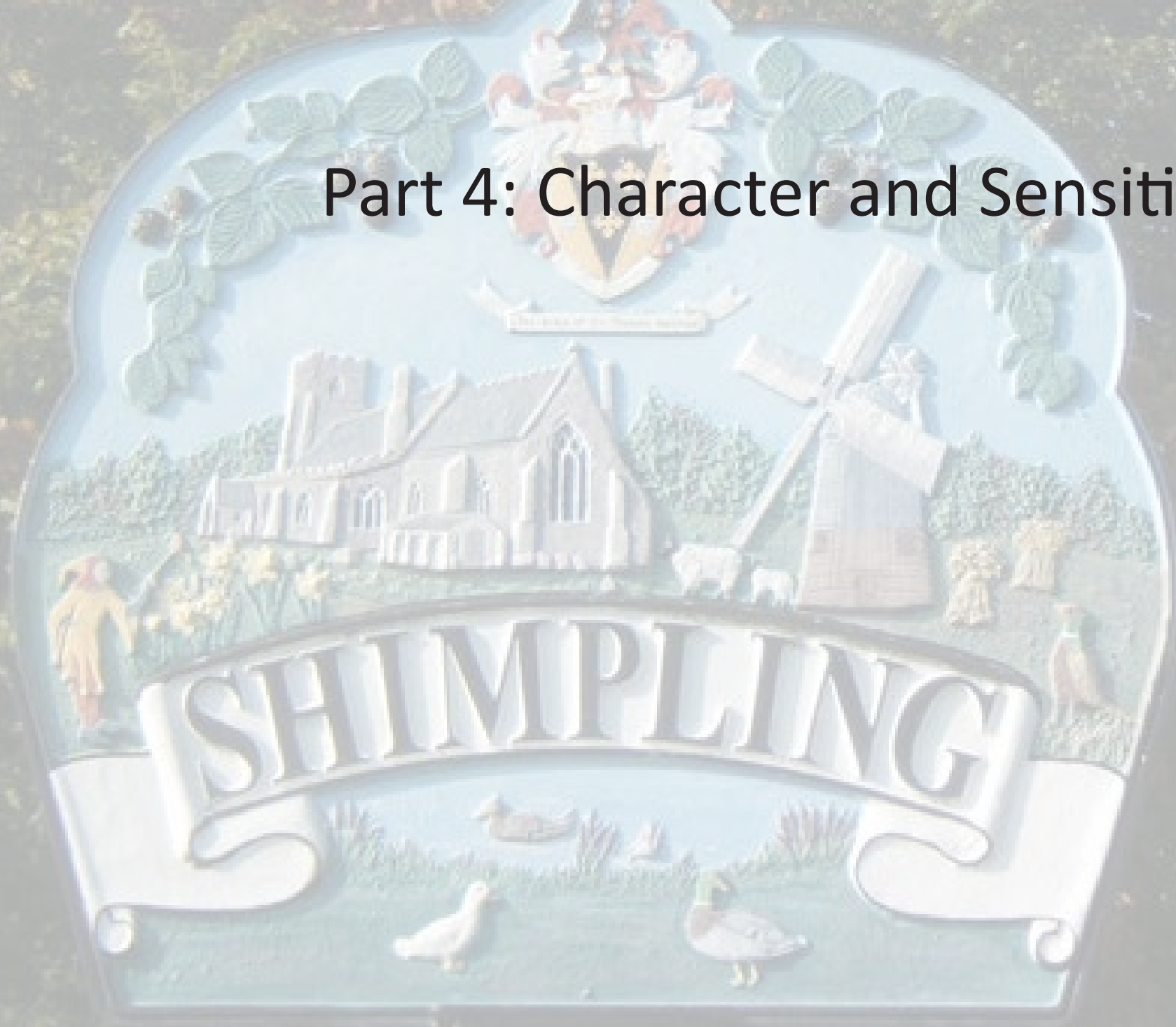
Objectives

- To maintain and enhance the landscape and the settlement pattern, ensuring the sense of separation between settlements is maintained.
- To reinforce hedgerows of locally native species and retain the existing field boundaries.
- To safeguard the ancient hedgerow and woodland areas
- To safeguard the orchard areas

BMS Key Design Principles

- There are significant sized areas of open landscape providing wide panoramic views, with the potential of any form of development to be visibility intrusive if it has been designed without sufficient screening, appropriate landscape design plan or appropriate siting.
- Maintain the distinctive settlement pattern, ensuring the sense of separation between settlements is maintained.
- Retain rural character of the small settlements, by avoiding the use of standardised and intrusive urban materials and features; conservation areas and areas that fall within the AONB are particularly sensitive in this respect
- Minimise the cumulative visual impact of equine development and ancillary equipment within this landscape character.
- Restore, maintain and enhance Greens and Tyes, orchards and woodland areas.
- Hedging for boundaries will be designed to reflect the local character of exiting planting to minimise the landscape and visual impacts on the distinctive character of the area.
- To maintain the character and condition of the landscape any major developments will enter into a Section 106 Legal Agreement for on and off site landscaping including enhancing field boundaries with local hedging and tree species.

Part 4: Character and Sensitivity



4. Parish Character Assessment for Shimpling

4.1 Methods of Assessment

1. The first stage of this study was the parish-wide character assessment. This was followed by an analysis of issues of landscape and visual sensitivity in the settlement fringes of each character area. Methods used follow nationally accepted best practice and available guidance ¹ and, in the interests of brevity, are not replicated here.
2. The study does not consider the different character areas within the village settlement itself.
6. The draft boundaries were submitted to the Shimpling Neighbourhood Plan group for comment before the final descriptions for each area were written up in full. The descriptions are supported by a set of representative illustrative photographs. The topics are considered under set headings, as set out in table 4.1:

Parish Landscape Character Assessment

3. The boundaries for the parish LCA were initially drafted through desktop study. The starting point was the available Suffolk Character Assessment - the boundaries used for this assessment helped provide a basis for parish character areas.
4. To develop a further level of detail, mapped information was overlaid, using Adobe design software, on the district character type boundaries. The following sources were used:
 - Topography data from OS maps
 - Soils and geology data from Landis/BGS
 - Designations for heritage and ecology information from government GIS website Magic Map ²
 - Historic mapping from National Library of Scotland website
 - Google's aerial photography
 - Historic England designation maps
 - Babergh Mid Suffolk GIS mapping software
 - Natural England Green Infrastructure GIS
5. The initial desktop stage resulted in a set of 5 draft character areas, which were then tested and adjusted following visual survey in the field. Existing mapped lines and 'on the ground' features were used to define and draw the boundaries.
7. The next step was to assess the sensitivity of the land fringing the settlement in each of the 5 character areas. A set of tables were prepared that allowed sequential assessment of the landscape value and visual sensitivity in each part of the settlement's fringe. This is presented as the final page of each character area description. It provides detail on the specific landscape and visual issues in each part of the fringe and sets out future management objectives.
8. Shimpling has a single defined settlement cluster. Outside of this any development would be considered to be in 'countryside'. Development in countryside has less support in the National Planning Policy Framework and district planning policy and must meet strict tests to be acceptable. But where land abuts the existing built-up area there is usually more scope for development than on land separated from the village edge. This is why the fringes are likely to experience most pressure for future change and development and why they are the focus of study in this way.
9. This study provides an understanding of the sensitivity of the various fringe areas and whether there is any potential ability (in landscape terms) for allocating or consenting sites for development. New housing should only be consented or planned in appropriate locations that do not harm the special character of the village, or its valued views or features, (and where all other policy tests are met).

¹ 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment', Natural England, 2014

² magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap

4. Parish Character Assessment for Shimpling continued:-

TABLE 4.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: HEADINGS AND EXPLANATION:

Physical landscape	Location and underlying character type	Reference to the relevant underlying landscape type in the Suffolk Character Assessment. The location of the area within the village.
	Topography / hydrology / position in the landscape	Describes where the area sits within the landscape. Describes the landform, its elevation in metres above ordnance datum (AOD); whether there are water courses or ponds in the area; the direction that drainage basins fall toward.
	Landcover/Landuse	Describes how the land is being used, the types of farming or cropping, and whether it is being managed for other activities, such as shooting. It describes the pattern of enclosures. What patterns the landscape demonstrates in terms of the size and form of its fields, e.g. whether organic or geometric in shape, and the presence or absence of boundary hedges.
	Trees and woodland Cover cover	The amount and type of woodland present. Whether it's ancient or of more recent origin.
Cultural perceptual, and aesthetic:	Scale and enclosure	Whether a feeling of openness or containment prevails, given the arrangement of vegetation and topography. The degree to which an area's pattern of subdivisions is small and frequent (fine grain), or large and infrequent (coarse grain).
	Historic landscape/time depth	Lists historic aspects of value such as Listed buildings/structures or Scheduled Monuments. How today's patterns relate to the historic patterns and how legible the historic Anglo-Saxon landscape still is.
	Settlement interfaces and road network	Describes the pattern of settlement found, the shape or form and 'grain' of the settlement. Describes the transition between settlement and the countryside. Includes the forms of roads.
	Perceptual and visual experience/tranquillity	Whether the area feels noisy or tranquil, busy or remote and isolated. Whether the landscape feels well cared for and in good condition, or where there are aspects that are degraded or cause visual intrusion. Judgement about the level of tranquillity. Identify any sources of noise, movement and disruption. Description of the visual experience- whether views are generally open or intimate, whether long or short; how scenic they are. Whether the area feels noisy or tranquil, busy or remote and isolated. Whether the landscape feels well cared for and in good condition, or where there are aspects that are degraded or cause visual intrusion. Are there any Key views in the area?
	Indicators of value and Rights of Way	Areas designated and protected for geological or biological conservation, such as SSSI's and County Wildlife Sites; ancient woodland and veteran trees. Designated greenspace or public open space, or other features which contribute positively to the character of an area. The presence of any footpaths or rights of way or recreation sites.
Management issues	Issues / Change pressures	Is any aspect under threat? What should be the objectives for conservation or enhancement? Are there possibilities for future creation of ecological habitat, or expanded recreation, etc.

4. Parish Character Assessment for Shimpling continued:-

Sensitivity assessment- method

10. This study will assist with the following task and decisions:

- a) provide the Neighbourhood Plan group an aid for making sound decisions in relation to spatial planning and policy formation, in relation to landscape;
- b) provide evidence to help the parish respond to future planning applications;
- c) help identify and justify land for allocation, (or not) and aid site planning on any such land;
- d) aid transparency; it is important that residents and land owners understand why decisions have been made, particularly in relation to allocation, and understand where development might be supported and where it might be discouraged;
- e) identify opportunities for the enhancement, management and conservation of the landscape and views.

11. It is important to note that the results of the study are not intended to suggest specific development site areas or define future settlement boundaries. The study also takes no account of other factors that would influence development, for example such as availability of land, flood risk, sustainability issues or whether highways access is possible.

12. Methods for assessing landscape sensitivity have only fairly recently been published. *“An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management”* was published in June 2019 (Christine Tudor, Natural England). The guidance urges studies to be simple, transparent, robust and defensible. An idealised process schematic is shown at the end of this document.

