

**Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston Conservation Area Re-Appraisals
Public Consultation**
Report by Historic Environment Manager

Summary: Members have previously agreed, in line with Government's Best Value performance indicators and Broads Authority strategic priorities to the continuation of appraisals of existing Conservation Areas, and to the publication of these Appraisals and Management Proposals.

The purpose of this report is to give members the opportunity to comment on detailed re-appraisal work that has been carried out on the existing Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston Conservation Areas which propose alterations to the boundaries of the Conservation Areas prior to public consultation.

Recommendation:

That members:

- (i) consider the Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston Conservation Area re-appraisals; and
- (ii) subject to members' comments, endorse their publication for public consultation.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Members have previously agreed to assessment work being carried out in order to determine the potential for new Conservation Area designation and also the phased re-appraisal of existing Conservation Areas taking into account the duty of the Authority to identify and designate new areas and to maintain up to date appraisals of existing Conservation Areas.
- 1.2 It was reported to the Committee that an informal agreement had been reached with the Districts' Conservation Officers whereby areas that fell mainly within the Broads Authority area would have the appraisal work carried out by the Broads Authority and areas that fell mainly outside the Broads Authority area would have the appraisal work carried out by the relevant district.
- 1.3 The existing Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston Conservation Areas fall partly within the Broads Authority, and partly within South Norfolk District

Council. In this case, as the majority of each of the areas falls within the Broads Executive Area the appraisal work has been carried out by the Broads Authority.

- 1.4 In this instance the Broads Authority is proposing to organise and fund the public consultation exercise on behalf of both authorities. The details of the proposed public consultation process are outlined below.
- 1.5 A copy of the Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston draft re-appraisals and draft proposed boundaries are appended (Appendix 1).

2 Public Consultation Exercise

- 2.1. Once members have considered the draft Conservation Area re-appraisals, the next stage of the process is to publish them for public consultation in line with best practice and the Broads Authority Statement of Community Involvement. This will give residents of the Parishes and other stakeholders the chance to comment on any issues or options arising from the detailed appraisal work. This will take the form of a summary leaflet distributed to all households in each parish and other stakeholders, followed by an exhibition held in each parish attended by officers of the Broads Authority and South Norfolk District Council. The leaflet will contain a summary of each appraisal, a map indicating the proposed boundary and a summary of what the effects of designation are.
- 2.2. Following the public consultation exercise a further report will be brought before the Broads Authority Planning Committee setting out the response from the public and stakeholder consultation and exhibition. Taking into account the duty of the Authority to maintain up to date appraisals of Conservation Areas, and other policy issues, the Committee will, at that stage, consider whether or not to formally adopt the Conservation Area re-appraisals, revised boundaries and management plans for the parishes of Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston for that part of the area within the Broads Executive Area. South Norfolk District Council as Local Planning Authority will need to consider adoption of that part of the areas which fall within its boundary.

3 Continuing Appraisal Work

- 3.1 As part of the evolving Cultural Heritage Strategy in line with the Government's Best Value Performance indicators it is proposed to continue the programme of providing up to date appraisals, boundaries and management proposals for the existing Conservation Areas in the Broads Authority area and also identify any further areas which may be appropriate for formal designation as new Conservation Areas. This is consistent with the Broads Authority agreed strategic priorities for 2011/12.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are financial implications of a continuing appraisal programme for existing and proposed Conservation Areas within the Broads in terms of initial assessment and if required more detailed appraisal.
- 4.2 The Authority has a Cultural Heritage Budget of £30,000 for 2011/12 part of which has been allocated for carrying out this continuing appraisal programme. The Historic Environment Manager will continue to identify Areas requiring appraisal and to carry out initial assessment work in house. The existing budget will then be used, where considered appropriate, to fund detailed appraisal work.

