

# FOXTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan

July 2020

## Neighbourhood Plan

Following a considerable amount of community consultation, the first Foxton Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Harborough District Council on 27 January 2017 following a successful local referendum. The Plan is over three years old and we have decided to review and update it to take account of the latest national planning advice, the adoption of the Harborough Local Plan in April 2019 and to respond to some of the planning decisions Harborough District Council has made in the last few years.

These revisions have been incorporated into a new (Pre-Submission) Draft version of the Foxton Neighbourhood Development Plan. However, the broad nature of the plan has changed little. An eight week pre-submission consultation period on the proposed new Neighbourhood Plan for Foxton will run from Monday 14 September to Monday 2 November 2020.

**This leaflet is a summary of the new Draft Plan. The full Draft Neighbourhood Plan is available to download from:**

**[www.foxtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.foxtonparishcouncil.org.uk)**

Over the last few years our Neighbourhood Plan has been used to decide planning applications in the area. Greenfield land on the edge of the village has been protected from development. Important Local Green Spaces within the village have been safeguarded. The review will make sure the Plan is still relevant and up to date.

*27 January 2017*

*Neighbourhood Plan  
Referendum Result:*

*Total votes: 122*

*Votes in favour: 98 (80%)*

*Votes against: 24 (20%)*

*Turnout: 35%*



Main Street Canal Bridge, Foxton

### Our vision for 2031:

- An attractive, tranquil place to live, work and visit
- Foxton's unique character and heritage is conserved
- Local housing needs are met
- Foxton Locks is a thriving tourism resource contributing positively to village life
- Vehicular traffic does not intrude upon village life
- A full range of basic, village services and facilities

# How much housing development and where?

The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan must support the strategic development needs set out in the Harborough Local Plan, including policies for housing development. Taking account of completions, commitments and an allowance for windfall development, the Local Plan does not require Foxton to allocate additional sites for housing.

Committed housing developments are those sites allocated in the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan and sites with planning permission. The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan allocated three sites for housing development:

## Fisher's Farm, North Lane

Outline planning permission (Ref: 16/01459/OUT) was granted on 8 February 2017. A full planning application (Ref: 19/01336/FUL) for 11 dwellings was submitted in August 2019 but remains undetermined.

## Land between Middle Street and Vicarage Drive

Full planning permission (Ref: 17/01354/FUL) was granted for the erection of six dwellings on 17 November 2017. Development has commenced.

## Up to three dwellings at the junction of Vicarage Drive and Hog Lane

There have been no planning applications for the development of this site. We are intending to retain this housing allocation in the new plan for the development of smaller houses. **However, we are particularly keen to find out whether local people still support this proposal.**

A further eight dwellings had planning permission at 31 March 2019. They include five dwellings on the south side of North Lane (Ref: 18/01956/OUT) at its northern end.

## Infill Housing

We believe that continued 'garden grabbing' is having an adverse effect on the character of Foxton by reducing open spaces between buildings, robbing the community of green breathing space, safe places for children to play and havens for wildlife. Our new Plan places stricter controls on infill development to prevent the unwanted development of gardens.



## Housing needs

Although our Neighbourhood Plan requires all new housing development to take account of local housing needs, most of the houses permitted recently by Harborough District Council have been larger houses of four or more bedrooms. This means that it is important that in future all new homes are built to meet the needs of older households or provide smaller, low-cost homes for younger people.



## Tranquillity

Tranquillity is a critical part of local quality of life. Tranquillity is important for our mental and physical well-being but it is also important to the local economy – because one of the main reasons why people visit Foxton is to head out of towns and cities to ‘get away from it all’.

Tranquillity is not just about noise – it also covers light. Dark, star-filled night skies are an important part of tranquillity, but light pollution is an increasing problem.

Our Neighbourhood Plan protects local tranquillity by restricting noisy developments and discouraging light pollution.



Main Street, Foxton

## Protecting the character of Foxton

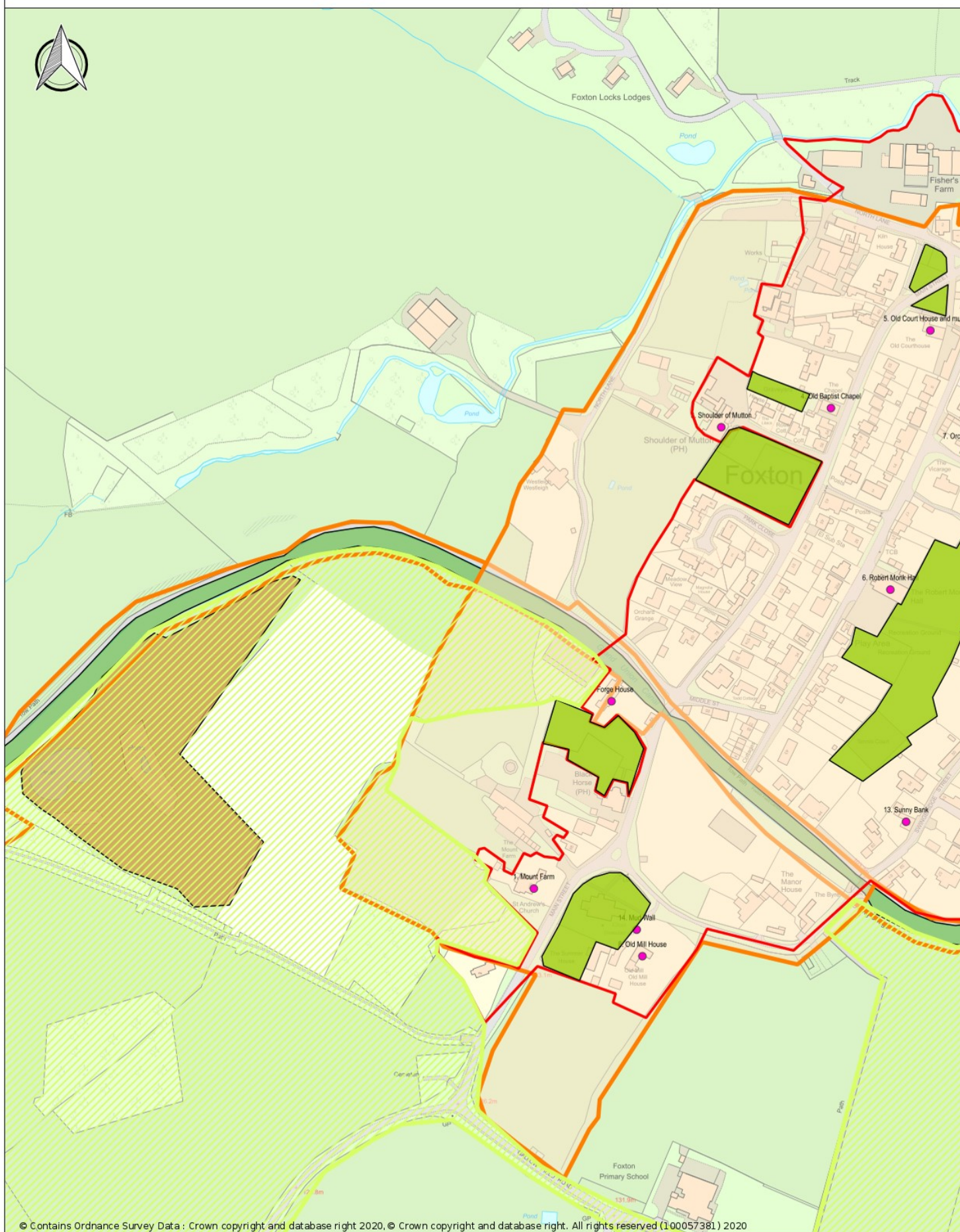
We want to conserve the unique character and identity of Foxton. Our existing Neighbourhood Plan does this by safeguarding the local landscape, protecting the countryside between the village and nearby settlements, identifying green areas of local importance within Foxton, protecting and enhancing heritage assets and the natural environment, and through the design of new buildings.

Our new Neighbourhood Plan continues these policies but now we want to protect local archaeology too. Ridge and furrow is an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages, typical of the open field system. This feature of the farming system that predated Enclosure was characteristic of Leicestershire countryside, but very little ridge and furrow now remains in Foxton. A remnant of ridge and furrow can be found south of the canal, between the village and Foxton Locks and this is now planned for protection.



# Neighbourhood Plan

## Extract





Foxton CP

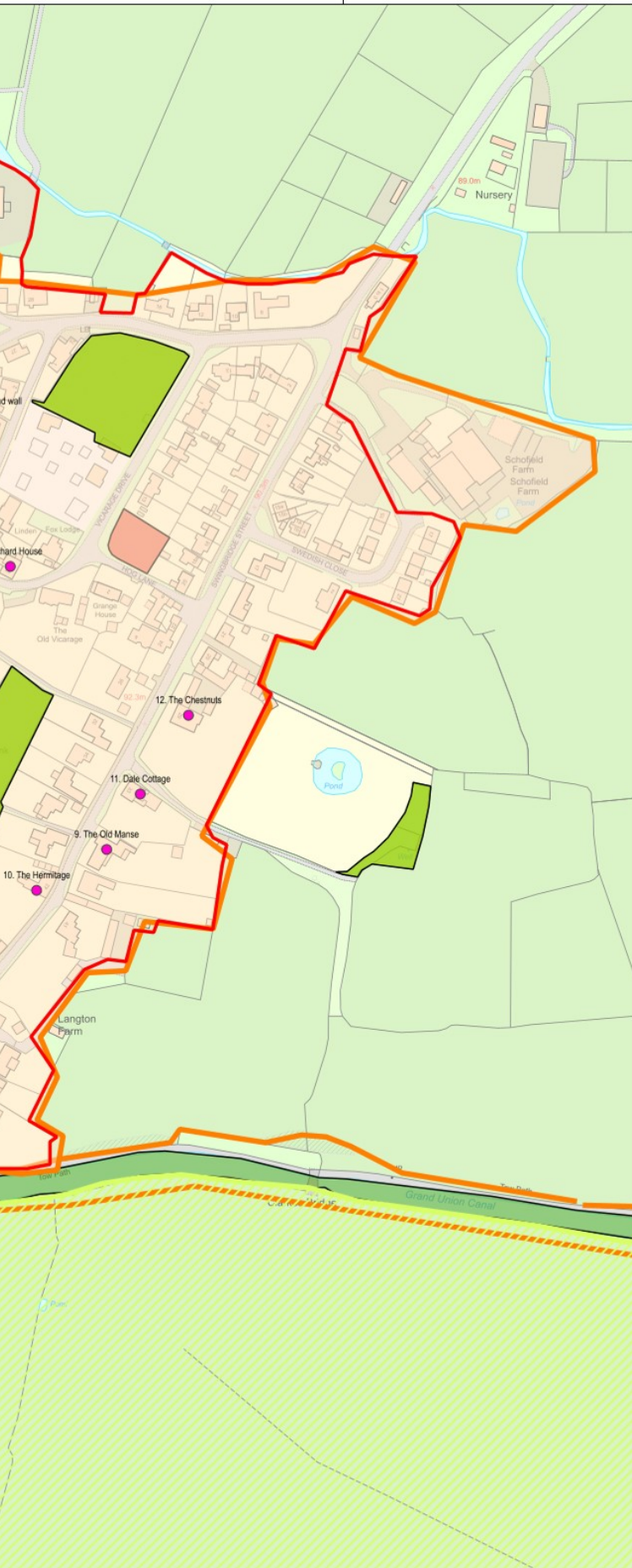
**Author:**

**Date:** 02/06/2020

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**ParishOnline**



**Foxton Areas of Separation: Policy F4**



**Local Green Spaces: Policy F10**



**Limits to Development: Policies F1 and F13**



**Local Heritage Assets: Policy F7**



**Village Conservation Area**



**Canal Conservation Area**



**Local Wildlife Sites: Policy F5**



**Ridge and Furrow: Policy F8**



**Housing Allocation: Policy F14**



**Parish**



# Renewable Energy

Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses.

The landscape in Foxton parish is one of the most sensitive landscapes in Harborough district and is unable to accommodate wind turbines without degradation of the existing landscape. Our Neighbourhood Plan does not support wind turbine farms and we have no plans to change our approach.

Many microgeneration technologies projects, such as solar photovoltaic and air source heat pumps are often permitted development which means they do not require planning permission providing certain limits and conditions are met.

## Foxton Area of Separation

The character of the local countryside is under threat. Just one mile to the south-east of Foxton Village there is a proposal to build around 1,500 dwellings at Airfield Farm and adjoining land, Market Harborough. To the west, Foxton Locks is a growing tourist destination.

The countryside between these places is particularly vulnerable and we are keen to ensure that its undeveloped character and beauty is maintained. The Foxton Area of Separation checks the unrestricted sprawl of Market Harborough and the expansion of tourism development associated with Foxton Locks towards the village of Foxton. It also safeguards the countryside from encroachment and preserves the setting and special character of Foxton village.

## Design Guide

We expect all development to contribute positively to the creation of well-designed buildings and spaces. Through good design we want to maintain and enhance the unique character of Foxton and create places that work well for both occupants and users, and are built to last.

The Foxton Village Design Statement (VDS), first published in 2007, was updated and included in our first Neighbourhood Plan. The new Neighbourhood Plan retains this design guidance but with a small number of changes.





# Foxton Locks

The Grade II\* listed locks are over 200 years old and demonstrate how 19th century canal engineers solved the problem of getting boats up and down a steep hill.

The locks and surrounding area are open and accessible to the public all year round. The site attracts over 300,000 visitors per year, with most arriving by car.

The Harborough Local Plan promotes Foxton Locks as a tourism attraction. The Canal and River Trust plan to enhance Foxton Locks as a 'honey pot' tourist site.

Our Neighbourhood Plan makes sure the value of the Foxton Locks Area will be sustained by ensuring:

- New visitor attractions are directly associated with Foxton Locks.
- Proposals have regard for the significance of the heritage assets.
- Traffic implications, including those for Foxton village, are fully assessed and addressed; related measures that may need to be considered include traffic management, public transport improvements, road signage and junction improvements.



Foxton Locks

## Biodiversity

Although there are no nationally designated ecology sites, the canal along with the side ponds at Foxton Locks are Local Wildlife Sites. Local Wildlife Sites are important reservoirs of rare, local and declining native species and are the best examples of typical Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland habitats. The mature hedgerows and woodland areas in the area are also likely to be of at least local ecological value due to the species they can support, including ground flora and bird species.

New development will be expected to maintain and enhance existing ecological corridors and landscape features (such as watercourses, hedgerows and tree-lines) for nature conservation and demonstrate overall biodiversity net-gain.

# Let us know what you think

This is just a summary of the Draft new Neighbourhood Plan. A full copy of the Pre-Submission Draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is available to download, along with supporting documentation, on the Parish Council website:

[www.foxtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.foxtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

The government has been clear that all members of society are required to adhere to guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The guidance has implications for public consultation.

Neighbourhood planning groups are required to undertake publicity in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the Parish. It is not mandatory that engagement is undertaken using face-to-face methods. This summary newsletter has been prepared so that all groups in the community are sufficiently engaged, such as with those without internet access. If you cannot download documentation from the internet, please contact the Parish Clerk. We have also extended the statutory six week consultation period to eight weeks.

Representations on the contents of the draft new Neighbourhood Plan must be submitted to Foxton Parish Council no later than:

**17:00hrs on Monday 2 November 2020**

If you would like to comment on any aspect of the Draft Plan please email, write or complete and return a copy of the Pre-Submission Representation Form. The form can be downloaded from the website. Comments may be made:

Via e-mail to: [foxtonPC@outlook.com](mailto:foxtonPC@outlook.com)

By post to:

Angela Hall  
Clerk to Foxton Parish Council  
1 Sawbrook  
Fleckney  
Leicester  
LE8 8TR

Please note that your submitted comments will be used in the plan process for the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan. Your response cannot be treated as confidential as it is likely to be available for public inspection.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the neighbourhood plan

**Foxton Parish Council**

☎ 0116 240 1801

[foxtonPC@outlook.com](mailto:foxtonPC@outlook.com)

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