13. The guidance provides the following definition of sensitivity (p5):

‘..Landscape sensitivity may be regarded as a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change arising from development types or land management practices, without undue negative effects on the landscape and visual baseline and their value... a process that assesses the resilience / robustness of landscape character and the visual resource – and what we value - to a defined change, or changes..’

14. The assessment relies on the premise that development or change should be more readily acceptable in the least sensitive areas, and where appropriate forms of mitigation would be possible. Development would be least acceptable in areas of higher landscape value and where visual sensitivity is high, and/or where conditions are such that the landscape would be sensitive to available mitigation measures.

15. Conditions indicating HIGH sensitivity are where **landscape value** is high and where **visual sensitivity** is high, for example in the following scenarios:

- Where impacts might result to recognised indicators of value- the setting of heritage features (such as listed buildings) or key landmark buildings
- Where impacts might result to natural or topographic features that contribute notably to local character and sense of place
- Where impacts might result because land is very visually prominent, and openness is an essential contributor to character
- Where settlement has stark edges and assimilation of new development would be hard
- Where commonly valued ‘Key’ scenic views, that are important to the experience of a settlement, are vulnerable
- Where a large number of people might be affected, and/or viewers would be considered sensitive (i.e. views experience directly from homes or busy recreational areas)
- Where a sense of tranquillity is strong

16. Conditions indicating LOW sensitivity are where **landscape value** is low and where **visual sensitivity** is low, for example in the following scenarios:

- Where there is a lack of any designations for landscape, ecology or heritage,
- Where there is little visual amenity or aesthetical value in the views affected
- Where the landscape does not fall into any key views of the village and/or has little scenic value
- Where land is contained or well vegetated and where development could be assimilated without wider impact

4. Parish Character Assessment for Shimpling continued:-

- Where development would fit well with the historic pattern of settlement development
 - Where development might offer the opportunity for the enhancement or reinforcement of character.
 - Where there are few receptors- few opportunities for people to view change
 - Where a sense of tranquillity is absent
17. In most cases, the conditions aren't so clear cut and professional judgement has to be applied to determine values.
18. Further example circumstances indicating higher and lesser value are given in the tables in 4.2 (landscape related factors) and 4.3 (visual and perceptual related factors) that follow.

TABLE 4.2 INDICATORS OF VALUE & SENSITIVITY: Landscape

LANDSCAPE FACTORS		Lower value and/or sensitivity ←-----→ Higher value and/or sensitivity		
Physical landscape and vegetation	Vulnerability of 'sense of place' to the loss or erosion of visible landform or hydrological features. Extent that vegetative features such as woodland, significant trees, or hedges, would foreseeable be lost/compromised as a result of development.	No loss of distinctive landform; landform plays little role in defining local character. No significant vegetation would be lost, or minor losses but easy to mitigate.	Some loss of landform or water features that play some role in defining character. Moderate loss of vegetative features but mitigation generally viable.	Significant loss of distinctive landform that is important to local character, or vegetative feature and/or water course, and where mitigation would be difficult.
Settlement Pattern and gateways	Vulnerability of the distinctive and historic settlement pattern. Consideration of the nature and form of the adjacent settlement edges and gateways. Likelihood of successful integration with existing edges- modern or historic. Likelihood of causing coalescence between the main village and other hamlets. Prominence of character area relating to gateway or arrival points where sense of place would be influenced.	Development within the character area would fit well with the settlement pattern given its location, size and position in the landscape. No impact to distinctive arrival points. No disruption to historic patterns.	Development of the character area would be somewhat discordant with the historic settlement pattern, given its location, size and position in the landscape; potential for minor adverse impacts to distinctive arrival points.	Development of any part the character area would be very discordant with the historic settlement pattern, given its location, size and position in the landscape; potential for adverse impact to distinctive arrival points.
Local rural character	To what extent does the character area contribute to local distinctiveness and sense of pace and how vulnerable would the characteristics it be if development was to take place.	Contributes little to local landscape character, possibly with even detracting elements. Loss of historic patterns; hedges absent. Landscape in poor condition and good potential for enhancement	Contributes to distinctive rural character. Condition of features mixed, some hedgerow trees endure. Some indication of time-depth/ historic continuity	Area contributes notably to distinctive rural character and features intact hedges, mature trees- landscape in good condition. Strong indication of time-depth / historic continuity
Biodiversity and wildlife	Extent of potential harm to features with ecological value and as part of ecological network.	Little current value; little foreseeable impact to ecological system/wildlife and/or mitigation very feasible	Limited current value and modest foreseeable impact to ecological system or to wildlife and mitigation feasible	Value high and foreseeable harmful impact to ecological system mitigation unlikely to be feasible
Historic Landscape	Relationship of the character area to the setting of Listed Buildings or to Conservation Area. Extent of potential impact on the historic landscape.	No impact on Heritage Assets or CA. No loss of historic landscape features.	Some inter-visibility between Heritage assets and character area. Some loss of a historic landscape features.	Foreseeable direct impact on at least one designated asset or loss of a historic landscape feature.

Table 4.3 INDICATORS OF VALUE & SENSITIVITY: Visual and Perceptual

VISUAL AND PERCEPTUAL FACTORS		LOWER value and/or sensitivity ←-----→ HIGHER value and/or sensitivity		
Visual prominence	How generally visible the site is from the surrounding landscape, and how prominently the land is located within views from the village edge or principal roads. Vulnerability of skylines. Impact on any notable views.	Conditions combine to make views of the area generally difficult to experience. Limited visibility from principal routes or arrival points. Intact hedge network, woodland or existing urban edge provides good screening and assimilation potential. No mitigation required.	Some views available where conditions allow. Moderately visible in views from principal routes or village edge. Boundaries partially open, some opportunity for screening and assimilation but mitigation required.	Visually prominent, forming part of view from many points. Integral part of view from one or more principal routes or village edge. Boundaries very open, little opportunity for screening and assimilation. Extensive mitigation would be needed.
Visual amenity	Nature of impacts on the visual amenity of existing residents and other sensitive receptors such as users of footpaths.	No views from visually sensitive receptors. Any visual impacts are on receptors of low sensitivity; e.g. minor road users, people at work. No impacts on Key Views	Views from a few visually sensitive points and/or at longer range. Views are Moderately sensitive; e.g. some views from dwellings at some distance. Some limited influence on Key View	Direct and close range views from one or more sensitive receptors. Highly sensitive receptors such as footpath users and residents with ground floor views. Multiple Key View would be sensitive

4.2 Proposed Parish character areas

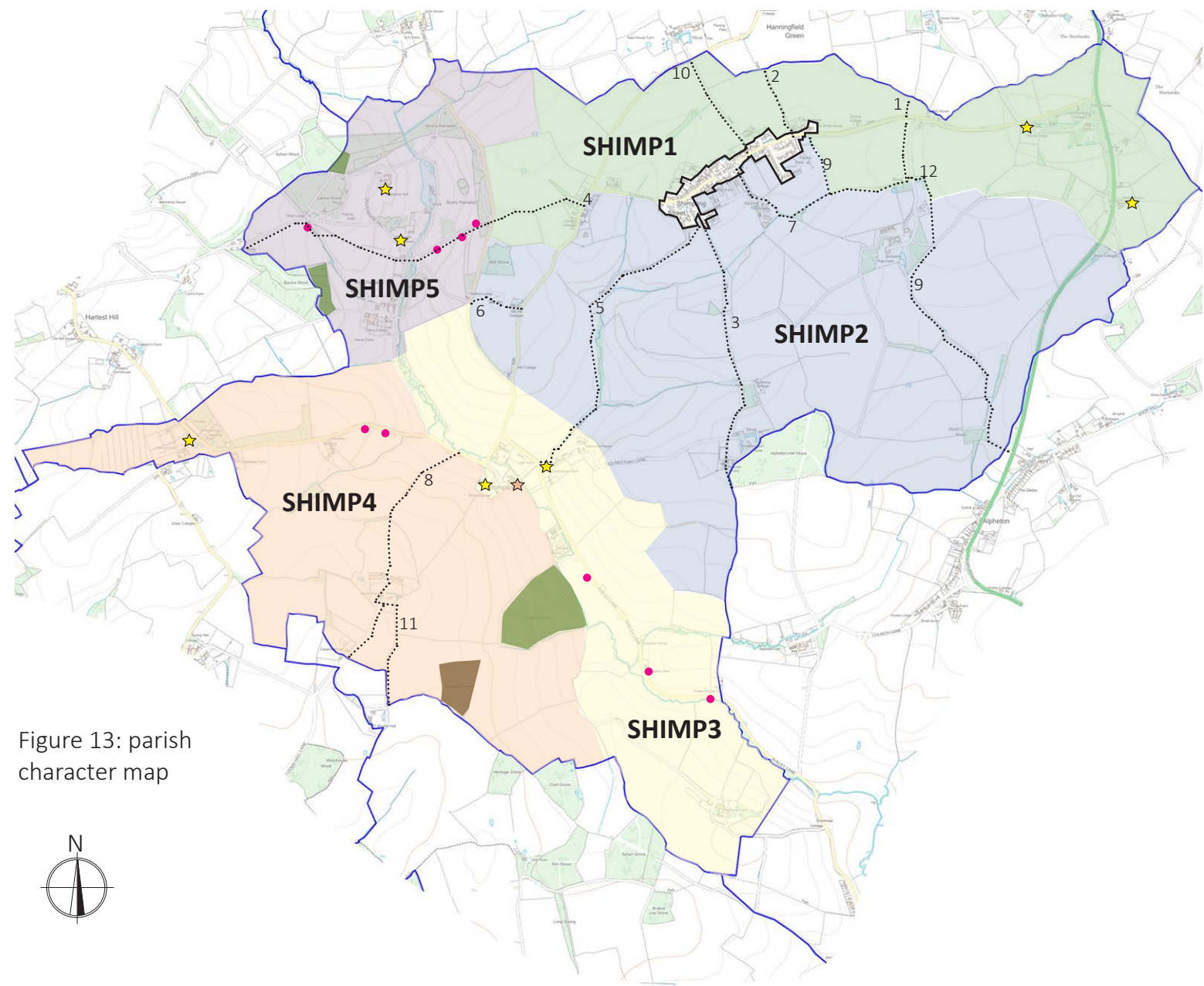


Figure 13: parish character map

The desktop study and site work resulted in the following defined parish character areas as shown on figure 13.

The map was adjusted slightly after consultation with the Neighbourhood Plan Group in March 2024.

SHIMP1 is a plateau top landscape, SHIMP 3 covers the base of the valley. SHIMP 2,4 and 5 are all valleyside landscapes, with characteristics that vary from each other, depending on the type of historic land management and landscape structure.

They are all described in more detail on the following pages.

