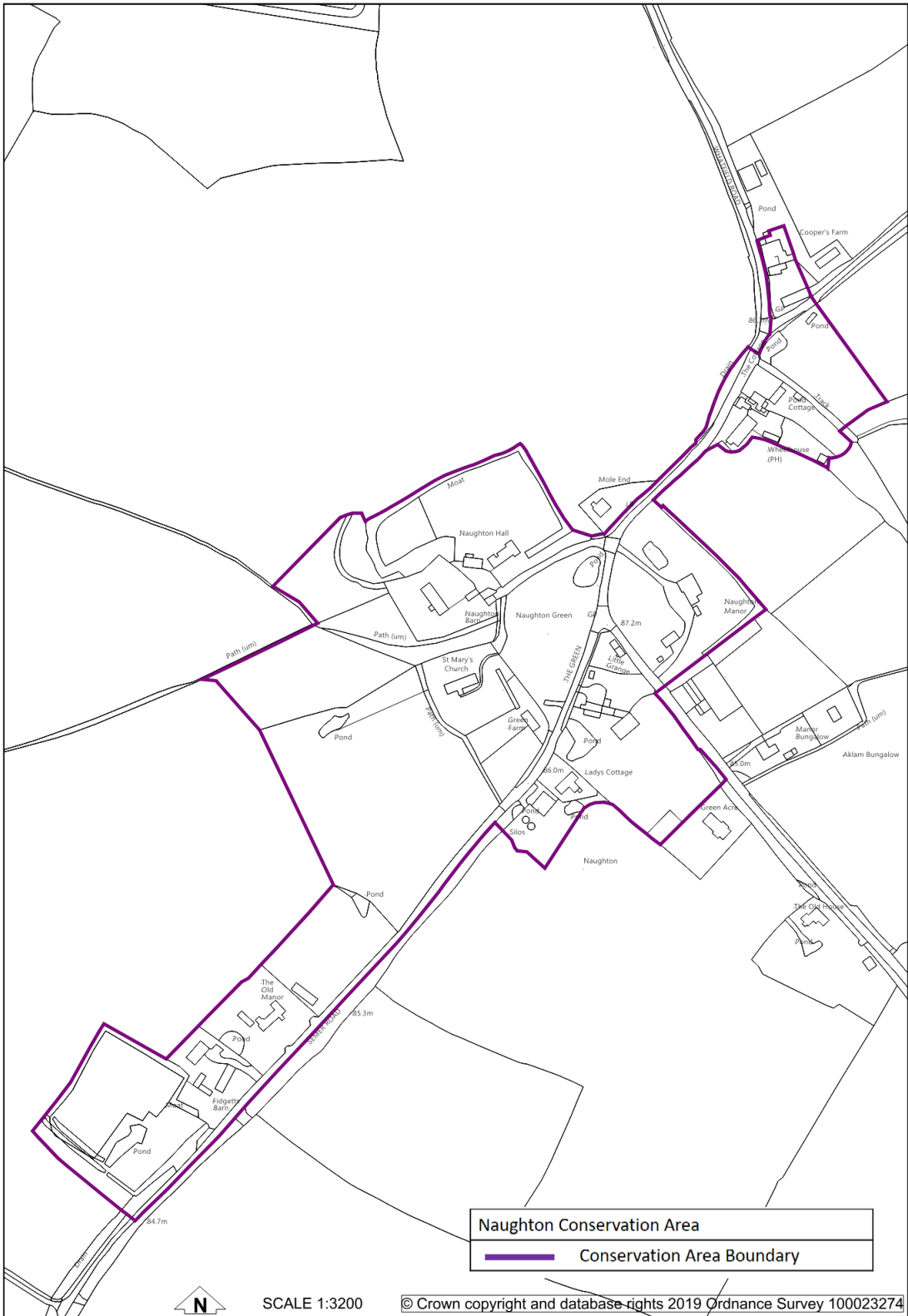


Naughton



Conservation Area Appraisal



Introduction

The conservation area in Naughton was originally designated by Babergh District Council in 1981.

