

Horsford Green Infrastructure Plan



Policy and Objectives

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	Version	1

This is a managerial and continual improvement plan

History of revision

Version	Issue Date	Document ID	Reason for change
Draft	May 2021	HGI Plan	Draft circulated to Business Action Plan Group and BDC additions. None received.
Version 1	October 2021	HGI Plan	Adopted
Version 2	April 2022	HGI Plan	Additional wording
Section	paragraph	Section	paragraph
3.1.1	2 and 4	3.5	2
3.1.2	2	3.6	2 and 3
3.1.3	1	3.7	3
3.2	1 removed	3.8	New section
3.2.1	1		
3.2.2	1	3.9	Maps inserted
3.4	1 and 2		6 last line inserted
Version 3			When required by updates

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1 Introduction

The meaning of “Green Infrastructure”

defined by the wording of the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland and South Norfolk 2014

Green spaces and interconnecting green corridors in urban area, the countryside in and around towns and rural settlements, and in the wider countryside. It includes natural green spaces colonised by plants and animals and dominated by natural processes and man-made managed green spaces such as areas used for outdoor sport and recreation including public and private open space, allotments, urban parks and designed historic landscapes as well as their many interconnections like footpaths, cycleways, green corridors and waterways.

The goal of this plan is to retain and protect Horsford’s green space, and to provide increased for the residents within this much valued green space. To achieve this Horsford Parish Council developed its own Green Infrastructure Plan (HGI Plan).

It is the countryside surrounding the village that gives the parish its rural rather than an urban feel. “The woods” were identified as something that people enjoyed within the consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Horsford’s Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 monies will be used to pay for projects. Horsford Parish Councillors will use their best judgement to give value for money for any work undertaken. It will look in particular to the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan to provide what the people of the parish identified as what they wanted. At the same time Horsford Parish Council will be open to parishioners feedback on the impact of development on its green infrastructure.

Horsford’s aims

Conserving, enhancing and creating wildlife habitats has an important role to play in the achievement of Horsford’s sustainability. Keeping hedgerows for preserving our wildlife is important and creating new green areas.

[Horsford Planning Guidance](#) has covered many aspects that can be captured at an early stage before development takes place. Supporting maintenance of valuable and unchanged areas are as important as creating new environments, to increase native and appropriate species of flora and fauna alongside modern living.

With development, that will continue, gardens are becoming smaller and smaller. For the wellbeing of Horsford’s residents the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors has become paramount. Therefore, we must consider every green space and care for it.

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We must encourage people to get outside to keep or increase their physical and mental wellbeing by enjoying nature. The pandemic of 2020 has highlighted the need for outside space, its walks, its cycle paths and bridleways to be cared for. The benefits throughout England are outlined in the National Planning Policy.

All objectives and projects will be given due attention to preserving wildlife and the green spaces.

2 Existing plans, guidance

Horsford Green infrastructure Plan sits within national and regional plans called “National Planning Policy Framework” that is an accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance that ultimately guides the projects that we undertake called. Its policy is to address climate change, protect the and looking after green spaces that are not protected nationally or internationally.

National Planning Policy

Local health and wellbeing need the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

As a service village, should Horsford be subject to further development.

The future then gives weight to West Broadland Green Infrastructure Plan that was written by Broadland District Council [Link](#)

The strategy of that plan is based upon the Marriott’s Way corridor that links various villages, with other secondary corridors. Although Horsford is not mentioned in its secondary corridors there are areas of woodland that connect although often dissected by roads.

Its goal is to mitigate the effects of a larger population with its sustainability.

In particular the plan details its objectives for the Horsford Wood Mosaic Land that has been purchased for the Broadland Country Park which it is restoring.

Although a project to connect The Nest with Drayton is partly within the Horsford boundary it is cut off from the settlement area by the NDR road and residents are receiving no benefits from “The Nest” at all. Developers had misunderstood that the Community Infrastructure Levy would benefit the village but had overlooked the lack of connectivity to that development.

The Horsford Green Infrastructure Plan.

