

# Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan **2015**

## Base Line Information

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### 1 Background

This document is designed to capture the basic information gathered from which to build the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 2 Landscape and townscape

Lavenham is set within a gently undulating landscape comprising boulder clay soils over chalk, which has resulted in land of high agricultural quality. Hedges with hedgerow trees and small areas of woodland break up the fields surrounding the village. Watercourse create the grain of the landscape creating winding watercourses lined by wooded bank vegetation contributing to a varied patchwork of ecological community types as well as the visual appeal of the countryside.

This attractive landscape adds to the amenity value of the village. Distinctive views are to be found looking into and out of the village settlement. Footpaths provide a link between the whole. Gardens break up the built environment and add balance the varied mix of hard and soft townscape.

### 3 History and context

Lavenham is unique in its character and personality. Its famous timber-framed streets are the legacy of a thriving industry in woollen cloth, already well established in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The town is a good example of early town planning, with medieval streets radiating out from the Market Place which acquired its charter in 1257.

The de Vere family, Earls of Oxford and Lords of the Manor going back to the Conquest, stimulated Lavenham's commercial growth until by 1524 it is recorded as the 14<sup>th</sup> richest in the country, with many inhabitants who would today be regarded as millionaires. Prosperous cloth merchants displayed their wealth through their timber-framed buildings, continually rebuilding in the latest style. Thus, the majority of Lavenham's houses date from between 1450 and 1530, while the magnificent Church of Saints Peter and Paul also underwent major rebuilding during this period, funded mainly by the Earls of Oxford and Thomas Spring, Lavenham's richest clothier. The hall of the religious Guild of Corpus Christi still dominates the Market Place, one of four such buildings in the town's heyday.

But the bubble of economic success burst barely a generation after this boom, and Lavenham's reversal of fortune was both dramatic and until relatively recently permanent. Such was the town's dependence on the cloth trade that when the market collapsed its inhabitants could no longer afford to maintain their houses. Many of the finest buildings were lost at this time, while others survived by being sub-divided into tenements.

As a consequence, almost no new building took place for almost 300 years, when Victorian cottages and almshouses began to spring up on the former sites of timber houses, while many of those that remained acquired 'new' brick facades. A new upturn in fortunes was brought about by the coming of the railway (which, alas, closed in the 1960s), coupled with new industry from coconut matting manufacture, horsehair weaving and sugar beet processing.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century our buildings were again facing dereliction, a process only to be halted in the years following the 2nd World War. Lavenham slowly became a desirable place to live and a famous tourist destination, with house prices beyond the means of most of the indigenous population. Careful consideration is needed now, so that those who live here over the next 400 years inherit a vibrant, sustainable village. We hope that this document will play its part in achieving this aim.

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### **4 Village assets**

Church of St Peter & Paul

Church yard

Cemetery and chapel

Salvation Army hall

Recreation ground on the Long Melford Road and children's play equipment thereon

Sports Pavilion on Recreation ground

Village hall

Doctors surgery

Glebe or Rectory Meadow – next to the village hall site

Green spaces at

- Meadow Close and children's play equipment thereon

- Harwood Place

- The Glebe

- The Common and children's play equipment thereon

- First Meadow

- Spring Street

- Weavers Close

- Deacons Close

- River side opposite the bottom of Prentice Street

- Remaining grass verges around the village

- Meadow to the west of Potlands

- Grassland verges and permanent pasture meadows along Park Road

- The Lavenham (Railway) Walk

- Dye House Wood

- Pond at the junction of Bury and Preston roads

Lavenham Primary School

Cock Inn car park and lavatory block Prentice

Street car park and lavatory block

Numerous footpaths shown on the definitive map and permissive footpaths – see appendix [xx]

Mill House and remains of windmill

Little Hall

Market Place

The Guildhall – National Trust property and Grade 1 listed building

All Listed buildings totalling 206 including;

- 13 Grade I

- 188 Grade II

- 3 Grade II listed features

- 2 Scheduled monuments

Market Cross – Scheduled Ancient Monument

Gas works in Water Street – Scheduled Ancient Monument

15<sup>th</sup> century water culvert under Water Street

Palaeolithic sites World

War II pillboxes

Victorian water pumps

Bus shelter opposite The Swan

Telephone boxes

Shops; their mix and diversity, including;

- Butcher

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-Baker -  
Grocers -  
Pharmacy  
-Eateries  
- Dentists and complimentary beauty therapists  
- Garage  
Tourist information office  
The Swan Hotel  
The Great House restaurant with rooms  
The Angel Hotel  
The Greyhound and Cock pubs

### 5 Population

Based on the 2011 national census the total resident population of the Parish of Lavenham is 1,722 some 822 (48%) were men and 900 (52%) women. Babergh district in which Lavenham is located had a population of 87,740 of which 43,004 (49%) are men and 44,736 (51%) are women.

In Lavenham the percentage of people aged over 65 in 2011 was 33.4% compared to 16.4% nationally and the number under 30 was 21.9% compared to 37.6% nationally. For the economically active age range of 20 to 29 years olds the Lavenham percentage at 6.9% is half the national average of 13.7%. **This imbalance is increasing and threatens the sustainability of the community. It places extra, and different, demands on local health, education, transport and housing.**

In 2011 the age breakdown compared the district and England as a whole was as follows. The figures in brackets are taken from the 2001 census:

Age group	Lavenham raw figures	Lavenham %	Babergh %	National %
Total	1722 (1739)			
0-9	130 (100)	07.6 (05.8)	10.6	11.9
10-19	128 (138)	07.4 (08.0)	12.0	12.0
20-29	118 (150)	06.9 (08.6)	08.8	13.7
30-64	771 (820)	44.7 (47.2)	47.2	46.0
65+	575 (531)	33.4 (30.5)	21.4	16.4

From these figures we can conclude that the population of Lavenham is significantly older than the national population. Indeed, the mean age nationally is 39.3 years old, for Babergh it is 45.0 and for Lavenham a significantly higher 56.0.

The percentage of Lavenham residents older than 65 is over 50% greater than that of Babergh district and over twice that of the national average. Over the last ten years it has increased from just over 30% of the total population to 33.4%

The important economically active age group 20-64 is considerably smaller than the district and national figures 51.6% versus 56% for Babergh and 59.6% for England as a whole and between 2001 and 2011 it has declined from 55.8% to 51.6% a drop of 7.5%.

Of the population 95.24% are classified as white British. For Babergh one finds a similar percentage 95.36% and nationally a somewhat lower 90.84%.

Of permanent Lavenham residents 32 were classified lone parents of these 29 were women.

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### 6 Housing

All statistics based on 2011 national census, with the exception of the Council Tax Bandings, which were available from Babergh District Council.

There were 987 dwellings hence a housing density of 1.7 persons per dwelling of which 884 were occupied full time hence a housing density of 1.9 per dwelling considerably less than the national average. This means that 103 or just over 10.4% were probably for weekend or occasional use.

For Babergh the density figure is 3.9% and nationally 4.2% which means that Lavenham is three times that of Babergh and almost double the national average.