The Council has a duty to review its conservation area designations from time to time, and this appraisal examines Naughton under a number of different headings as set out in English Heritage's 'Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals' (2006) and having regard to Historic England's new guidance (2016).

This brings the village in line with Babergh's other conservation area appraisals in the same format. As such it is a straightforward appraisal of Naughton's built environment in conservation terms.



As a document it is neither prescriptive nor overly descriptive, but more a demonstration of 'quality of place', sufficient to inform the Planning Officer and others considering changes or assessing proposed works there. The photographs and maps are thus intended to contribute as much as the text itself.

As the English Heritage guidelines point out, the appraisal is to be read as a general overview, rather than as a comprehensive listing, and the omission of any particular building, feature or space does not imply that it is of no interest in conservation terms.

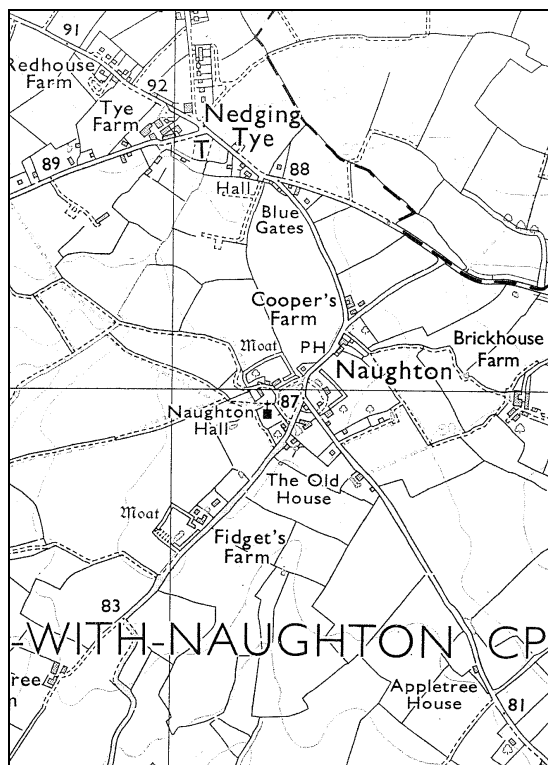
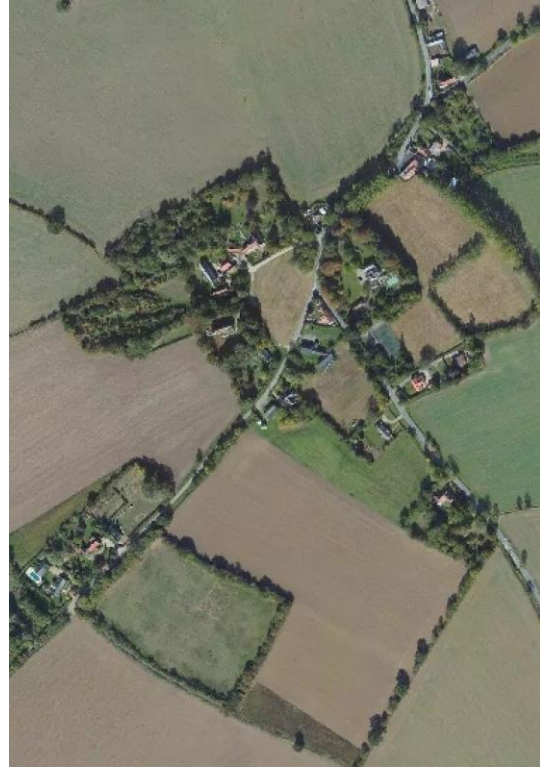
Text, photographs and map overlays by Patrick Taylor, Conservation Architect, for Babergh District Council 2019.

Topographical Framework

The village of Naughton is situated in south central Suffolk, about five miles north of the market town of Hadleigh and eight miles east of Lavenham.

The settlement sits about two miles north-east of the River Brett, which flows south from here down through Hadleigh and onwards to join the Stour at Higham.

Whilst the river valley has cut down through the overlying boulder clay of 'High Suffolk' to reveal locally gravels, crags and pockets of older London Clay, Naughton remains firmly on the edge of that clay plateau.



