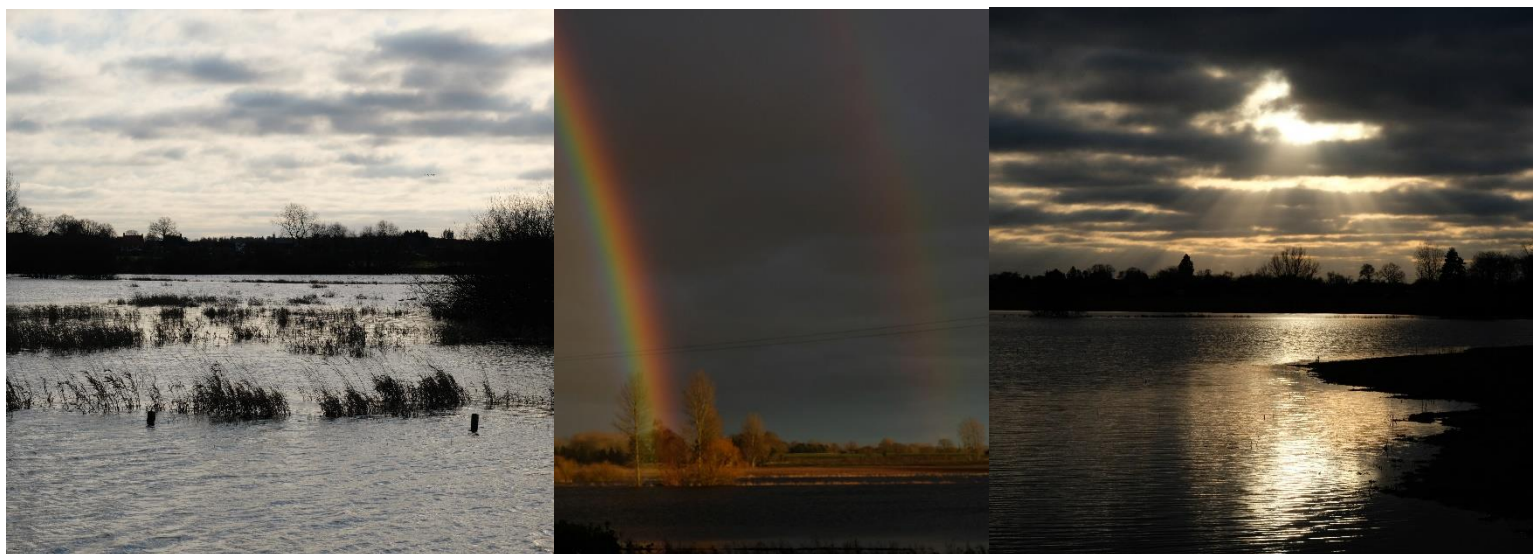

APPENDIX C HERITAGE POLICY 4 HERITAGE VIEWS AND VISTAS



Heritage Views and vistas

It is the landscape that reflects the sense of any place. It is the views and vistas of that landscape that reflect the conditions of the location and demonstrate the human values, activities and priorities.¹ It is becoming increasingly clear that there is a fundamental link between the local and wider environment and the well-being and health of the communities that dwell within it.² We are informed that 'distinctive and diverse places are manifestations of a deeply felt involvement with those places by the people who live within them, and that for many such a profound attachment to place is as necessary and significant as a close relationship with other people.'³ The sense of place not only creates coordination and proper functioning of the human and architectural environment but also provides a sense of security, fun and emotional awareness for people. Individual and social behaviour of people are also influenced by the feelings aroused by the context of one's place within the environment. Individuals' participation in social activity is dependent on how rooted they feel about place.⁴ This view is largely endorsed by Pretty et al., who identify that 'both exposure to nature and physical activity improves mental health and psychological well-being'⁵ It follows, therefore, that maintaining a solid connection with the environs engenders well-being and good health and attitude. Views and Vistas, enable that connection. Indeed the lack of important views and vistas or the removal of such hooks to the landscape will have an adverse effect, on the well-being of individuals and the community.