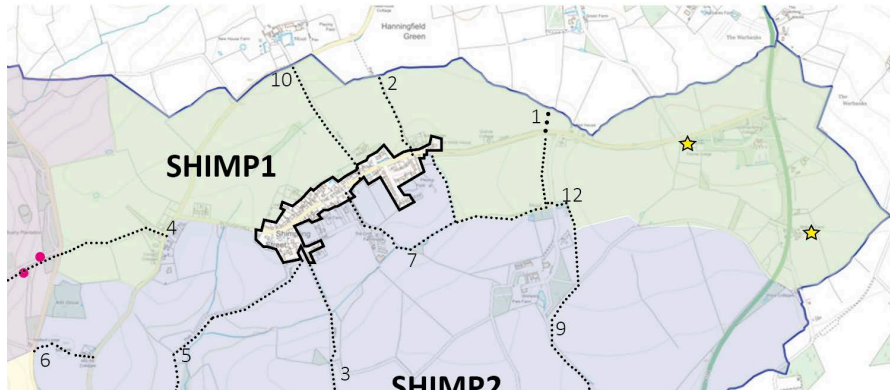
Parish character areas:

- SHIMP1- Shimpling Street
- SHIMP2 - Shimpling Park
- SHIMP3 - Chad Brook
- SHIMP4 - Mount Farm
- SHIMP5 - Chadacre Park

Aspects of value:

- Shimpling Settlement Boundary (12 listed buildings)
- Listed buildings outside settlement boundary
- Veteran Trees
- SSSI Ancient Woodlands
- SSSI non Ancient Woodland

Character description



Location and underlying landscape type

SHIMP1 occupies a longitudinal area along the north fringes of the parish, oriented in an east-west direction. It forms the rural buffer to the north and west of the main village and the smaller Slough Hill cluster. It also includes a small area east of the A134 in the far north-east which is physically and visually severed from the rest of SHIMP1.

It comprises the most elevated land in the parish, generally lying above 80m. It features in the views at the approaches to the main cluster.

It is in the Suffolk Undulating Ancient Farmlands landscape type.

Topography / hydrology / soils

This is an area of flat and very gently rolling plateau. It feels elevated over land to the south.

A stream starts to form north of the main village, draining toward the southwest, forming a shallow sub valley. Small ponds are dotted about in the farmland, and drainage ditches are maintained along some of the field boundaries.

The parish has a fairly unified soil profile- lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

Landcover/land use

Land use is primarily arable farmland, with some smaller enclosures under pasture. There are village-edge land uses around the settlement edges, and

an equestrian property in the far east.

Woodland and trees

There is a small wood bordering the area (in SHIMP 2) that has impact on the skyline. The character area, and indeed the parish in general, has a well 'treed' feel owing to the good mature hedgerow network with its many trees. These link up to give a semi-wooded character and wooded skylines.

Scale and enclosure

The scale of the landscape is medium. More efficient cereal growing fields have been created through much boundary removal in the 20th century, merging many of the small fields seen on the early OS maps into larger parcels. This creates a sense of openness in some places, and long views are possible over falling land to the south.

Historic landscape/Time-depth/ Cultural associations

Despite the reorganisation and amalgamation of the farmland, the landscape is still legible as an early enclosure ancient farmed landscape. The field shapes are organic in their form, indicating their great age. Mature trees also provide a sense of long established countryside.

Settlement interfaces and road network

This character area is a focus for settlement- the main village and Slough Hill lie between SHIMP 1 and 2, marking the edge of the plateau. It is a short distance to Lawshall to the north.

The road network is winding and organic in shape, echoing the ancient patterns in the landscape.

Indicators of value and Rights of Way

- 13 of the 20 listed buildings lie in the main village cluster. Two listed buildings lie in outlying positions.
- Several footpaths (e.g. No. 3, 5, 6 and 9) connect the settlement with the countryside to the north. These are well used as close to the main focus for population

Issues / Change pressures / Detractors

- Continued modern infill in gaps within the linear settlement
- Possible future residential pressure on land to either end of the clusters
- Change of use pressure for equine or leisure uses or other scenarios resulting in erosion of environmental quality
- Could be pressure for wind turbines as elevated plateau

Illustrative photos



View north from footpath 2 to 'treed' horizon.



Village edge is often well vegetated and soft.



View south from village edge, south of Slough Hill. Kiln Wood seen to the southwest.

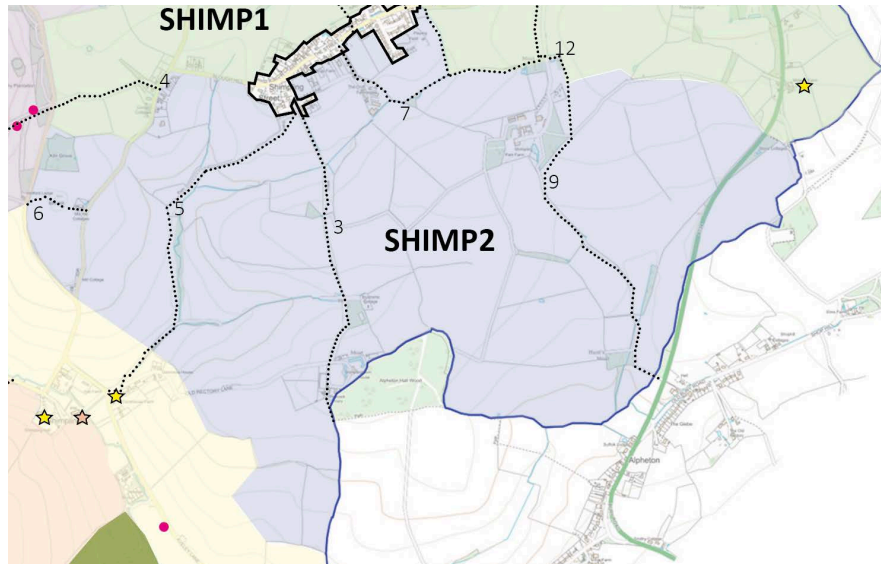


Approach to the main village from A134. Land is flat and somewhat featureless.

Value and sensitivity to potential change

	Sensitivity Factor:	Source /Evidence / Indicator	Assessment of sensitivity and value	Management recommendations	Sensitivity H/M/L
LANDSCAPE FACTORS	Physical landscape including vegetation Vulnerability of distinctive topography / water features / significant trees or other vegetation.	<i>OS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Limited amount of woodland but some good deep roadside verges and field boundary hedges. Trees link up on the skyline. Topography not particularly distinctive.	Protect the stock of hedges and trees. Protect the rural character of the deep verges, avoiding unnecessary kerbs etc. Seek opportunities to link hedges in the countryside and plant further trees. Ensure any new development is well integrated with vegetated edges.	LOW
	Settlement pattern and gateways Vulnerability of historic pattern; prominence of parcel in relation to arrival points; nature of road network/ function in relation to settlement(s)	<i>OS maps; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Settlement is linear in form, infilled and developed from the historic scattering of cottages here. Edges, around especially the older properties, are well vegetated and soft resulting in a village well integrated into the landscape. Stark modern edges are not easily perceived.	Protect the historic linear settlement pattern. Ensure the boundaries of any development reflects and integrates with the locality and are well vegetated with native hedge and trees.	MED
	Local rural landscape character Contribution of parcel and setting to local character and distinctiveness	<i>County and District Character assessment; designation history, Site observations and professional judgement</i>	The forms of villages in this area are quite distinctive - one plot deep linear clusters with deep verges- Shimpling is similar to neighbouring Lawshall (although it lacks identified 'greens' for which Lawshall is known). This character is robust- ie it could stand a degree of change without losing its key characteristics.	Protect the rural character of this area that buffers the village edge. Retain and enhance natural features.	MED
	Biodiversity and wildlife Susceptibility of designated features or features with potential value as part of ecological network	<i>Reference to GIS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Value lies in the small woodland at Kiln Wood and in the field boundary hedge network and roadside trees.	Protect natural features from loss and manage for long life and health.	LOW
	Historic landscape Sensitivity of landscape as setting to designated heritage features; impacts on Conservation Area; SMs; etc	<i>Reference to Historic England mapping; site observations.</i>	Two listed buildings in the wider landscape in the east of the parish. Others are scattered through the village cluster and are not easily seen from the landscape.	Protect the landscape setting of listed structures. Protect the historic settlement pattern and ensure any new develop reflects the local patterns of plot and frontage depth, and ensure any stark new edges have sufficient structural planting.	LOW
VISUAL / PERCEPTUAL	Visual prominence Prominence of parcel in general views around the village; vulnerability of skyline or of any important views;	<i>Site observations and professional judgement relating to visual sensitivity</i>	Parcel reasonably prominent on approaches to village, especially in winter, but where village frontage is continuous, views out to SHIMP 1 are not possible. The deep verges and thick vegetation provides enclosure and prevents longer views into SHIMP1 in summer conditions.	Protect rural character of village arrival/gateway points. Protect skyline which is potentially vulnerable along this most elevated part of the parish, although well treed village edge provides scope for some degree of change without wider impact on the valley below.	MED
	Visual amenity and perceptions Sensitivity of receptors experiencing visual Impacts; types of experiences perceived	<i>Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Not many houses have direct views out into the wider landscape as there are few gaps remaining, and boundaries tend to be well vegetated. Views from well used ROWs.	Protect undeveloped nature of SHIMP1 so that it remains a rural backdrop to the village.	MED

Character description



Location and underlying landscape type

This is the largest character area in the parish and the least visually accessible. It is a block of land on the east side of the parish. It lies between approximately the 75m and 95m contours.

It is clipped in the far east by the A134 and a single large field remains cut off from the rest of the parish. It is accessible from Old Rectory Lane to the southwest, which rises from the valley bottom close to St. Georges church, for approximately three quarters of a mile.

It is a combination of 'Ancient Rolling Farmland' and becomes 'Undulating Ancient Farmlands' as the slopes begin to form in the west.

Topography / hydrology / soils

Elevated gently rolling plateau in the east, becoming incised by the headwater streams that will join up to form the Stour valley, forming gently rolling valleyside. The parish has a fairly unified soil profile- lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

There are various farm ponds as well as two medieval moated sites. 'Ghost' ponds have been restored by the farm estate.

Landcover/land use

Almost entirely farmland, predominantly arable rotations, with grass leys, focusing

around the well known organic farm at Shimpling Park. They grow wheat, barley, spelt, quinoa, oats and beans for organic pig herds and have a large herd of New Zealand Romney sheep which graze the grass and clover leys. Nectar and bird seed mixes are also planted each year. The farm hosts a lot of education visits for both schools and interested groups and is a showcase for organic farming.

Woodland and trees

Kiln Wood is a small block of woodland in the far west- it is not listed as Ancient, nor does it have any designations. There are no large historic woodlands in this area but Alpheton Hall Wood in the adjacent parish has an impact on the skyline to the south. There are some small copses in the farmland and groups of trees planted around Shimpling Park Farm dating from the 20th century, which, in 2020, oversaw 3,500 new native trees planted in 4m wide belts for agro-forestry and carbon sequestering. The feel is well treed and this is likely to increase in future as young trees mature and there are good farmland boundary hedges with scattered trees.

Scale and enclosure

Moderate to large field sizes from 20th century amalgamation but agro-forestry is being trialed on parts of the farm which will reduce the scale of the larger units.

