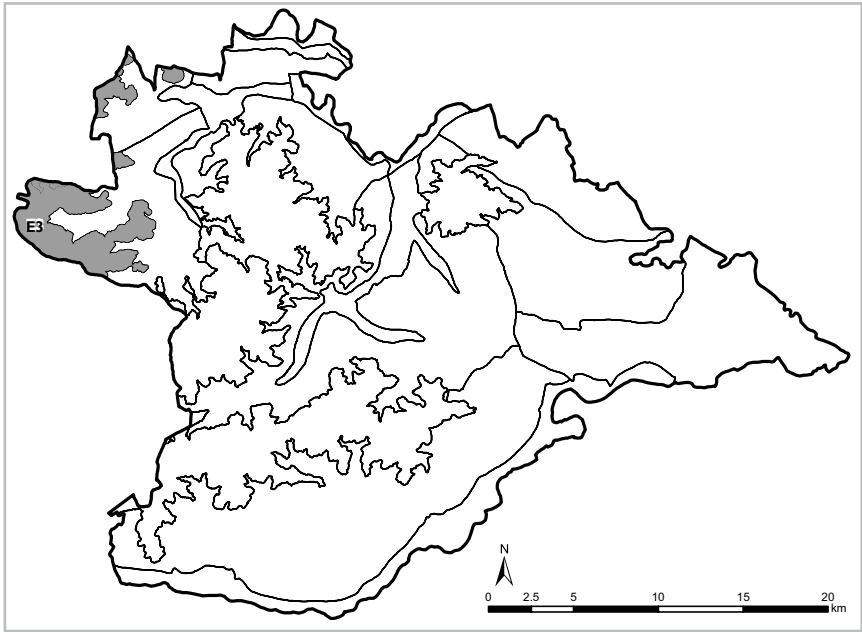
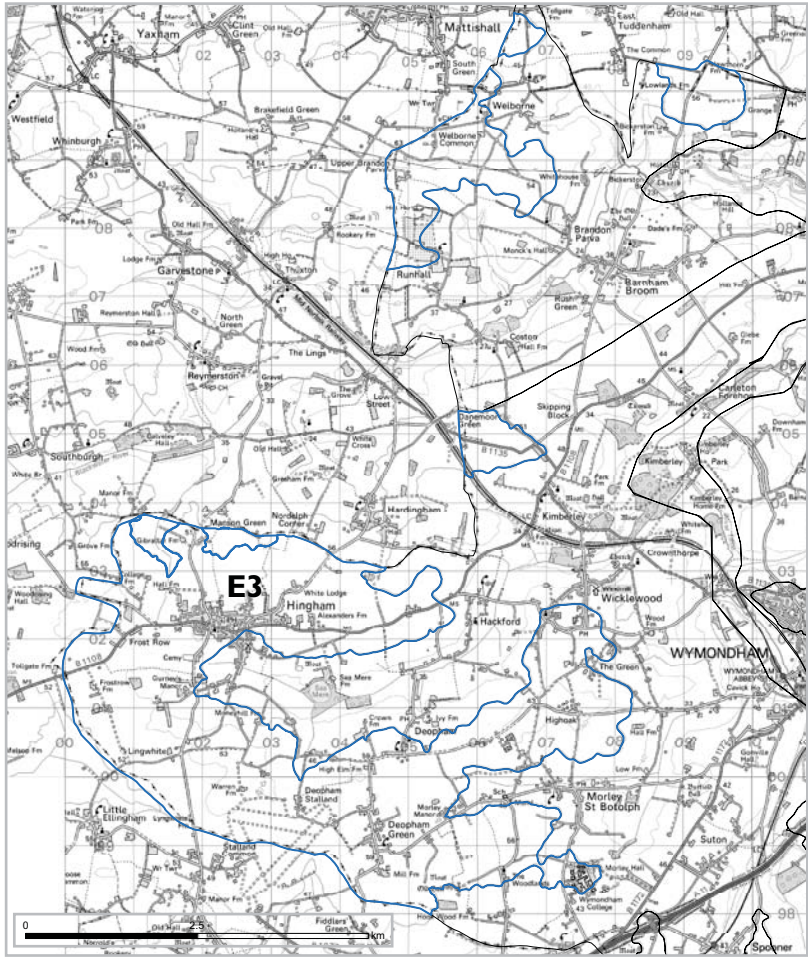


