



Stutton Neighbourhood Plan
Parish Landscape Study:
Character and Sensitivity Appraisal

APPENDICES

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Appendix B: National Character Profile - 82 - Suffolk Coast and Heaths

National Character
Area profile:

82. Suffolk Coast and Heaths

Supporting documents

Introduction & Summary

Description

Opportunities

Key facts
and data

Landscape
change

Analysis

Key characteristics

- A predominantly low-lying landscape with some areas along the coastal plain below or at sea level. Changes in relief are slight, but enough to distinguish the Sandlings, sandy rolling 'upland' between estuaries.
- Crag deposits covered by deep, free-draining sands, gravels and till, forming light, sandy, easily worked soils on the Sandlings, giving rise to characteristic variation in land cover.
- A dynamic coast, shaped by long, sweeping bays, cut by the series of more sheltered estuaries. The shoreline is defined by shingle beaches and structures, sea defence features and in places low, soft crumbling cliffs.
- Rivers flow west - east forming intimate, twisting alluvial valleys. Estuaries support internationally important salt marshes and intertidal flats with large numbers of waders and wildfowl, while their open waters are busy with pleasure and commercial craft.
- Expansive coastal level grazing marshes divided by drainage dykes contain internationally important reedbeds and fens. Many are managed as nature reserves owing to their rich biodiversity, which includes a nationally important concentration of breeding bittern.
- Fragments of internationally important lowland heathland support nightjar, woodlark, adder and silver-studded blue butterfly. Views across the dry farmland and heathlands are open and extensive, except where enclosed by woodland.
- Farm woodlands, plantations and field boundary trees provide a treed character with substantial coniferous forests (Rendlesham, Tunstall and Dunwich) in the core of the NCA. Ancient broadleaved woodland and parkland wood pasture cloak the southern river valley and estuary slopes. The coastal levels are largely devoid of trees.



Bracken, heather and birch on Westleton Heath, a fragment of the once extensive lowland heathland resource.

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- High-quality vegetable production and outdoor pig units are distinctive agricultural land uses. Beef cattle graze the coastal levels although drainage has led to the conversion of many of the grazing marshes to arable production.
- Inland valleys contain small-scale historic patterns of irregular drained meadow enclosure, bounded by elm hedgerows. The Sandlings and the coastal plain show 18th- to mid-19th-century large-scale regular enclosure. Pine lines and shelterbelts are characteristic of the Sandlings.
- A rich archaeology includes Saxon burial mounds, medieval rabbit warrens and numerous country house estates. The coast supports Napoleonic Martello towers, Second World War pillboxes and the Orford Ness Cold War testing area with its distinctive 'pagodas'.
- Settlement is sparse, with small, isolated villages and farmsteads. Larger urban settlements are confined to the north and south (Lowestoft, Ipswich and Harwich). Distinctive coastal towns (Aldeburgh, Southwold and Felixstowe) enjoy a relatively unspoilt atmosphere.
- Traditional buildings utilise soft-hued red bricks with straw thatch, pantiles or peg tiles. Some are rendered and painted (often in 'Suffolk Pink') while others (including churches) use locally occurring split or knapped flint. Brightly painted beach huts line the coastal resort seafronts.
- Large commercial ports (Harwich and Felixstowe), Sizewell nuclear power station, the Cobra Mist transmitting station and the Orwell Bridge all contribute landmark diversity. Major transport infrastructure includes the A14 and A12 and the main East Coast rail line.
- Public access is extensive both on the land and on the rivers. The sense of tranquillity and wildness is integral to the distinctiveness of the NCA, inspiring many writers, artists and naturalists, and supports the area's popularity as a recreation and tourist destination.



Night fishing by the tranquil waters of the Stour and Orwell estuary.