The East of England Plan (2008) states that 'plans, policies programmes and proposals should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings, and places and historic landscapes, including those features and sites (and their settings) especially significant in the East of England'. It goes on to define these further and includes 'the rural landscapes of the region, which are highly distinctive and of ancient origin.'⁶

The history of human activity on the land in the Parish of Dickleburgh dates back to prehistoric times (possibly 3,000 BC) 'A burnt mound of flint (NHER [11014](#)) ... and a prehistoric crannog (NHER [11099](#)), or man-made island has been reported near Dickleburgh Moor... A submerged wooden trackway (NHER [11012](#)) ... running north to south across this area may also be

¹ Comparing the Components of Sense of Place in the Traditional and Modern Residential Neighborhoods. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* 201 (2015) 275 – 285 Hanieh Azizi Ghoomi*, Seyed-Abbas Yazdanfar, Seyed-Bagher Hosseini, Saeid Norouzian Maleki *School of Architecture and Environmental Design, Iran University of Science and Technology, 16846-13114, Tehran, Iran.* 1877-0428 © 2015 Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license <https://pdf.sciencedirectassets.com>

² Green exercise in the UK countryside: Effects on health and psychological wellbeing, and implications for policy and planning Article *in* *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* · March 2007 DOI: 10.1080/09640560601156466

³ Place and Placelessness. Edward Relph. Pion Limited 1976

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Green exercise in the UK countryside: Effects on health and psychological wellbeing, and implications for policy and planning Article *in* *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* · March 2007 DOI: 10.1080/09640560601156466 p.227

⁶ Historic characterisation and sensitivity Assessment Norfolk County Council May 2009. p.3

prehistoric.⁷ There are finds dating back from the Mesolithic (Axe NHER 29524⁸) and Neolithic age (flint flakes (NHER 23357⁹) to modern times.

For more information see Appendix A Archaeology

The Views and Vistas in, through and from sites in the Parish enable the observer to understand the evolving relationship of humankind with the environment, to interpret history and contextualise. As such, it provides a strong sense of place and well-being.

The identified views and vistas do not cover all sensitive or significant areas within the Parish but does cover those considered most at risk, and should they be dissipated, infringed upon or interrupted, it would result in harm to the well-being of the residents of the parish.

Important features within the parish which must be protected as they pertain to Vistas and Views includes:

'The regular pattern of small fields around Dickleburgh. The history of these fields is a topic of debate with a number of explanations for its appearance. The most widely accepted is that it is as a coaxial system of pre- or proto-historic type, which predates the building of the earliest Roman road in the area. Other views are that it derives from a regularly planned land allocation contemporary with the Roman road, or that most of the field shapes are post medieval, being based upon routeways following natural features, only occasionally conforming to a grid by chance.'¹⁰ This example of our attempts to understand our interactions with the environment provides a glimpse of the importance of long views and vistas, as it is the interpretation of the views that help us understand context and history. Should they be lost the questions become meaningless.



Map 1 is 1843 Map of the Area around Langmere Green, North and East.
Map 2 is a Google Capture 2021 of the same area.
The maps show how, West of Lakes Road, modern farming has combined older smaller fields, hedgerows and ditches into larger monocultures. Whilst East of Lakes Road the Hedgerows and ditches remain largely intact.

⁷ [www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF213-Parish-Summary-Dickleburgh-and-Rushall-\(Parish-Summary\)](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF213-Parish-Summary-Dickleburgh-and-Rushall-(Parish-Summary))

⁸ [www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF213-Parish-Summary-Dickleburgh-and-Rushall-\(Parish-Summary\)](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF213-Parish-Summary-Dickleburgh-and-Rushall-(Parish-Summary))

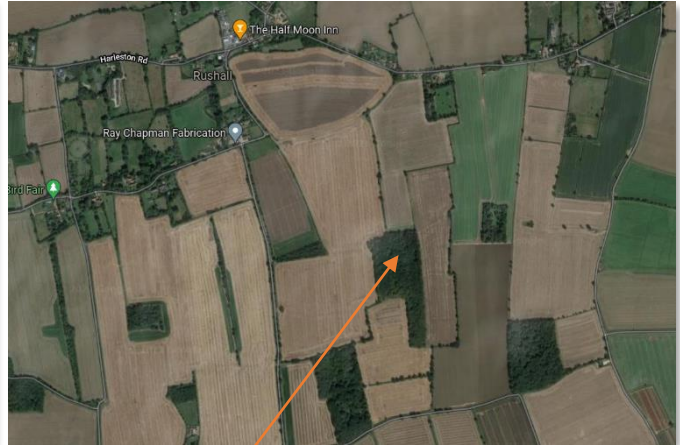
⁹ [www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF213-Parish-Summary-Dickleburgh-and-Rushall-\(Parish-Summary\)](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF213-Parish-Summary-Dickleburgh-and-Rushall-(Parish-Summary))

¹⁰Character Area: B 4 Waveney Tributary Farmland South Norfolk Landscape Assessment: Final Report page 52