Character Area: E3  
Hingham - Mattishall Plateau Farmland



Location within South Norfolk District



Extent of the Hingham - Mattishall Plateau Farmland Character Area



Deopham Stalland Airfield



Plateau view to farm buildings



View across plateau to isolated church



Village green at Hingham



Red brick barns



## 18. E3: HINGHAM MATTISHALL PLATEAU FARMLAND

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### DESCRIPTION

- 18.1. **Location and Boundaries:** Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland occurs in the western part of South Norfolk district, the plateau extending beyond the boundary into the adjacent Breckland District. This character area forms part of a larger plateau beyond the district boundary and within South Norfolk forms five separate geographical areas - the largest part occurring in the extreme west of the district, with smaller isolated areas to the northwest. The plateau is delineated by land lying above the 50m contour.
- 18.2. The character of the **Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland** is illustrated in **Figure E3**.

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Flat, plateau landform**, narrow and ridge like around High Oak.
- **An open, elevated landscape** with extensive views from and to the plateau.
- **Predominantly arable farmland** with large, regular, geometric fields.
- **Hedgerows and hedgerow trees** significant in an otherwise unwooded landscape.
- **Absence of water** with occasional ditches along roads.
- **Market town of Hingham, otherwise sparsely settled.**
- **Churches are a feature** within the character area as well as views from the higher ground to churches outside the character area.
- **Airfield at Deopham** is a more recent historical feature.
- **Quiet rural lanes dissect the area**, noticeably more winding than other Plateau Farmland character areas.
- **A remote, rural character** created by the absence of roads and settlement.

### Geology and Soils

- 18.3. The Plateau Farmland Character areas are geologically the simplest in the district comprising a thick layer of chalky glacial till. The simple flat landform reflects the uniform geology.

### Landform, Topography, Scale and Enclosure

- 18.4. The flat, elevated plateau landform and the scarcity of woodland provide a strong sense of openness. Panoramic views are obtained, particularly at High Oak where land rises above 60m and forms a narrow and ridge like landform.

### **Land Cover and Biodiversity**

- 18.5. Large, geometric arable fields are the dominant land cover with some small blocks of deciduous woodland occurring but not as prominent features in the landscape. Hedgerows and hedgerow trees are significant, providing height and texture in this otherwise unwooded landscape. In places where hedgerows have been lost and post and wire has been used as a substitute boundary, the sense of openness and scale of the landscape is intensified.
- 18.6. There is only one County wildlife site in this character area at Gurney's Wood, which lies to the south west of Hingham. Apart from occasional ditches along roads, there is an absence of water.

### **Historic Character**

- 18.7. The market town of Hingham has a Conservation Area containing over 100 buildings on the statutory list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (e.g. the Old Rectory listed Grade II). Hingham developed around two markets and a church, although the markets no longer function the market place with its surrounding Georgian architecture contributes to Hingham's unique character.
- 18.8. From the most elevated areas, for example at High Oak, views to churches within the character area (at Wicklewood and Deopham) and outside the character area (at Hackford) are significant. Deopham and Hingham both have large churches with towers that have set-back buttresses connected in the same manor. An isolated church occurs east of Deopham Green.
- 18.9. More modern historical features are evident in the form of the disused airfield at Deopham Stalland.

### **Settlement and Built Character**

- 18.10. Settlement is concentrated in one part of this character area, in the extreme west of the district. The nucleated market town of Hingham is located on the plateau and extends to the south into the adjacent tributary farmland character area (B2). From the south there is therefore a noticeable rise up to the town centre and village green with views of the church tower. Despite having a medieval market Hingham never grew, failing to expand in the c19 due to the absence of a rail connection.
- 18.11. The southern part of Wicklewood village, including its church and Deopham Green, a linear settlement of several farms also occur in this part of the character area, as well as scattered farmsteads.
- 18.12. Overall, this is a peaceful, rural landscape with relatively little settlement and main roads. Quiet rural lanes dissect the character area, noticeably more winding than those in other Plateau Farmland character areas.



## EVALUATION

### Significant Landscape Assets

#### *National/International*

- Historic buildings within the Hingham Conservation area (e.g. the Old Rectory, Grade II listed).

#### *District/County*

- Distinctive plateau landform.
- Important views (to churches) that provide a sense of place.

#### *Local*

- Distinctive plateau landform.
- Important views (to churches) that provide a sense of place.

### Sensitivities and Vulnerabilities

18.13. The principal sensitivities and vulnerabilities of the Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland include:

- the peaceful undisturbed character;
- land occupied by former airfields and the threat of further neglect or development pressure;
- open views to churches and the threat of intrusion of development intruding on these views.

