

**SPS Bulletin**  
**May/ June 2019**

The following is a summary of the key areas of work that the SPS professional staff has been focussed on. Our representations can be read, in full, on the SPS website or by selecting the town/village name.

**Key involvements:**

**Sizewell B - rationalisation and reconfiguration of facilities at Sizewell B as part of the delivery of Sizewell C** including a new access road, car parks and 3 storey training/visitor centre on land outside the EDF site involving loss of woodland together with the re-profiling of the ground levels. SPS submitted a strong objection considering the proposals to be premature as they should form part of the forthcoming application for Sizewell C. Moreover the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape designation is seriously underestimated by the applicant who concludes that the AONB is of only *medium sensitivity*. SPS did not accept the assertion that the permanent effects are *very limited* as they only impact upon a small part of the AONB. We strongly refuted the conclusion that the effects will be only *small* with regard to landscape quality and *negligible* with regard to all other indicators including relative wildness, tranquility and heritage.

**Wangford Quarry** – SPS has objected to an application to extract gravel from a site in excess of 25 hectares which is outside the physical limit of Reydon and wholly within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Despite strong objection from the SPS, the AONB Partnership and others, the site was included within the emerging Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan however the application is premature and should be held in abeyance pending the Inspector’s decision after the public inquiry into the Plan. SPS has also raised a strong objection to the principle of a deferral of the reinstatement of an existing quarry site within the AONB, in order to facilitate the new quarry, until 2032.

**Bramford** – 175 dwellings. SPS has raised concerns regarding the development of a greenfield site between Bramford and Sproughton due to its impact on the setting of designated heritage assets including important views of grade I listed St Mary’s Church. We highlighted that the site has previously been identified by MSDC for a lower potential yield of 100 dwellings and called for a significantly reduced scheme, together with improvements to the design.

**Haughley Park** – disused chicken processing plant. An amended scheme for the redevelopment of the site for housing, incorporating a reduction in the number of dwellings from 149 to 134 and the addition of a community space and small employment area. SPS continues to raise strong objections to the redevelopment of this brownfield site which is immediately adjacent to the grade I listed Jacobean mansion,



Haughley Park, within its parkland setting. We consider it to be a deeply unsustainable location, remote from services and without public transport links. Furthermore the proposals do not provide any affordable housing on site. SPS has argued that plans to

return the factory site to parkland and relocate the employment site outside of the Park, contained within the *Haughley Park Position Statement*, should be pursued.

**Kedington** - 140 dwellings. SPS has objected to a speculative development on a greenfield site abutting the built up boundary of Kedington. The site is within the Stour Valley Project area, is unallocated and is on the sensitive east edge of the village. West Suffolk is able to demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land, the proposal is clearly contrary to local plan policy, and it would have a detrimental impact on the landscape.

**Boxford** – 80 dwellings. SPS has raised an objection to the scale of this development as the elevation and rising topography of the site will render the development prominent in the landscape and fails to respect the existing morphology of the village where the built form nestles in the river valley. Furthermore the increased traffic movements, together with proposed ‘highway improvement’ measures, will impact the already congested historic core of the village and the character of the Boxford Conservation Area.

**Redgrave** – Appeal against refusal of 30 dwellings – SPS submitted a representation to the Planning Inspector regarding the principle of developing this valued open space within the conservation area, in light of Mid Suffolk’s announcement that it is now able to demonstrate a 5 year housing supply.

**Waldringfield** – SPS had previously objected to an application for a replacement dwelling in a remote location within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB adjacent to grade II\* listed All Saints Church. We urged for a reduced scale and revisions to the roofline and we have therefore welcomed new proposals which demonstrate a more appropriate scale and design, whilst raising detailed issues over landscaping and external lighting.

**Also:** **Lavenham** – one house at Lavenham Priory; **Kelsale-cum-Carlton** – demolition of Curlew Cottage, **Southwold** – extension and new dwelling at Cautley Street; **Kessingland** – demolition of Wood Cottage, Church Road; **Aldeburgh**, revised scheme for new dwelling in Wentworth Road.

**Neighbourhood Plan Consultations** - Eye and Reydon

### **Outcomes:**

**Glemsford** – SPS objected to a proposal for development of this site for 101 houses and 35 retirement properties due to the harmful impact that would result on historic landscape views and the character of the setting of highly graded heritage assets including the grade I listed parish church. The landscape immediately to the North East of Glemsford is elevated and characterised by undulating agricultural land which allows for far reaching open views. The application was refused on heritage grounds at committee.

**Erwarton Hall barns** – SPS objected to revised plans to convert redundant barns into 5 new dwellings within the setting of the highly graded Erwarton Hall and Gatehouse and within the AONB. We consider the scheme to be poorly laid out, insensitively detailed and having a suburbanising effect that will harm the setting of the heritage assets and erode the sense of tranquility of the AONB. The application has subsequently been withdrawn.



**Swilland - Newton Hall Equitation Centre** – SPS objected to an application to demolish derelict agricultural buildings and erect a holiday accommodation building and conversion of existing stables into eight residential dwellings. SPS had called for more detailed assessment of the heritage impacts of the proposals. The application has subsequently been withdrawn

**Thornham Magna** – appeal against refusal for 7 dwellings on land to the rear of a listed building in open countryside. SPS had objected to the scheme which would introduce suburban backland development and would be incongruous to the existing linear pattern of development. We welcome the dismissal of the appeal.

**Hadleigh** – appeal – 2 houses, Benton Street. A second appeal for housing on open land within the conservation area has been dismissed. SPS had objected due to the value of the open space to the character of the conservation area.

**Elmswell** – Dagwood Farm - 3 houses – SPS had objected to the proposals would harm the wider setting of the listed farmhouse and erode the surviving agricultural character of the medieval common. The application has been refused.



#### **Other:**

- The SPS 2019 **Annual General Meeting** was held at the Lavenham Guildhall. Following official business the Director gave a presentation covering key achievements of SPS over its 90 year history
- SPS 90<sup>th</sup> birthday garden party at Great Bevills, Bures. This included the launch of the **‘Manifesto for Suffolk 2019-2029’**. The Manifesto is available to view on the [SPS website](#) or to receive a paper copy of the manifesto please contact the Office Manager at [sps@suffolksociety.org](mailto:sps@suffolksociety.org)
- SPS attended the Dedham Vale AONB conference at Shrubs Farm, Lamarsh
- At the end of June we welcomed our new Office Manager, Julie Howe, who replaced Linda Cockburn on her retirement

#### **Media Coverage:**

EADT – [Revealed – how many new homes are needed in Suffolk for the next 20 years](#) (15 May 2019)

EADT - [Tourism and landscape in east Suffolk at risk from huge energy projects](#) (3 June 2019)

Suffolk Free Press – [Growth must not cost us heritage](#) (13 June 2019)

EADT – Director’s column – [We’ve got a Manifesto Too!](#) (8 June 2019)