Toggle full screen

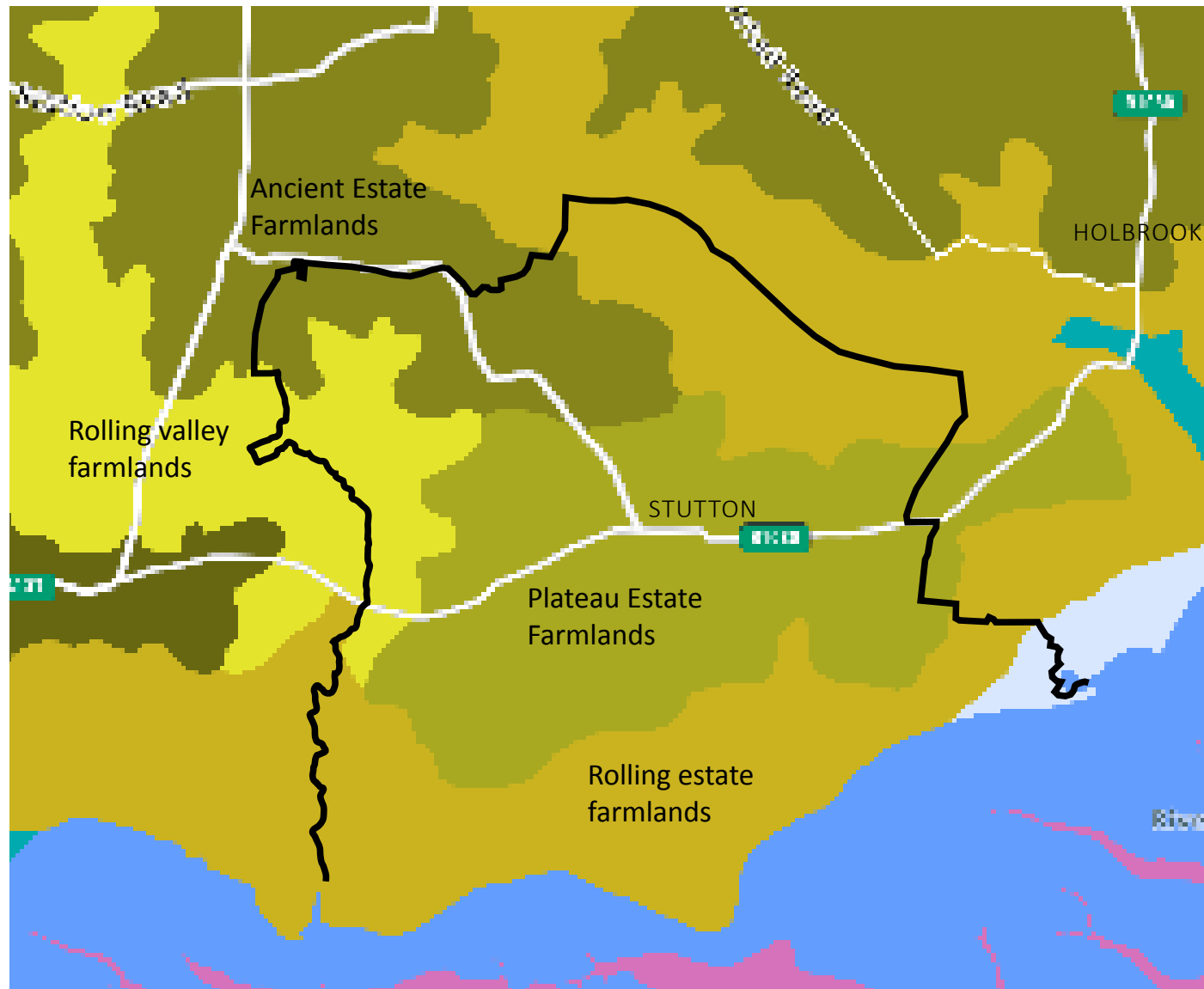
« Prev

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Next »

