

The Hartest Area of Special Landscape Quality (HASLQ) - why should it be extended beyond the existing Babergh SLA

This appraisal aims to justify why the Babergh SLA covering much of Hartest should be extended northwards to incorporate the headwaters of the Glem.

The map below shows the proposed increase in the existing SLA to create the new HASLQ with the slighter brighter yellow and green diagonally hatched area being the enlargement to the north.



Map of HASLQ



This magnified extract from the map above clearly shows the way the contours have been changed by one of two small watercourses running in a south westerly direction towards the River. As with so many of these watercourses, they have become a green finger cutting through the otherwise flatter land to either side, and helping to create the special quality we associate with this more northern part of the village.

The original SLA designation was founded on the high quality undulating countryside which is the result of erosion by the various watercourses at the upper reaches of the Glem valley. The original

designation did not include these headwaters, an omission which clearly left a chunk of special landscape without any designation.

Our justification for the inclusion of this additional area within the new HASLQ is based on a number of key considerations:

1. the presence of two small valleys which guide the headwaters of the Hartest Brook and Hartest River from the higher plateau to the north down to the Glem basin.
2. their clear definition on the ground either by strong lines of vegetation or as the route for old roads
3. the expansive views of the wider countryside from highways and footpaths in the northern part of the parish taking in these two valleys.
4. the long views towards the two identified 'valleys' mapped above are only possible where there is no rising land in the foreground.
5. the extended area is broadly defined by the 85m contour at the edge of the high plateau above the two headwaters.
6. the same special landscape qualities as are visible in the central and southern part of the parish.

Our proposed extension is based on the views from highways and footpaths in this northern part of the village where these views are of a similar quality to those in the historically defined Special Landscape Area. These long views are particularly significant where there is no rising landscape in the foreground.

Public access to the extended Landscape of Special Quality 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 landscape area , namely the Lawshall Road, the lane leading from Cross Green to Longs Farm, The B1066 and the Somerton Road clearly show the undulating character of the landscape which is the result of erosion by watercourses forming part of the wider Glem valley.



View 1 from B1066 looking west towards Somerton Church picking up the green wedge which follows the westernmost headwater



Key to views



View 2 from lane running from Cross Green to Longs Farm showing land forms created by more easterly headwater of the river through Hartest



View 3 from Somerton Road looking north east over River and taking in the western part of the extended HASLQ



View 4 from Somerton Road looking North East and taking in the westernmost part of the extended HASLQ



View 5 from Lawshall Road looking North west over the eastern headwater and taking in the easternmost part of the extended HASLQ

These photographs illustrate the undulating nature of the landscape to the north of the existing SLA which 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.