

Appendix 1: Locally Important Views and Their Key Features

This appendix describes the views that are the subject of Policy HEY2 of this plan. They are shown on Map 8/9 in the plan, which are reproduced below.

These views are clearly evidenced in this appendix. The locations have been referenced in the HLA 2022 and/or proposed by residents in consultation early on in the process or during Reg 14 consultation, as being important to them.

A view is sight of a landscape or other feature from a place which is accessible to the public. These views are within the village; of the wider landscape from the village; of the village from the wider landscape; or of the surrounding countryside within the Parish. Some are of distinctive topographical features.

The Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) remarks that the area feels remote and has a strong sense of tranquillity with settlement comprising three historic linear villages- 'hilltop' villages which are linear and well vegetated. The enclosed character around the villages creates localised intimacy which contrasts with the wider rolling landform and vistas. Many of these views illustrate this character.

Views over the landscape to the north of Heydon Village are breathtaking: vast in both breadth and distance and loved by residents and visitors alike. They help to define the unique character of Heydon as a 'hilltop' village.

As well as vast and open views, there are glimpses of some significance, often distant. Several of the views evolve as the viewer travels, adding to the visual experience, so have been illustrated with a series of photographs. The views may vary in extent, and distinctiveness, but all help to reinforce the sense of place.

Each view (or series of views) is described below and although the photographs have been taken from specified locations there is often a wider perspective as the viewer moves. (Note that viewpoint locations on the maps have been generated from 8 figure grid references). While the image provides a general representation of the view, the key features that underlie the value of the view – aesthetic, historic, amenity and character- that are to be maintained and protected from (or by) any development are identified in the accompanying text.

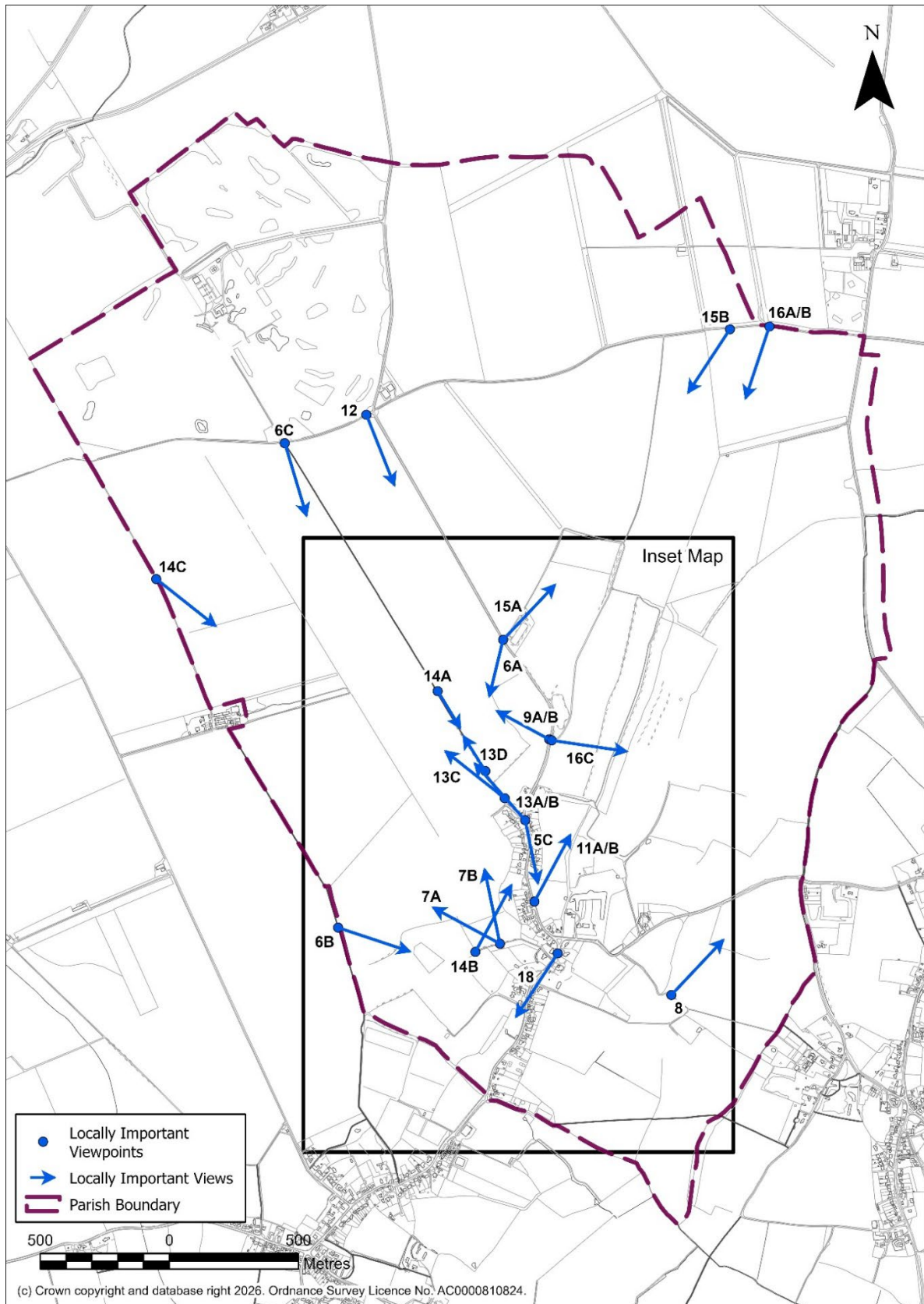
It is important that any new development proposals coming forward respect and do not significantly adversely impact locally important views, landscape character and setting that contribute towards establishing a sense of place in the Parish. Future developments which fall within the view areas shown in the Neighbourhood Plan, should in fact look to enhance the key landscape and built development features identified, with special attention given to the design and layout.