This plan includes policies and objectives from the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan which in turn covered its woodland & heathland, new circular footpaths and green spaces. The feel of the public realm together with enjoying the woods were top of the list of answers as to the question “What do you love about Horsford”

Common to all projects we will do the following:

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- **Work with relevant bodies** to enhance green infrastructure provision is cited within the Neighbourhood Plan, it will be part of the whole GI process. Working with Broadland District Council and its WBGI Plan. HGI should also seek advice from Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Natural England, whilst effectively using Parish resources to target local issues. Horsford need, where appropriate to work with its surrounding parishes.
- **Communicate to its stakeholders** by providing information using all available media
- **Ensure the preservation and enhancement of Horsford's Green Infrastructure** that it remains or is improved not only for recreation but also biodiversity. This will be achieved by keeping what we have and ensuring green spaces are included in new developments. BDC to recognise those elements within the Horsford's Planning Guidance. When needed we would work alongside Broadland District Council to assist in making connections to the green corridors within their plan.
- **Request that all Planning Applications include designs that enhance** any Green Infrastructure project and should be designed to enhance the character and distinctiveness of Horsford's landscape types. The planning application designs should be checked before the parish council makes its comments. The parish council should also monitor any highways or public rights of way schemes that will affect the green infrastructure. In particular if a development is near to green infrastructure, it will be incorporated within this document as necessary.

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3.1 Sports field, recreation centre, allotments, skatepark and additional allotment field

Background to objectives 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5

With the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan the village felt that it would then be able to buy land to provide a sports field and additional allotments yet, the remaining large landowners although approached were unwilling to make land available to sell, lease or donate for these purposes.

Advice was sought from planners of Broadland District Council after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan but said that landowners were keen to submit land on the “Call to Sites” to be included in the Local Plan.

If land became available retaining the Dark Skies Standard Project will be considered when applying for any planning. This is not yet policy and will not be used as a material consideration until it becomes policy [link](#)

3.1.1 Sports field (land reliant)

A sports field is a large expansive area that incorporates several dedicated fields or courts used for particular sports. They are often used for tournaments and leagues because they can hold a significant amount of people to watch the teams play.

We have a cricket field, North of the village, which feels cut off from the central hub of the village due to its location and because of the Northern Distributor Road. The village has a bowls club that is on a long-term lease from Horsham St Faith's Parish Council easily accessible situated in Sandy Lane.

Horsford football teams are not in such a good position. There is a field in Mill Lane and part of a recreation field that soccer teams currently use. Those areas are not enough. The players and spectators have to travel many miles to other facilities often at great expense.

There are many opportunities that the availability of a sports field would give the village. By taking part in team and league sports it would help with health, wellbeing and bring the community together. A field could also by arrangement be used by local schools.

Read 3.1 for the threat to any proposed projects in this category.

Aim to work with “the Nest” was a project identified in the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan “to reach a beneficial outcome reflecting the needs of the residents of Horsford”. Unfortunately, this has not happened, and there has been no benefit

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to the village of Horsford. The Nest's plans do not appear to be changing in the future.

3.1.2 Additional recreation field (land reliant)

Consider the need and potential for new recreation ground space was a project identified and adopted in the Neighbourhood Plan under the Community Section was a project identified and adopted.

It would be a space for people to enjoy a variety of activities in one location. This would be an open space for social events and gatherings. In addition, should land for a sports field become available this would give flexibility of use of Horsford Recreation Ground and the new site providing sufficient size and space for the village needs. and probably then be a sufficient size space.

3.1.3 Skatepark (land reliant)

Included in the Neighbourhood Plan is a project for a skatepark. It would give the younger generations a place to keep fit and provide a social area in a convenient setting. The popularity of other nearby parks is proof of the demand by young people. This would open up an area where many young people could gather together, not only to partake in the sports but to observe and socialize.

Skateparks not only attract those who ride or freestyle on their scooters, but the skateboarders and bicycle riders. There are companies specializing in these projects that could undertake the work.

3.2 Potential allotments sites (land reliant)

Identify potential allotment sites is a project identified within the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan.

Crown Field **at time of print on** a 5year lease which means that the allotment holders are not encouraged to make long term investments in their allotment. The land is owned and but could be developed for homes at a later date.

The Corner Lane allotments are secure because they are owned by Horsford Parish Council but the council needs to own more for the future. It is the duty of a parish council to supply residents with allotments. When the demand is more than the supply the council must look for more allotment space, ideally a permanent space but a long-term lease would be considered.

The opportunity for people to have an allotment, when gardens are becoming so small, appeals to many people. It is a space for them to unwind, appreciate

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where food comes from and to socialize. A common interest will always bring people together, ages of allotment holder, from young to old can meet in the small allotment communal areas.

3.2 Allotments, existing

The existing allotments on Corner Lane could have projects undertaken but the ideas would be best proposed by the allotment holders. It is hoped that an allotment committee could be formed in the future but currently there is not one.

3.3 Healthy ecosystem

The objective is part of a national drive to be capable of delivering retaining and protecting the green space we have. We should ensure that we protect our water and air quality, and encourage the pollination of plants.

Planning is required to prevent further flooding in the low-lying areas where flood plains have been built upon. Sufficient and suitable green spaces are to be included in new developments. Horsford Parish Council will ensure that it works particularly with Broadland District Council, also with Norfolk County Council, English Nature and the Environment Agency, particularly with flood prevention and water courses.

3.4 Walking & cycling routes that connect green spaces

[Horsford Neighbourhood Plan](#) includes projects “a set of recreational walks”.
[Horsford Planning Guidelines](#) include the importance of connectivity.

The West Broadland GI Plan includes within its projects, making connections from Horsford to other parishes for example from Horsford to Hainford. Broadland District Council has purchased, and are developing connecting routes through their Broadland Country Park. These connections would be favourable to Horsford Parish Council. The ancient routes of tracks through woodland connecting Felthorpe to Horsford and a possible link to Drayton Drewery consists of tracks though woodland will be enhanced to provide a suitable surface for cyclists.

Cycle routes are also planned to connect Horsford to Norwich particularly for commuting cyclists thereby reducing the number of cars on the road. Guided wildlife walks for residents of Horsford has been suggested led by volunteers.

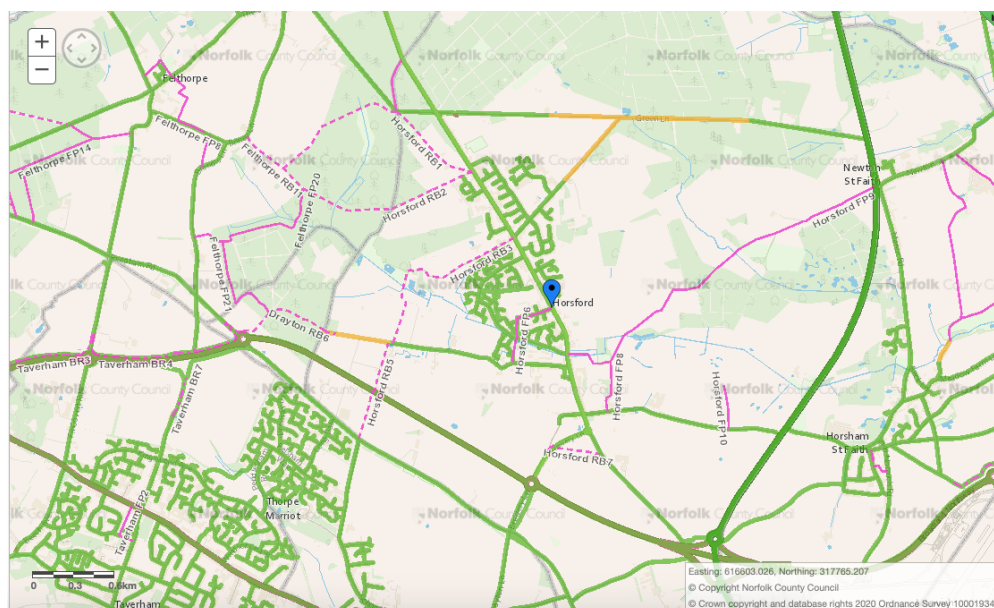
Connection to Hevingham

A future plan is to connect Horsford Woods to Hevingham Park. This would be of particular benefit to Horsford residents.

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A project to make a safe crossing of the A140 from FP9 is included in the West Broadland GI Plan. It is also included in Horsford's set of recreational walks. The walk already exists, it passes along the Holt Road near the Beck with Black Park CWS, through farmland to the A140 and Green Lane. The West Broadland GI Plan seeks to reduce the limitations of the physical barrier (i.e., the A140) that runs between Horsford and Horsham & Newton St Faiths by introducing safe crossing measures, this would enable residents of Newton St. Faith and Horsham St Faith to have safer access to the footpath and G.I. network around Horsford.

Map shows footpaths and all public rights of way



Maps, additional signage and way markers

could be tailored to various needs, for example a walking route could describe its underfoot information and length and average times taken. Similar information could be given if it is a cycle route. Cycling maps to link up with any new strategic routes led by BDC.

Providing signage for locally important heritage assets, that are accessible and not on private land is a project that has been identified in the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan.

Example used for the Country Park walks route (0.8miles/1.3km, 20-30mins and giving a brief description of the route for example, passing over a ford, going through woodland and fields. For satellite navigation systems, the nearest postcode is NR10 4DF. Grid reference TG 18235 17564.

All updates of maps to be published on HPC notice boards, HPC website with provision of a QR code linking to route information. Broadland District Council may provide help with the provision of maps

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Wooden signage posts, way-marker signs . Smart phones usage in finding locations are becoming the norm with QR information to be included with both signage and maps. QR codes can be utilised so that the majority of people can read with their smart phones. Informative discs to be added on way-markers, metal posts and plates, and finger posts as new parts of routes are added. Clarify who can use the routes to be signed by way-markers. [permissive rights, public know their way](#)

3.5 Woodland Wildlife Hedgerows

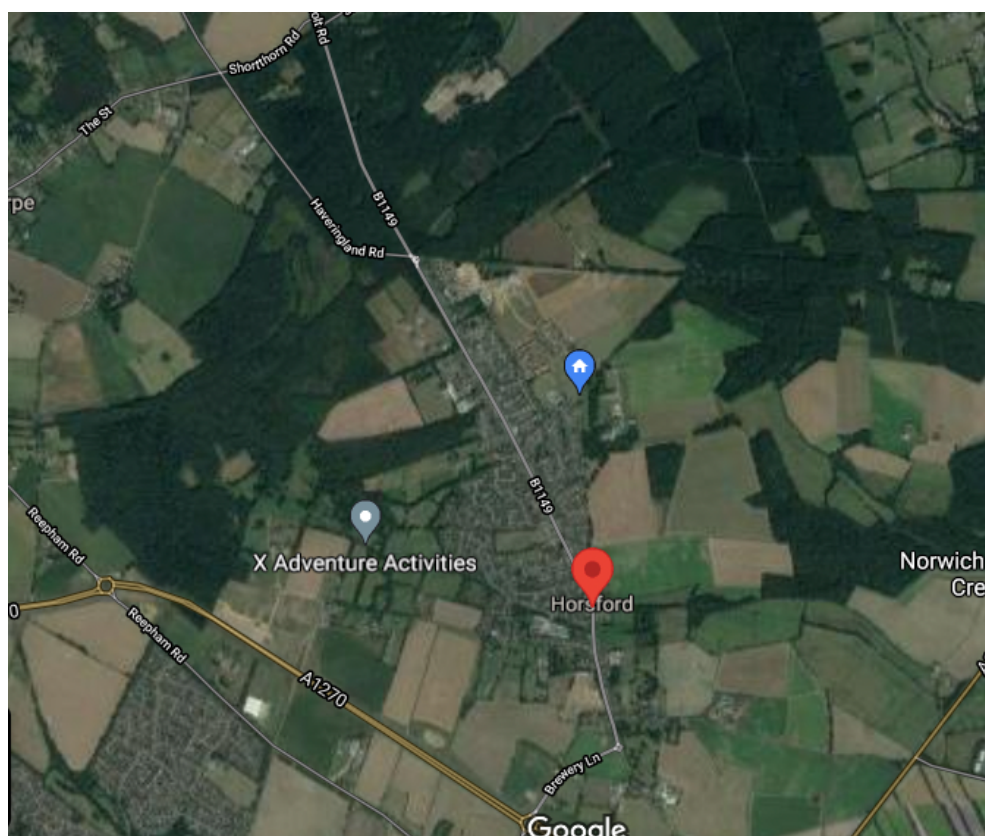
It is the intention to maintain, restore and create new wildlife corridors. How can HPC give consideration to our wildlife and woodland? This is covered by the planning application designs which will be checked against The [Horsford Planning Guidelines](#) on



woodland and heathland. Example street lighting can have a detrimental impact on woodland creatures.

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 provides important protection by prohibiting the removal of most countryside hedgerows (or parts of them) without first notifying the local planning authority. Horsford Parish Council will liaise with the LPA to uphold these regulations to ensure protection for all trees, country hedgerows and verges within the village. [The Hedgerows Regulations 1997](#) By planting native trees and flowers along any connecting walking and cycling routes that exist. Maintain our trees and natural flora.