Historic landscape/Time-depth/ Cultural associations

Landscape is still legible as an early enclosure ancient farmed landscape. 'Park' farm indicates medieval hunting grounds. Medieval wood pasture at Shimpling Park Farm has been restored in recent years and fish ponds and moats endure. There are no listed buildings in this character area.

Settlement interfaces and road network

There are a scattering of large houses along at the top of Old Rectory Lane, some flanked by equestrian facilities. Accessed from the north is Shimpling Park Farm. There are no through roads through the area. Public access is via the footpath network and important circular footpaths to Alpheton loop through the farmlands and offer high amenity value.

Indicators of value and Rights of Way

- Bio-diverse farmland at Shimpling Park Farm with 17 years of organic management
- Good farmland bird community as a result of the land management systems
- Various footpaths head north-south from Shimpling Street connecting to other settlement clusters to the south.
- This area was, until recently, a Special Landscape Area defined by Babergh District Council

Issues / Change pressures / Detractors

- Green energy or further events or tourism related development may be integrated into the farm
- Threat from future ownership change at Shimpling Park Farm which could alter the showcase biodiverse, organic farm landscape.
- Potential approval for development of/around old farm buildings.
- Potential for consolidation/creation of circular walk at east end of Old Rectory Lane.

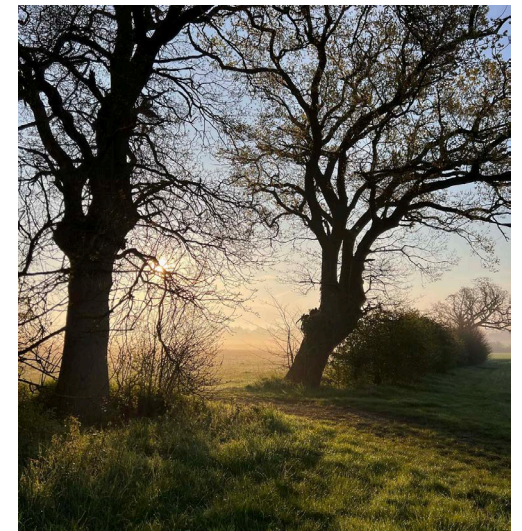
Illustrative photos



The field to the east of the A134, on the edge of an old WWII airfield.



Shimpling Park Farm biodiversity (pictures from their Facebook page)



Trees back buildings at Shimpling Park Farm

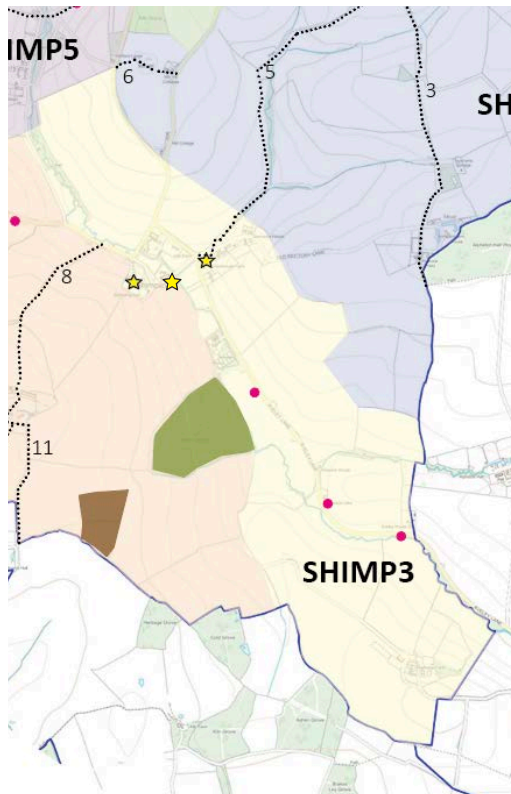


Good network of farmland hedges

Value and sensitivity to potential change

	Sensitivity Factor:	Source /Evidence / Indicator	Assessment of sensitivity and value	Management recommendations	
LANDSCAPE FACTORS	Physical landscape including vegetation Vulnerability of distinctive topography / water features / significant trees or other vegetation.	<i>OS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Value in the hedgerow network, wood pastures and copses but these features are not vulnerable to loss.	Support the farm to continue to farm sustainably and with other ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water quality and flood control, etc.	MED
	Settlement pattern and gateways Vulnerability of historic pattern; prominence of parcel in relation to arrival points; nature of road network/ function in relation to settlement(s)	<i>OS maps; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Village edges meet the farmland here. There may be possible future development capacity on village edge if sufficiently minor scale, and well integrated.	Ensure any development at the farmstead such as conversions is sympathetic. Ensure any village edge development is well integrated with structural vegetation around any edges that meet the countryside.	MED
	Local rural landscape character Contribution of parcel and setting to local character and distinctiveness	<i>County and District Character assessment; designation history, Site observations and professional judgement</i>	A farming landscape in excellent condition under sustainable farming management system. Historic features continue to be reinstated.	High value aspects may not actually be vulnerable to loss. Support the farm to continue to farm sustainably and in provision of other ecosystem services such as flood prevention and carbon sequestration.	HIGH
	Biodiversity and wildlife Susceptibility of designated features or features with potential value as part of ecological network	<i>Reference to GIS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Good biodiversity network in this part of the parish, which, together with organic farming methods has very positive impact on biodiversity and the ecosystem.	High value part of the parish in terms of biodiversity. Support land owners to continue to farm sustainably.	HIGH
	Historic landscape Sensitivity of landscape as setting to designated heritage features; impacts on Conservation Area; SMS; etc	<i>Reference to Historic England mapping; site observations.</i>	No Listed buildings here but remnants of medieval parkland landscape under partial restoration.	Support land owners in restoration projects.	MED
VISUAL / PERCEPTUAL	Visual prominence Prominence of parcel in general views around the village; impacts to skyline; impacts on any important views;	<i>Site observations and professional judgement relating to visual sensitivity</i>	Views in are limited to the southern edge of the main village, the farmland is not crossed by roads, the landscape accessible only from footpath network - regular trees interrupt views.	Protect skyline which is potentially vulnerable along this most elevated part of the parish, although regular trees and hedges are good at assimilating change.	MED
	Visual amenity and perceptions Nature of receptors experiencing visual Impacts; types of experiences perceived	<i>Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Some views out from the village to the south but close range views only from several footpaths that cross the farmland. No local roads cross this area.	Area important for recreation on footpaths connected to village. Any change would therefore need to be sympathetic and well integrated to maintain the rural feel and amenity value of the landscape.	MED

Character description



Location and underlying landscape type

Narrow character area, running north-west to south-east through the parish. It is land between approximately 60m and 75m contours, either side of the Chad Brook that flows on to join the Stour between Long Melford and Acton.

It is in the Suffolk Rolling Valley Farmlands landscape type.

Topography / hydrology / soils

Low lying, narrow valley bottom and lower slopes, enclosed by gently rolling valleyside.

The parish has a fairly unified soil profile- lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. There is poorer drainage particularly in the valley bottom.

Landcover/land use

A mix of arable on the lower slopes and narrow pastures along the valley bottom, some under equestrian use. There is a large farmstead north of Shimpling Hall (Apollo Farms) and the churchyard is located here too.

Woodland and trees

No larger woodland blocks, but regular trees such as alder and willow cluster along the water course and contain views. There is an impressive Lime avenue at the church. Scattered roadside trees have impact.

Scale and enclosure

The scale of the field patterns is smaller with some narrow pastures alongside the brook. There are some hedges and scrubby boundaries, but often the larger arable fields are not hedged and upslope views are often across open farmland to bare skylines.

Historic landscape/Time-depth/ Cultural associations

Medieval Hall and church complex present, now accompanied by large farm and scattering of other dwellings locally. Small

scale landscape and narrow winding lane endures- sense of history strong.

Settlement interfaces and road network

There is a little settlement in this area, focused around the historic Shimpling Hall and Church complex and formed the original village settlement. Old Rectory Lane forms a junction with Aveley Lane by Clockhouse Farm (Grade 2 listed) and features seven mixed house types. It rises from the valley across open fields for approximately three quarters of a mile to its end adjacent to Alpheton Hall Wood. The imposing large farm buildings at Hall Farm are a landmark along the lane as it 'dog legs' around the complex.

Indicators of value and Rights of Way

- Historic Church-Hall complex includes three key listed buildings
- the Church of St George is Grade I listed and Shimpling Hall and Clockhouse Farmhouse are Grade II listed.
- A number of veteran trees are listed by the Woodland Trust- as mapped on figure 11.
- Historic patterns of winding lanes and small scale field patterns
- Enhanced biodiversity linked with the brook.
- This area was, until recently, a Special Landscape Area defined by Babergh District Council

Issues / Change pressures / Detractors

- Change of use pressure for further equine use or leisure uses
- Farms moving to green energy solutions
- Potential loss of important permissive footpaths and recreational assets (part of link from street to church)
- Potential threat to the brook e.g. from ad hoc flood management further upstream
- Potential loss of important wildlife corridor- linking other

Illustrative photos



A key view of Shimpling Hall from Mill Hill. The character area comprises the valley bottom. Large scale farm buildings are tucked away below.



20th century field amalgamation has led to some large scale fields with bare skylines