Housing stock

Whole houses - detached	303	30.7%
Whole houses semi-detached	279	28.3
Terrace houses	320	32.4
Flats	85	8.6

Of the 884 permanently occupied dwellings

		Lav %	Bab %	England %
Owned outright	391	44.2	39.6	30.6
With mortgage	181	20.5	32.3	32.8
Shared ownership	7	00.8	00.5	00.8
Council rental	150	16.8	08.9	09.4
Housing associations etc.	27	03.1	04.2	08.3
Privately rented	101	11.5	12.5	16.8
Rent free	27	03.1	02.0	01.3

Of the 884 dwelling with usual residents for 2011 (2001 in brackets)

	Lavenham	Bab	England
1 room	00.3 (00.0)	00.2	00.8
2	10.9 (01.5)	01.3	02.9
3	10.6 (09.4)	05.3	10.3
4	16.4 (17.2)	15.9	19.2
5	18.8 (24.1)	24.5	24.7
6	19.0 (16.6)	19.5	19.4
7	12.8 (13.0)	12.6	10.1
8+	20.7 (18.3)	20.8	12.7

Of the 884 number of bedrooms % 2011

	Lav	Bab	England
0	00.1	00.1	00.3
1	11.4	06.3	11.8
2	30.1	25.4	27.9
3	36.7	42.0	41.2
4	17.0	20.2	14.4
5+	04.8	06.0	00.5

Over the past twenty years a number of private estates have been built in Lavenham: The Glebe consisting of 44 houses (mostly comprised of four bedrooms); Riverside consisting of 19 houses

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(four bedrooms); Deacons Close consisting of 11 houses (three bedrooms); Roper's Court extension 8 bungalows (two bedrooms); White Gates consisting of 5 houses, 3 houses are detached each having 4 bedrooms. There are two semi-detached properties. One is a 2 bed property and the other is an affordable house again with 2 bedrooms. In-fill; two houses in Shilling Street, Quakers Yard four houses and Church Street builders yard one house and Hall Road studio converted into cottage and Constable Court conversion of office units to 6 houses.

**Affordable housing developments on exception sites during the same period comprised 11 units.**

Council Tax Bandings as provided by Babergh DC, are classified as following:-

	Lavenham	Nationally
Band A 121	12.66	24.8
Band B 215	22.49	19.5
Band C 177	18.51	21.7
Band D 113	11.82	15.3
Band E 122	12.76	9.4
Band F 123	12.87	4.9
Band G 83	8.68	3.5
Band H 2	0.21	0.5

Of the 884 households 15 or 1.7% do not have central heating. Twenty-two (2.5%) consist of only one room 13 or 1.5% percent of only one bedroom.

Listed buildings total 201, of which 13 are Grad 1 and 188 Grade 11\* and 11. Source English Heritage. A number of these buildings, however, are split into separate dwellings, numbering 321 and includes 15 Grade 1, 28 Grade 11 star and 278 Grade 11. Source Babergh District Council.

### 7 Health and wellbeing

Two salient points about health in Lavenham is the fact that, as we have seen, it has a large population over the age of 65 and many of these do not possess a motor car, necessary in some cases to access health services and cannot afford taxis fares. Transport can be arranged through the National Health Service but the service is restricted. As we will see some basic services can require going to larger centres but again transport is poor and can be expensive.

Provision of health services for Lavenham:

The Lavenham Surgery is part of the Long Melford practice and is highly valued as is the service provided by the Bildeston Surgery.

There are two dentists providing NHS services in the village. The nearest opticians are in Sudbury. Lavenham also enjoys the benefit of a full service pharmacy and dispensary. The village also enjoys an osteopathic practice and two beauty clinics offering a wide range of techniques.

In Sudbury a new Health Facility opened in early 2015 and offers a state of the art health centre for people in and around Sudbury, including Lavenham. Services that are housed within the new complex include:

- Paediatrics, dermatology, audiology, gynaecology, rheumatology
- Musculoskeletal physiotherapy, podiatry, speech and language therapy and continence clinics
- X-ray
- Community midwifery, health visitors and community therapy
- Neurology, urology, ophthalmology and orthopaedics
- GP services from Siam GP surgery

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The nearest hospital is the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Hospital Trust in Bury St Edmunds 9 miles away.

West Suffolk Hospital is a vibrant, friendly and accessible hospital set in a 19-hectare parkland site on the edge of Bury St Edmunds (with a direct bus service to Lavenham). It has around 430 beds open at any one time and serves a population of around 275,000 within an area of about 600 square miles. In addition, the hospital treats patients living outside this area who actively choose to be referred.

An “acute” hospital with an accident and emergency department, the West Suffolk Hospital aims to be the hospital local communities choose first, every time and is committed to achieving excellence and the highest quality care.

Current provision of services in Lavenham:

General health:

There is a First Responders service in Lavenham provided by volunteers. A volunteer therefore, is likely to be the first to respond to a 999 call. Response time is usually within the 8 minutes target time stipulated by the National Health Service. It is a highly valued service in the community. Once a Responder is on call a paramedic will attend and take charge.

About 1,500 Lavenham residents are served by a two-site National Health Service practice (called the Long Melford Practice), a partnership of five doctors, with a purpose built health centre in Lavenham and a main surgery located 5 miles away and reached by poor public transportation links in Long Melford. The Long Melford surgery is open for longer hours, has better facilities and offers more appointments. The practice has about 9,500 patients and covers a wide area including in addition to Long Melford and Lavenham the villages of: Acton, Alpheton, Boxted, Brent Eleigh, Cockfield, Glemsford, Great Waldingfield, Hartest, Lawshall, Little Waldingfield, Preston St Mary, Shimpling, Stanstead and Thorpe Morieux.

The clinical team is made up of 5 general practitioners partners, 2 associate general practitioners, 2 nurse practitioners, four practice nurses and 2 health care assistants. It is also a training practice and has up to two registrars at any one time. The main surgery has a dispensary and the Lavenham surgery works with the local pharmacy that can deliver medicines to its users.

Patients are seen by appointment as there is no open clinic. Sometimes by ringing early in the morning an appointment can be offered for the same day with one much more like to be offered at the Long Melford surgery than at Lavenham. Only Long Melford can offer appointments outside normal opening hours.

The Lavenham surgery is open from 8am to 13 hours and again from 14 hours to 18:30 Mondays to Friday. General practitioners are available from 08.30 to 10.50 and again from 14.30 to 17.20 Monday to Friday. The Nurse Practitioner is available from 08.20 to 11.20 on Monday. Practice Nurses are available from 08.40 to 12.30 Mondays to Fridays and again from 14.30 to 15.40 Thursdays. Health Care Assistants are available from 08.40 to 12.30 Tuesdays and from 08.40 to 12.00 Wednesdays.

Blood can be taken at Lavenham but only on Thursday afternoons otherwise patients must travel to Sudbury or Bury St. Edmunds particularly if they must give blood in the morning after fasting. However, blood can be taken at home for those who are housebound.

There is no surgery of any kind at either site on weekends and bank holidays

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About 292 residents of Lavenham are registered with the Bildeston Health Centre that is accessible only by motorcar. Appointments with one of the four general practitioners are given between 08:30 to 10:30 and 15:00 to 5:50 Monday to Friday. A phlebotomist is available weekday between 08:45 and 11. Health care assistants are available from 14:00 to 17:45. A Saturday surgery by appointment only is held between 9 to 12:00 noon. The Bildeston team consists of four doctors and two practice nurses and it has its own dispensary. Both practices can perform minor surgery.

### Dentistry:

Lavenham has two private dental practices. The nearest NHS practices are in Sudbury where there are six and Hadleigh, not directly accessible by public transport where there are two.

### Opticians:

There is an optician in Long Melford, four in Sudbury and two in Hadleigh.

In the 2011 people were asked to describe their health as very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. Although this is a largely subjective judgement and does not give us anywhere near good as indication as would be provided by an examination of surgery and hospital records it can be useful as an impression. Briefly, as would be expected Lavenham residents are more likely to report bad or very bad health than do the younger Babergh and national populations.