From Needham Market the B1078 road runs through the combined parish of Nedging with Naughton, passing about a quarter mile north of the village on towards Bildeston further east. Off this road at Nedging Tye a minor road heads off south-westwards down the valley side to the village of Nedging.

Naughton itself is approximately 80 metres above OD, with the adjoining river valley some 50 metres below.

Hadleigh was at one time served by a branch line of the Eastern Union Railway, now closed down, making Needham Market and Stowmarket to the north-east the village's nearest stations.

Archaeological Significance

The Suffolk County Historic Environment Record lists about a dozen sites of archaeological interest in the parish of Nedging with Naughton. The oldest of these is an enclosure cropmark, given as undated, but probably Bronze Age in date.

There appear to be no Iron Age, Roman or Saxon finds, but this may be the result of the relatively low level of development in the area.

Medieval remains include both the Church of St Mary and another Church site further east, along with a site where 13th century pottery was discovered.

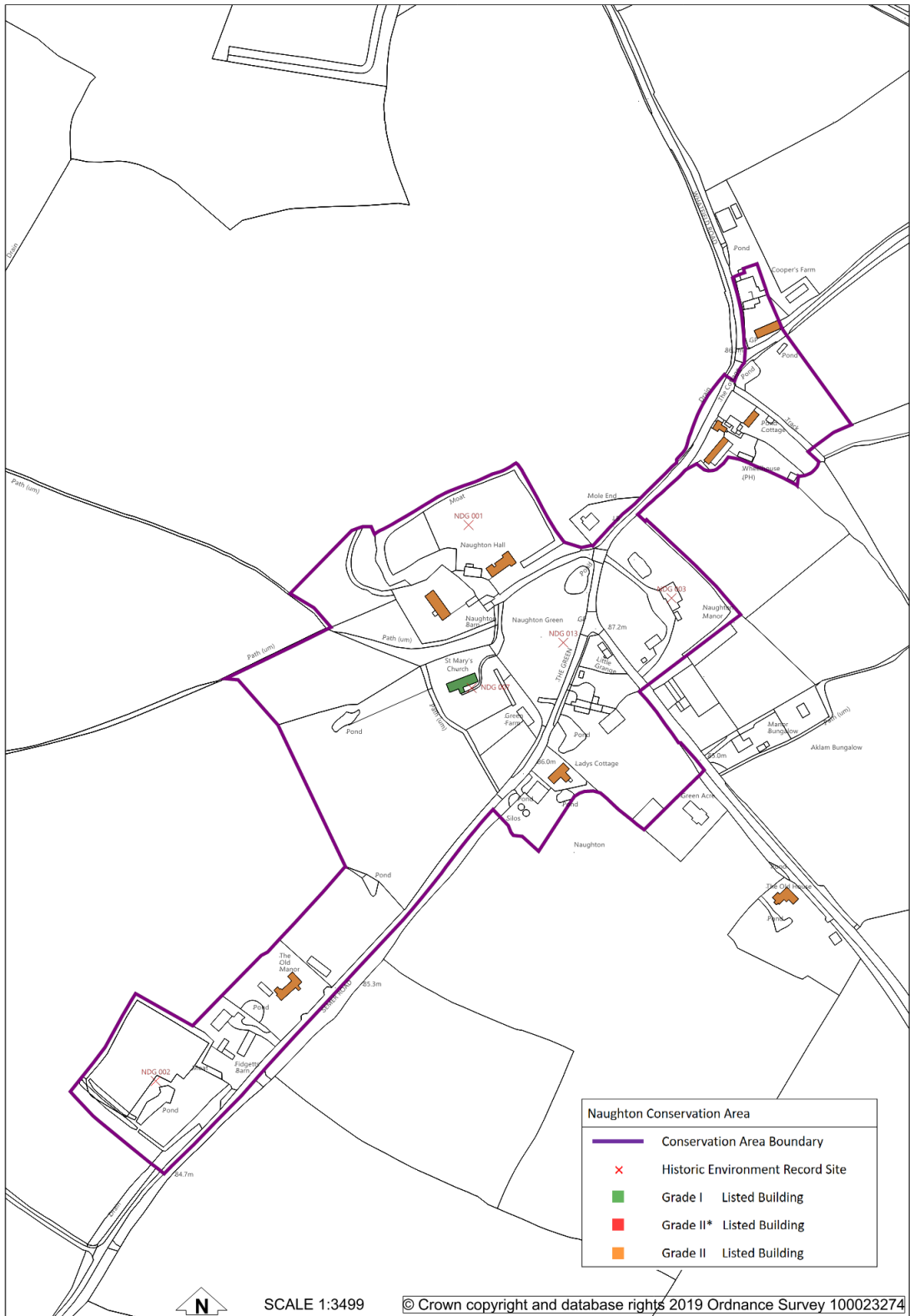


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St. Etheldreda's held NEDGING before 1066; 3 carucates of land.
Then 8 villagers, now 6; then 6 smallholders, now 9; then 3 slaves,
now 1.
Always 3 ploughs in lordship. Then 2 men's ploughs, now 1.
Meadow, 8 acres; woodland, 6 pigs; 1 mill. 2 cobs, 14 cattle,
100 sheep, 20 pigs.
A church, 7 acres.
2 Freemen with 14 acres. Then 1 plough, now 2 oxen.
Value then £4; now [£]8.
It has 1 league in length and 3 furlongs in width; 2½d in tax.

There are also four Medieval moated sites in the area, three framing the conservation area, and two ancient woodlands, probably of similar age. The remaining listing is the Post-Medieval site of a windmill.

The adjoining village of Nedging was listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 as belonging to St Etheldreda's prior to 1066, and Roger Bigot at the time. The holding included a meadow of 8 acres and woodland for 6 pigs as well as a church with 7 acres of land.



SCALE 1:3499

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Date Printed : 15/08/2019

Intrinsic Quality of Buildings