Some views are of visually important open, undeveloped land, within or on the edge of our settlement, which contributes to the form, character or setting of our area. A number of views are behind Important Countryside Frontages that already exist: development of this land would fundamentally alter our landscape setting. This open land should be protected/retained and recognised as an important contributor to settlement character which would benefit from improved public access.

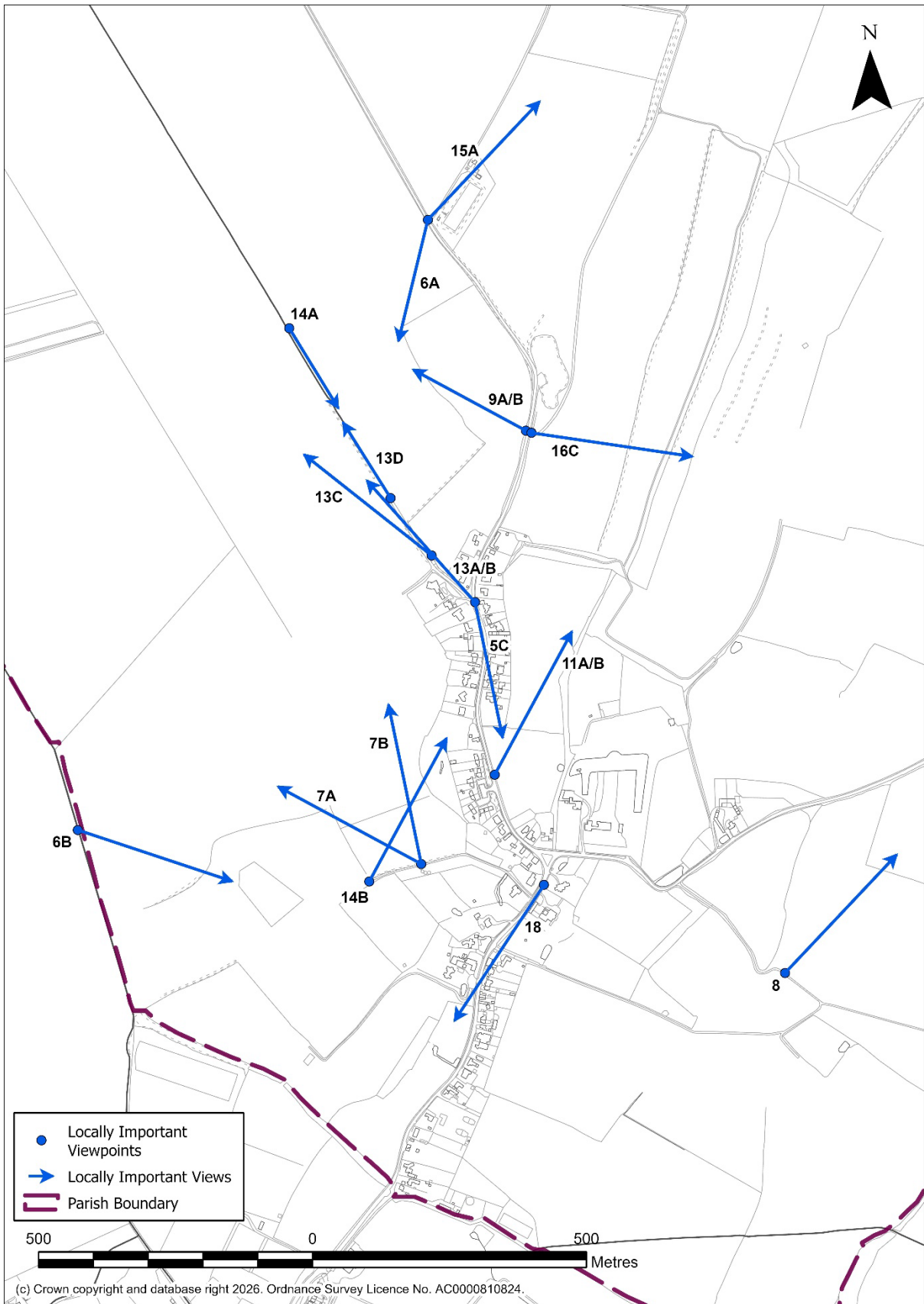
Key views in the surrounding landscape are considered important, particularly for the setting of the village and enjoyment of the surrounding countryside by residents and visitors.

The relationship of the village to the countryside is a defining feature of Heydon and something the community places great value on: the landscape setting of the village surrounded by open countryside (e.g. views 14, 15), the views and direct access to the countryside from within the village (e.g. views 7,

8, 13) and the presence of tall trees, hedgerows and rural planting within the built area of the village (e.g. view 18).



Map 8: Locally important views towards the settlement and out to the wider countryside



View 5: South from the head of Bran Ditch

View 5A



View 5B



View 5C



Views from the head of Bran Ditch facing south up Fowlmere Road, in winter (5A) and summer (5B). 5A shows the Grade II listed Walnut Tree Cottage and Home Farmhouse on the right. 5C is a closer view of the flint walls and buildings of the original farmyard of Bury Farm on the left, now converted to residential use. This group highlights the importance of the village's agricultural past and forms an important feature of the view south into the village.

The unfenced, open frontage of Walnut Tree Cottage and of Home Farmhouse together with the green space at the entrance to the Bran Ditch give this part of Fowlmere Road an open and spacious character (5B).

The curve in the road as it proceeds south to the village centre is particularly pleasing to the eye.

View 6: Down Plantation

View 6A



View 6B



View 6C



Views of Down Plantation from north-east (6A), north-west (6B) and west (6C).

Down Plantation is a significant landmark on a promontory of Chishill Down, close to the centre of the village. It is visible from most of the north and west of the Parish and from as far away as Wimpole Hall to the north-west and Reed to the west. The wooded and undeveloped ridgeline is visually sensitive¹.