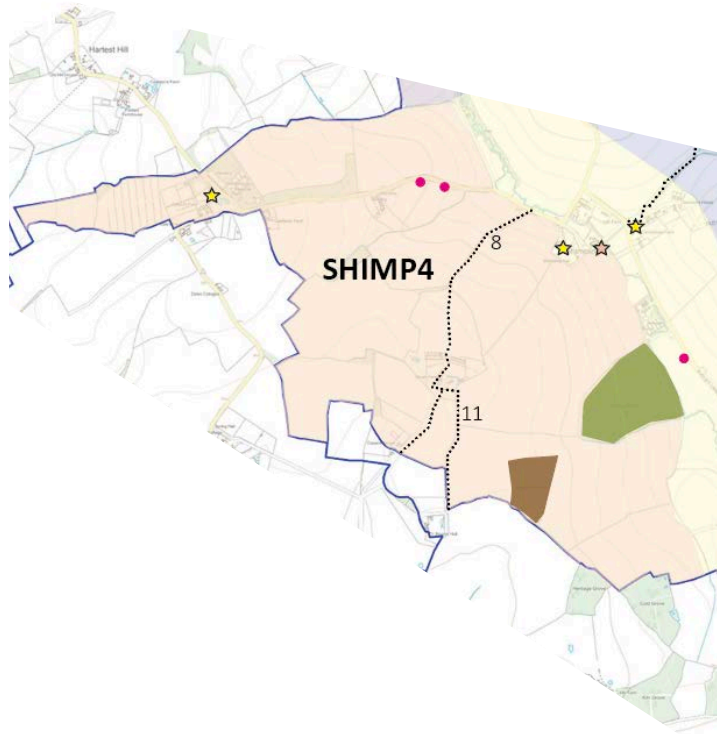


There is some equine land use but much of the bottom of the valley is farmland

Value and sensitivity to potential change

	Sensitivity Factor:	Source /Evidence / Indicator	Assessment of sensitivity and value	Management recommendations	Sensitivity H/M/L
LANDSCAPE FACTORS	Physical landscape including vegetation Vulnerability of distinctive topography / water features / significant trees or other vegetation.	<i>OS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	The physical features in this area, the brook and its associated vegetative communities, are of relatively high importance at parish level. The valley floor topography is sensitive to disruption and has important ecosystem service functions as floodplain, carbon sink etc. that should be protected.	Protect the natural feel of the river corridor, its stock of mature trees and its ecosystem functions. Support landowners in efforts to improve water quality	MED
	Settlement pattern and gateways Vulnerability of historic pattern; prominence of parcel in relation to arrival points; nature of road network/ function in relation to settlement(s)	<i>OS maps; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Landscape provides attractive setting to the church and the hall, sitting just above it on the hillside. Few houses here- not a focus for settlement.	Limit further development to protect the isolated feel of the group. It is a historically lightly settled part of the parish.	HIGH
	Local rural landscape character Contribution of parcel and setting to local character and distinctiveness	<i>County and District Character assessment; designation history, Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Distinctive narrow lowland river valley landscape- scenic and strongly rural. The grouping around the Church and the dog-legging lane around the large barns at Hall forms a strong node/waymarker.	Protect the traditional deeply rural character which has few modern elements or detracting features.	HIGH
	Biodiversity and wildlife Susceptibility of designated features or features with potential value as part of ecological network	<i>Reference to GIS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	On a parish level, the river corridor has some importance for wildlife with combined ecological assets of river, some wet woodland and links into the well vegetated estate landscape at Chadacre. Protected species potentially present.	Protect the wildlife value of the river corridor and the network links into the countryside. Seek enhancement opportunities.	MED
	Historic landscape Sensitivity of landscape as setting to designated heritage features; impacts on Conservation Area; SMs; etc	<i>Reference to Historic England mapping; site observations.</i>	The landscape provides setting for several Listed Buildings, notably the church and Shimpling Hall. It would be sensitive to further modern development.	Protect the character of the area in its function as setting to the Listed Buildings.	HIGH
	Visual prominence Prominence of parcel in general views around the village; impacts to skyline; impacts on any important views;	<i>Site observations and professional judgement relating to visual sensitivity</i>	Important view from Mill Hill over the character area but in general parcel is not prominent from the wider landscape as it is tucked away at reduced elevation. Good visibility along Aveley Lane. Large features such as the barns at Hall Farm are well assimilated.	Protect the view of Shimpling Hall from Mill Hill and rural views along Aveley Lane.	MED
VISUAL / PERCEPTUAL	Visual amenity and perceptions Nature of receptors experiencing visual Impacts; types of experiences perceived	<i>Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Perceptions are of a quiet, archetypal lowland upper river valley landscape.	Any changes would have to be limited in extent, highly sympathetic, retain the prevailing sense of naturalness.	HIGH

Character description



Location and underlying landscape type

One of the larger parish character areas, it is a block of land on the west side of the parish, west of the Chad Brook.

It is within the Suffolk Undulating Ancient Farmlands type.

Topography / hydrology / soils

Plateau edge and valley side in the far west. The valleyside is very gently rolling across its contours but the slope topography is not complex.

The parish has a fairly unified soil profile with freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils.

Landcover/land use

Almost entirely arable farmland but with some used for grape vines - there are vineyards at Giffords Hall and Mount Farm.

Woodland and trees

There are two blocks of woodland - Aveley wood is ancient-and has SSSI status, Hospital Grove is an SSSI but does not have ancient status.

Elsewhere there is some plantation/ shelter belt at Giffords Hall and trees are dotted along field boundaries. The stock of hedges in mixed condition.

Scale and enclosure

The scale of the landscape is medium to large scale, sometimes feels quite open where farmland was amalgamated in the 20th century. The underlying ancient organic shaped patterns are nevertheless discernible.

Long views in and out from upper slopes across rolling scenic lightly wooded countryside. Area is backdrop to important views from Mill Hill. Skylines can appear quite featureless and open - slopes elevate up to bare skylines in large fields.

Historic landscape/Time-depth/ Cultural associations

Landscape is still legible as an early enclosure ancient farmed landscape although much amalgamation has taken place. Hedge loss has eroded sense of historic landscape.

There is one listed building in the area at Giffords Hall

Settlement interfaces and road network

This area features isolated farmsteads, some with converted buildings, but otherwise this area was historically not a focus for settlement. There are a few scattered roadside dwellings.

Indicators of value and Rights of Way

- Two SSSI woodlands - Hospital Grove and Aveley Woods (ancient)
- There are relatively few footpaths through this area- no. 8 and its fork, No. 11 ascend the valley through the centre of the character area along a field margin.
- This area was, until recently, a Special Landscape Area defined by Babergh District Council

Issues / Change pressures / Detractors

- Farm conversions into residential land use can change the character of the wider landscape
- Green energy solutions could have landscape impacts
- Protection of hedgerows given that this area has experienced loss of hedgerows.

Illustrative photos



The valleyside of SHIMP4 is seen prominently as backdrop in views from Mill Hill



Very gently rolling plateau edge gives rise to long views

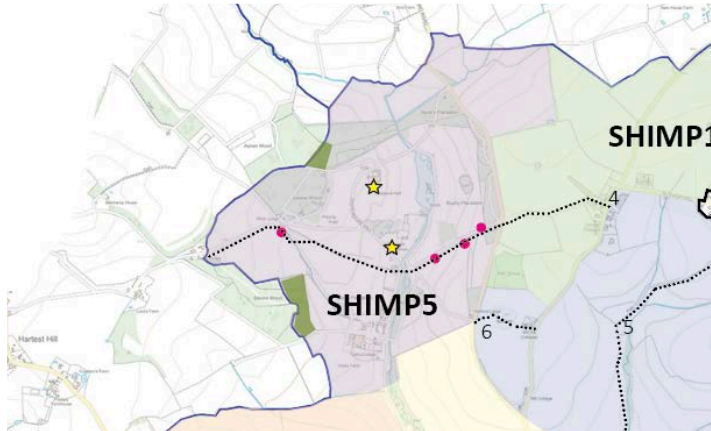


Coppins Farm set on a winding lane in open countryside

Value and sensitivity to potential change

	Sensitivity Factor:	Source /Evidence / Indicator	Assessment of sensitivity and value	Management recommendations	Sensitivity H/M/L
LANDSCAPE FACTORS	Physical landscape including vegetation Vulnerability of distinctive topography / water features / significant trees or other vegetation.	<i>OS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Value lies in the woodlands. Hedges are in mixed condition - often missing or gappy. Some mature roadside oak tree specimens.	Conserve the woodlands and roadside oaks. Improve the hedge network. Support landowners in agri-environment schemes focused on habitat creation and wildlife conservation.	MED
	Settlement pattern and gateways Vulnerability of historic pattern; prominence of parcel in relation to arrival points; nature of road network/function in relation to settlement(s)	<i>OS maps; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Very little settlement here. New development would be disruptive to rural character and potentially hard to mitigate.	Protect the rural unsettled character.	HIGH
	Local rural landscape character Contribution of parcel and setting to local character and distinctiveness	<i>County and District Character assessment; designation history, Site observations and professional judgement</i>	This parcel of arable land is less distinctive than some of the others as it has lost more field boundaries and it has fewer structural features. Amalgamation has eroded patterns but ancient underlying pattern can still be appreciated.	Whilst perhaps less distinctive its open character is sensitive to change.	MED
	Biodiversity and wildlife Susceptibility of designated features or features with potential value as part of ecological network	<i>Reference to GIS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Value lies in the woodlands, two of which have SSSI status. Otherwise open farmland has less value for wildlife.	Support landowners to seek enhancement opportunities within the farmland.	LOW
	Historic landscape Sensitivity of landscape as setting to designated heritage features; impacts on Conservation Area; SMs; etc	<i>Reference to Historic England mapping; site observations.</i>	The valleyside is vulnerable where it forms backdrop to Shimpling Hall in the views from Mill Hill.	Protect skylines where they form backdrop to heritage features and historic groupings.	MED
VISUAL / PERCEPTUAL	Visual prominence Prominence of parcel in general views around the village; impacts to skyline; impacts on any important views;	<i>Site observations and professional judgement relating to visual sensitivity</i>	Parcel prominent in views from Mill Hill. Openness means change would be hard to mitigate. Skylines are vulnerable on the elevated plateau.	It would be hard to mitigate visual effects of change or development on open plateau edges or valley sides. Protect rural character.	HIGH
	Visual amenity and perceptions Nature of receptors experiencing visual Impacts; types of experiences perceived	<i>Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Views in are experienced readily from the road - few hedges have sufficient scale to block views. Few footpaths here and the residential population with access to them is low.	As above.	MED

Character description



Location and underlying landscape type

Smallest character area broadly covering the Chadacre estate which extends west into Hartest. It lies in the northwest of the parish.

It is in the Suffolk Rolling Valley Farmlands landscape type.

Topography / hydrology / soils

The estate sits across the gently rolling upper valley of the Chad Brook. Both the mansion house and farm sit on narrow valley floor and the enclosing valley sides have a pleasant rolling character.

The parish has a fairly unified soil profile- lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

The brook drains north to south through the estate and water bodies have been created along the course of the brook, east of the Hall.

Landcover/land use

The Chadacre estate is an organised, designed landscape

of predominantly pasture/parkland, woodlands, vineyards and farmland. The estate is also managed for shooting. There was a 19th century 'model farm' complex south of the hall, called Home Farm, some of which has been lost, some of which remains.

Woodland and trees

There are significant woodlands within the estate although most lie in Hartest parish. Ashen Wood and Bavins Wood partly fall within the parish and are ancient woodland with SSSIs designation.

Many fine mature trees are also present in hedges, and as scattered specimens in the parkland. Skylines feel very wooded in this area.

A number of veteran trees are listed on by the Woodland Trust here, as mapped along the route of Footpath 4, but survey would be needed to clarify if the map is still accurate.

Scale and enclosure

Strong sense of enclosure from the high level of tree cover. Short length views prevail but where longer views are possible over rolling countryside they are very scenic.

Historic landscape/Time-depth/ Cultural associations

Regency house (1834) and designed parkland continues today - strong sense of history.

The village is depicted in Thomas Gainsborough's 1752 work, showing John Plampin in Chadacre Park looking towards Lawshall. The oil painting is on display at the National Gallery.

Settlement interfaces and road network

Settlement is not generally found in this area- it is present only in forms that relate to the estate.

The road network is sparse, the Melford Road, to Harrow Green, skirts the estate on the east side but affords few opportunities to view the landscape.