Naughton has but one grade I listed building, the Church of St Mary of flint with stone dressings, not all visible as unfortunately the nave and chancel have been encased in cement render. It is mostly of 14th Century date with roofs of plaintile to the nave and slate to the chancel.

One other building is of sufficient quality to justify listing at grade II. This is Brickhouse Farm a little to the east of the conservation area, which has an exposed timber frame with brick nogging and a jetty to the north. It dates from the 15th or 16th Century and inside has a straight staircase with quarter log risers, thought to be original.*



The remaining listed buildings are all grade II and include Naughton Hall near the Church, north of the green. This is 17th Century, timber-framed and plastered, with a jettied cross wing at the east end.

The Old Manor south-west of the green is similarly grade II, 17th Century and timber-framed, but retains exposed timbers, filled in with red brick nogging.



Traditional Building Materials

Naughton has good examples of most of Suffolk's local building materials that have been used through the ages.

Timber-framed construction is fairly ubiquitous, but not always in an immediately obvious way, except in the case of the Old Manor where the framing is visibly infilled with soft Suffolk red brick nogging.

The more usual Suffolk vernacular employing a finish of lime render on laths, covering and protecting the timber framing, is mostly used, sometimes with applied patterns in pargetting. Without seeing the timbers steep clay pantiled roofs are all that remain as visible clues.



Soft 'Suffolk red' bricks appear as chimneys on many buildings, and form the walls of those of the 19th Century, either solid or refronting a timber-framed construction. At the Old Manor octagonal gate piers have been built of the harder 'Suffolk white' bricks, probably sourced from Woolpit.

Apart from the pantiled roofs, many of the rendered cottages are thatched, and some buildings have had the thatch replaced with slate, probably in the 19th Century.

As with most similar settlements, the barns, outbuildings and rear wings employ slightly lower status materials such as black weather-boarding and clay pantiles for the roofs.

Hierarchy of Spaces

Naughton is a classic small village with Church, Hall and associated barn clustered around a roughly triangular green. Unusually this triangle is not an expanded road junction.