The natural promontory of Chishill Down/Down Plantation may have housed a defensive structure even before the Anglo-Saxon period; associated earthworks still evident today may reflect such a site and/or may relate to strip lynchets². LIDAR shows a roughly rectangular excavation within the plantation³. There are also areas of strip lynchets evident north of Down Plantation⁴.

Theories have been put forward that the Bran Ditch and the distinctive Heydon Valley may have been influential in the location of a currently unlocated confrontation between Boudica and Roman forces. The natural topography of the chalk scarp, forming a sickle shaped curve between Chishill Down and Reeve/Anthony Hill and the deep cleft of the Heydon Valley, may well have been strategically important⁵. This unique setting may also have inspired rumours of a Roman Villa beneath Down Plantation.

Whatever its history, its distinctive outline means that Heydon can be spotted from far afield and these long-distance views of the village setting are much valued by villagers.

Although the landscape to the south and east of Down Plantation is relatively flat, its small extent and proximity to the scarp face mean it is particularly sensitive to any introduced vertical elements which may be visible on the skyline and which may interrupt or undermine the visual primacy of Down Plantation on Chishill Down⁶.

¹ Greater Cambridge LCA

² HLA2022 p4

³ Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer accessed 110925

⁴ Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer accessed 110925

⁵ British Archaeology Magazine issue 165 Mar/Apr 2019 – “AD60, Boudica: Unlocated Battle” William Foot

⁶ HLA2022 p13

View 7: Chishill Down

View 7A



View 7B



View north-west towards Melbourn (7A) and north towards Fowlmere (7B), from a farm track leading off Chishill Road close to the core of Heydon. This track has been regularly used by residents, informally, over many years and the Parish Council is currently in discussion with the landowner with the intent of making the track a formal permissive footpath.

Chishill Down is a small area of flatter elevated land between the chalk scarp and the edge of the village and reflects the junction between the chalk and the clay plateau. From the northern and southern margins of this area there are elevated open views to the wider landscape and along to the distinctive tree clump of Down Plantation⁷.

The extensive view is highly valued by residents; a distinctive, elevated landscape forming locally prominent hills and ridges, contrasting with the surrounding, low-lying landscape, characteristic of Greater Cambridge⁸. The hedgerows of the Bran Ditch and Icknield way are clearly visible.

These wide-ranging views across the fields increase our appreciation of the rural village setting.

⁷ HLA2022 p13 and Fig 7 p19

⁸ Greater Cambridge LCA

View 8: from the Ickniel Way Path/Harcamlow Way East of the Parish



View north-east from The Ickniel Way Path/Harcamlow Way between Heydon Lane and Broad Green (Essex). It shows the extensive view to the north over Duxford. The Wadlow Windfarm beyond Balsham can be seen on the horizon. The public right of way is a well-used route for walkers locally, (being part of a small number of circular routes in Heydon Parish) and forms part of a long-distance national trail.

The panoramic view seen across the fields furthers appreciation of the rural village setting together with the feeling of being on top of the world, with Cambridgeshire laid out below. This view was one that villagers particularly valued.

View 9: North-west across the chalk scarp

View 9A



View of the chalk scarp below Heydon to the north-west from a field opening on the Fowlmere Road close to the north end of the village (9A). An annotated image showing detail of visible landmarks is shown in view 9B.

These chalk slopes have a distinct rolling character with ‘downland’ characteristics, forming strong sinuous lines, the open slopes afford long distance views north-west from the edge of the settlement and public rights of way⁹. There are open, long distance, panoramic views across Greater Cambridge and beyond from this upland landscape and a network of historic routes and earthworks that contribute to the area’s sense of place¹⁰- most notably the historic Icknield Way and the Bran Ditch scheduled ancient monument with its associated strip lynchets.