	Lav	Bab	England
Very good health	37.6	46.6	47.2
Good health	39.0	35.8	34.2
Fair health	17.3	13.3	13.1
Bad health	04.6	03.4	04.2
Very bad health	01.5	00.9	01.2
Good very good	76.6	82.4	81.4
Bad/very bad	06.1	04.3	05.4

Figures like these are to be expected with older population. Another factor is the number of residents who have been moved into care facilities outside Lavenham. This would add to those who report bad or very bad health. As Lavenham does not have any such facilities we would expect the figures in that category to be higher.

Some 403 residents report that their day-to-day activities are at least somewhat limited because of their health. This represents 23.4% of the population. The discrepancy between this figure and the much lower figure of 6.1% of those reporting that their health is bad or very bad is interesting. Additionally, 33.68% of households report that they are composed of one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness. This figure is in line with that for England as a whole.

A total of 80 residents claimed disability living allowance.

	Raw	%
Younger than 16	10	12
16-24	05	06
25-49	15	19
50-59	15	19
60-69	20	25
70+	15	19



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In 2011 some 226 usual residents provide unpaid care. Of these the percentages are as follows:

Universe 226.

Unpaid care	Lav	Bab	England
1-19 hours	72.1	70.2	63.6
20-49	09.7	10.5	13.3
50+	18.2	19.3	23.1

### 8 Air quality

A report was prepared in 2014 but has yet to be published – October 2015

Local authorities, in the case of Lavenham, its district council is required by the 2007 Air Quality Strategy to issue yearly reports and a plan to deal with seven pollutants largely the products of transport and industry within its boundaries recommending how to achieve the reductions of any significant risk to health and attain the wider objectives of sustainable development in relation to air quality.

The District of Babergh in conjunction with Mid-Suffolk Council has issued yearly air quality reports up to at least 2011. The reports for 2012 and 2013 have not been published and are not accessible. As of 2011 Babergh District Council does not have an air quality strategy in place.

Those pollutants which are cross boundary, so to speak and consist of ozone, nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide are not part of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) system.

Of the seven pollutants that all within the remit of Babergh it does not measure benzene, PM10 particles are sulphur compounds as they are regarded as low risk.

Within Babergh the only place to be designated an Air Quality Management Area is Cross Street in Sudbury because of an exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide. Water Street in Lavenham has some of the same characteristics as Cross Street but perhaps because of the lower volume of traffic to the best of our knowledge it has not been monitored and there are no automatic monitoring or non-automatic sites in the village. It is claimed that the main source of pollution in Lavenham is from the emissions of motorised vehicles.

### 9 Public transport

Overall Lavenham suffers from the lack of an integrated system of public transport. It lost its railway in 1966 and its links by bus do not necessarily dovetail with the schedule of the closest railway stations located in Sudbury and Bury St. Edmunds. The lack of such a system makes the use of a private motor car imperative and those without a motor car often cannot take jobs in the nearby towns where employment is on offer.

Links:

Lavenham is located 6 miles by road from Sudbury Railway Station which links via Marks Tey with an hourly train to London Liverpool Street, as does the village of Bures 10 miles distant. Bury St. Edmunds Railway station is 11 miles and links via Cambridge with London and to Ipswich, via Stowmarket. Colchester main line station enjoys a direct service to Liverpool Street with trains leaving about twice an hour and is 15 miles away.

Airports

By road Stansted airport is 28 miles away and Southend airport is 37 miles. Both can be reached by motor car or a hired taxi service. There is no direct public transport service, albeit that both can be

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reached by train via London Liverpool Street.

### Buses

An hourly scheduled bus service to Bury St Edmunds links to West Suffolk Hospital and from the bus station links to the national bus network. An hourly service in the other direction goes to Sudbury and Colchester visiting intermediate villages en route. Suffolk Link offers a dial-a-ride service and is located in Hadleigh. GoStart of Sudbury provides a flexible dial-a-ride service.

The Parish Council sponsors a Good Neighbour scheme and its main offering is a 'taxi' service provided by volunteer drivers with a fixed tariff.

The Babergh Core Plan recognises the lack of good public transport as an issue.

### 10 Employment

Data based on 2011 national census.

Of permanent residents aged 16-74, a total of 1,205, some 64 percent were classified as economically active (a very slight decline from 2001 when 65.3% were classified as economically active). The corresponding figures for Babergh district are 70.3% (69.7% in 2001) and England as a whole 69.9% (67.9% in 2001). The difference of between 5 and 6 percentage points is due to the higher percentage of population that is classified as retired.

#### Classified as economically active (total of 771)

	Count	Lav	Bab	England
Employed part time	153	12.7	15.2	13.7
Employed full time	358	29.7	37.2	38.6
Self employed	212	17.6	12.7	09.8
unemployed	27	02.2	03.0	04.4
students	21	01.7	02.3	03.4

#### Classified as economically inactive (total of 434)

retired	312	25.9	18.2	13.7
students	25	02.1	03.4	05.8
carers	41	03.4	04.2	04.4
disabled etc	45	03.7	02.5	04.0
Others	11	00.9	01.3	02.2

Retirees constitute almost double the national percentage and about 25% higher than for the Babergh district. What is equally noteworthy is that the percentage of employees in Lavenham is lower than for Babergh and England as a whole and the percentage classified as self-employed is again just short of double of the national percentage and just under 40% higher than for the Babergh district. Unemployment is about half of the national average and there is a considerably smaller proportion of the active and inactive population classified as students.

The percentage of retirees has increased from 21.2% of the total population in 2001 to 25.9% in 2011 a significant increase of some 22%. For Babergh one finds that the proportion has increased from 15.5% to 18.2% and nationally the figures are 13.5% in 2001 and 13.7% in 2011. Hence the trend is a rise in the number and percentage of the population classified as retirees well above the national average and a proportion of the population that is classified as retired also well above the national and district averages.

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Based on two surveys carried out by the Lavenham Merchants Guild in 2000 and 2010, the breakdown of occupations is;

Business Category	2000 Survey			2010 Survey			%+ - %
	Full	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
Hotel/Pub/Restaurant	71	63	134	87	44	131	-2.3
General Shops	49	14	63	43	75	118	+87
Food Shops	14	15	29	15	20	35	+20.6
Galleries/Antiques	15	10	25	10	16	26	+4
Professional Services	34	6	40	41	25	66	+65
Health/Hair/Beauty	10	10	20	14	19	33	+65
Building Services	52	5	57	25	5	30	-47
Industrial	60	15	75	48	7	55	-26.7
Farmer	19	4	23	10	5	15	-35
B&B/Holiday let	5	10	15	10	21	31	+106
Others	1	4	5	3	2	5	
Totals	330	156	486	306	239	545	+12.1%

The socio-economic status in the 2001 census was as follows. The information is for 1,555 people:

	Raw	Lav	Bab	England
AB Higher/professional	360	23.2	24.0	22.1
C1 Supervisory, clerical	484	31.1	30.0	29.7
C2 Skilled manual	227	14.6	16.8	15.1
D Semi-skilled manual	182	11.7	14.5	17.1
E Labourers/on benefit	302	19.4	14.7	16.0

Of course, these figures do not fully take into account the possible changes in status that occurs when one retires and also do not take into account accumulated wealth. The class composition of the village is more extreme than that of the country as a whole.

In 2011 the census changed the way it classified socio-economic status making it difficult to fully compare the results of 2001 with those of 2011. Using the rubrics used in 2001 it is possible to arrive at the following estimates that are far from exact because the large group of retired people many living on earnings from capital are excluded as the categorisation is based only on those at work. However, the following comparison is still of some merit.