The green lies to the north-west side of the road through the village from Ash Street, Semer to Nedging Tye, at a T-junction where the road from Whatfield joins from the south-east.

The Church lies immediately west of the green and the Hall to the north, with the barn tucked into the corner in between. Most of the rest of the development comprising the village lies south-east of the road through.

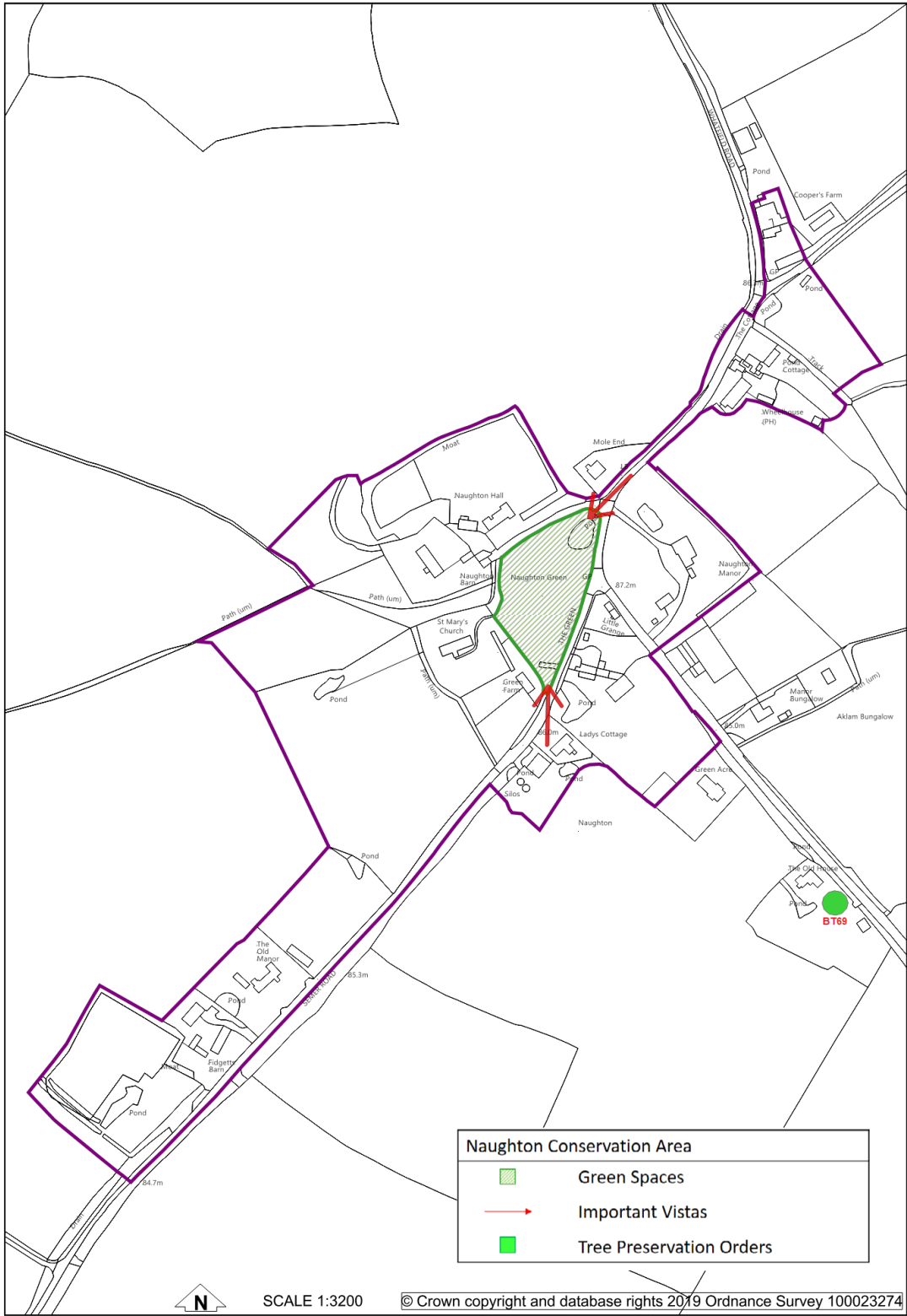


The village thus has a nucleus of development around the green with two outlying areas.