Appendix C: Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment

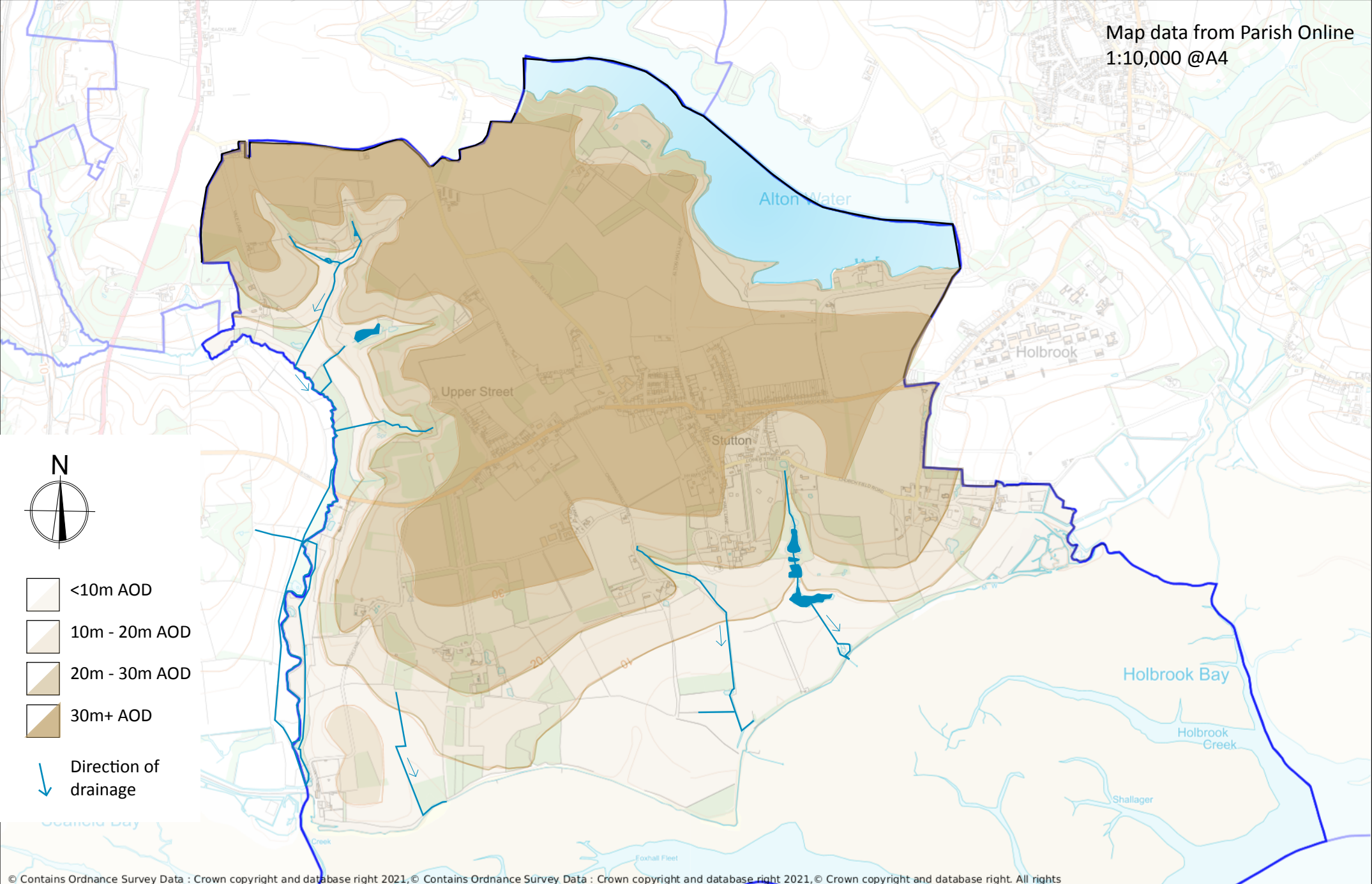
www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/



- Rolling Valley Farmlands LCT
- Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT
- Plateau Estate Farmlands LCT
- Rolling estate farmlands LCT






Appendix D: Topography



Appendix E: Soils





SOILS:

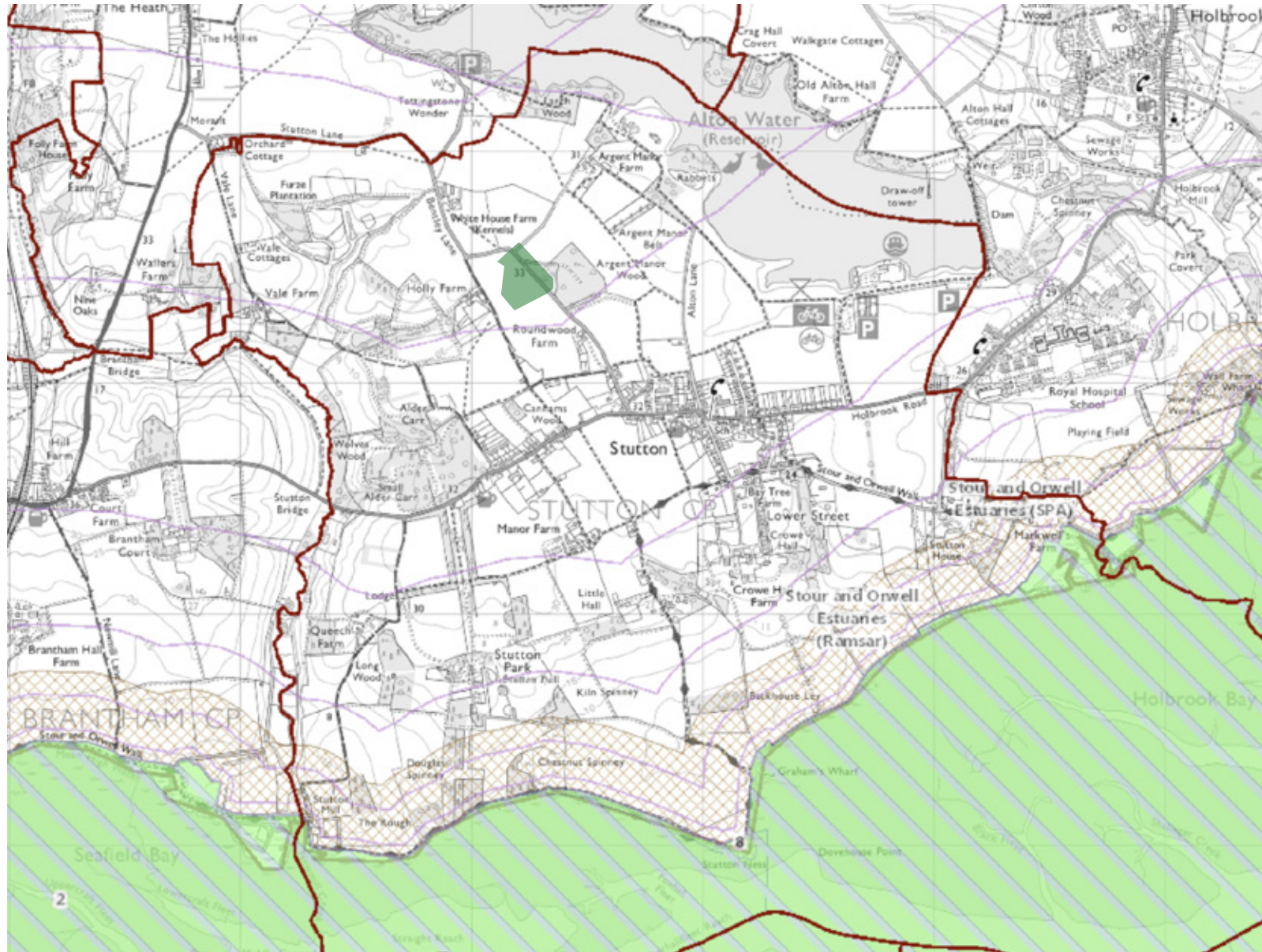
-  Soilscape 6:
Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils
-  Soilscape 8:
Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
-  Soilscape 21:
Loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater

Appendix F: Ecological sites

Source: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

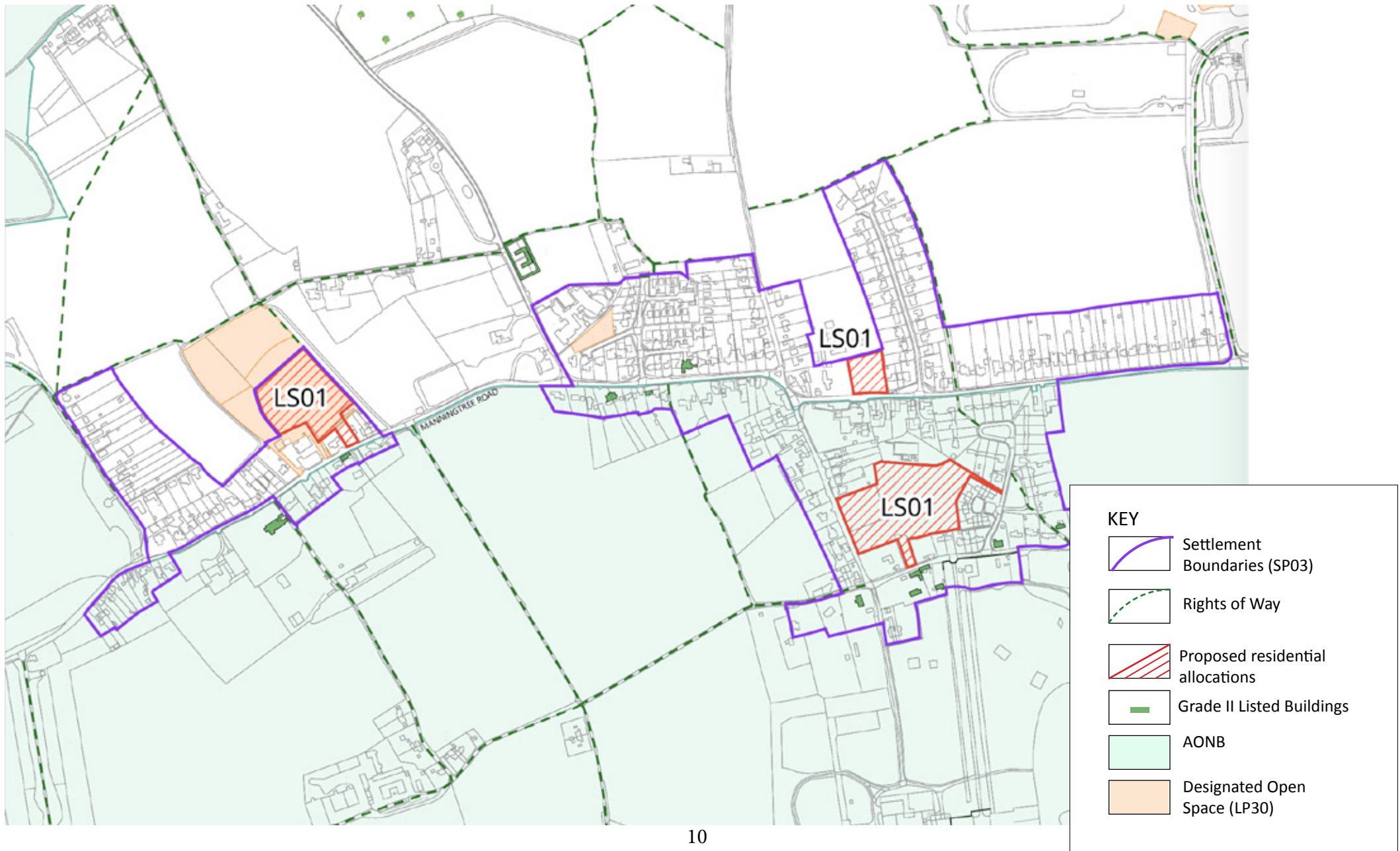
 Ancient woodland

 Stour Estuary SSSI;
Stour and Orwell
Estuaries RAMSAR