Indicators of value and Rights of Way

- Public access is possible on a bridleway/footpath through the park on Dovehouse Hill.
- High proportion of woodland, water bodies, pasture so biodiversity value is likely to be high.
- Two grade II Listed buildings
- This area was, until recently, a Special Landscape Area defined by Babergh District Council

Issues / Change pressures / Detractors

- This area is probably less vulnerable to change owing to its single ownership and high value and status.
- Flipside of that could be pressure to reroute the footpath that passes through the estate
- Retention of woodland and parkland important for preserving the unique character of this area

Illustrative photos



Plantation woodland and meadow on the north side of the park at Chadacre



Narrow lanes feel very contained where hedged



Aerial shows how wooded the estate is



Wooded rolling landscape is highly scenic and deeply rural

Value and sensitivity to potential change

	Sensitivity Factor:	Source /Evidence / Indicator	Assessment of sensitivity and value	Management recommendations	Sensitivity H/M/L
LANDSCAPE FACTORS	Physical landscape including vegetation Vulnerability of distinctive topography / water features / significant trees or other vegetation.	<i>OS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	The rolling topography is scenic and distinctive. Designed landscape is well vegetated and the estate farmland have a well cared for appearance. Significant woodland and roadside trees give a semi-wooded feel.	Protect the distinctive estate feel of the rural landscape. Protect fine mature roadside trees.	HIGH
	Settlement pattern and gateways Vulnerability of historic pattern; prominence of parcel in relation to arrival points; nature of road network/ function in relation to settlement(s)	<i>OS maps; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Little settlement in this area, highly rural with a tranquil and isolated feel.	Landscape isolated well away from the settlement edges so less vulnerable to development pressure. Protect the unaltered character of the roads.	MED
	Local rural landscape character Contribution of parcel and setting to local character and distinctiveness	<i>County and District Character assessment; designation history, Site observations and professional judgement</i>	The estate's undulating farmland, meadows, parklands, woodlands, and water bodies create a strongly distinctive, landscape in good condition. Robust, well wooded landscapes can often tolerate some change without significant impact.	Protect the distinctive estate feel of the rural landscape. Support the estate to continue to operate in a sustainable manner	MED
	Biodiversity and wildlife Susceptibility of designated features or features with potential value as part of ecological network	<i>Reference to GIS mapping; Site observations and professional judgement</i>	High value in the biodiverse habitats present- woodlands, wildflower meadows, water bodies etc. Ashen Wood and Bavins Wood on the Chadacre Estate are SSSIs.	Support landowners in agri-environment schemes focused on habitat creation, woodland management and wildlife conservation.	HIGH
	Historic landscape Sensitivity of landscape as setting to designated heritage features; impacts on Conservation Area; SMs; etc	<i>Reference to Historic England mapping; site observations.</i>	High historic value in the listed stately home and parkland setting.	Additional protection through Neighbourhood Plan may be moot given the protection offered by Listed Building status, and the high status of the estate as a whole.	HIGH
VISUAL / PERCEPTUAL	Visual prominence Prominence of parcel in general views around the village; impacts to skyline; impacts on any important views;	<i>Site observations and professional judgement relating to visual sensitivity</i>	Much of the landscape is not very accessible or visible as the estate is lies west of the Lawshall Road and screened by woodland.	Protect skylines and rural views that provide context to the wider setting to the park.	LOW
	Visual amenity and perceptions Nature of receptors experiencing visual Impacts; types of experiences perceived	<i>Site observations and professional judgement</i>	Views in are generally hard to achieve from the road network. Footpaths do however pass through the estate and these offer high visual amenity.	Protect views from footpaths where historic and natural features are appreciated in their landscape setting.	MED

Part 5: Area of Local Landscape Value



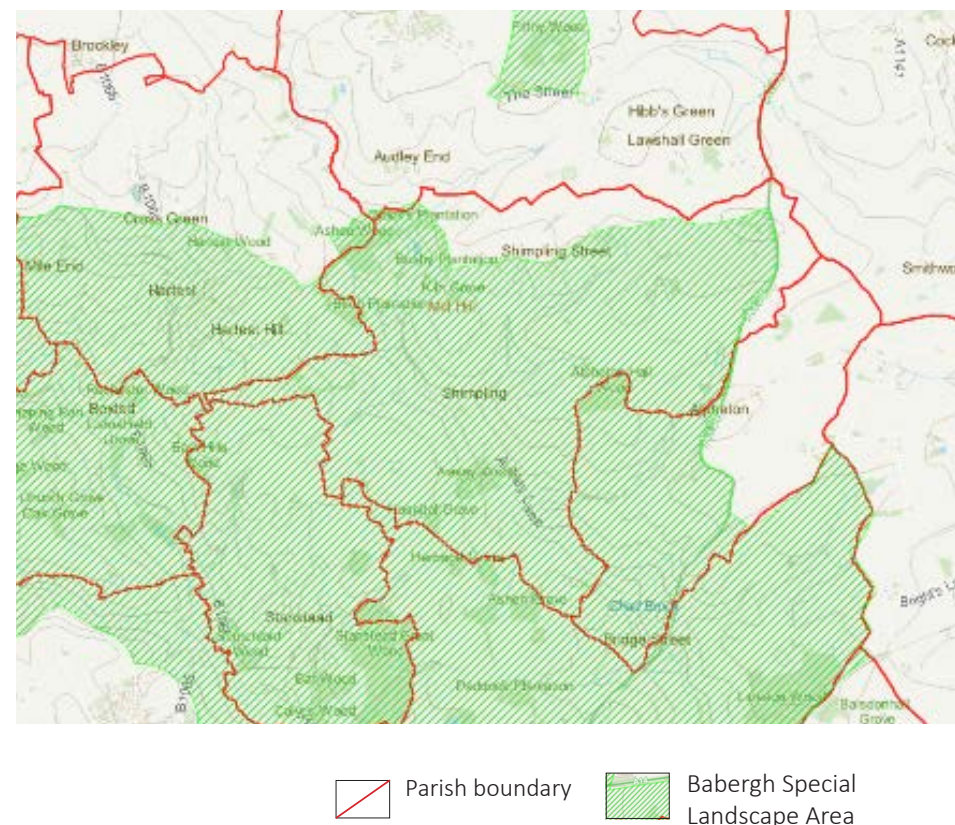
5. Area of Local Landscape Value

1. As outlined in section 2, the previous Babergh Local Plan defined a number of 'Special Landscape Areas', (SLAs) across the district's river valleys, and one of these covered most of Shimpling and five of the adjoining parishes to the west and south. The adoption of Part 1 of the new local Plan means that Special Landscape Areas have now fallen away and landscape is now dealt with under a general policy that requires a sympathetic, landscape character-led approach to development in all locations.

Redesignating valued landscape in the Neighbourhood Plan

2. This assessment provides the evidence for redesignating an area of higher value in the Neighbourhood Plan, to define landscape that should be subject to an additional level of policy protection.
3. Such landscapes promoted for a local value designation need to meet the criteria for 'valued landscape' in planning terms. Paragraph 187 (Dec 2024) of the National Planning Policy Framework states: *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by....protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan).'*
4. The definition of a 'Valued Landscape' has recently been clarified through guidance published by the Landscape Institute. Guidance Note TG02/21 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations' was published in 2019 and states that a 'valued landscape' is an area identified as having 'sufficient landscape qualities to elevate it above other more everyday landscapes'. It goes on to state, *'it is not possible to set a definitive threshold ... It is a judgment that must be made on a case-by-case basis, based on the evidence. There should be a weight of evidence that supports the recognition of a landscape as valued above more everyday landscapes.'*
5. The guidance supports identification of higher value landscapes through Neighbourhood Planning. It advises, in paragraph 2.2.1; 'Landscape value at the local authority or neighbourhood level can be assessed and mapped spatially, i.e. through identifying areas for local landscape designation. Studies to support spatial designations should identify the landscape qualities of each area of landscape proposed for designation.'
6. It gives guidance on the approach. In paragraph 2.3.2 it states; 'In undesignated

FIGURE 14: THE 'HISTORIC' LOCAL PLAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA (SLA)



5. Area of Local Landscape Value continued:-

areas, landscape value should be determined through a review of existing assessments, policies, strategies and guidelines and, where appropriate, by new survey and analysis' and suggests assessing value under the following 8 headings:

- Natural heritage
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape condition
- Associations
- Distinctiveness
- Perceptual (Scenic)
- Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)
- Functional aspects.

7. The approach in TG02/21 is also in line with accepted national guidance on:

Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014)

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (Natural England,)

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment)

8. This appraisal, therefore, uses this approach to summarise the evidence for a new 'valued' landscape. The term the Neighbourhood Plan group agreed on for these areas is: Area of Local Landscape Value (ALLV); distinct from the previous 'SLA', to avoid confusion.

Findings

9. Following completion of the work on character areas, and their value and sensitivity it is suggested redefining an area for protection in the Neighbourhood Plan that covers the most sensitive of the rural character areas.
10. Areas that were judged, in line with the methodology, to have two or more 'HIGH' sensitivity values, in either landscape or visual terms, were considered

suitable for designation. The proposed ALLV therefore comprises four of the five rural character areas- SHIMP 2- 5 as mapped on figure 15. It was judged that SHIMP1 has fewer characteristics that meet the criteria and so the decision was made to omit it from the proposed ALLV.

11. A table summarising a response to the Landscape Institute's 8 headings is also provided on the following page.

Table 5.1: Response to the eight landscape value factors in TGN 02/21

Criteria (from TGN1 02/21):	Sources- designation or policy	Comment providing evidence/justification
1. Natural heritage	Magic map GIS application Woodland Trust- Ancient Tree Inventory BMSDC GIS system Professional appraisal/site visits	The area contains several SSSIs which are defined as ancient woodlands. Aveley Wood and parts of Ashen and Bavin Woods fall into the parish. Hospital Grove is non ancient but still has SSSI status. There are 9 veteran trees mapped in the area by the Woodland Trust- the locations were surveyed by a member of the Neighbourhood Plan group to check their veracity. See mapped on page 19 and 34.
2. Cultural heritage	Heritage listings Conservation Area Appraisal See Figure 11.	- There are 20 listed buildings in the parish but landscape plays a particularly important role as setting and backdrop to 6 in the countryside: Chadacre Hall, Principal's House on the Chadacre estate, Giffords Hall, Shimpling Hall, the Church of St. George (Grade I), Clockhouse Farmhouse - Parkland at Chadacre. - Restored medieval wood pasture at Shimpling Park Farm.
3. Landscape condition	Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment Professional appraisal/site visits	- The farmed landscape is in notably good condition and the well wooded Chadacre estate contributes very positively. The large organic farm at Shimpling Park Farm is a showcase for natural farming methods.
4. Associations	Various web references	- The parish has played a historic and ongoing role in education relating to good farming. - The village is depicted in Thomas Gainsborough's 1752 work, showing John Pamplin in Chadacre Park looking towards Lawshall. The oil painting is on display at the National Gallery.
5. Distinctiveness	Professional appraisal/site visits Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment Designation history (SLA)	- The rolling topography, which is frequently well wooded, and winding lanes, with glimpses of historic buildings such as Shimpling Hall, provides varied attractive and scenic views. Character is strong and distinctive. - Previous designation as SLA shows landscape value was held above 'the everyday' by Babergh District Council
6. Perceptual/ Scenic	Professional appraisal/site visits Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment	The scenic qualities of the landscape arise from the combination of the underlying ancient enclosure patterns, the rolling topography and the well wooded estate farmlands. Blocks of woodland are frequently seen on the skylines. Occasional glimpses into riverside meadows and parklands add a layer of history and emphasise the rural feel.
7. Wildness and Tranquillity	Professional appraisal/site visits	Whilst there are no wild areas- perhaps the ancient woodlands would be considered partly wild, the parish does have an air of being a rural backwater, and is generally tranquil and quiet (away from the corridor of the A134)
8. Function	Multiple ecosystem services	The well wooded areas are sequestering carbon, and the farming practices at Shimpling Park Farm are also relatively sustainable.

