

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### The Hempstead Farmland Plateau (within parish boundary)

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	Rolling hills and valleys predominantly covered by medium scale arable fields. Small copses of woodland occasionally punctuate fields. This is the largest character area identified within the parish and is found centrally and to the south of the study area.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	Land use remains unchanged from historic maps and is a mixture of arable and grassland. Settlement is limited to very few individual farmsteads.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	Landscape is representative of many characteristics identified by the Braintree LCA. Many features intact.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Areas with less topographic variation can be perceived as large scale with longer distance views available. Field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks restrict this in places.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	The landscape is somewhat interrupted by field boundaries and tree groups. But generally, the landscape is reasonably open.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Strong pattern reinforced by irregular field boundaries.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	Gentle undulation of rolling fields is apparent.

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Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Combination of sinuous and angular field edges combine to offer variation.
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### Visual Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	In places this is a very open landscape with limited topographic variation.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Strong pattern of linear hedgerows, tree lines and woodland restrict visibility in places.
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	Dispersed, low number of residents
	Numbers / types of visitors	Limited number compared to other parts of the parish, but does form an important part of the publicised walking route.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	<p>Appropriate sites would need to not interrupt open or long-distance views or adversely impact on established character. Appropriate sites are limited due to generally open visibility.</p> <p>Linear and clustered, tree and hedge screening planting would reduce visual disturbance to skylines and reflect existing vegetation patterns.</p> <p>Material selection should be appropriate to the local vernacular in terms of finish, colour, and quality.</p> <p>Any proposed development should be limited to individual dwellings to be in keeping with the strong existing rural character.</p>

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### The Bumpstead Farmland Plateau (within parish boundary)

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	Rolling hills and valleys predominantly covered by medium scale arable fields. Small copses and tree lines occasionally punctuate fields. Found to the north-west of the parish.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	Land use remains unchanged from historic maps and is predominantly arable agriculture. Settlement is limited to very few individual farmsteads.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	Landscape is representative of many characteristics identified by the Braintree LCA. Many features intact with minimal intrusions.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Valley topography restricts views to some extent, creating intimate to medium-scale landscapes. The scale opens up on higher land as longer views to the south are possible.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	The landscape is somewhat interrupted by field boundaries and tree groups. But generally, the landscape is reasonably open.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Strong pattern reinforced by irregular field boundaries and winding lanes.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	Sloping valley topography is apparent.
Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Combination of sinuous and angular field edges combine to offer variation. Winding lanes also offer linear interest.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### Visual Sensitivity

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assessment of the parish</b>
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	Visibility is mixed. Intimate valley landform restricts longer views in places. Large swathe of south-facing sloping land is visually open.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Strong pattern of linear hedgerows and tree lines restrict visibility in places.
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	Dispersed, low number of residents
	Numbers / types of visitors	Limited number compared to other parts of the parish, but does form an important part of the publicised walking route.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	Appropriate sites would need to not interrupt open or long-distance views or adversely impact on established character. Appropriate sites are limited due to generally open visibility. Linear and clustered, tree and hedge screening planting would reduce visual disturbance to skylines and reflect existing vegetation patterns. Material selection should be appropriate to the local vernacular in terms of finish, colour, and quality. Any proposed development should be limited to individual dwellings to be in keeping with the strong existing rural character.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### The Stambourne Farmland Plateau (within parish boundary)