### Landscape Strategy

18.14. **The overall strategy is to conserve the peaceful, undisturbed character of the Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland with its open views, particularly to churches. It would be beneficial to:**

- continue to re-instate hedges along roads and field boundaries;
- promote a new generation of oak hedgerow trees.

### Development Considerations

18.15. Any development in the area must respect the character of the Hingham-Mattishall Plateau Farmland:

- maintain essentially unsettled character with settlement limited to Hingham and rural dispersed farms;
- maintain the unique character of Hingham with its market place core;
- respect the site and setting of landmark features such as the churches in views;

- consider use of former airfields and their impact on the character of the landscape.
- conserve the character of the quite rural lanes that cross the character area;
- consider the effect of any further tall structures on the open views.

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## **APPENDIX I**

### **FIELD SURVEY SHEET**





# SOUTH NORFOLK DISTRICT LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT: LANDSCAPE TYPE FIELD SURVEY SHEET

Sheet No: \_\_\_\_\_ Photograph Nos: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Direction of view: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 OS Grid Reference: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT LANDSCAPE TYPE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Keywords describing the landscape:** \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL FEATURES

### LAND

<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff/precipice	<input type="checkbox"/> Escarpment	<input type="checkbox"/> Broad valley
<input type="checkbox"/> Rolling	<input type="checkbox"/> Rock outcrops	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Narrow valley
<input type="checkbox"/> Undulating	<input type="checkbox"/> Plain	<input type="checkbox"/> Knoll	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep gorge
<input type="checkbox"/> Steep slopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Plateau	<input type="checkbox"/> Basin	<input type="checkbox"/> Gully
<input type="checkbox"/> Gentle slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### WATER

<input type="checkbox"/> River (size.....)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streams	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage channels	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake
<input type="checkbox"/> River Meanders	<input type="checkbox"/> Broads	<input type="checkbox"/> Flooded gravel pits	<input type="checkbox"/> Pond

## LAND COVER

### LAND USE

<input type="checkbox"/> Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry
<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Parkland	<input type="checkbox"/> Leisure/Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### VEGETATION COVER

<input type="checkbox"/> Arable	<input type="checkbox"/> Amenity grassland	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow trees
<input type="checkbox"/> Perm. pasture	<input type="checkbox"/> Common	<input type="checkbox"/> Small farm woods	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerows
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture	<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelterbelts	<input type="checkbox"/> Scrub/bracken
<input type="checkbox"/> Ley/improved	<input type="checkbox"/> Avenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Copses	<input type="checkbox"/> Heath/ Moor
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough grazing	<input type="checkbox"/> Conif woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered Trees	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Aquatics
<input type="checkbox"/> Wet Meadow	<input type="checkbox"/> Decid. woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> Orchards	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS/FEATURES**    ✓ Subtle    ✓✓ Evident    ✓✓✓ Conspicuous

LAND USE CONSULTANTS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fortifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nucleated settlem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dual Carriageway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manor/Parkland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Isolated Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linear settlement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landmark Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispersed settlem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural Lanes Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mills	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hill forts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial workings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunken Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighthouse/beacon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridleway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wind turbines	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moats	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mast/poles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tumuli	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Railway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ridge and furrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

## FIELD PATTERNS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fence - rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geometric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ditches	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fence – ‘urban’	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sinuous	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walls - rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregular	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wall – ‘urban’	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedgerow trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

## PERCEPTION

VIEWS	distant	framed	intermittent	panoramic	corridor
SCALE	intimate	small	medium	large	
ENCLOSURE	confined	enclosed	semi-enclosed	open	exposed
VARIETY	complex	varied	simple	uniform	
TEXTURE	smooth	textured	rough	very rough	
COLOUR	monochrome	muted	colourful	garish	
MOVEMENT	remote	vacant	peaceful	active	

UNITY	unified	interrupted	fragmented	chaotic
NATURALNESS	undisturbed	restrained	tamed	disturbed

## LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION (including notes about materials/condition)

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Views to Norwich:.....

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Views to Bypass: .....

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**LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES**

**MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

(highlight condition/survival, threats/pressures, fragility/vulnerability, management issues and opportunities)

**Agriculture**

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**Field patterns/boundaries**

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**Trees and woodland**

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**Archaeology/historic components**

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**Buildings/settlement/development**

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**Linear features**

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**Quarrying/mineral reclamation**

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**Other land uses**

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**General Notes**

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**SKEETCH AND NOTES**

