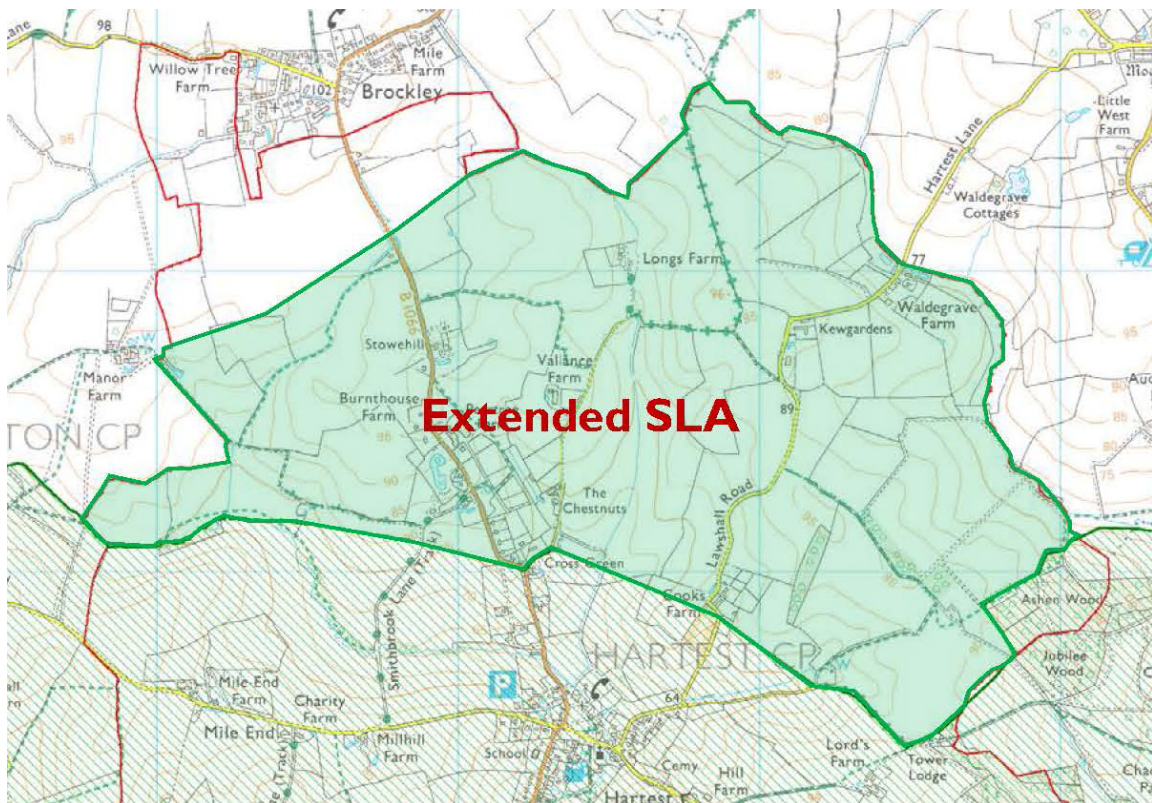


The Special Landscape Area (SLA) - why should it be extended ?

This appraisal aims to justify why the SLA covering much of Hartest should be extended in a northwards direction. The extension includes some additional areas of the parish which were originally omitted from the Suffolk wide SLA designation.

The map below shows the proposed increase in the SLA in darker green.



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Our rationale for extending the SLA northwards is:

The original SLA designation was founded on the high quality of the undulating countryside which is the result of landscape erosion by the various watercourses within the wider Glem and Stour valleys. At the time the designation was made by Suffolk County Council, it appears to have been carried out without regard for special local characteristics, and as a result it failed to include a key part of the sensitive landscape to the north of Hartest.

Our proposed SLA extension takes it up to the edge of the plateau on the Brockley Road. Apart from this northern edge which follows a more or less straight line, the rest of the proposed extension is defined by the Parish boundary. This is because it could also extend into the adjoining Parishes who may, in due course, choose to apply for their SLA boundaries to be reviewed following the same criteria.

The exceptional quality of this additional part of the landscape is the principal driver for its inclusion in the SLA.

Public access to the extended SLA is possible along a number of designated footpaths and roads. They provide good opportunities for walkers to enjoy the quality of the views and the countryside in general.

Photographs taken from key vantage points on roads within the extended SLA, namely the Lawshall Road and the Somerton Road clearly show the undulating character of the landscape which is the result of erosion by watercourses which link either into the present River through the village and on to the Glem or into the Chad Brook, both of which form part of the wider River Stour drainage basin.



View from Somerton Road towards north east



View from Somerton Road towards north



View from Lawshall Road towards north west

What these photographs illustrate is that the generally undulating nature of the landscape to the north of the existing SLA is just as special as the area which has been designated. They provide the justification for the boundary to be extended as shown on our proposals map.