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assessment of the parish</b>
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	Gently undulating arable land forming a small part of the parish in the south-east of the study area.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	Land use remains unchanged from historic maps and is predominantly arable agriculture. Settlement is limited to very few individual farmsteads.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	Landscape is representative of many characteristics identified by the Braintree LCA. Many features intact with minimal intrusions.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Relatively flat topography provides the perception of an expansive, large-scale landscape.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	The landscape is occasionally interrupted by field boundaries and small tree groups. But generally, the landscape is very open.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Strong pattern reinforced by irregular field boundaries and winding lanes.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	Flat landscape offers minimal features other than field boundaries.
Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Combination of sinuous and angular field edges combine to offer variation. Winding lanes also offer linear interest.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### Visual Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	Flat landscape provides opportunities for long-distance views.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Strong pattern of linear hedgerows and tree lines restrict visibility in places.
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	Dispersed, low number of residents.
	Numbers / types of visitors	Limited number of visitors.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	<p>Appropriate sites would need to not interrupt open or long-distance views or adversely impact on established character. Appropriate sites are limited due to generally open visibility.</p> <p>Linear and clustered, tree and hedge screening planting would reduce visual disturbance to skylines and reflect existing vegetation patterns.</p> <p>Material selection should be appropriate to the local vernacular in terms of finish, colour, and quality.</p> <p>Any proposed development should be limited to individual dwellings to be in keeping with the strong existing rural character.</p>

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### The Stour River Valley (within parish boundary)

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	Shallow river valley with sloping sides. The stream running through the parish is known locally as the Bumpstead Brook. The stream banks are open in places, with some areas of adjacent vegetation. Valley slopes are shallow enough to support arable farming, defined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	Land use remains unchanged from historic maps and is a mixture of arable and grassland. Settlement is limited to very few individual farmsteads.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	Landscape is representative of river valley character area identified by Braintree LCA. Many features intact with limited incursions.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Valley topography restricts views to some extent, creating intimate to medium-scale landscapes. The scale opens up on higher land as longer views across the valley are possible.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	The landscape is interrupted by field boundaries and tree groups. This along with the valley slopes make the landscape somewhat constrained and enclosed.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Strong pattern reinforced by field boundaries and adjacent vegetated stream edge.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	Valley sides are smoothly curved with a flat valley floor which varies in width.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Meandering rivers articulated by bankside vegetation and sinuous field edges. Only occasionally are angular features present.
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### Visual Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	Sloping land – generally gentle slopes.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Strong pattern of linear hedgerows, tree lines and woodland
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	Dispersed, low number of residents
	Numbers / types of visitors	Some visitors on the publicised walking route and visiting the adjacent Steeple Bumpstead Village.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	<p>Appropriate sites would not interrupt open or long-distance views. Appropriate sites are limited due to visibility across the valley.</p> <p>Linear and clustered, tree and hedge screening planting would reduce visual disturbance to skylines and reflect existing vegetation patterns.</p> <p>Material selection should be appropriate to the local vernacular in terms of finish, colour, and quality.</p> <p>Any proposed development should be limited to individual plots to be in keeping with the existing character.</p> <p>Qualities of the Stour Valley Project Area are an added sensitivity consideration.</p>

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### Steeple Bumpstead Historic Core

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	High quality trees are present in public spaces, private gardens, and the churchyard. These provide a green infrastructure within the built environment. This character area, confined to the conservation area, is a residential village landscape.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	Much of the Steeple Bumpstead core follows the building pattern shown on historic maps. Some infill development has taken place within and directly adjacent to the core, but this has not undermined the historic character.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	The historic core remains intact and in good condition.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Existing buildings give the core an intimate feel and with limited views out of the village, this has the perception of a small-scale landscape.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	Visual enclosure is provided by the clustered buildings. Mature trees and landmark buildings such as St Marys Church dominate the skyline.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Building pattern is linear. Buildings are densely clustered, with limited open space.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	The built environment makes it difficult to sense the underlying form, but the surrounding valley is apparent from some locations.
Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Roads are a strong linear feature.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### Visual Sensitivity

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assessment of the parish</b>
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	The landform is generally not visible due to the density of the existing built development.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Large high-quality trees are present in the core. There is limited visibility to the wider surrounding landscape.
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	The village is the focus for settlement in the parish and therefore there is a high population density in the village centre compared with the wider parish.
	Numbers / types of visitors	The village is used by those in the wider countryside for its amenities. It is also a tourist destination for some visitors.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	There are unlikely to be many opportunities for appropriate development within the conservation area. There may be opportunities for single dwellings, however these would need to be very carefully considered to ensure that there were no negative effects to the historic core. Quality and materials would be crucial to mitigate effects.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### The Steeple Bumpstead Outer Village