The south-western area around the Old Manor, Fidget's Farm and its moated site lies to the south-west and is on the north-west side of the road, whilst the other around the Wheelhouse Inn and Cooper's Farm is to the north-east and, like most of the village, on the south-east side of the road.

Most of the development there is on plots facing a road and only one plot deep with agricultural land to the rear.





Trees and Planting

Trees figure very much in the landscape within Naughton, maintaining a rural quality to the settlement. Indeed, the village presents something of a sylvan oasis set as it is within the wider landscape of industrial agriculture with hedges few and far between.

Most of the properties there have tree or hedge boundaries and there has been some recent positive enhancement of this with the planting up of areas west of the churchyard where a number of footpaths cross private land giving public access.

Another area of newer planting done to great effect is the row of large Poplars alongside the road from the green east towards the Wheelhouse Inn.

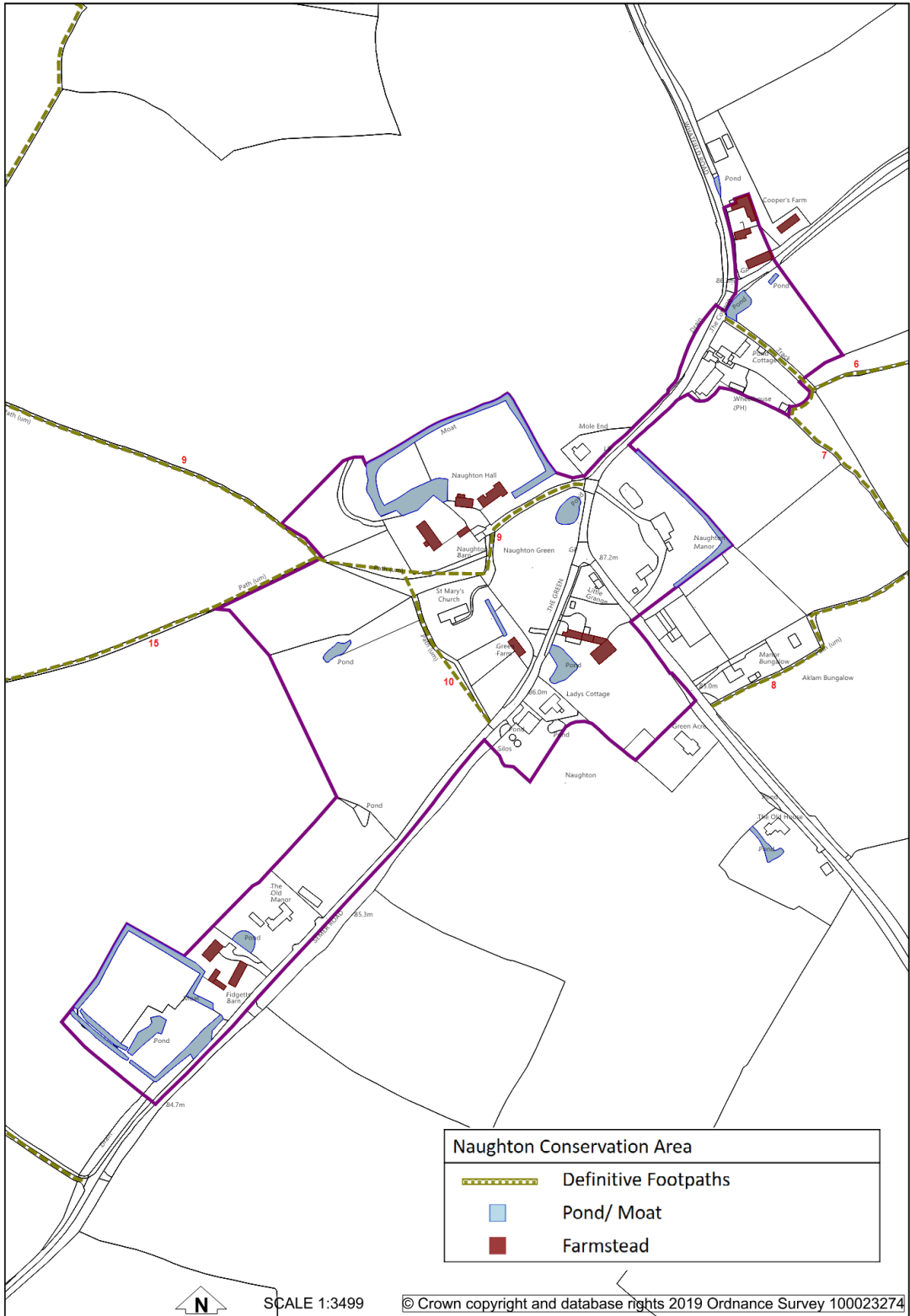
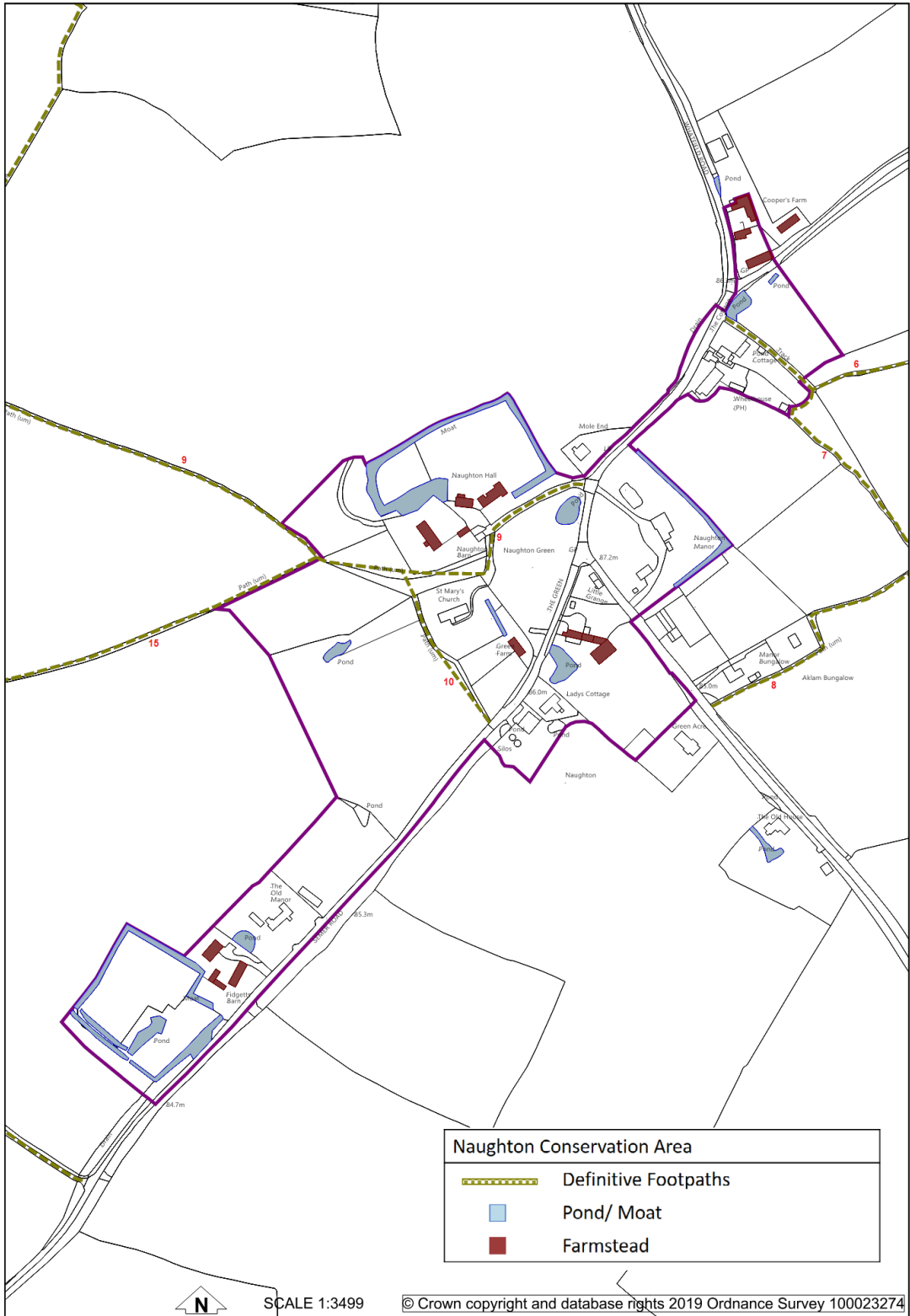