Small pockets of woodland occur throughout the character area but are particularly characteristic in the area south of Burston and Dickleburgh ... they create a more intimate and enclosed landscape. Many of these are of ancient origins such as Billingford Wood, Middle Wood and Big Wood to the south of Dickleburgh and Dodds Wood and Olivers Wood to the east of Dickleburgh.¹¹



Olivers Wood photo from Britishplacenames



Dodds Wood from Google Maps 2021

The A140 cuts north to south through the area bypassing Dickleburgh. Otherwise this character area is dissected by quiet winding rural roads and in places sunken lanes.¹²

South Norfolk District Council identify, as significant County / District assets, the 'presence of historic parkland scattered across the area'. 'Wooded appearance created by the mix of hedgerows, remnant historic parkland and woodland blocks'. 'Presence of tributary watercourses', and the 'Historic field pattern around Dickleburgh'.¹³ All of these features can be found in the vistas and views across this Parish.

It is therefore, essential that the visual, scenic and undeveloped character of the Parish be protected from development that may adversely affect its nature and conservation value, its landscape character, its function as an important piece of green infrastructure and its contribution to the wider network of green spaces in the parish and the well being of the visitors and residents of the Parish. The protection of the vistas and views of the Parish must be retained, not just for 'the now' but for future generations as outlined by the GNGP sensitivity assessment. 'This area has historically been sparsely populated and remains a zone of dispersed farmsteads strung out along the road. The Roman Road is a highly visible and easily understood archaeological feature in the landscape. However, the agricultural landscape is strongly 20th century and this is the dominant character of the zone now. The visible settlement pattern and recognisable archaeological feature of the Roman Road affects significance. Erosion of pre-20th century field patterns, and vulnerability to modern-in-fill

¹¹ Para 11.6 South Norfolk Landscape Assessment: Final Report page 52
¹² Para 11.14 South Norfolk Landscape Assessment: Final Report page 54
¹³ Para 11.14 South Norfolk Landscape Assessment: Final Report page 54

affects robustness.¹⁴ It is these factors that make the protection of views and vistas in the parish even more important to maintain. Erosion or destruction of the views and vistas will destroy the lived context of the setting of the Village of Dickleburgh and the Parish, with the additional value to mental health and well-being that the views and vistas bring, leading inevitably to the potential feelings of loss and placelessness as Dickleburgh becomes 'just' another lost environment.

1 The Moor

All views on to and from all parts of the Moor must be protected. No building, or structure will be allowed to be erected that will impinge upon the public views onto and across the Moor and associated fields (all fields to the North, East, South and West). All new electrical, telephonic, or other service amenities must be laid below ground unless it is demonstrated that this is impossible or it impinges upon other policies related to the moor. All views from Norwich Road, Rectory Road, and Semere Green Lane fall under this protection.



Examples of views and vistas



2 The open field system looking north toward the Moor, from Rectory Road, Dickleburgh

The views from this road are among the most stunning views of the Moor and demonstrated the changing ecology of the area as the fields blend into the environment of The Moor. There

¹⁴ Historic characterisation and sensitivity Assessment. Norfolk County Council May 2009

are only two places from Rectory Road where the Moor can now be glimpsed by visitors from the road. The first is a small gap between New House Farm and Bangala (10 meters). The other point is from the bottle bank area on Rectory road. These two vantage points are covered by the Local Gap policy. The Settlement Gap to the north of the Village of Dickleburgh starts immediately behind the ribbon of houses on the north and east side of Rectory Road.



A view of Dickleburgh Moor from the rear of houses on Rectory Road, Dickleburgh courtesy J. Deighton



