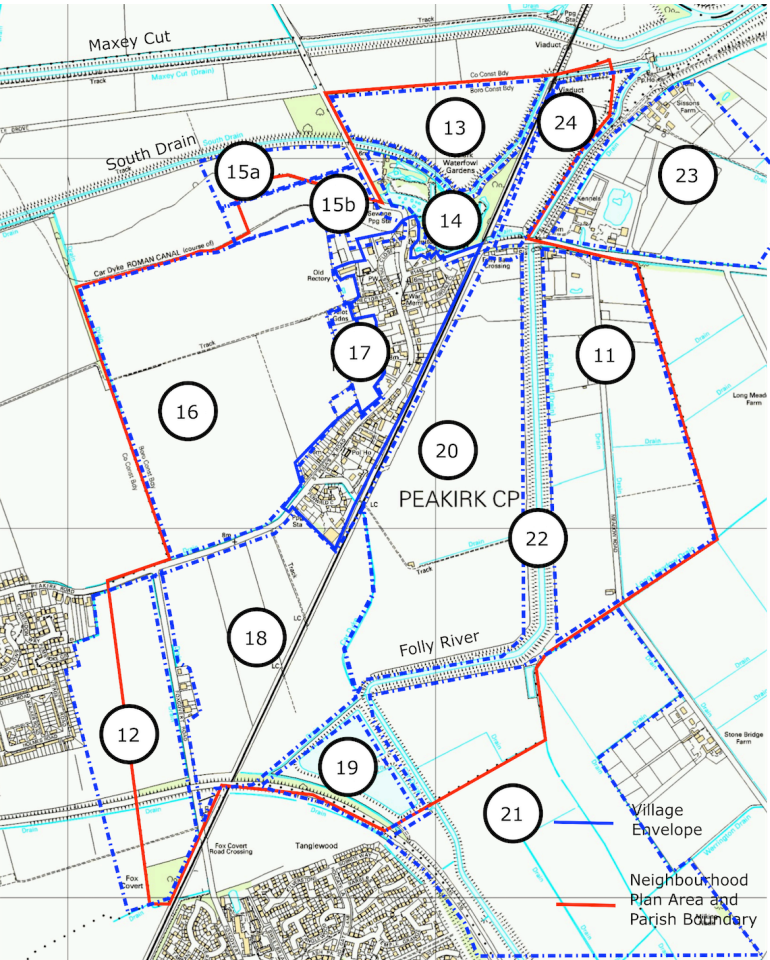


15B The Hermitage Field



Information reviewed	Classification	Comments
Historical background:	NCA 75 The Kesteven Uplands.	<p>There is a long history of human occupation from the medieval period. The majority of settlements along the fen edge were in existence, in some form, by the time of the Domesday survey of 1086. Surviving ridge and furrow earthworks suggest that from the medieval period villages were set within a pattern of open arable fields, farmed in strips by the tenants and rotated annually on a three-field system. The arable land was complemented by areas of grazing land at the edge of each parish, used as common land. On the fen edge it is thought that cattle and sheep were grazed on the fens in summer, when the land was</p>

		drier, and then over-wintered either on the higher heath, or in small closes adjacent to the villages. East–west routes also indicate that these settlements developed to serve this movement of livestock.
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	<p>Landscape Character Area 3, The Welland Valley. b Maxey Cut and North Fen</p> <p>Car Dyke Roman canal runs through Peakirk and to the east of Northborough towards the Welland. It is in-filled in Area 3, but it's line is marked by earthworks (Scheduled) and crop marks.</p>
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	<p>Landscape Descriptive Unit 13</p> <p>Land Cover Parcel 27</p> <p>Line of Car Dyke to south of area prominent earthworks.</p>
	The Potential Urban Expansion to Peterborough – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity for alternative sites June 2006	N/A
	Peakirk Conservation Area Appraisal Report and Management Plan 2010	<p>Scheduled Monument List Entry Number: 1021104 Section of Car Dyke canal, fishponds and Barrows that 'contribute to our understanding of the development of the pre-historic, Roman and medieval landscapes.</p> <p>There is also a possible site of clay works used to make local bricks.</p> <p>Within the Peakirk Conservation Area, County Wildlife Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance [CS21].</p>
	Tracey Partida 2002-2009 Historic Mapping Zone 6	<p>Peakirk is identified as one of the nine townships in the northern Soke of Peterborough, between the watershed of the River Nene in the south and the River Welland in the north, which form Zone 6 of the Historic Environment report written by Tracey Partida.</p> <p>In medieval times owners and tenants from each township farmed the large, arable open fields in common, each one being divided into 'furlongs'. Peakirk also probably had areas of pasture, wood and meadow, possibly on the floodplain of the River Welland and also contained a small block of fen, identified as North Fen.</p> <p>Parliamentary Enclosure of Peakirk, along with Helpston, Maxey, Northborough, Glinton, and Etton took eleven years to complete. The Enclosure Act of 1809 prompted the end of the open field system and led to enclosure of common land at Peakirk Long Meadow and Moor. The landscape changed as paths or baulks between open fields were re-routed and the open landscape was replaced by hedges and hedgerow trees surrounding small fields.</p> <p>A main concern in low lying Peakirk was the maintenance of the drains and watercourses and the Enclosure Awards required the appointment of commissioners 'to ensure that existing drains and associated features such as tunnels, watergates, sluices, banks and bridges were to be scoured, repaired and widened, and where necessary to set out new ones.' This responsibility was to be a communal one and a surveyor was to be appointed 'with or without' salary to oversee this.</p> <p>In addition to the enclosure of open fields and pastures, some land within the villages was also allotted to</p>

		individuals and enclosed.
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan LCA Survey 2015	This field provides an important, well defined edge to settlement in the village and a significant and rarely surviving remnant of historic landscape. An enclosed grass field with visual evidence of medieval fish ponds and possible course of the Car Dyke.

Conclusion: This field provides an important, well defined edge to settlement in the village and a significant and rarely surviving remnant of historic landscape, including the course of the Roman Car Dyke.



Looking north east over the Car Dyke towards the south Drain from the footpath around the Rectory Lane fields.

Landscape Character	NCA 75 The Kesteven Uplands.	In the east the lowest elevation is only 3 m above sea level. There are exposed distant views. In this transition zone the landscape has fewer woodlands and more subtle topography The area is characterized by hedgerows with trees, meadows and wide road verges
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	Landscape Character Area 3, The Welland Valley. b Maxey Cut and North Fen Low lying, moderate quality hedges/hedgerow trees and/or moderate to small woodlands Vegetation generally in linear belts, particularly along rivers, railways and drainage cuts/ditches
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April	Landscape Descriptive Unit 13

	2007.	Land Cover Parcel 27 Low lying, Limited/poor hedges and/or isolated copses, Large scale landscape with limited land use and variety, reasonable generally in a good state of management with some limited detractors. Some open views from the edge of Peakirk.	
	The Potential Urban Expansion to Peterborough – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity for alternative sites June 2006	N/A	
	Peakirk Conservation Area Appraisal Report and Management Plan 2010	On crossing the Maxey Cut, the sharp bends in the road combined with hedgerows on either side give a sense of expectation, especially when moving from the open landscape between Northborough and Peakirk.	
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan LCA Survey 2015	Geology	Upper Jurassic clays
		Soils	Soilscape 20 Loamy and clayey floodplain soil with naturally high groundwater Texture- loamy Fertility – moderate
		Landform and Topography	Flat, Contour around 5m Above Ordnance Datum [sea level]. Typical slope of 1:100
		Hydrology	Drainage ditches at boundaries. Medieval ponds now dry
		Enclosure	Boundary hedges on all sides with only occasional site of external views. North Mature Hawthorn hedge and ditch. Dense planting of mature trees include Sycamore Willow and Ash South Mature hedge, fence and trees forming the northern boundary of the village. Well maintained along part of the boundary. Dense mature trees and overgrown hedge adjacent to the old Rectory. East Ditch, fence and mature hedge, slightly higher than field. 1 access gate and small Anglian Water pumping station. West Fence and hedge, mature Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Ash, Field Maple, Sycamore and Elder. No access to Betty's wood and permissive footpath.
		Biodiversity	Mature hedges with hedgerow trees to all four sides. Ash, Willow, Elder, Hawthorn. Evidence of badgers and foxes locally. Many mature trees including Oak within the open field.
		Variety of the Landscape	Complex. This landscape is difficult to read in one view. It provides a strong boundary with the built up area of the village, it has great historical significance and it is also used for grazing horses.
		Tranquility	Peaceful with some interruptions. Mid way between tranquil and noisy. Bounded by roads to the east but more tranquil towards western boundary.

		Views	Views framed, No specific best view. Few views out over adjacent farmland. Strong boundaries all round.
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Conclusion. This is a medium sized long thin grass field on the edge of the village adjacent to the busy Deeping Road. Car Dyke has protected Ancient Monument status as its history of settlement explains the history of Peakirk.



Looking west from the pumping station on the Deeping Road across the Hermitage field towards the village edge.

Land Use:	NCA 75 The Kesteven Uplands.	On the fen edge it is thought that cattle and sheep were grazed on the fens in summer, when the land was drier, and then over-wintered either on the higher heath, or in small closes adjacent to the villages. East–west routes also indicate that these settlements developed to serve this movement of livestock.
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	Landscape Character Area 3, The Welland Valley. b Maxey Cut and North Fen The mixed farmland of calcareous loamy soils combines arable use with pasture; hedgerows, meadows and wide road verges.

	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	Landscape Descriptive Unit 13 Land Cover Parcel 27 Some open views from the edge of Peakirk.	
	The Potential Urban Expansion to Peterborough – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity for alternative sites June 2006	N/A	
	Peakirk Conservation Area Appraisal Report and Management Plan 2010	N/A	
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan LCA Survey 2015	Agricultural Land Classification-	Grade 3 Good to Moderate
		Public Rights of Way	None. Adjacent to the Green Wheel.
		Infrastructure	Minor rural road to eastern boundary, unclassified but busy.
		Current use	Grass field used for grazing horses
		Drainage	Drainage ditches at boundaries. Medieval ponds now dry.
		Buildings and Visual features	Electric cables visible crossing site.

Conclusion. This permanent pasture forms an important visual and practical boundary to further development in the village.



Looking north over the Car Dyke towards the south Drain from the footpath around the Rectory Lane fields

Constraints:	NCA 75 The Kesteven Uplands and River Welland Catchment Flood Management Plan Dec 2009. [EA]	<p>The South Lincolnshire Limestone Aquifer is located under this part of the NCA. It is regionally important and large demands are placed upon it with 80 per cent of the abstraction for public water supply as well as agricultural and industrial needs. Currently the main sources of flood risk for people, property, infrastructure and the land are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • river flooding from the River Welland and its tributaries, particularly in the northern part of Peterborough, and towns of Market Harborough and Stamford;
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	<p>Landscape Character Area 3, The Welland Valley. b Maxey Cut and North Fen</p> <p>Protect the historic setting and structure of the villages including views to the villages and the retained open spaces within them.</p> <p>New development adjacent to existing villages to concentrate on locations at Glington and Northborough.</p>
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	<p>Landscape Descriptive Unit 13</p> <p>Land Cover Parcel 27</p> <p>Development will be isolated from and not form any relationship with the existing urban fabric.</p>

		Development would significantly adversely dominate an existing village.
	The Potential Urban Expansion to Peterborough – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity for alternative sites June 2006	N/A
	Peakirk Conservation Area Appraisal Report and Management Plan 2010	Within the Peakirk Conservation Area, County Wildlife Site, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance [CS21]. Scheduled Monument SM35726 [CS17, PP17 MWCS36] Environment Agency Flood Warning Area, Flood Zone 3. Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan LCA Survey 2015	Typical of a field used for grazing. Not been spoilt by inappropriate use. Any development involving extra building would spoil the character of this area completely.

Conclusion. This permanent pasture forms an important visual and practical boundary to further development in the village. It is the site of Scheduled Monuments, of Local Nature Conservation Importance, a County Wildlife site and within the Conservation Area. It is used for the annual village bonfire.



Looking north west across the Car Dyke towards the South Drain and the Deeping Road.

Opportunities:	NCA 75 The Kesteven Uplands.	Manage and expand broadleaf woodlands where possible, conserving the predominant tree species that include ash and oak and considering successional tree planting to conserve the tree canopy in existing woodland. Manage existing wet woodland, and extend and buffer where possible.
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	Landscape Character Area 3, The Welland Valley. b Maxey Cut and North Fen Promote improvements in and around villages to the perimeter and wider setting to improve visual quality and to maintain separation from adjacent settlements and northern edge of Peterborough
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	Landscape Descriptive Unit 13 Land Cover Parcel 27 Moderate scope to provide mitigation in the medium term broadly in keeping with existing landscape pattern.
	The Potential Urban Expansion to Peterborough – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity for alternative sites June 2006	N/A
	Peakirk Conservation Area Appraisal Report and Management Plan 2010	A recent addition to the Peakirk Conservation Area.
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan Desktop Survey 2015	Very high value landscape. An important part of the setting of the village. Low key recreational use e.g. footpath access might be accommodated with mitigation through natural planting.

Conclusion. Appropriate use remains as permanent pasture. It may be suitable for casual recreational use under strict conditions, to raise local awareness of its history and importance. Natural constraints give no realistic development opportunities.