The churchyard itself has its own mature planting of Yew, Beech, Oak and Sycamore.

The only significant group of trees in the parish that have been felt under threat became the subject of Tree Preservation Order no.267 made by West Suffolk County Council in 1973. It covers two large areas of Oak, Ash and Hazel that comprise Nedging Woods, well outside the conservation area. A single large Oak just outside the area, along New Road to the south-east, was covered by the later Babergh TPO 69.

To the west of the conservation area, the river valley is designated part of the Brett Valley Special Landscape Area, and remains rich in wetland trees such as Willow, Poplar and Alder.





Relationship to Open Countryside

Naughton's small size means that with single plot depth development, most of the properties there have farmland to the rear.

As well as the four roads that head out into the countryside there are also many footpath links from the centre.

Footpaths 6, 7 and 8 head jointly and severally from positions north and south of Naughton Manor towards Brickhouse Farm east of the settlement, where they join footpaths 5 and 4 heading south-east towards Pigeon Hall.



To the west footpaths 9, 10 and 15 radiate from the newly planted woodland west of the churchyard, all well signed and easy of access with good bridging over ditches as required.

With its mix of cottages and former farmhouses, overall the settlement has a quality of rural repose centred on its village green. None of the roads are at all major and traffic is consequently light and infrequent.

Prevailing and Former Usage

The small village of Naughton appears not to have been involved in Suffolk's woollen cloth industry that thrived in the 16th and 17th Centuries. Early 17th Century records show the presence in the village of just four yeomen and a clerk, whilst later that century there were just six yeomen and presumably the then uncounted general population too.

Later evidence from 1844 directories indicates a continuing general agricultural economy, with six farmers, two blacksmiths, a wheelwright and a shoemaker.

The local economy was thus primarily agricultural, but the 1841 Tithe map's reference to two fields named Winding Field does suggest some involvement with cloth production.



One Winding Field was immediately south of the conservation area west of Ladies Cottage.

A mill and a dovehouse were also mentioned in the Naughton Tithe records, but these were in a remote detached portion of the parish near Whatfield.

The nearest windmill was just to the north at Nedging Tye, where the foundations remain of a post and roundhouse mill that burnt down in 1909.

The presence of moats around three major houses and a pond on the green suggests the need for a reliable water supply for both people and cattle in an area well away from a river.





Losses and Possible Gains

Naughton has thus far suffered relatively little in the way of modern intrusions and maintaining a fairly rural character, there has been little modern infill. The conservation area boundary as originally designated is therefore still considered adequate for its purpose.

Overhead wiring is a little intrusive in some places and would benefit from being put underground when funds permit.



For the most part the buildings are well looked after, but some of the traditional buildings do appear a little tired and in need of care and repair, especially some of the thatched ones.

Outbuildings adjoining Cooper's Farm at the north-east end of the village are rather patched up and would benefit from the reinstatement of traditional materials in lieu of corrugated iron sheeting.

The same applies to the old farm buildings immediately south of the green, where a clay pantile roof might suit better.

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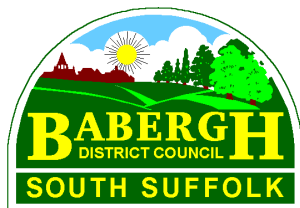
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*This Appraisal adopted as
Supplementary Planning Guidance by
Babergh District Council Cabinet
7 March 2019*