[illegible]

FIGURE 15: THE PROPOSED SHIMPLING ALLV

-  Neighbourhood Plan and parish boundary
 -  Shimpling Settlement Boundary
 -  Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area of Local Landscape Value

1. The area shaded green covers SHIMP 2,3,4 and 5 and is proposed as the Shimpling Area of Local Landscape Value (ALLV).
2. The four character areas are valued and sensitive owing to the factors outlined in the character assessment, summarised here as having:
 - a sensitive and biodiverse lowland river valley character;
 - scenic combinations of topography and good landscape structure;
 - enduring traditional land management practices and/or sustainable organic farming practice;
 - associations with heritage assets to which the landscape provides setting;
 - good amenity and recreational value from its footpath networks; and
 - high cultural value relating to landscape heritage - ie the presence of both medieval and 19th century parks.
3. The intention is these areas should have a higher degree of protection from unsympathetic development than the rest of the parish. Policy must direct any development to avoid harm to landscape character and views. Any proposals for development in the ALLV, as mapped in figure 15, will have to accord with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Policy of the same name. The supporting text should make reference to this document, where the specific aspects of value and sensitivities, that are present in each area, are set out.

Part 6: Key Views Appraisal



6. Key Views: Introduction

The purpose of Key View studies

1. As part of the assessment of local character, and understanding the value people attribute to local landscape, investigating which views local people particularly appreciate is useful. Once identified, these views can be subject to policy which can try to conserve their composition and qualities.
2. This section of the report provides a brief but robust evidence base to inform and underpin a Neighbourhood Plan Key View policy. Planning policy at all levels requires local character and distinctiveness to be recognised and responded to in new development/land use change. Neighbourhood Plans provide a good platform to extract local knowledge and tap into perceptions of landscape value and local distinctiveness.
3. An important or 'Key' view is one that would be generally recognised as having notable qualities or a particularly attractive composition that might cause people to pause and appreciate the scene. More than an 'everyday' view, it is more likely to feature in people's perceptions of what Shimpling looks like in their memories, and provide heightened feelings of connectedness and wellbeing. Such views could have a particularly notable or distinctive composition or scenic quality, that makes them stand out in the eyes (and memories) of local people and visitors. They might feature distinctive and/or historic buildings, local landmarks, or an appealing or historically intact arrangement of topography, natural features and built form that together help give a settlement its identity, and perhaps come with particular recognised cultural associations.
4. This document defines 11 views in Shimpling which are considered by the residents and the Neighbourhood Plan Group to be particularly important, and that contribute notably to its character. They are defined and described in this document and will link to a policy in the Neighbourhood Plan to aid decision-making about proposed development or land use change in the future.

View criteria

5. There is not an accepted definition of what constitutes a Key view in any of the published accepted landscape guidance and selection of views is a result of people's perceptions. Selecting Key Views is therefore somewhat more subjective than other landscape appraisal techniques. However, public consultation often reveals patterns in people's thinking, and in this case, some strongly supported key views emerged as a result of asking people which views around the village they particularly valued.

6. In autumn 2024 the Neighbourhood Plan group undertook a consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and one of the questions asked residents to tell them about the views they particularly recalled and valued.
7. Professional judgement was then applied, by the author, to review the list of views put forward by the public, as well as identify any others that were omitted but judged to meet the criteria. Views had to meet at least three of the following criteria to qualify as a 'Key View':
 - Higher than average scenic value relating to the composition of rural views- including complexity, appreciation of topography, depth of field, naturalness, and arrangement of natural and vegetative features.
 - Evidence that lots of people experience the view- i.e. value relating to shared experience. The more people that experience a viewpoint, the higher the value attributed. For example, a view from a well-used footpath on a village edge, identified by numerous people as important, might be considered more valued than one selected from an isolated point on a quiet lane.
 - Presence of a recognised landmark feature, perhaps with skyline impact, aiding orientation in the landscape or along a route.
 - Where a view allows appreciation of a Heritage asset and its setting.
 - Features other locally distinctive points of interest or cultural associations that particularly define the character of Shimpling. Views that are indicative of a special 'sense of place' which reflect its intrinsic character and key characteristics.

Selection process

8. The final set of Key Views were selected by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in November 2024. Some of the initial views put forward in the consultation were discarded, if it was felt they didn't meet the criteria strongly enough.
9. The group worked with the author to provide the supporting text justification and Change Management Objectives. The text sets out the aspects of value in each view and focuses attention on what may threaten them and considers how this could be addressed.
10. The final set of Key Views are mapped and presented on the following pages. Some

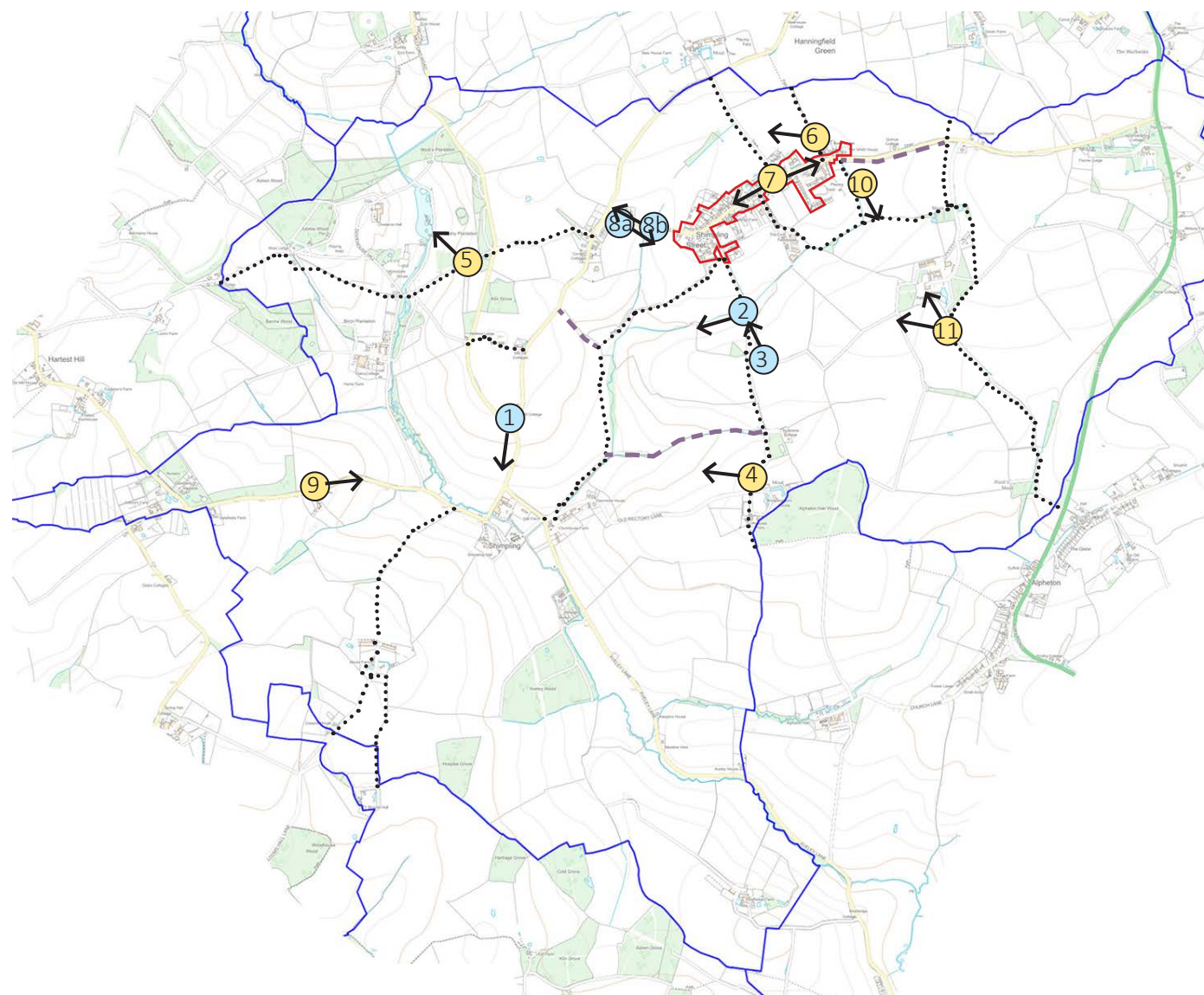
6. Key Views: Introduction continued:-

are identified as specific point views, and some are representative of a number of similar or sequential views which might be experienced along a road or footpath. These are presented on the map with a differing symbol to differentiate between point views and sequential views.

11. However, it should be noted that the final list is not an exhaustive list of the only views with special qualities in the parish, there are many other views that contribute to local distinctiveness and rural character and it should not be inferred that other views in the parish have little value. The selected views, however, are held in high public regard and demonstrate particular qualities or features.
12. Most of the the photos were taken in May 2025 with a Canon 700D SLR with a 50mm fixed lens. -The panoramic photos presented are made up from two or three consecutive images, with approx. a 50% overlap. They are a Type 1 Visual Representation¹ (for illustrative purposes and not be treated as 'verifiable'). This level of accuracy was sufficient for a project of this scale/nature.

¹ Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 17 September 2019

6. Key view locations



KEY:

-  Parish boundary
-  Settlement boundary as per Part 1 of Joint Local Plan (published May 2024)
-  Rights of Way in the parish
-  Permissive footpaths
-  Point view with direction of view indicated
-  Representative view- series number of similar views available

List of Key Views:

- KV1: Mill Hill looking south
- KV2: Gents Lane footpath looking west
- KV3: Bench on Hamish Hill looking northwest
- KV4: Footpath No. 3 at Shimplingthorne looking west
- KV5: Chadacre Estate
- KV6: Footpath 2 near Bush pub looking north west
- KV7: Views within The Street
- KV8: Slough Hill (a and b)
- KV9: Giffords Hall looking east
- KV10: Footpath 9 looking south
- KV11: Shimpling Park

FIGURE 16: KEY VIEW LOCATIONS

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 1: Mill Hill looking south



Location and Justification:

A fairly lengthy, elevated view towards Shimpling Hall is experienced on the road junction where Main Street meets the Lawshall Road. Following consultation by the Neighbourhood Plan group, residents indicated this is the most valued view in the parish.

The view comprises scenic rolling valleysides of the Chad Brook which have a very rural and unspoilt appearance with the Hall as a focal point. St. George's church sits at the base of the valley (out of sight in summer) and its avenue of trees are noticeable. Beyond, the Brook and its valley meander towards Bridge Street. To the west there are long views up towards Giffords Hall and the parishes of Hartest and Stanstead.