Based on a total of 1,161 Lavenham residents of working age we find the following:

	2001	2011	2011 actual numbers
AB Higher/professional	23.2	24.4	283
C1 Supervisory, clerical	31.1	25.6	298
C2 Skilled manual	14.6	10.4	121
D Semi-skilled manual	11.7	14.0	163
E Labourers/on benefit	19.4	25.5	296

Even if the figures are not entirely reliable it is still possible to conclude that there has been a loss of residents from the C1 and C2 categories. Gains have been made by those categories at the extremes which could be taken as an indication that socio-economic differences have widened.

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### Distance travelled to work (2011)

Universe: 825

Work at home	134	16.2%
Less than 2km	159	19.4
2-5 km	019	02.3
5-10 km	171	20.8 includes Sudbury
10-20km	121	14.7 includes Bury St Edmunds
20-30 km	069	08.2
30-40 km	025	03.0
40-60 km	024	02.9
60+ km	051	06.1
not fixed	050	06.0
outside UK	003	00.4

This indicates that 35.6% of those at work either work from home or are within walking distance of their place of work. Probable commuters to Sudbury are 20.8% and to Bury 14.7% meaning that 292 people require weekday transport to those places. On such a scale careful thought must be given to the provision of adequate and timely public transport for economic and ecological reasons. In 2001 only 17 residents used public transport for such purposes, 10 travelled by bicycle, 3 by a motorised cycle or moped and 45 as a passenger in a motor car. 110 went on foot.

### Of those in employment: and who travel to work: method of travel to work 2011 Universe: 658

	Lav	Bab	England
Train/tram/metro	04.1	04.1	10.0
Bus	00.8	02.4	07.9
Taxis	00.5	00,2	00,6
Moto	01.1	00.7	00.9
Van/car driving	70.0	73.7	60.2
Van/car passenger	04.9	04.9	05.3
Cycle	00.9	02.2	03.1
Walk	16.6	11.1	11.3
Other	01.1	00.7	00.7

Of Lavenham who are employed and do not work from home 74.9% drive to work or are transported to work in a private car, very few cycle and given the relative unavailability of trains etc., few are able to avail themselves of those services unless they are commuters to larger towns and cities. The use of the bus as means of conveyance to work is spectacularly less than is the case in Babergh and full ten times less than for England as a whole. This requires attention. A higher percentage 16.6% walks to work than in either the district or England as a whole. Overwhelmingly the motor car is the form of transport to work for those who do not work from home or within walking distance of their place of employment.

Comparing the occupational profile of 2001 with that of 2011 is difficult because of changes in the systems of classification. However, there are a number of discernible trends. The total number of people who are between 16 and 74 and working (as opposed to being retired or living off investments) has declined from 826 in 2001 to 742 in 2011. Whereas 42 people were employed in agriculture and related sectors in 2001 this has now declined to 15. The fall in manufacturing is even

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steeper with a contraction from 143 to 86. Those engaged in trade has fallen from 134 to 108. Construction has remained more or less steady increasing from 92 in 2001 to 93 in 2011.

The number of professionals including science and technology has increased to 52, public administration from 32 to 39, education from 52 to 72 whilst those in the health sector have declined from 68 to 62 and those in the restaurant and accommodation sector have remained more or less steady.

Employment: Residents; 16-74. Sectors

2011 Total: 742

	Nos.	%
Agriculture	15	02.0
Building: quarrying	00	00.0
Manufacturing	86	11.6
Electricity	04	00.5
Water supply	03	00.4
Construction	93	12.5
Trade	108	14.6
Transport	20	02.7
Accomod./food	68	09.3
Info/Communic.	20	02.7
Financial	16	02.2
Estates	10	01.3
Prof./science/tech	52	07.0
Admin. Support	30	04.0
Public admin	39	05.2
Education	72	09.7
Health	62	08.4
Other	44	05.9

We can look at this in another way;-

Occupation of Lavenham residents.

2011 Total: 742%	% of population
Manager directors etc	14.2
Prof	14.4
Technical	12.4
Admin/secy	09.7
Skilled	17.3
Caring leisure	08.2
Sales etc.	06.6
Operatives	05.0
Elementary occupations	12.3

# Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015

## Base Line Information

### 11 Education and skills

Highest level of qualifications 2011. Aged 16+ Universe: 1512

	Raw	Lav	Bab	England
No qualifications	376	24.9	22.8	22.5
1-4 O-levels	174	11.5	14.5	13.3
5+ O-levels	226	14.9	17.5	15.1
Apprenticeship	059	03.9	03.9	03.6
2+ A-levels etc.	166	11.0	11.6	12.4
Degree or equiv.	446	29.5	25.8	27.4
Others	065	04.3	03.9	05.7

In line with a greater proportion of people in categories A/B and E there is a somewhat higher proportion of Lavenham residents at the two extreme: no qualifications and degree or its equivalent.

In 2007 the last year for which we have full data 58% were not entering some form of higher education and 41.1% of adults (age group 25-54) had no or low qualifications.

Lavenham Community Primary School is currently and may in the future be unable to cope with increased pupil numbers.

Lavenham Pre-school shares space with the primary school and due to restrictions on the availability of facilities can only operate in the morning. Local practice elsewhere in Suffolk is for pre-schools to be available all day.

From year 7 Lavenham's young people go by bus to schools in Sudbury and Gt Cornard

Lavenham Primary School is affiliated to one of these - The Thomas Gainsborough School, Gt Cornard. The alternative available to Lavenham students is the Ormiston Sudbury Academy.

The aim of both schools is to provide an education of sufficient breadth and balance for every student to maximise their potential: so that each student is able to develop their self confidence in learning culture based on mutual respect. Students are coached to become honest, resilient, happy young people who make a positive contribution to their Community. Both establishments take students through to sixth form.

#### Lavenham Primary School

The people of Lavenham are proud of their village school and the proven good grounding it gives its children. This is borne out by the 'Outstanding' report granted by Ofsted in its latest 2010/11 report.

The school is a Suffolk County Council coeducational school for children aged 4+ to 11 years (Reception through to year 6, thus 7 years of education) mostly from the Parish and surrounding villages. Until recently the County operated a three tier system with children leaving the school in their eighth year. It has a current enrolment of around 112, albeit that it has an overall theoretical capacity of 105 pupils. Should any expansion be required and/or possible then any new development would be expected to contribute to new school places. Without such further development the school is currently at breaking point.

Adult further education is catered for by an outreach service provided by the West Suffolk College, silver surfers club meeting at the school and Lavenham Lectures, which replaced the Cambridge Extra Mural course run out of Madingly, Cambridge. In addition, a number of societies such as the Lavenham Society run ad hoc educational events.

# Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015

## Base Line Information

### 12 Equality

One hundred and fifty households (or 17 percent of all permanently occupied households) were in receipt of housing benefit/council tax benefit. Of these 60 went to men and 95 to women (five seem to be missing from the census). Fifty were younger than 59 and 110 more than 60. Thirty couples received benefits as did 120 single people.

The deprivation scale runs from 1 to 32,482 (being the total number of localities measured) with the higher figure indicating the least deprived.

