

WYBUNBURY COMBINED PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

APPENDIX H

SPIRIT OF PLACE STATEMENT



The Wybunbury Combined Parishes: Spirit of Place Statement

The NPPF in paragraph 170 (Revised 2018), identifies the need to consider the environment (including landscape) within the planning process. Landscape provides a framework for people to think about what gives their area a 'quality of place', and to manage change in a way which makes a positive contribution to the character of the area.

Paragraph 170 states that:

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;*
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;*
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and*
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.*

In the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan Area, the quality of place can be defined in the following terms:

- The rural, peaceful character of the area determined by the quality of the countryside, with important local areas of natural beauty which are both well preserved and cared for but also accessible to all members of the community;
- The country life and traditional values which are preserved by the predominantly agricultural activities across the area, the local community spirit nurtured by a valued history, shared community spaces and, local events such as the Fig Pie Wakes;



- The network of rural lanes and footpaths accessible by walkers, cyclists and horse riders which allow access into and through the surrounding countryside;
- The nationally important local Meres and Mosses together with the range of wildlife and biodiversity across the plan area;
- The historic buildings and assets across the area and the need to preserve and celebrate their importance;
- The trees, hedgerows and woodland across the plan area which serve to 'break up' the landscape providing important wildlife corridors;
- The individual local communities and architectural styles of our villages and hamlets which contribute to the rural character.

The Combined Parishes have a quality of place with countryside at its core, where the sense of history, community spirit and proximity to nature pervades the communities, buildings, land use, flora and fauna across the Neighbourhood Plan area.

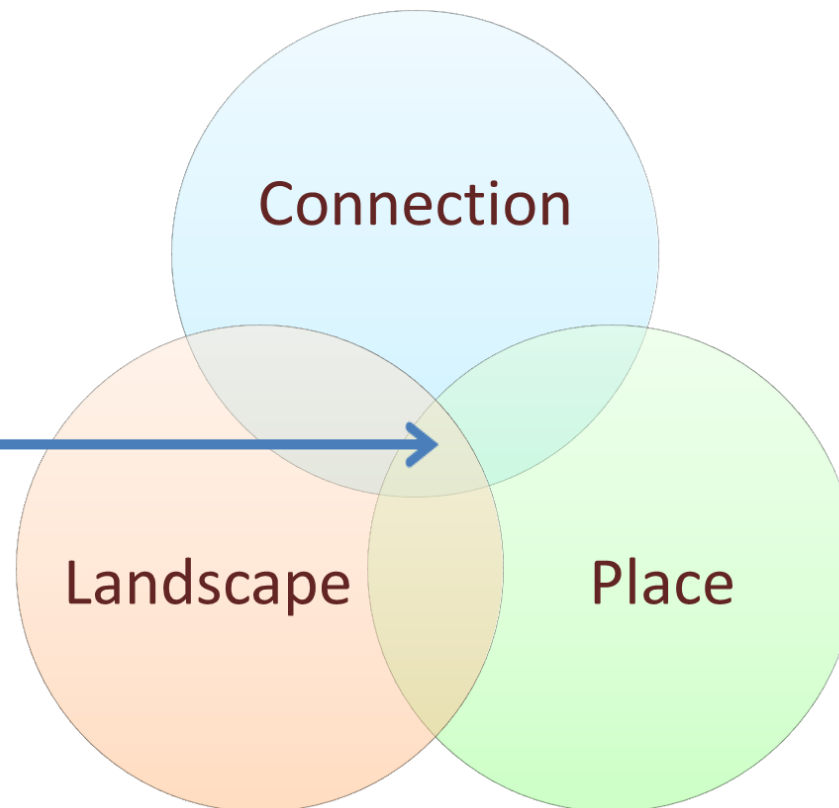


3.

DEFINING A SPIRIT OF PLACE

What is the 'spirit of place?'

The spirit of place is the intersection of culture, environment and design. It could also be described as the 'genius loci' referring to the distinctive atmosphere of a place (Spirit of Place + design features = character).



Defining 'quality of place' cuts across three key dimensions:

• What's there:

the combination of the built environment and the natural environment;

• Who's there:

is the community diverse/mono-cultural?

How does the community interact?

• What's going on:

is there an active street life?

Where does life take place?

Why define it?

Quality of place is a subjective, innate and implicit feature of decision making, especially for people and businesses choosing to relocate. A high quality of place will mean different things to different people but understating what that quality looks like helps us make decisions which can positively contribute to quality of life and economic prosperity of an area. The ability to define the contributory factors, including natural, cultural and historic environment elements that make up quality of place, may offer scope for strategic planning and decision making, and a way of aligning the work of different organisations to greater effect.