and SPA





Appendix G: Local planning designations & Heritage features

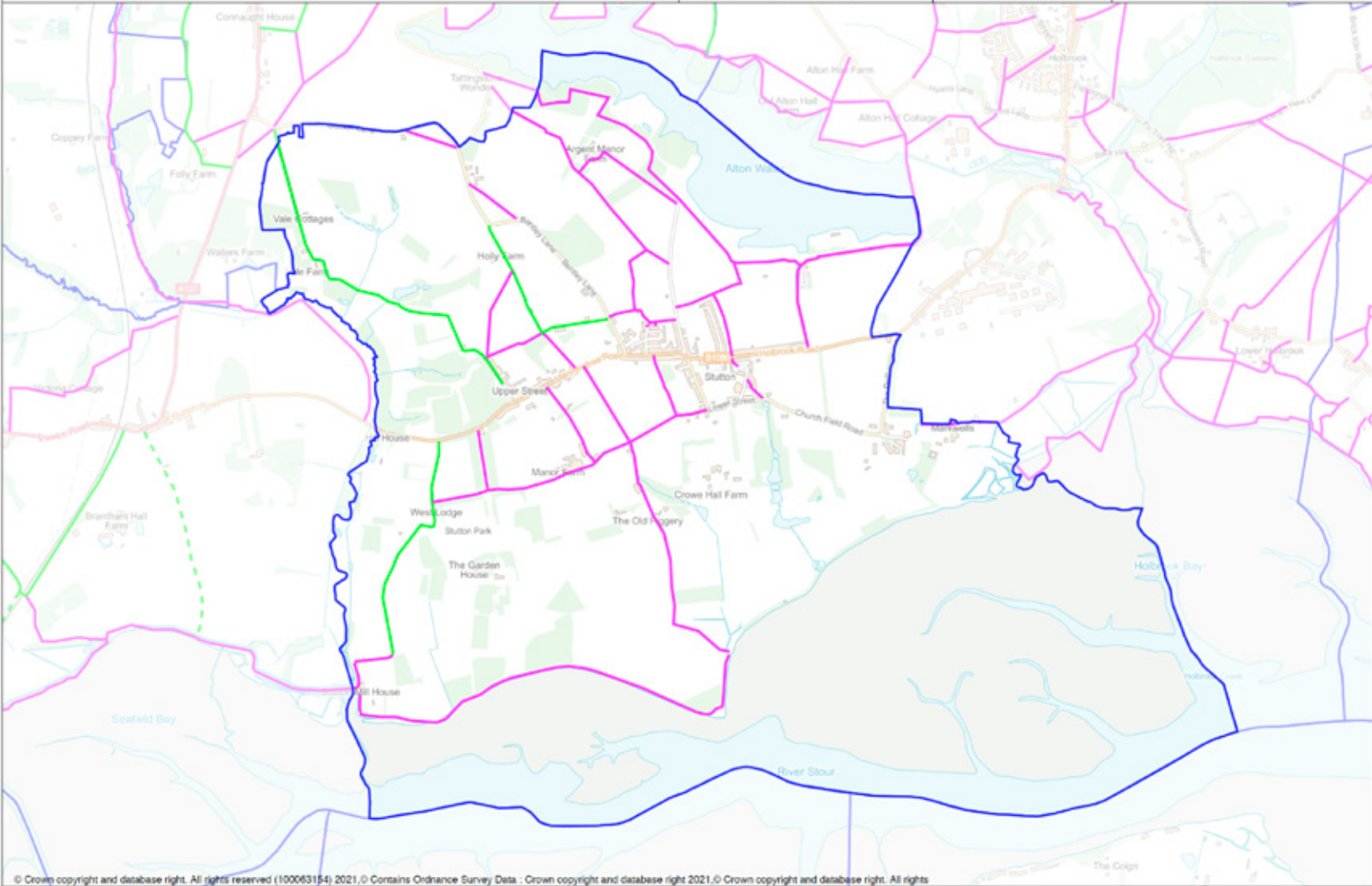
Source: BMSDC Join Local Plan July 2019 Part 3 BDC Place Plan Maps Settlements Q-Z



Stutton CP
 Author: L. Administrator
 Date: 01/03/2021

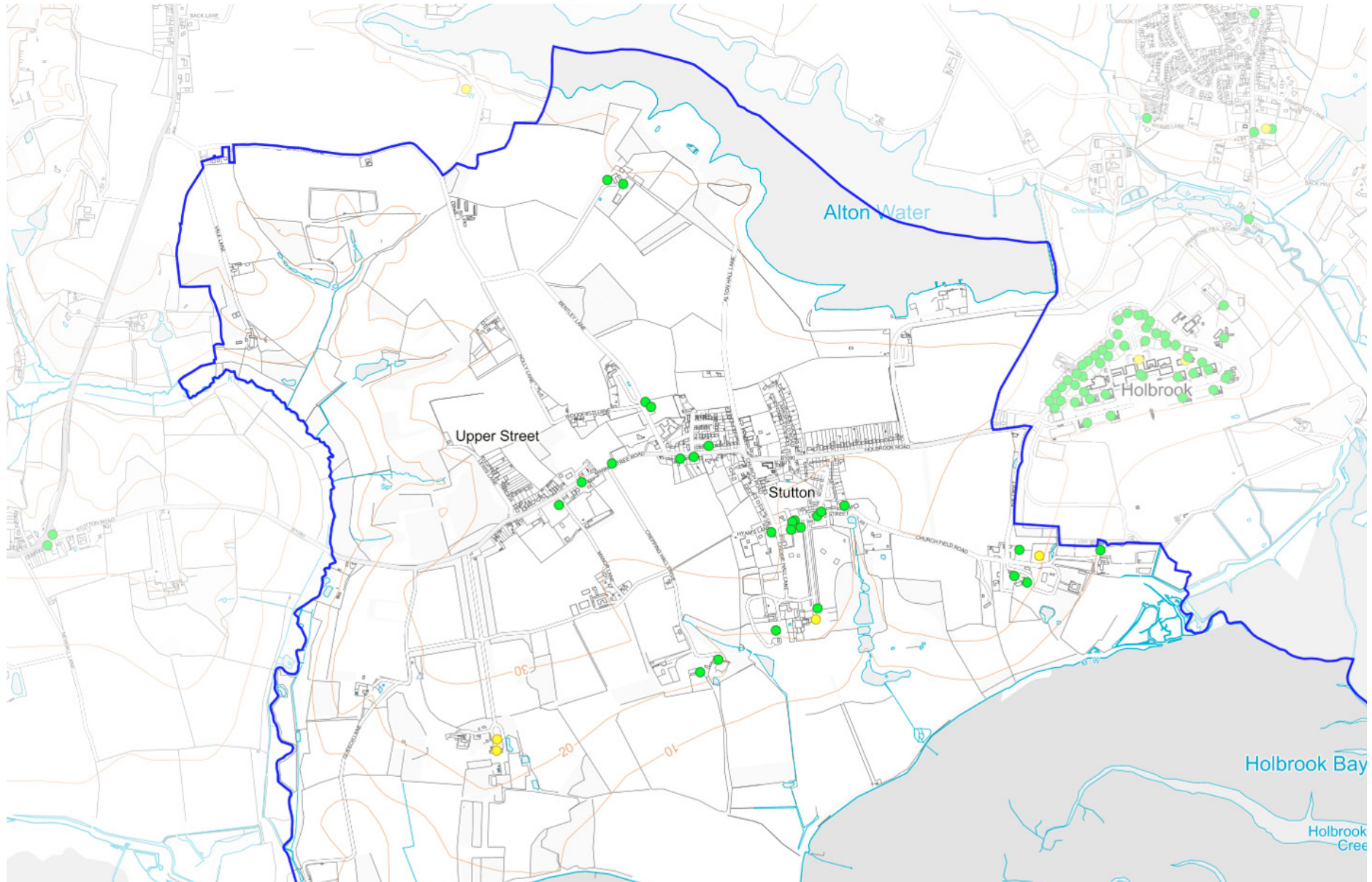


- KEY
-  Footpath
 -  Bridleway



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Appendix H: Listed buildings



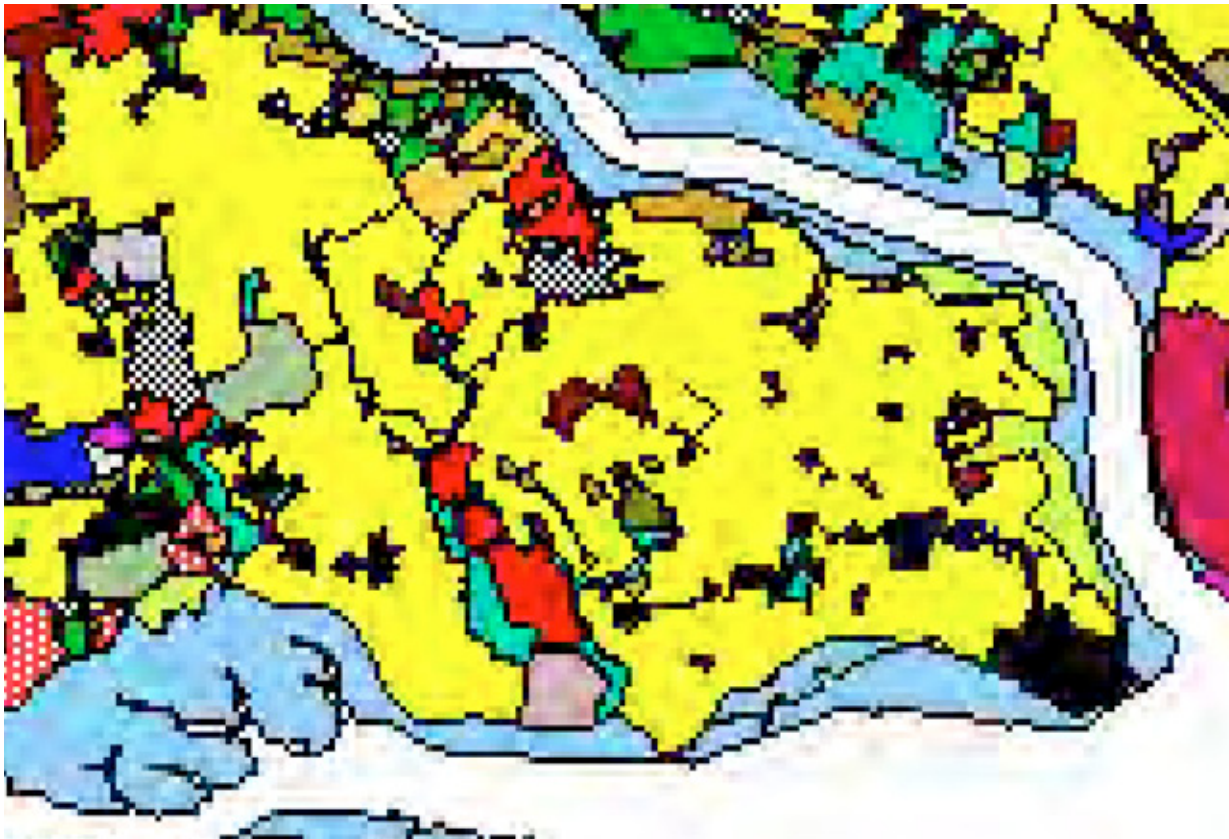
Appendix H: 1899 map

Source: National Library of Scotland
<https://maps.nls.uk/>



Appendix I: Suffolk Historic Landscape map

https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/hlc#Character_Types



Type 2.0. 18TH-CENTURY AND LATER ENCLOSURE. Advances in farming techniques, allied to significant social changes concerning the holding of land resulted in the 'agricultural revolution' of the 18th century. Prominent amongst the changes was the ending of the system of common-field farming whereby farmers cultivated separately-owned strips in large 'open' fields. Some common fields were enclosed by means of parliamentary acts, while others were enclosed by agreement. This type of 'planned' enclosure resulted in a landscape with regularly-shaped units with straight boundaries. Boundaries are usually composed of single species hedges (usually hawthorn) or tree lines (e.g. the 'pine lines' of Breckland).

Common fields were present in large parts of north-west Suffolk and, to a lesser extent, in the Stour Valley and the Sandlings, but were much less frequent in other parts of Suffolk, being absent in many parts of south Suffolk. Agricultural advancements in draining, fertilising and irrigation also resulted in the conversion of areas of common pasture, heath, fen and marsh to arable.

This landscape type contains the following sub-types:

- Sub-type 2.1. 18th-century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland. Fields formed from land that was previously farmed as individually owned strips in large common or 'open' fields. Field shapes are frequently rectangular with straight boundaries, as a result of having been laid out to measured plans by surveyors. In the Breckland region of north-west Suffolk there temporary intakes from the heaths (called 'brecks'), which were cultivated for a short time and then abandoned to slowly recover their fertility. Similar temporary intakes occurred in the Sandlings of south-east Suffolk. As a result of this practice, the dividing line between heathland and common fields can be difficult to distinguish, hence the inclusion of heathland in the title of this sub-type.