Composite scale	26,801	82.5
Income scale	22,292	68.6
Child deprivation	15,526	47.8

On a scale of 1 to 100 with 100 indicating the least deprived on a composite scale and 50 representing the average for the entire country Lavenham performs quite well (a score of 82.5), as it does somewhat less well in terms of income (68.6) but below average in terms of an absence of child-deprivation (47.8). This is a serious problem indicating that less well-off families with children have serious problems. But again one must remember that the differences between rich and poor in Lavenham are more extreme than in England as a whole hence one should not be surprised that there is a relatively large group of the population suffering from relative deprivation. Special attention should be paid to this sector.

In 2011 some 14% of the population received a key benefit as opposed to 15% nationally. Two percent claimed jobseeker's allowance, lower than the national average, and 6% claimed incapacity benefits, marginally lower than the national average. Lone parents comprised 2% of the population, carers another two percent and disabled accounted for 1%.

Half of those claiming a key benefit were over 50 years old which in percentage terms is about 30% over the national average.

In 2010 the total number of children eligible for child benefit was 235 and 135 families claimed benefit.

One hundred families received tax credit. Of these 85% were in work and 27.3% were single parents.

Some 150 individuals claimed either housing benefit or council tax benefit. Of these 110 were over the age of 60 and 120 were classified as single. This means a disproportionate part of the population of the parish were elderly people claiming benefit. Of these 63% were women.

Ninety-five people (40 men and 55 women) were pension credit claimants. Of these 75 lived in couples and 20 were single. About 45% were over the age of 80.

None of this is surprising because, as we have seen, Lavenham has a disproportionate number of well off and very badly off people and, as the census indicates, the extremes are growing whilst the middle is shrinking.

# Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015

## Base Line Information

### **13 Climate and energy**

Babergh Core Strategy policy CS12 seeks to reduce carbon emissions and sets out residential design standards (including those for both major residential developments via the Building for Life Silver Standard and for non-residential developments via the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard). Policy CS13 deals with the approach to renewable and low carbon energy, focusing on the Strategic Allocations and Broad Direction of Growth and large-scale new developments, but also encouraging low and zero carbon technologies in other developments.

Transition Lavenham a Community Interest Company has recently (September 2014) been awarded grant funding under the WRAP scheme to fund a viability appraisal into building an Anaerobic Digestion plant in the vicinity of Lavenham. The industrial nature of such an enterprise and the requirement for a two-hectare site would rule out this development within the parish of Lavenham.

### **14 Rural Community Profile for Lavenham (Rural place)**

Content link [http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile\\_E34002507\\_Lavenham.pdf](http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile_E34002507_Lavenham.pdf)

Source Community Action Suffolk

### **15 Rural community profile for Lavenham (Parish)**

Content link [http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile\\_E04009103\\_Lavenham.pdf](http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile_E04009103_Lavenham.pdf)

Source CAS



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## **1 Introduction**

This document is designed to capture the basic evidence and information gathered from which to build the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the village of Lavenham and is primarily focused on the environment, land classification and uses.

## **2 Landscape**

Lavenham, an almost unspoilt example of a mediaeval town is charmingly situated on the crown and side of an eminence, west of a pretty valley in which flows the Brad, a tributary of the River Brett" wrote Lingard Ranson in 1950".

The landscape is gently undulating comprising boulder clay soils over chalk which has resulted in land of high agricultural quality. Hedges with hedgerow trees and small areas of woodland break up the fields surrounding the village. Watercourses create the grain of the landscape separated by higher undulating land, which offer slopes to the streambeds. These winding watercourses are often lined with wooded bank vegetation contributing to the varied the varied patchwork of ecological community types as well as the visual appeal of the countryside.

This is an attractive landscape of high visual quality and Lavenham's countryside setting contributes to the amenity value of the village and provides the background for the important views into and out from the settlement. Public footpaths connect the village with the countryside and provide key visual and physical links between village and country.

## **3 Land classification and agriculture**

Chalky boulder clay of the Hanslope and Ragdale Series extends over the whole of the Parish being composed of a matrix of grey clay containing pieces of Lias and Kimmeridge limestone, flint and chalk fragments. Small outcrops of gravel deposits and chalky silts are to be found in the valley bottoms and brickearth emerges near Lower Road. The MAFF (1998) Agriculture Land Classification indicates that there are areas of Grades 2 and 3 soils in the Parish. Grade 2 (very good agricultural land) accounts for some 25% of the area with the remainder Grade 3 (good to moderate quality agricultural land). The higher quality land is situated north of the old railway line running towards Lavenham Park Farm and south of Bridge Farm.

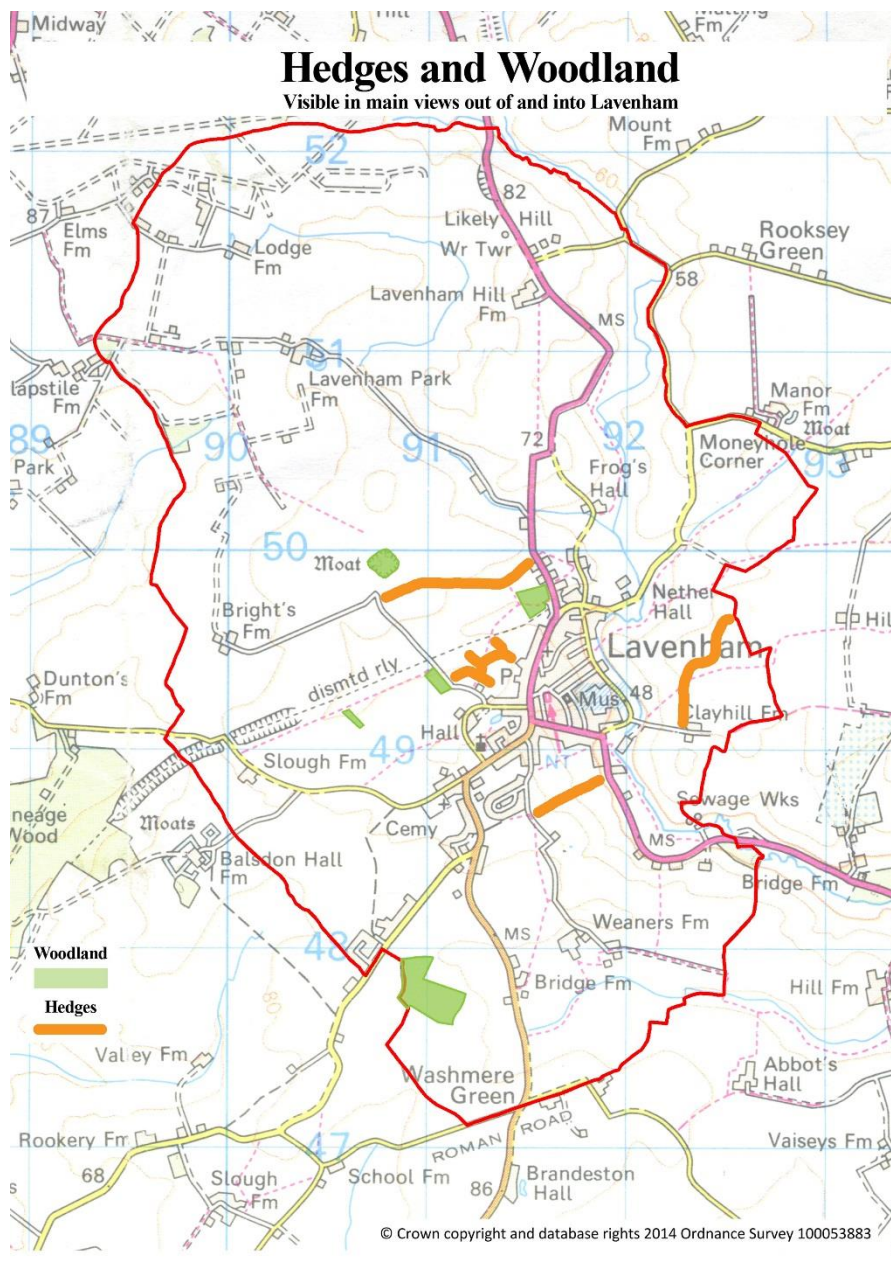
It is estimated that some 80% is cropped with cereal production predominating within rotations which include sugar beet, field beans and oilseed rape. Small areas of permanent grassland are mainly situated adjacent to the village where it is used for sheep and horse grazing and forms an important element of the outstanding views into and out from Lavenham

**Agricultural Land Classification**



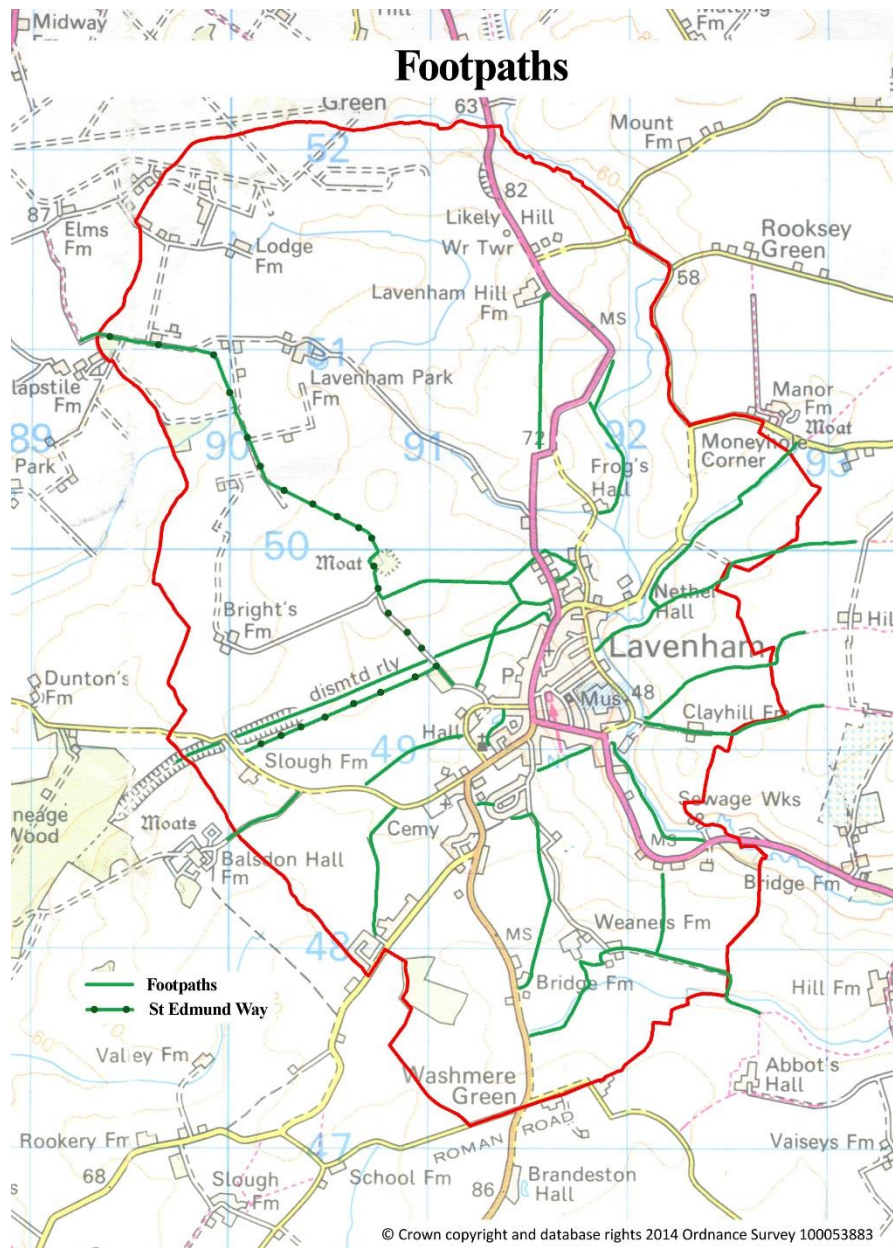
#### 4 Hedges and woodland

The landscape of the Parish is fortunate in that the field boundaries in the main are still adequately defined by hedges, ditches and small areas of woodland. Whilst many of the hedges are in good condition, some of the most significant which form an important element of the defined views into and out from Lavenham require sympathetic management and in particular gapping up to maintain continuous lines which emphasise the land form. The small areas of woodland are valuable landscape features tying the landform to hedge lines and framing viewpoints. Many of these blocks of woodland require ongoing management.



## 5 Footpaths

Lavenham has an excellent network of public footpath including the Railway Walk managed by the Suffolk County Council. Views of Lavenham, which include the dominant church tower, are a material element in the pleasure obtained by those using the paths. The St Edmunds Way, a cross Suffolk footpath which runs from Flatford to Brandon (88miles) utilises the Railway Walk from Long Melford to Park Road then turns north-west and leaves the Parish west of Lavenham Park Farm. The continuing maintenance of the footpaths and in particular the Railway Walk is essential for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors to the village.



An error in the route of the St Edmund Way has been pointed out. The route is correctly shown on the Ordnance Survey maps and is described in the book "The St Edmund Way" as follows:

(coming from the Melford direction) the route tracks the course of the former railway all the way to Lavenham. .... Pass under a road bridge [on Bridge Street Road] and carry on as far as the next road\*. [Park Road] go up the slope here and turn right up the hill into Lavenham, keeping left at the junction to go down Hall Street (sic). At the end of the large garden on the right take the earth path down to a footbridge and half right over pasture into the churchyard. From the church turn left down to The Swan, go right down Water Street and then left up Lady Street into the Market Place. Cross the Market Place and go down Prentice Street, then turn left at the bottom and left again at the crossroads. At the T junction just ahead, turn right up over a road bridge and climb to the style [no longer there] on the left at the end of the bridge parapet. Descend steps and follow the field boundary ahead. After bending right and left, turn right to use a path across the narrowest part of the field close to overhead cables. At the upper boundary, go left to follow the field edge path to the end and there turn right. Almost immediately, leave the road [Park Road] at a sharp bend to keep straight on along a grass track (the remaining route is shown correctly on the Neighbourhood Plan map on page 38)

\* note this is the route of the railway NOT the footpath running alongside is as shown on the map on page 38

## 6 Historical features in the Parish

### Second World War Pill Boxes

11 Pill Boxes are situated within the Parish. These formed part of the Eastern Command Line defence during the Second World War, (Dymond & Martin 1999).

### Manor Moat

Site of the De Veres' (Lords of the Manor) Manor House, (Lingard Ranson 1950).

### Saxon Boundary (Acton Will)

The present Parish Boundary follows the ancient Saxon line from Linage Wood past Balsdon Hall Farm to near School Farm Lane, (Scarf 1972).

### Mediaeval Deer Park Boundary

Follows the Parish Boundary north of Bright's Farm to the disused airfield. It is of interest to note that apart from a section on Clay Hill, the Parish boundary appears to be identical to that in 1597, (Melford Estate Maps 1580 and 1613, Alpheton Parish Perambulation 1688, Lavenham Parish Perambulation 1596).

### Roman Road

The southern Parish boundary follows the line of a Roman road along School Farm Lane.