The skylines are fringed with trees and numerous blocks of woodland are seen to the southeast including Aveley Wood. Overall there is the sense of a historic view, with little sense of the modern world.

The view is through and over parish character areas SHIMP3 and 4.

Change management objectives:

Protect this distinctive and scenic view of the historic built form. Protect the rural character of the valleysides as backdrop to the heritage features clustered in the valley bottom below. Protect the skylines which would be sensitive to new built form.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 2: Gents Lane footpath looking west



Location and Justification:

This viewpoint photo is from the footpath (No. 3) that emerges from the south end of Gents Lane. The footpath here is part of a very popular walking route for the local community, particularly the many dog walkers in the village. The route links Gents Lane, which is a designated Quiet Lane, across the edge of fields and a small stream to the top of Rectory Lane. From the village edge it is possible to look south, southwest and southeast and see no built landscape – just the fields which belong to the organic farm which often host a flock of New Zealand sheep or crops in rotation. Small copses and hedgerows punctuate the landscape and provide framing and texture. The rolling topography makes the view particularly scenic. People frequently use this path to experience the peace, quiet and beauty of the countryside.

The view is across parish character area SHIMP2.

Change management objectives:

Protect the rural character of the view and ensure any development or changes along the village edge are well assimilated with structural vegetation to reflect the character of the existing settlement edges.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 3: Bench on Hamish Hill looking northwest



Location and Justification:

This viewpoint photo is from a bench that has been placed at this location on the hillside, known locally as Hamish Hill. The bench is placed in commemoration of the life of Jo Pugh, a local environmentalist. This indicates its appropriateness as a key view - it's demonstrably already considered a place where people want to pause to take in the view. The rolling countryside is scenic and partly wooded.

The footpath is a popular walking route for the local community and links Gents Lane, a designated Quiet Lane, across the edge of fields and a small stream to Shimplingthorne at the top of Rectory Lane.

When the village edge is seen, it is, for the most part, well integrated behind trees. This conveys a sense of a long established settled edge without modern incursion into the farmland. The view is across on parish character area SHIMP2.

Change management objectives:

Protect the rural character of the view. Ensure any development or changes along the village edge are well assimilated with structural vegetation to reflect the character of the existing settlement edges.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 4: Footpath No. 3 at Shimplingthorne looking west



Location and Justification:

View westward from Shimplingthorne and footpath (No.3) which leads the eye into the distance along a shallow tributary valley to scenic and rolling countryside beyond. Walkers on the footpath are likely to pause to take in the length of the view and appreciate the strongly rural and unspoilt character of the view. It is quiet, peaceful and beautiful, year round. There is evidence all around of the birds and animals that make this area their home.

The view is across parish character area SHIMP2 to the distant valleysides of SHIMP4.

Change management objectives:

Protect the rural character of the view and protect the distant skylines from development that would have a wide ranging impact.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 5: Chadacre Estate



Location and Justification:

A representative view from the bridleway that runs from Little Chadacre through the Chadacre estate eventually joining footpaths which lead to the neighbouring village of Hartest – one of a number of footpaths and bridleways which are valued and enjoyed by the community. There are many scenic views within the estate.

After crossing the Lawshall Road the path descends through a fine avenue of trees, including three veteran oaks, to the upper reaches of the valley of the Chad Brook. There are fine views to the south and west down the avenue and over a mixture of grazing and game cover with Chadacre Hall just visible in the trees to the north.

The view is in SHIMP5 but views to the south also take in SHIMP 3 and 4.

Change management objectives:

Conserve the parkland scenery and rural character of the views along this footpath.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 6: Footpath 2 near Bush pub looking north west



Location and Justification:

View westward from the footpath on the village edge close to The Bush pub. This is a well used footpath route, easily accessible from the village.

The view is over flat arable fields to a wooded horizon and the footpath route ahead that leads into countryside.

The sunsets seen over the cornfields here are fondly recalled – a traditional English countryside view when leaving the pub on a summer's evening.

This character area is across SHIMP1.

Change management objectives:

Protect the rural character of the view and uninterrupted views toward the western horizon. Protect the skylines from intrusive elements.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 7: Views within The Street



Location and Justification:

View representative of the longitudinal views along The Street. When most people think of Shimpling they probably think of views along "The Street". The views are distinctive, characterised by deep grass verges and plot frontages, often with mature trees overhanging the road, attractive well kept houses in well vegetated gardens. There are some distinctive and interesting old buildings including the Coal House and the old School building.

There are a number of Grade II properties, often thatched cottages, showing the history and heritage of the village. They show a pleasing mix of materials and styles including brick, flint, and colourful painted renders.

Change management objectives:

Protect the rural character of the village in terms of its linear settlement pattern, and the pattern of deep set-backs for the houses. Protect the substantial number of mature trees overhead and add to their number to ensure continuity in future. The verges are soft and not kerbed- the feel is low key and signage is minimal. This character should be protected and conserved.

Protect the settings of the Listed properties in particular.

Ensure any new development is assimilated in the same way, with generous space for tree and hedge planting.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 8: Slough Hill



Location and Justification:

These are a pair of similar views from opposite sides of the dip in the road between the main village edge and houses at Slough Hill. They share a similar composition so are grouped together. They are experienced by those accessing or leaving the main village to the west.

The view comprises, at close range, the little road winding through the rolling topography which is pleasing to the eye, and creates particularly distinctive views. Settlement is dotted between the hedges and trees, well integrated into the landscape. The undeveloped slopes provide setting to the settlement and function as a gap.

The view is across parish character area SHIMP1 to the north and SHIMP2 to the south.

Change management objectives:

The slopes seen in the views must be protected from development in order to maintain their distinctive composition and their rural character, and their function as undeveloped gap and setting to the village edges.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 9: Road near Giffords Hall looking east



Location and description:

This Google Streetview image illustrates the views from the road south east of Gifford Hall. Particularly long and scenic views to the east are experienced over the valley of the Chad Brook. There is lots of woodland in view, including Alpheton Hall Wood which perches on the distant hilltop and oak trees stud the boundaries of the fields and lanes.. Only hints of settlement are glimpsed scattered within the tree cover. There is a strong sense of unspoilt, deeply rural countryside.

Change management objectives:

Conserve the rural character of the long views, and protect the skylines from intrusive elements.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 10: Footpath 9 looking south



Location and Justification:

Well known view from the footpath south of The Street towards Park Farm. It is a popular and well used path as it forms a circular route, so is especially popular with dog walkers. The farm buildings are seen nestling in front of woodland beyond a shallow fold in the landscape. Behind, the village edge is well treed and the edges are well assimilated within tree cover.

The path links to St Edmunds way, through the farm, and is frequently used by schools as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. It also links at The Street close to the pub which is a valued stopping point for walkers.

The view is across SHIMP2.

Change management objectives:

Protect the rural character of the views to Park Farm and around the village edge. Ensure any changes or development is similarly well integrated with tree cover.

6. Viewpoint photographs continued:-

Key View 11: Shimpling Park



Location and Justification:

These two short-range views are northwest of the footpath (No. 9) just south of Park Farm. They are contained and take in parkland and, just to the north, a glimpse of the farmhouse amongst many trees. Sheep graze the meadows providing a sense of a scene little changed over the centuries. These would be considered quintessential English views.

They are valued as they are deeply rural and scenic and offer insight into ongoing but traditional land management methods.

The view is in parish character area SHIMP2.

Change management objectives:

Support Park Farm in maintaining traditional land uses and protect the historic character of these views.

SUMMARY

1. This concluding section aims to provide a summary of the character and value of the landscape at Shimpling. It seeks to highlight ways in which it is already protected, discuss how the village can approach its protection, management and enhancement in future through Neighbourhood Plan policy.
2. Shimpling is a moderately sized rural parish in Babergh with an out of the way feel. Perceptions are of a deeply rural, tranquil and agricultural landscape, with limited modern influence. Its attractive and varied landscape is set across the rolling valley of the Chad Brook. This variation has led to the identification of five rural parish character areas.
3. The landscape is generally in good condition - well managed organic farmlands, ancient woodlands, and low-lying riverside meadows. Landscape patterns are still recognisable from Saxon times, with interventions through the centuries also leaving their mark. Remnants of medieval deer park exist at Shimpling Park Farm, and more prominent is the well wooded Chadacre estate whose designed parkland was added in the 19th century. Views in to the park are not easily achieved but it contributes to the distinctive wooded estate character of the wider landscape to the west of the village, as it has a wealth of fine mature trees and woodlands.
4. The two groups of settlement occupy a different position in the landscape, which gives a distinctly different feel to each one. The main focus for settlement is Shimpling Street which, along with a further group of houses at Slough Hill, occupy a plateau edge position. Thatched cottages sit between more modern additions, but the feel is unified by the deep set backs and wide verges. In contrast the ancient Hall-Church complex sits low down by the brook, tucked into the landscape out of sight from the main village street, accompanied by houses at the bottom of Rectory Lane.

The future

5. The Neighbourhood Plan Group may decide to allocate land for housing and this report should provide a starting point for reviewing sites in landscape terms. Further pressure for speculative development will also no doubt be felt. The future of the landscape also looks to be dynamic as competing forces vie for space. Green energy requirements gain ever more importance, alongside food security concerns, climate change vulnerabilities, and ongoing uncertainty over agri-environment schemes.
6. District planning policy does not support development outside settlement edges, nevertheless, future pressure should always be expected and planned for. Shimpling

Street village fringes are the most likely focus for pressure. There may be locations where small scale developments could be integrated, but they must be sympathetic to context, and well assimilated. The parish council must strive to ensure good planting plans are required with development applications to ensure the characteristic vegetated village edges are replicated. Boundaries with open countryside are particularly sensitive and need native planting to help mitigate visual impacts.

7. Expansion in other parts of the parish, such as around the historic Shimpling Hall cluster is inappropriate and should be resisted. The quality of the views and the rural setting to the hall and church contribute strongly to local distinctiveness and should be protected. Designation of the river valley character area and the Chadacre estate (parish character areas SHIMP 2-5) as an 'Area of Local Landscape Value' should help assign a higher value to this landscape. Any land use change will have to meet policy requirements to protect the distinctive characteristics and features in each area
8. Landscape and Visual Appraisal is a useful process that should be demonstrated by applicants for any development larger than 2 or 3 houses, this could be set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, and the parish should consider consultancy from a landscape professional, relating to specific sites or applications, where sensitive sites are identified.
9. The key views illustrated in the report show a number of long ranging and scenic views over the landscape enjoyed by the community. The Neighbourhood Plan should consider a policy that aims to retain and conserve the identified features in each view. Whilst preventing development altogether is not desirable or feasible, if the key features represented in the views can be protected, the character and feel of the parish can be conserved.

Glossary

AGLV	Area of Greater Landscape Value
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (above sea level)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BMSDC	Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council
CWS	County Wildlife Site
GIS	Geographic Information System
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LI	Landscape Institute
LVIA/LVA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment/ Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal
NL	National Landscape (new name for AONB)
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ProW	Public Rights of Way
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest