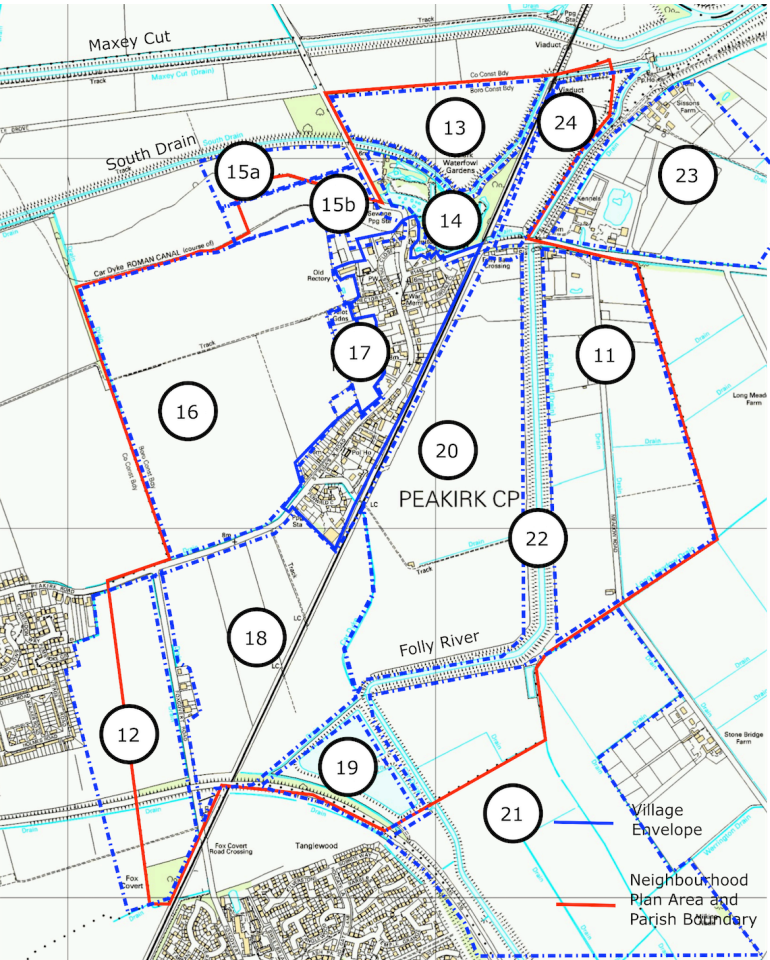


24 Follybank Crossing Meadows



Information reviewed	Classification	Comments
Historical background:	NCA 46 The Fens	There is a long history of human occupation here, accounts of which can be found in the Historic Environment Records for Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Lincolnshire. Scheduled Ancient Monuments of prehistoric to post-medieval date are located across the fens and many undesignated sites and monuments are known, again mainly from the fen edges and islands. Roman settlements occurred mainly on the high, drier islands and above the fen edge, while contemporary transport canals indicate efforts to traverse and control the fens. Car Dyke links the River Witham to the River Cam.
	Landscape Character Assessment	Landscape Character Area 4 Peterborough Fens Sub Area a. Bedford North Level

	for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	An extensive area of low-lying reclaimed fen farmland dominated by the geometric pattern of arable fields. The onset of wetland conditions brought by rising sea levels buried vast prehistoric field systems, settlements and burial mound cemeteries at the fen margins. There is a well preserved Iron Age site north east of Peakirk, which elsewhere in the country would be classified as a hill fort. Roman settlement occupied the fen margins, low islands and raised silt ridges of extinct prehistoric water courses. The prevailing wetland character of the area, post medieval times, is reflected by the presence of an important duck decoy nearer Newborough.
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	Landscape Descriptive Unit 24 Land Cover Parcel 29 Folly river main feature embanked. Apparent historic pattern and/or local heritage protection designations.
	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
	Tracey Partida 2002-2009 Historic Mapping Zone 6	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. 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. Parliamentary Enclosure of Peakirk 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 medieval landscape of Zone 6 was principally a champion region; the great open fields with a mix of arable and pasture dominating the landscape. However, there were also vast areas of meadows associated with the floodplain of the Welland 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.
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan LCA Survey 2015	Part of the summer grazing for Peakirk before draining of the fens. HER no: 50113 Bank, [earthworks] County Wildlife Site

Conclusion: This area is permanent pasture adjacent to the Folly River and used for seasonal grazing, as it probably was pre-enclosure.



Aerial View looking north up the Folly River towards the Sissons pumping station with Follybank Crossing Meadows on the left of the river and on the right of the railway.

Landscape Character	NCA 46 The Fens.	The area is notable for its large-scale, flat, open landscape with extensive vistas to level horizons. This gives the impression of huge skies, which convey a strong sense of place, tranquility and inspiration.	
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	Landscape Character Area 4 Peterborough Fens Sub Area a. Bedford North Level Flat extensive and open landscape with panoramic views and large skies Rectilinear field pattern reflecting the artificial drainage pattern Sparse tree cover generally limited to shelter belts/copses around farmsteads and avenues along drove roads	
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	Landscape Descriptive Unit 24 Land Cover Parcel 29 Generally low lying and flat in topography at or around 3-4M AOD part of the Borough Fen. Folly river main feature embanked with spot heights of 6m AOD. Some smaller units including grazing to north and east. Isolated tree groups to arable land west of drain. More intimate and enclosed to north of village, including pasture and taller mature hedges, willow and mature poplars	
	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	Geology	Upper Jurassic clays

		Soils	Soilscape 20 Loamy and clayey floodplain soil with naturally high groundwater
		Landform and Topography	Flat, altitude ranging from minus 1 to 3m AOD. Embankments approx. 5 -6m AOD
		Hydrology	Waterlogged in wet winters. Flood area for Folly river.
		Enclosure	North South Drain, with occasional trees and stock proof fencing South B1443 with mature native hedge, stock proof fencing and gateway. Drainage ditch to roadside. East Folly river with fenced native hedge along riverbank. West Embanked railway line with stock proof fencing at base of embankment and occasional small native tree.
		Biodiversity	Mature hedges with hedgerow trees. Ash, Willow, Elder, Hawthorn. Pollarded mature Willows. Evidence of badgers and foxes locally.
		Variety of the Landscape	Simple. Medium sized grass field with trees.
		Tranquility	Interrupted. Noisy when traffic and trains about.
		Views	Some open views especially to the north, west and east. Contained to south.

Conclusion. Typical of a water meadow in this area used for grazing. Proximity to infrastructure spoils tranquility that may be associated with this type of landscape.



Looking west from the Folly River towards the railway line.

Land Use:	NCA 46 The Fens	<p>The Fens are the bread basket of Britain. The drainage of this area from the 17th century onwards presented valuable soils, which provide excellent conditions for large-scale cultivation of arable and horticultural crops; holdings of more than 100 ha make up 77 per cent of farmed land.</p> <p>As cultivation techniques have become more intensive, however, the soil resource is increasingly diminished through desiccation and erosion. Clays and silts laid down by marine incursions dominate the area abutting the Wash and extend inland along the rivers, forming the fertile horticultural soils of the silt fens.</p>
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	<p>Landscape Character Area 4 Peterborough Fens Sub Area a. Bedford North Level</p> <p>Rectilinear field pattern reflecting the artificial drainage pattern</p> <p>Tree cover is sparse and generally only found in the form of shelterbelts around isolated farmsteads, at settlement edges or as avenues along some of the major droves.</p>
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	<p>Landscape Descriptive Unit 24</p> <p>Land Cover Parcel 29</p> <p>Some smaller units including grazing to north and east.</p> <p>Isolated tree groups to arable land west of drain.</p>

		Folly river main feature embanked. More intimate and enclosed to north of village, including pasture and taller mature hedges, willow and mature poplars.	
	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	Good public access along the Corporation Bank Byway adjacent to the Folly River. No public access to this area.
		Infrastructure	Thorney Road B1443 along southern boundary. Embanked railway track Spalding to Peterborough forms western boundary. Metaled road along Corporation Bank [Green Wheel] also used as footpath. Drainage Board Pumping Station near northern boundary.
		Current use	Permanent pasture for grazing cattle and sheep.
		Drainage	Waterlogged in wet winters. Flood area for Folly river.
		Buildings and Visual features	Modern Pumping Station at confluence of Folly river and South Drain. Electric cables along roadside into village. Railway crossing on road.

Conclusion Maintained as permanent grazing with stock removed in winter when ground becomes waterlogged.



Looking north towards the Folly River pumping station from Corporation Bank.

Constraints:	NCA 46 The Fens and River Welland Catchment Flood Management Plan Dec 2009. [EA]	<p>Modern built development is eroding the architectural and historic character of some Fenland villages. Development on settlement margins can be particularly damaging, creating visual intrusion and resulting in the loss of surrounding landscape features and increasing the risk of coalescence.</p> <p>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 4 Peterborough Fens Sub Area a. Bedford North Level</p> <p>Ensure careful consideration is given to development on the fringes of settlements to minimize visual intrusion</p> <p>Prevent development that could detract from local landmarks</p> <p>The use of traditional building materials should be encouraged</p>
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	<p>Landscape Descriptive Unit 24</p> <p>Land Cover Parcel 29</p> <p>Any development will be isolated from and not form any relationship with the existing</p>

		urban fabric and development would adversely affect the setting of 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	N/A
	Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan LCA Survey 2015	This flat area of permanent pasture between the Spalding to Peterborough railway and the Folly River is a County Wildlife Site. It acts as a flood meadow for the Folly River. It would not be an appropriate place for built development, but may be suitable for casual leisure activities. The use of this area for wind turbines or solar panels would harm the setting of Peakirk village and would not be supported.

Conclusion. This area of permanent pasture is unlikely to be a sustainable site for any future development. It has a high water table and is often flooded in winter. It is separated from the village by the Spalding to Peterborough railway and is a county wildlife site. It forms an important part of the open space defining the boundary of the village.



Looking north from the B1443 Thorney Road towards the South Drain and the railway line.

Opportunities:	NCA 46 The Fens	Conserve, manage and enhance the Fens landscape and increase educational opportunities to access its geodiversity, archaeology and cultural heritage to enhance enjoyment and understanding for those who live and work in and visit the Fens.
	Landscape Character Assessment for Peterborough City Council Final Report May 2007	Landscape Character Area 4 Peterborough Fens Sub Area a. Bedford North Level The fens have a very limited network of rights of way due to their relatively recent draining, with transport in the past often having been by boat. Some of the minor roads form part of the Green Wheel cycle network.
	Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment - Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Study April 2007.	Landscape Descriptive Unit 24 Land Cover Parcel 29 Peakirk Wildfowl Trust Centre [semi-derelict] potential site to re-furbish as 'Decoy Centre' – links to Drainage, Wildfowl and Maxey Cut. Scattered habitat survival with good linkages between habitats and/or local habitat protection designations.
	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	It would not be an appropriate place for built development, but may be suitable for public access. There is scope for the inclusion of this area in the creation of a new Green Infrastructure corridor linking Werrington Brook to the Welland River via the Folly River – The Folly River Corridor.

Conclusion. This area should remain as an area of permanent grazing. Any proposed development would weaken the intrinsic landscape setting of Peakirk but it presents an opportunity that could add to the biodiversity and public access value via a new Green Infrastructure Corridor, The Folly River Corridor.