5 Conclusions

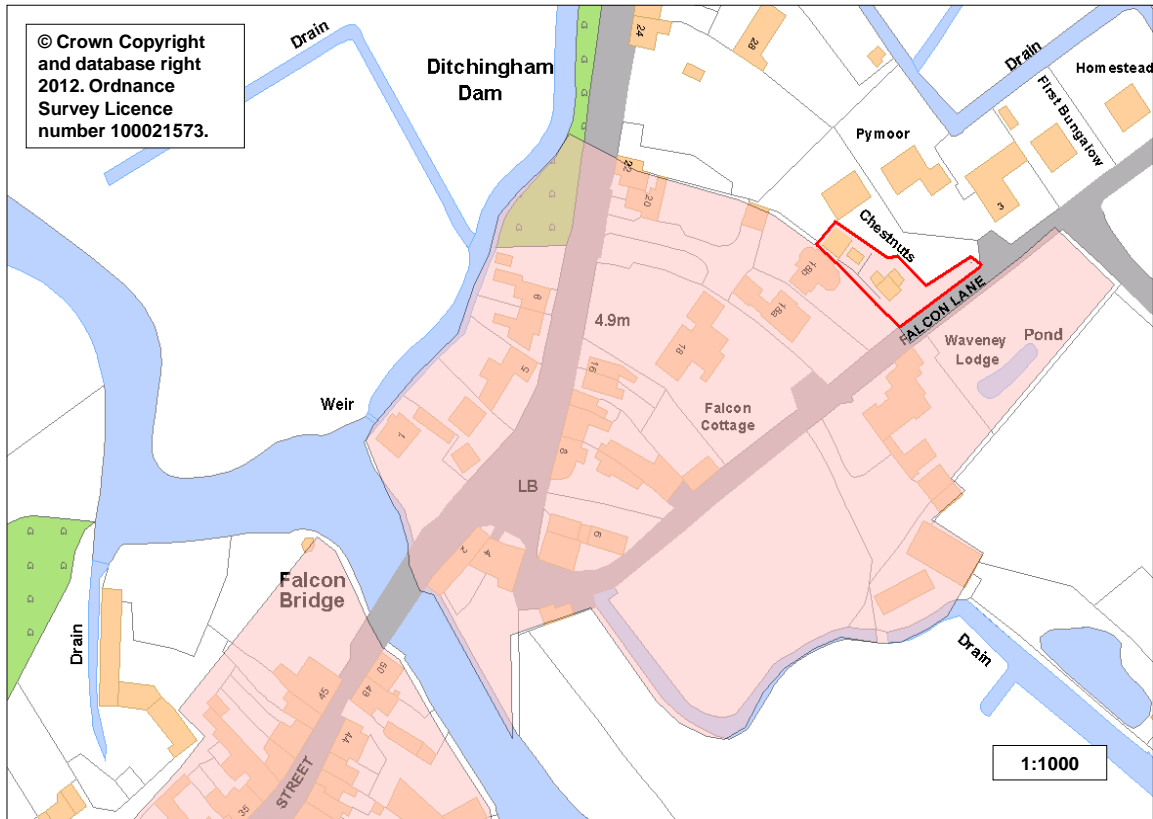
- 5.1 The Authority has a statutory duty to consider areas which are worthy of designation as Conservation Areas. Additionally the Government has given Conservation Area designation and management priorities by making them Best Value indicators.
- 5.2 It is considered that the re-appraisal of the Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston Conservation Areas, the revised boundaries and the proposed management plans indicated on the draft maps are considered worthy of Conservation Area status following a detailed assessment, and that public and stakeholder consultation is now required.

Background papers: Nil.

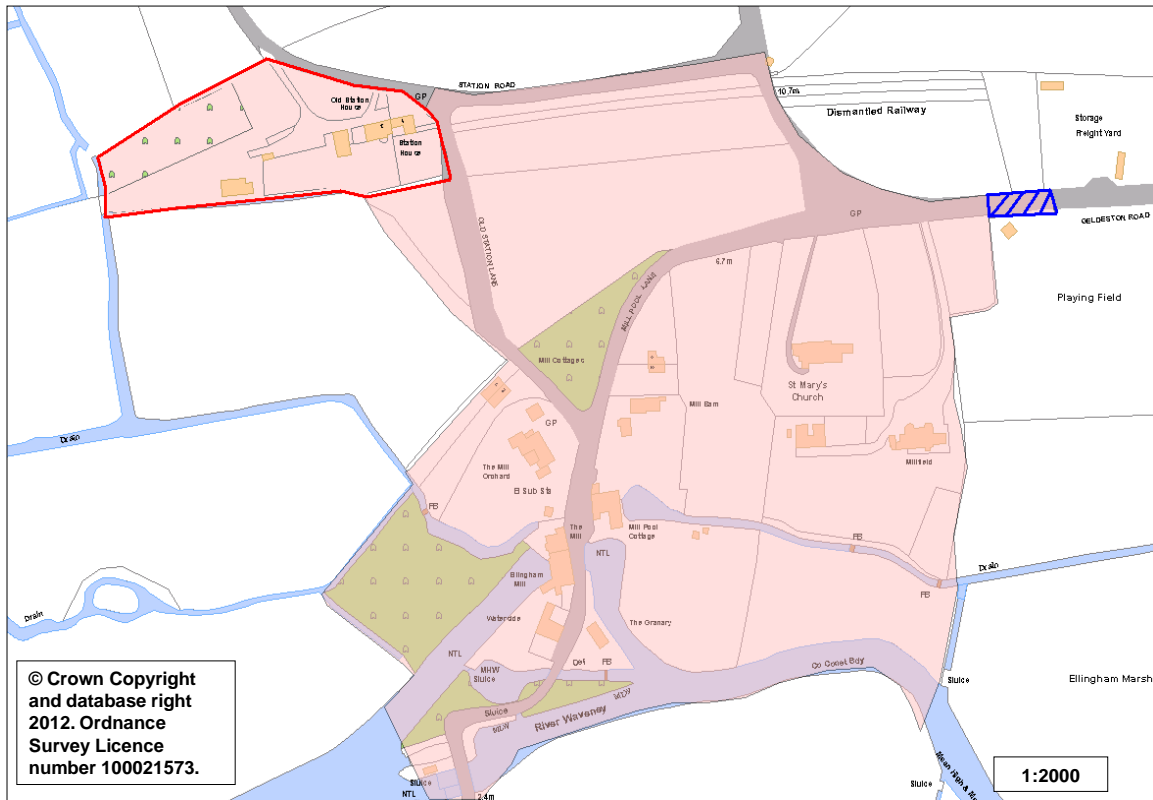
Author: Ben Hogg
Date of report: 15 February 2012.

Enclosure: APPENDIX 1: Ditchingham Dam, Ellingham and Geldeston draft re-appraisals and draft proposed boundaries

Ditchingham Dam Conservation Area – Reappraisal (Proposed extension outlined in red)



Ellingham Conservation Area – Reappraisal (Proposed extension outlined in red, proposed exclusion hatched in blue)



Geldeston Conservation Area – Reappraisal (Proposed extensions outlined in red, proposed exclusion hatched in blue)

