

Appendix 2 Steeple Bumpstead Parish – Assessment of Landscape Value

Value criteria	Assessment of the parish landscape
Local/ national designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stour Valley Project Area • Steeple Bumpstead conservation area • Old Hall Wood and Moyn's Wood are ancient woodlands • 4 Local Wildlife Sites; Martins Farm Meadow (Bra16), Oldhall Wood (Bra19), Moyn's Park (Bra22), and Moyn's Wood (Bra25) • 2 scheduled monuments; Latchley's Farm moated site and fishponds located to the west side of the parish, and a dovecote at Blois Farm, north-east of the main village • There are listed buildings and features across the parish. • 2 protected lanes; Yewtree Farm Road (BTELANE64) and Eggshell Lane (BTELANE58) • Recognised as a 'valued landscape' in 2017 as part of the appeal decision from Inspector Gregory regarding Land off Finchingfield Road.
Conservation interests	<p>There are many listed buildings and features within the parish, including two Grade I Listed buildings; Moyn's Park, a 16th Century mansion, and the Church of St Mary the Virgin situated within the main village area.</p> <p>There is a conservation area in Steeple Bumpstead which makes up much of the built envelope, demonstrating the conservation value within the village.</p> <p>Old Hall Wood and Moyn's Wood are ancient woodlands that have existed in their current form since the 16th century and should continue to be conserved.</p> <p>Field patterns should also be conserved to retain their character typical of early enclosure.</p>
Natural heritage	<p>The field patterns in the parish are typical of early enclosure and are largely unchanged since this took place.</p> <p>Old Hall Wood and Moyn's Wood are classified as ancient woodland. Both woods are largely unchanged in area since the 16th century.</p> <p>Watercourses which run through the parish largely dictate the local geology, landform, and ecology.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>The parish and village take their name from Bumstead or Bumsted, the Anglo-Saxon for "place of reeds". This reflects the importance of the river for defining the physical and cultural landscape.</p> <p>The existing estate of Moyn's Park is an important landscape that offers a sense of time depth both in terms of the surrounding parkland and Grade I Listed mansion.</p>

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Landscape condition	The landscape overall has a good level of intactness, with structural elements, such as ancient woodland, hedgerows and road networks being retained.
Distinctiveness	The parish is made distinctive by its variety and combination of character areas – valley, woodland, historic buildings, field patterns – these are related to the local history and resulting local identity. The parish does represent many of the characteristics which have been identified as part of larger character studies (Essex LCA 2003, Braintree District LCA 2006)
Recreational	The public rights of way network across the parish allows good access to enjoy the countryside. This includes a publicised walking route. Camping Close recreation ground provides a space for sports and events.
Perceptual	
Scenic beauty	The rolling countryside associated with the river valleys has scenic value. The valleys create enclosed views as well as cross-valley rural views. The plateau farmland offers more open views and large skies, however due to their openness these are more often compromised by intrusive visual elements which can also be scenic. Some recent development within the outer village is a visual detractor.
Wildness	The countryside of the parish is mainly cultivated as arable farmland, used for quiet recreation, or stud farming. The parish therefore is not characterised as a wild place.
Tranquillity	The vast majority of the parish can be described as tranquil. There are some minor elements of noise intrusion close to the main Steeple Bumpstead village and from the local road network.
Remoteness	It is possible to experience a sense of remoteness from some areas of the extensive footpath network. However, from many viewpoints there is visibility to elements of built form e.g. houses, roads, village edge, individual farmsteads.
Functional	The river valleys function as floodplains and ecological corridors. The four local wildlife sites perform important functions for wildlife conservation. Much of the landscape is functional for: farming, settlement, and recreation.