Land use is mainly arable in medium to large scale fields, reflecting the 19thC enclosure¹¹. Hedgerows are typically without hedgerow trees – any notable trees within the farmed landscape tend to comprise linear shelterbelts¹², such as that at New Buildings Farm which is planted with conifer species reflecting a pocket of more acidic soil.

On the steeper slopes around Reeve Hill the land is left unploughed as rough grassland¹³.

This scenic view with natural heritage interest associated with chalk grassland and the historical cultural heritage interest associated with the Bran Ditch, strip lynchets and numerous archaeological sites¹⁴ make it an especially valued landscape¹⁵.

This wide-ranging view across the fields furthers appreciation of the rural village setting.

The view makes a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the rural agricultural character of the wider countryside setting of the Bran Ditch.

⁹ HLA2022 p12

¹⁰ Greater Cambridge LCA

¹¹ HLA2022 p12

¹² HLA2022 p12

¹³ HLA2022 p12

¹⁴ Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer accessed 110925

¹⁵ HLA2022 p12

View 9B



View 11: Across Swan Close

View 11A



View 11B



View across Swan Close at the head of Heydon Valley, at this point a horse pasture, viewed north from the field gate on Fowlmere Road, in winter (11A) and summer (11B). Heydon Valley itself lies to the north and east of the village and forms a steep sided cleft within the chalk scarp¹⁶.

The area, behind an Important Countryside Frontage allows the countryside to come right up to the Fowlmere Road and into the core of the village. This countryside break emphasises the separate character of Heydonbury from the central core of the village. Due to the steep valley topography and vegetation, the landscape has an enclosed and intimate character¹⁷.

¹⁶ HLA2022 p11

¹⁷ HLA2022 p11

There is currently no public access into this area though there is evidence of the former Valley Lane track, leading from the village green. There are two lines of trees at the far side of the field- planted randomly either side of Valley Lane. This corresponds with the Enclosure and Tithe map of 1831/1839, suggesting that some trees may be 200 years old or more. Beyond these can be seen the mature trees of High Park, the woodland of Heydonbury, the manor house.

View 12: Reeve Hill



View of Reeve Hill looking south from the Icknield Way. Reeve Hill is located to the west of Fowlmere Road and immediately north of the village, which appears here on the ridge, with the scheduled ancient monument of Bran Ditch and the strip lynchet below the village.

As the land gently rolls up to the chalk ridge, this provides the key setting for the village, giving a strong sense of place. This sense of place is emphasised by the knowledge that people will have approached the village via the historic Icknield Way and Bran Ditch for many hundreds, if not thousands of years. Heydon was already a substantial settlement at the time of the Little Domesday Book in 1086¹⁸. There are several Grade II Listed buildings visible on the ridge – The End Cottage, Cane’s Cottage, Walnut Tree Cottage- as they must have appeared to people arriving in the village from this direction, for centuries.

On the steeper slopes around Reeve Hill the land is left unploughed as rough grassland¹⁹ being too steep to cultivate. The area has been left fallow for many years and is beginning to develop an interesting flora with orchids and other chalk grassland species²⁰.

¹⁸ <https://opendomesday.org/place/TL4339/heydon/>

¹⁹ HLA2022 p12

²⁰ Local botanist records 2020-2025

View 13: Bran Ditch from Fowlmere Rd and the route of the footpath

View 13A



View 13B



View (13A Summer and 13B Winter) of the small triangular green at the junction between Bran Ditch and Fowlmere Road showing the entrance to the Bran Ditch footpath. This area marks the top end of the scheduled ancient monument and as such is significant for its role in linking the historic settlement of Heydon to the wider countryside.

It forms the junction between two important historic routes²¹ and there is archaeological evidence of a possible Roman trackway running parallel to the site²² giving added historical significance. Winter allows a view down the hollow-way formed by millennia of travellers. At one point, further down, there is a glimpse from a higher elevation out to the distant landscape (13C), while still surrounded by trees and hedgerows.

View 13C

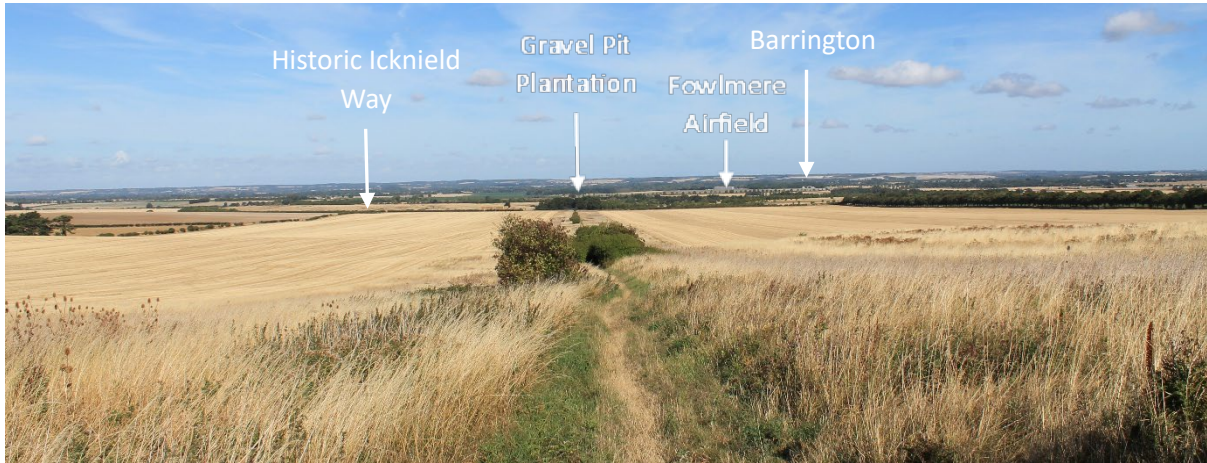


The extensive, but glimpsed view takes in Goffers Knoll a tumulus near Melbourn, Melbourn Village and Flint Cross.

²¹ HLA2022 p15

²² Cambridgeshire HER MCB26744

View 13D



Walking further down Bran Ditch towards the historic Icknield Way, a panorama opens up at the end of the hollow-way when emerging from the trees, giving views of features further east, such as Gravel Pit Plantation on the historic Icknield Way, Fowlmere airfield and Barrington.

The historic significance of the Bran Ditch itself has been recognised by its scheduled monument status, including a buffer strip of 20m each side of the footpath to protect the earthworks from further ploughing. However, the importance of this ancient route lies also in its setting; a vast open vista across agricultural fields, hedgerows, shelterbelts, the historic Icknield Way and out to the wider and more distant Cambridgeshire countryside – the flatlands in contrast with the hills of Heydon. This open countryside is also the location of a number of archaeological sites²³ and findings²⁴, all of which emphasise the historical importance of the area.

²³ Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer accessed 110925

²⁴ Portable Antiquities Scheme <https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/Heydon/county/Cambridgeshire> accessed 061025

View 14: Village on the ridgeline

View 14A



View 14B



View 14C



Views of the village (Fowlmere Road) on the ridgeline from the historic Icknield Way looking north-west (14A), from Chishill Down looking north (14B) and from the footpath towards Great Chishill looking south-east (14C).

Around the immediate fringes of the village the enclosure pattern is pre-18thC, evident in its small-scale sinuous boundaries and the prevalence of mature hedgerow trees²⁵. This suggests that the sinuous boundary to the west of the village is of considerable antiquity²⁶ and is valued for this historic link.

The setting of Heydon on the ridgeline gives it a strong sense of place and emphasises its rarity in the context of Cambridgeshire. This also means that the break in slope at the rear of Fowlmere Road houses is particularly sensitive to development.

²⁵ HLA2022, p4

²⁶ HLA2022, P5 & 6

View 15: Anthony Hill

View 15A



View 15B



View of Anthony Hill from the Fowlmere Road looking north-east (15A) and from the historic Icknield Way east of the Fowlmere Road (15B). It forms an important landmark on approaching the village from the north and north-west²⁷ and can be clearly seen when travelling along the A505.

Evidence of ploughing on the steeper chalk slopes can be seen in strip lynchets on Anthony Hill²⁸.

²⁷ HLA2022 p12

²⁸ Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer accessed 110925

Evidence of a small Roman temple has been found on Anthony Hill. This area of higher land forms a distinct knoll or promontory and is an understandable location for a building which would form a landmark from the surrounding landscape²⁹. The site was excavated by Hon. R C Neville, later 4th Baron Braybrooke, the family that owned Heydon estate. This makes the view important from both a visual and historical perspective.

²⁹ HLA2022 p3

View 16: Heydon Valley

View 16A



View 16B



Many residents of Heydon have a view down or across Heydon Valley into the distance, from houses to the east of Fowlmere Road and some to the west. However, publicly accessible views of the valley are limited (such as 16C) until reaching the bottom of the valley on the historic Ickniel Way where the full extent can be seen looking south from close to the Parish Boundary with Chrishall (16A). The detail (16B) shows how the valley penetrates right into the core of the village.

The valley forms a steep sided cleft within the chalk scarp. Land use comprises pasture at the head of the valley; set-aside in the mid slopes; and agriculture as the valley flattens towards the historic Icknield Way. The eastern slopes are defined by the linear woodland of Valley Plantation, while to the west the valley is defined by the vegetated rear gardens of houses along Fowlmere Road and by the promontory of higher land at Anthony Hill³⁰. Few houses in Fowlmere Road are visible due to the vegetation.

In the detailed view, at the head of the valley can be seen properties in the core of the village, together with the distinctive landmark formed by four Lombardy Poplars to the west of Fowlmere Road near the junction with Chishill Road. This view is particularly valued for placing Heydon firmly in its landscape context at the head of the valley.

Due to the steep valley topography and vegetation, the landscape has an enclosed and intimate character. This distinctive character is unique in the context of Cambridgeshire and is especially valued³¹.

View 16C



View 16C looking across the valley from a field gate between the village and the Chalk Pit. Heydon Valley has rural, pastoral and tranquil qualities³² and is noted as the only undeveloped wooded valley in Cambridgeshire³³. Valley plantation is seen here across the field, which has lain fallow for many years and is developing an interesting flora of chalk grassland species with an increasingly large population of Pyramidal Orchids³⁴.

³⁰ HLA2022 p11

³¹ HLA2022 p11

³² HLA2022 p21

³³ HLA2022 p10

³⁴ Local botanist records 2020-2025

There are also areas of strip lynchets evident in the Heydon Valley³⁵ at this point, attesting to the historic use of the area for agriculture.

Theories have been put forward that the Bran Ditch and the distinctive Heydon Valley may have been influential in the location of a currently unlocated confrontation between Boudica and Roman forces. The natural topography of the chalk scarp, forming a sickle shaped curve between Chishill Down and Reeve/Anthony Hill and the deep cleft of the Heydon Valley, may well have been strategically important³⁶.

³⁵ Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer accessed 110925

³⁶ British Archaeology Magazine issue 165 Mar/Apr 2019 – “AD60, Boudica: Unlocated Battle” William Foot

View 18: A village set among trees



View from outside the church, looking south-west. The tall trees form a tunnel of greenery along Chishill Road contrasting with the visually important brick and flint walls found here.

This important/vegetated gap in the built frontage, as referenced in the HLA 2022, comprising the mature trees, park railings and hedgerows provides a key view within the village.

Heydon is characterised as a village set among trees, where tree crowns and foliage dominate over many buildings, particularly in the core of the village.