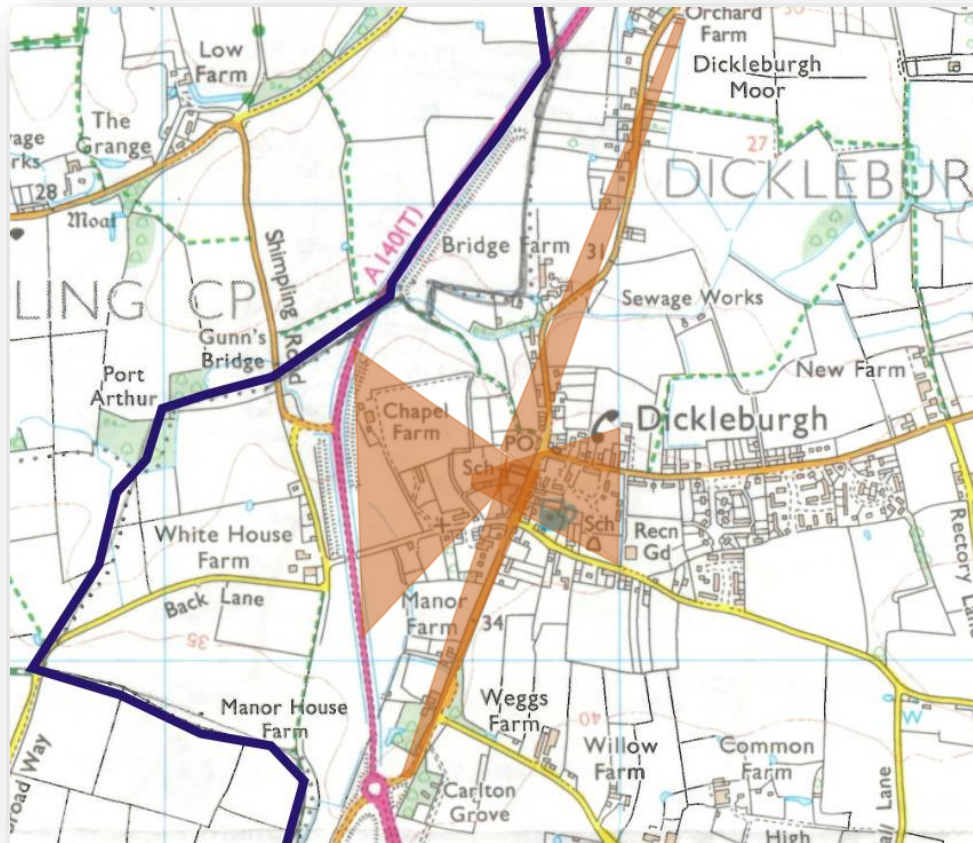
A view from Rectory Road



Dickleburgh Moor Winter 2012

3. The All Saints Church Dickleburgh

Views of the church must be retained. No building will be allowed that impinges upon the sight lines to and across the church unless it can be clearly demonstrated that it brings greater value than the already existing view.



4 The Church Rushall

All views of the Church at Rushall must be maintained.

5 The Village of Dickleburgh

The Village of Dickleburgh was always a working village. At its height it boasted a Mill, a wide variety of shops supplying basic and luxury needs for local industry as well as local residents. As a working village no thought was given to the aesthetic. As the Village of Dickleburgh has now become, largely residential it will provide developers an opportunity to work closely with the local communities in the beautification process of this delightful village centre. There are significant views into the Village of Dickleburgh as well as from the Village that need to be preserved.

No building will be allowed around the village centre that cannot demonstrate that it adds to the beautification of the Village and sits in harmony within the village scape.



Dickleburgh Village 1843 (courtesy of Norfolk Heritage Library)

Views from the Village

The village setting is dependent upon the countryside abutting the Village and weaving into the Village. In order to maintain and ensure this there are key views.

- a) From the Village looking west along the Ipswich Road. This view draws in the verges on Ipswich Road, the open fields on both sides of the Ipswich Road, the hedgerow beside Manor Farmhouse, along with the listed buildings of Manor Farmhouse and Manor House. It also includes aspects of the open field and heritage site F.
- b) From the Village looking down Rectory road. This draws in Heritage buildings on the North side of Rectory road and allows glimpses of the Heritage buildings on the South side of Rectory Road.
- c) From the Village looking out along the Norwich Road. This draws in the Heritage buildings on both sides of the road and brings into focus the beck and the relationship with the Moor.



The *East of England Plan* (2008) states that 'plans, policies programmes and proposals should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings, and places and historic landscapes, including those features and sites (and their settings) especially significant in the East of England'. It goes on to define these further and includes 'the rural landscapes of the region, which are highly distinctive and of ancient origin.'¹⁵

¹⁵ Historic characterisation and sensitivity Assessment Norfolk County Council May 2009 (Introduction p.3)

Evidence for the importance of protecting and enhancing views and vistas

South Norfolk is famed for its 'big skies' and uninterrupted long views. This is highlighted in the South Norfolk District Council document. South Norfolk Landscape Assessment: Final Report, Character Area: B4 Waveney Tributary Farmland which identifies the key characteristics as including.

'A large-scale open landscape on the higher ground with some distant views.'

'A peaceful and rural landscape.'¹⁶

The document goes on to say.