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	Some high-quality trees present with domestic gardens and hedgerows also visible.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	Some residential development in the outer village displays a more contemporary sinuous pattern than within the historic core. Village boundaries are defined by private gardens.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	The outer village is in fair condition with well-kept private gardens adding visual amenity. The area does not hold many uniquely distinctive features.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Existing buildings give the village an intimate feel. There are some views out to the wider countryside giving the area a medium scale feel.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	Visual enclosure is provided by the existing buildings. The permeable nature of development and surrounding valley slopes offer views to agricultural fields and associated hedgerows.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Building pattern is sinuous, with dwellings positioned on spurs off main access streets. There is open space around the primary school and Camping Close recreation ground.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	The built environment makes it difficult to sense the underlying form. However, in some areas it is possible to sense that land slopes up from the village to the wider countryside.
Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Roads are a strong linear feature.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### Visual Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	The landform is generally not visible due to the density of the existing built development, but there are some locations where the wider valley landscape is visible.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Clusters of woodland and surrounding field boundary vegetation is visible from the outer village.
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	The village is the focus for settlement in the parish and therefore there is a high population density in the village compared with the wider parish.
	Numbers / types of visitors	The village is used by those in the wider countryside for its amenities. It is also a tourist destination for some visitors.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	There may be some opportunities for small-scale residential development within this character area. Therefore, mitigation of visual effects will be an important consideration. Mitigating visual effects of small-scale residential development can be achieved through a combination of measures. Selecting appropriate sites in locations that do not interrupt open and long-distance views or views to the historic core is key. Linear and clustered screening tree planting would reduce visual disturbance to skylines and would reflect existing vegetation pattern. Proposed development would need to be limited to very small groups of houses or individual plots to be in keeping with existing character. The adjacent conservation area within the historic core is another sensitivity consideration.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### The Moyn's Park Estate (within parish boundary)

#### Landscape Character (Resource) Sensitivity

Factors	Description	Assessment of the parish
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Extent and pattern of semi natural habitat	Grand estate consisting of open parkland, large clusters of woodland, arable fields and stud farming. This character area centres on Moyn's Park to the east of the parish.
<b>Cultural factors</b>	Land use and enclosure pattern	The general layout of the estate is in keeping with historic maps. Land use within fields has shifted more towards stud farming.
<b>Quality / condition</b>	Representative of a particular character type	Landscape is representative of historic parkland found in other parts of the Braintree district.
<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	Identifiable visual features of the landscape	
Scale	Overall scale of the landscape as it is perceived by people	Areas of open parkland and fields away from woodland on the edge of the estate provide open views to a large-scale landscape. Other parts of the estate are small-scale and intimate.
Enclosure	Degree to which the landscape is captured by features which restrict views and provide a sense of enclosure	Large clusters of woodland provide strong enclosure in places. Parkland areas are more open with designed long-distance views.
Pattern	Degree to which patterns of topography, land use and vegetation can be appreciated in the landscape	Stud farming land use provides a strong field pattern, reinforced by woodland clusters.
Form	Physical attributes of the landscape	Sloping topography is apparent in places.
Line	Perception of linear features in the landscape	Well-vegetated field boundaries provide strong linear features.

## Appendix 1 Steeple Bumpstead Parish - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

### Visual Sensitivity

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assessment of the parish</b>
<b>General visibility</b>	Landform	In places this is a very open landscape providing long-distance views. Woodland heavily restricts visibility in other locations.
	Tree and Woodland Cover	Strong pattern of linear hedgerows, tree lines and woodland restrict visibility in places.
<b>Population</b>	Numbers / types of residents	Very low number of residents
	Numbers / types of visitors	The estate is well served by public footpaths, with visitors frequently walking the route to see the Grade I Listed mansion.
<b>Mitigation potential</b>	Scope for mitigating potential visual impacts	Opportunities for development are very limited within the estate due to the sensitivity of the heritage asset.