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In order to prepare a neighbourhood plan, the first formal stage is to designate the Neighbourhood Area (see Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). The 'qualifying body' (the town or parish council) has to apply to Babergh District Council to designate a neighbourhood area, stating its reasons and submit a map of the proposed area.

Babergh District Council received an application from Hartest Parish Council to designate a Neighbourhood Area to enable the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. A statutory consultation as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 sections 5 – 8, was undertaken by Babergh District Council from 22nd April until 4pm on 03rd June 2014.

The following comments were received:

Date	Consultee Name	Consultee Organisation	Comments	Action required?
22/04/14	Sue Bull	Anglian Water	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the area designation. However, we have no comment to make at this stage. Once the neighbourhood plan area is established and the plan progresses we will be pleased to make comment on the draft.	N
22/04/2014	Cllr R Kemp	Babergh District Council	Full support.	N
24/04/2014	David Grech	English Heritage	No objection to this designation. However, given the very large numbers of designated heritage assets within Hartest, and the designated conservation area, in the event that he parish council is granted this status we would request that you remind the Parish Council that English Heritage has a statutory role in the development plan process, and that there is a duty to consult English Heritage where our interests are considered to be affected. We can then provide specific advice concerning the inclusion of the historic environment in their plan. Of course the nature of the locally-led neighbourhood plan process is that the community itself should determine its own agenda based on the issues it is concerned about. A that same time, as a national organisation able increasingly to draw upon our experiences of neighbourhood planning exercises across the	N

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Consultee Name	Consultee Organisation	Comments	Action required?
		country, our input, agreed on a case by case basis, can help those communities reflect upon the special (heritage) qualities which can define their area to best ensure that optimum and sustainable outcomes are achieved. To this end information of our website might be of initial assistance http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improve-your-neighbourhood/	
Dawn Presutti	Natural England	Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning. We must be consulted on draft Neighbourhood Development Plans where the Town/Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum considers our interests would be affected by the proposals. We must be consulted on draft Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders where proposals are likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest or 20 hectares or more of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. We must also be consulted on Strategic Environmental Assessments, Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and Environmental Impact Assessments, where these are required. Your local planning authority will be able to advise you further on environmental requirements.	N
		The following is offered as general advice which may be of use in the preparation of your plan. Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans and development proposals. This is available at: http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf Local environmental record centres hold a range of information on the natural environment. A list of local records centre is available at: http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php	
		Consultee Name Organisation	Comments Country, our input, agreed on a case by case basis, can help those communities reflect upon the special (heritage) qualities which can define their area to best ensure that optimum and sustainable outcomes are achieved. To this end information of our website might be of initial assistance http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improve-your-neighbourhood/ Dawn Presutti Natural England Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning. We must be consulted on draft Neighbourhood Development Plans where the Town/Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum considers our interests would be affected by the proposals. We must be consulted on draft Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders where proposals are likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest or 20 hectares or more of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. We must also be consulted on Strategic Environmental Assessments, Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and Environmental Impact Assessments, where these are required. Your local planning authority will be able to advise you further on environmental requirements. The following is offered as general advice which may be of use in the preparation of your plan. Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans and development proposals. This is available at: http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO02/12BWAZ-E-E.pdf Local environmental record centres hold a range of information on the natural environment. A list of local records centre is available

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Date	Consultee Name	Consultee Organisation	Comments	Action required?
02/06/2014	Mr H Hirst	Hartest Resident	Hartest is unsuitable for further housing of any description.	N – Issues to be considered through the Neighbourhood Plan process including conformity with Babergh District Council's Core Strategy.
03/06/2014	James Cutting	Suffolk County Council	Thank you for consulting Suffolk County Council on the matter of designating a neighbourhood plan area for a future Hartest Neighbourhood Plan. The County Council has no objection to the area as proposed in your letter dated 22 April. However, as the plan is developed, appropriate consideration will need to be given to the impacts of proposals on other parishes in the locality. The Plan may or may not impact on County Council service responsibilities, depending on what the Parish Council is seeking to achieve. If the Plan is likely to impact on any of the County Council's services, such as transport or education (in particular), we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Parish Council's proposals. Relevant County Council services include: Highways and transport Education (including pre-schools) Surface Water Management Social Care Archaeology Fire and rescue Libraries Waste Infrastructure Please contact me or my colleague Robert Feakes via the contact details above, if we can be of assistance	N .

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Date	Consultee Name	Consultee Organisation	Comments	Action required?
03/06/2014	Mr J Ives	Hartest Resident	With reference to the submission from Hartest Parish Council to designate an area that is appropriate to be covered by future neighbourhood plans for new homes, business and community uses, I would like to submit these comments before the consultation period finishes today at 4pm. We live on Blind Lane which is just off The Row at the end of the village on your way to Boxted. It is an unadopted lane which is used by walkers, horses and vehicles, there are six houses along this lane. I would like to ensure before the decision making process that the Council update the drainage system in the village. It cannot cope as it is. We have lived here for 9 years and every year we have experienced flooding in our garage, when it has rained heavily, because the drains are blocked on The Row. The council created a soak away one year coming from Boxted end and along Blind Lane. However this was piped incorrectly and more water came into our garage than ever before. They then had to come back and put it right. This soak away has not improved this situation we experience. I also would like you to consider the river which is at the bottom of most houses on the left side of the green, The Row and Blind Lane. In most recent winters that has become extremely high. New homes will have a knock on effect of this too.	N – Issues to be considered through the Neighbourhood Plan process.

As no material objections were received, using delegated powers, the Head of Economy can designate the Hartest Neighbourhood Area to allow the community's plan to proceed to the next stage.