### Palaeolithic Site

Finds of hippopotamus tusks, rhinoceros molars, deer teeth and caudal vertebrae of either elephant or rhinoceros, adjacent to Lower Road (Wymer 1985).

### Bright's Drift

The Drift is the turning at the top of Park Road and is probably the "Oxford Way" mentioned in sundry deeds (Lingard Ranson 1950).

### Lodge Farm

Find of Roman Urn containing silver of 13 different Emperors (Lingard Ranson 1950).

### Sites of Elm Pollard and Gospel Oak

It is likely that these pollards defined the Parish boundary in the mediaeval period. The Gospel Oak (Map of Long Melford 1820) may well have played a part in the Parish Perambulation. It is thought that the site of the Elm Pollard is shown on the Great Eastern Railway Plan.

### Tudor Culverts

Around 1500 the decision was made to divert the open street water streams into underground culverts. The main Tudor culvert is in Water Street and serves today as a storm drain being around four feet high and between two and three feet wide, constructed of Tudor brick and lime mortar. They are now owned by the Water Authority and are undoubtedly of national as well as local significance. English Heritage has been asked to consider listing the main culvert in Water Street.

## 7 Scheduled sites in the Parish

### Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

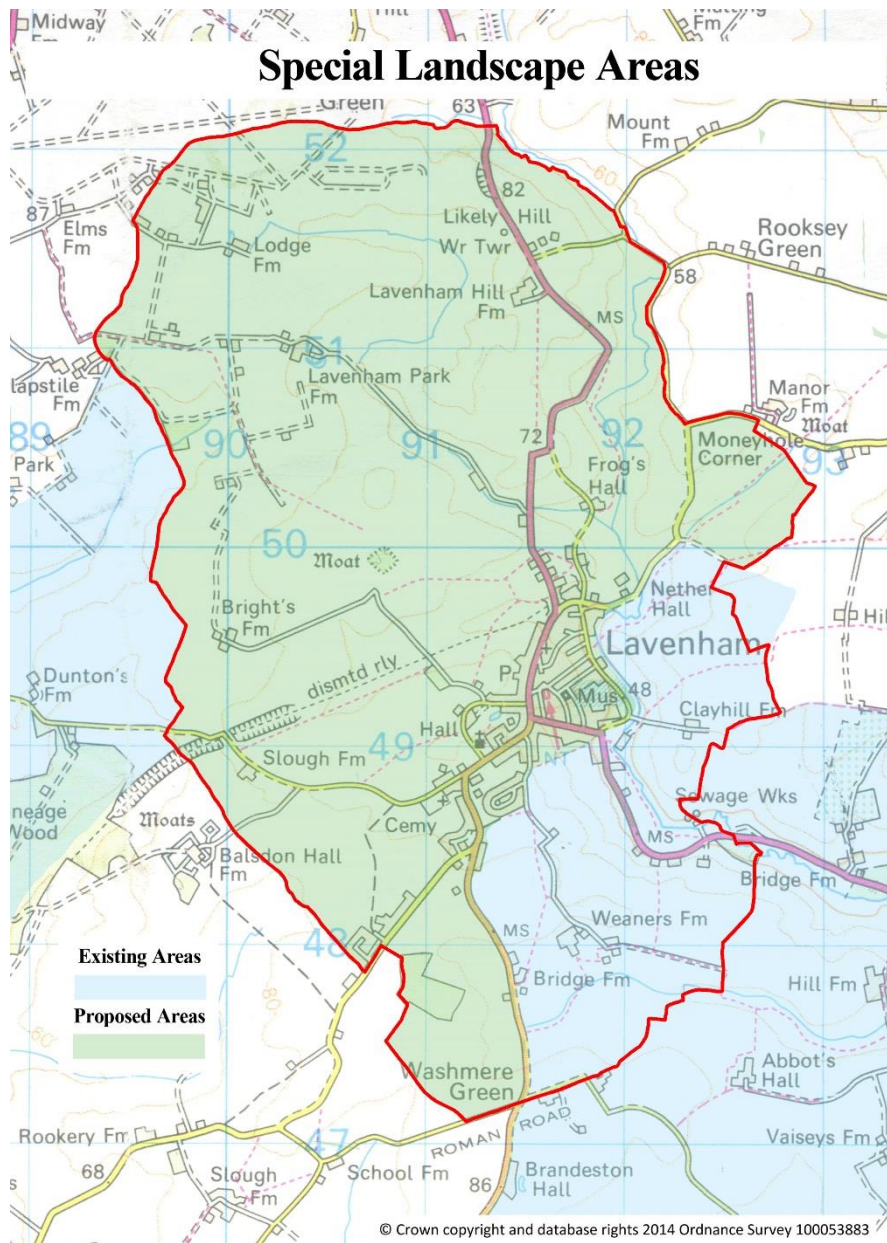
A small portion of the SSSI Linage Wood and Railway Walk, Long Melford (NG Ref TL 890485) is within the Lavenham Parish boundary.

### County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

The Railway Walk and Lavenham Wood are designated as County Wildlife Sites

### Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

Designated by the Babergh District Council the Brett SLA covers the south east of the Parish whilst the Stour Valley SLA adjoins the Parish boundary to the west.







### Site of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are important as they support plants and animals that find it difficult to survive elsewhere in the countryside, and they represent the country's best wildlife and geological sites. SSSI are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Lineage wood & railway track SSSI: Lineage Wood (formerly known as Lavenham and Acton Woods and Old Railway Track) is one of the largest (59 ha.) remaining ancient woods in west Suffolk. Despite coniferization, the wood has retained a good system of floristically rich unimproved neutral grassland rides. Small remnants of the original wet Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* – Wych Elm *Ulmus minor*, Lineage elm variant, are found in nearby Hawks Grove and alongside the disused railway track unimproved calcareous grassland is also found on chalky boulder clay of the railway track.

### Environmental Sensitive Areas (Suffolk River Valleys)

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) are one of a range of agri-environment schemes operating under the England Rural Development Programme. Incentives are offered to farmers to adopt agricultural practices which will safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value. The ESA has no planning status and therefore cannot be used as a reason for refusing planning applications.

### Countryside Project Area (Stour Valley)

The Countryside Project Area is a desired area set out by the Stour Valley and Dedham Vale AONB as an area of value but it does not have any Planning status and therefore cannot be used as a reason for refusing planning applications.

### Special Protection Areas

A Special Protection Area (SPA) is the land classified under Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. The nearest SPA, the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (23km to the south east of Lavenham) contains an internationally important assemblage of birds. Qualifying species include; Avocet (breeding), Northern pintail *Anas acuta* (wintering), Dark-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* (wintering), Red knot *Calidris canutus* (wintering), Black-tailed godwit (Icelandic) *Limosa limosa islandica* (wintering), Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (wintering), and Redshank *Tringa totanus* (wintering and passage). The vulnerability of the SPA is affected by pressure for increased port development and marine recreation in this area including tourism.

### Special Areas of Conservation

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the land designated under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. The nearest, the Rex Graham Reserve SAC (26km to the north west of Lavenham), hosts the priority habitat type "orchid rich sites". This is a disused chalk pit with developing dry grassland characterised by false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. The site has been selected as it supports the largest population of military orchid *Orchis militaris* in the UK, comprising more than 95% of the current total population.

### Ramsar Sites

A Ramsar site is the land listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) 1973. The nearest Ramsar (23km to the south east of Lavenham), the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar includes extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The site supports important numbers of breeding Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, while in winter they hold major concentrations of waterbirds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and waders roost, in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside of the area. The vulnerability of the Ramsar is affected by natural coastal processes exacerbated by fixed sea defences, port development and maintenance dredging.

### Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Dedham Vale)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are designated areas where protection is afforded to protect and manage the areas for visitors and local residents. The nearest AONB is the Dedham Vale AONB (10km south east of Lavenham). Much of East Anglia's traditional grasslands have already been drained and ploughed for arable farming, so the hedgerows and wildflower meadows of the Dedham Vale AONB are among some of England's most precious and vulnerable pastoral landscapes.

### County Wildlife Sites

County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) play a key role in the conservation of Suffolk's biodiversity. Suffolk has over 900 County Wildlife Sites, amounting to 19,200 hectares and covering 5% of the county. County Wildlife Site designation is non-statutory, but it recognises the high value of a site for wildlife. Many sites are of county, and often regional or national, importance. They are often designated because they support characteristic or threatened species or habitats included in Local or National Biodiversity Action Plans. CWSs have been identified throughout Suffolk and range from small meadows, green lanes, dykes and hedges through to much larger areas of ancient woodlands, heathland, greens, commons and marsh.

Outside of statutorily protected designations (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local and National Nature Reserves), CWSs are one of the most important areas for wildlife in Suffolk.

CWSs are recognised by national planning policy as having a fundamental role to play in meeting national biodiversity targets. CWSs are not protected by legislation, but their importance is recognised by local authorities when considering any relevant planning applications and there is a presumption against granting permission for development that would have an adverse impact on a site. Such measures have been strengthened by the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 which requires all public bodies to 'have regard for' the conservation of biodiversity. Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) monitors planning applications for any potential impact on County Wildlife Sites.

### Special Landscape Areas

The adopted Babergh Local Plan (2006) Saved Policies designates significant areas of the district's landscape as 'Special Landscape Areas', particularly the river valleys. Given the status of these as a local level designation and as an inherently site specific matter, it is not considered appropriate for these to be addressed within the Core Strategy and Policies document. Adopted and saved Local Plan Policy CR04 therefore remains extant at this point in time. A review of the SLA approach, including whether to retain this designation and if so, which areas should be covered, will be dealt with in the subsequent Site Allocations or Development Management Policies document.

### Areas of visual or recreational value

Babergh Local Plan (2006) - Important open spaces, and areas of visual or recreational value are identified in Villages in the context of the Built-Up Area Boundaries. These locations are referred to as Areas of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity (AVRA). Like the BUABs, AVRAs were introduced in the 1995 Supplementary Planning Guidance for villages in the District and were incorporated into the 2006 Local Plan.

## 9 Significant views-considerations

### Identified Significant Views into and out from Lavenham

The location of fourteen identified significant views were drawn from original survey work undertaken by a local Countryside Group in 2000 which formed the basis of the aims for safe guarding the important views which were subsequently incorporated in the approved Lavenham Design Statement 2002. This original work assisted a group of parishioners to confirm these fourteen views as potentially significant and formed part of a Neighbourhood Plan Workshop held in March 2014 for the residents of Lavenham. Residents were asked to prioritise the fourteen views shown on photographs and maps and from their local knowledge indicate those that they considered should be protected from future development using the from which was based the views on a range of 1 to 5 with 1 being very important to 5 the least important.

The results from the Workshop survey by Lavenham residents are shown at Appendix B and clearly indicate the importance of retaining and protecting the main identified views giving priority to the views relating to Prentice Street followed in descending order to Bury Road. It was considered that two views with low scores Clayhill and Bury Road could be removed and also the view of the Church West Door as being a virtual duplication of Bridge Street Road. In subsequent examination of the significant views it was clear that Nether Hall Farm (9) should be included as being of particular importance looking across Lavenham towards the Church.

At the Workshops held in March 2014 a spread of views into and out of the village were displayed. Residents were asked to prioritise the views that they considered necessary to protect. The outcome of this exercise is shown as below.

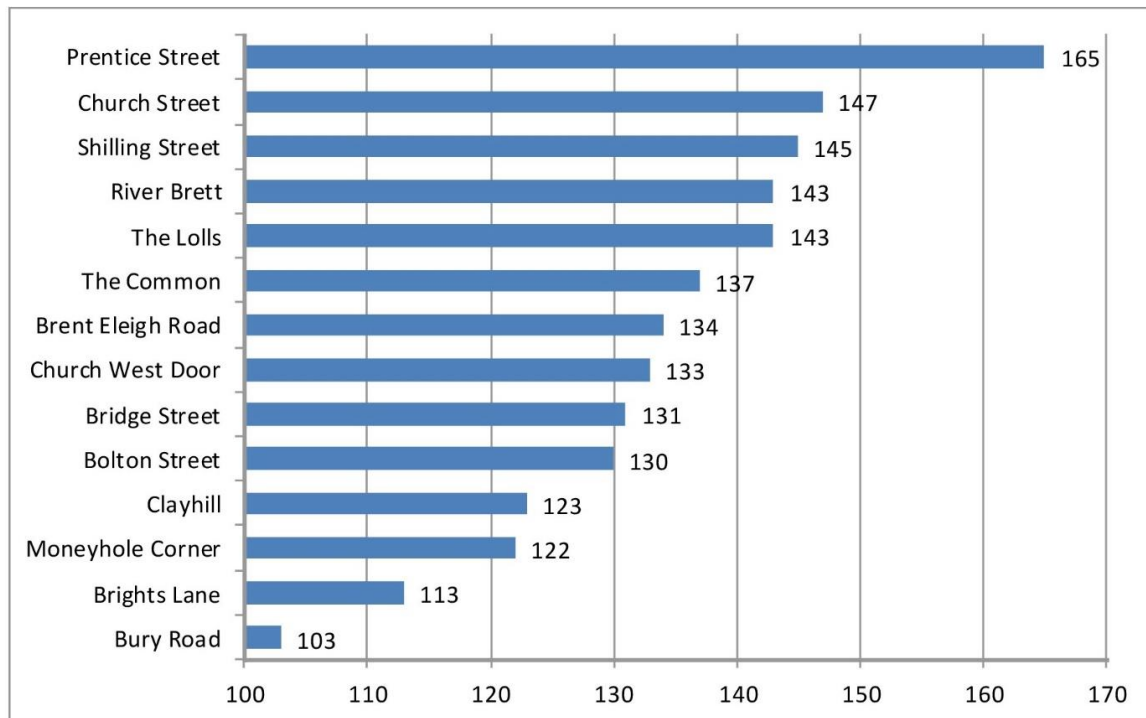
**YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT**  
**PLEASE COMPLETE AND LEAVE IN BOX**

The 14 photographs on the board show the proposed defined views which are considered to be significant for safeguarding the historic setting of Lavenham in the countryside.

Please grade each photograph on the range of 1 to 5 with 1 being very important to 5 being the least important.

		VERY IMPORTANT				LEAST IMPORTANT
1	Moneyhole Corner	1	2	3	4	5
2	Clayhill	1	2	3	4	5
3	Brent Eleigh Road	1	2	3	4	5
4	Bury Road	1	2	3	4	5
5	Brights Lane	1	2	3	4	5
6	Bridge Street	1	2	3	4	5
7	Church West Door	1	2	3	4	5
8	Bolton Street	1	2	3	4	5
9	The Common	1	2	3	4	5
10	The Lolls	1	2	3	4	5
11	Prentice Street	1	2	3	4	5
12	Shilling Street	1	2	3	4	5
13	Church Street	1	2	3	4	5
14	River Brett	1	2	3	4	5

### Outcomes



## 10 References

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