'This is a transitional landscape gently sloping from the higher plateau landscapes (at 50m AOD) to the Waveney Valley (at approximately 30m AOD). In the north, such as around Tivetshall St Mary, the landform is a higher and flatter, reflecting the transition to the adjacent Great Moulton Plateau Farmland.'¹⁷

'Churches are a distinctive feature of this character area, with towers often being significant in rural views. Large, prominent churches' (such as Dickleburgh)... (and)' church occurs amid fields'¹⁸ (such as Rushall)

The Landscape Assessment identifies sensitivities and vulnerabilities, which include:

'the hedgerows and woodlands, which create pattern and variety in the landscape and contribute to a more intimate and enclosed character in some areas; ... the rural setting of villages; ... the views to and setting of the distinctive and prominent churches; ... the overall peaceful, rural character and absence of visual and aural intrusion.'¹⁹ Rushall can be judged as meeting this requirement from all angles in and out of the Village. Dickleburgh also meets the requirement when viewed from the North, East and South. The rich diversity of wildlife, including bats, that are often dependent upon uninterrupted views, vistas and the network of hedgerows and woodlands are thriving in the Parish. Destruction of habitats through the damage of views and vistas is likely and would deplete the value of the sightlines to both communities and the local biosphere alike.

The overall landscape strategy of the South Norfolk District Council is,

¹⁶ Character Area: B4 Waveney Tributary Farmland (B 11.2)

¹⁷ Character Area: B4 Waveney Tributary Farmland (B4 11.4)

¹⁸ Character Area: B4 Waveney Tributary Farmland (B4 11.13)

¹⁹ Any structure that impinges upon views too, from, or through the distinctive features, or challenges the views of the skyline, would fail to meet the requirements set out in the Landscape Assessment. (B4 11.15)

'to conserve the rural, peaceful quality of the Waveney Tributary Farmland with its strong farmland character, threaded by small tributary watercourses, and mix of more intimate, wooded, enclosed valleys contrasting with more open landscapes.'²⁰

'Any development in the area must respect the character of Waveney Tributary Farmland and in particular, consider the following: conserve the rural, peaceful character, with the pattern of small villages and settlements set within the agricultural landscape, but not dominating it; conserve the character and individual identity of the villages either set around greens or loosely following roads. Conserve the quiet, rural character of the narrow lanes that cross the area'.²¹

In order to meet the requirement, any development will need to comply with the identified prerequisite of rurality as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The same demands of rural sensitivity and understanding feature in Character area 5 'visual sensitivities associated with open views to churches and the valley crest skyline and the threat of intrusion of development into these views'²² (7.18)

Any structure/s that impinges upon views, too, from, or through the distinctive features, or challenges the views of the skyline, would fail to meet the requirements set out in the Landscape Assessment.

There is increasing evidence that views and vistas maintain and improve public health.

Research on health and well-being has suggested that open countryside views and vistas reduce stress, improve mental health and memory, and improve restorative health²³. In short, our well-being is affected by the environment.²⁴ Research suggests that just as there are significant long-term health benefits to being in or around nature, nature loss degrades human health.²⁵ Research conducted by the University of Minnesota suggests that within a health setting, "natural scenes are restorative and are most liked when they have a depth perspective (a view)"²⁶

Research suggested that when participants viewed a scenic view, their stress levels lowered, and they were better able to handle the stress.²⁷ The restorative nature of scenic views and

²⁰Character Area: B4 Waveney Tributary Farmland (B4 11.16)

²¹ Character Area: B4 Waveney Tributary Farmland (B4 11.17)

²² Character Area: A5 Waveney Rural River Valley (A5 7.11)

²³ View through a window may influence recovery from surgery by: R S Ulrich. Published by SCIENCE 27th Apr 1984. Vol 224, Issue 4647 pp. 420-421

²⁴ sky-scapes.com/6-ways-scenic-views-of-nature-help-heal-the-mind-and-body/

²⁵ UEA Published by News archive 23rd Jun 2022

²⁶ Taking Charge of your Health and Well-being Expert Contributor: Mary Jo Kreitzer, RN, PhD

²⁷ Viewing Nature Scenes Positively Affects Recovery of Autonomic Function Following Acute-Mental Stress by: Daniel K. Brown,* Jo L. Barton, and Valerie F. Gladwell published by: Environ Sci Technol. 2013 Jun 4; 47(11): 5562–5569. Published online 2013 Apr 16.

vistas was further exemplified by research in Pennsylvania, USA, demonstrating that access to scenic views improves recovery.

Evidence shows overwhelmingly that exposure to windows or other natural landscapes aids hospital patients in many aspects of recovery – pain tolerance and heart rate.²⁸



²⁸ Building and Environment Volume 58, December 2012, Pages 70-80 by: E.R.C.M.Huisman