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Green areas that connect Drayton, Felthorpe, Hevingham and Horsford.
Dark green shows trees, lighter green showing fields

3.6 New and existing trees

Further tree planting is an identified project within the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan. To improve the realm of parts of the village is an environmental objective within that plan.

New - trees in new developments

New tree planting within the built environment will be designed to enhance local distinctiveness, the right trees in the right places as advised by experts. Developments will include managed habitats that are kept in a stable and sustainable way. HPC will support and increase native and appropriate species alongside modern rural living. This is a key contributor to the 'rural village' feel of the village settlement.

If planting new trees near a highway not in a new development, Norfolk County Council will be consulted as a "Planting within the highway" license may be

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required. Drain pipes will be considered as well as tree roots that may break up footpaths.

Where to plant new trees is not straightforward. With a national drive to plant as many as possible we will improve:

- zero carbon targets
- wellbeing by helping with Green Space
- aesthetics of the village
- wildlife habitat

Retaining mature trees in new developments

When new developments are being planned, mature trees will be maintained and a significant number of new trees planted, giving a softness and rural feel to the public realm. When Tree Protection Orders (TPO's) are in place within a Planning Application the Parish Council, when reviewing the application will contact the Horsford Tree Warden for advice.

Project

The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan identified a project to develop a maintenance programme for additional planting. An arboricultural inspection is taking place of the existing recreation ground trees and the four pits is taking place in September 2021.

3.7 The Hors Beck and other green spaces

It is a small beck that flows and meanders through a built-up area and fields attracting wildlife. The Environment Agency gives importance to the Hors Beck because it runs into the Bure that is a very rare chalk bed river.

Most of its water is shallow and does not pose real danger unless silted up or maintenance has been neglected which presently and in the past is the case.

Broadland District Council are in the process of adopting areas of land that the Hors Beck flows through. Date of April 22, 2022 was given for adoption by Bloor Builders, after remedial work before the District Council takes on the responsibility. Once this has been completed it is the aim to undertake the following :

- Project to create amenity areas between Hors Beck and the perimeter of the Gordon Godfrey Estate. Under the guidance of Norfolk County Council
- Make new bog gardens by diverting water courses

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- Removal of brambles and nettles, leaving some that are natural barriers, that would guide children to safe paddling spots. All under suitable guidance.

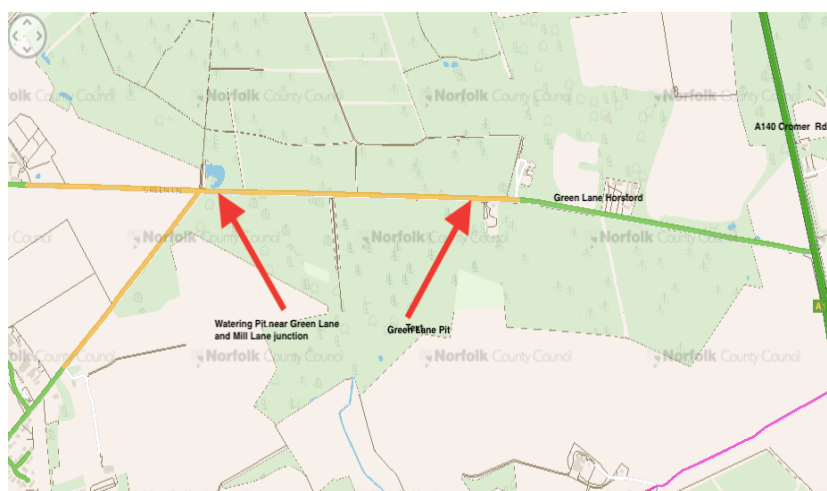
3.8 Horsford in Bloom

It was decided by Horsford Parish Council in March 2021 to build upon the success of the southern roundabout to further enhance green spaces that it maintains, and to encourage people to take part in this project particularly along the Holt Road.

Part of Horsford in Bloom is a community garden that has begun (April 2022) on Church Field allotments. The clearing of the land has begun. This will be run by YMCA and its volunteers to teach people garden design, and all other aspects of horticulture. This will give an understanding of gardening that many would otherwise not experience.

3.9 Four Old Village Clay Pits – Community Spaces

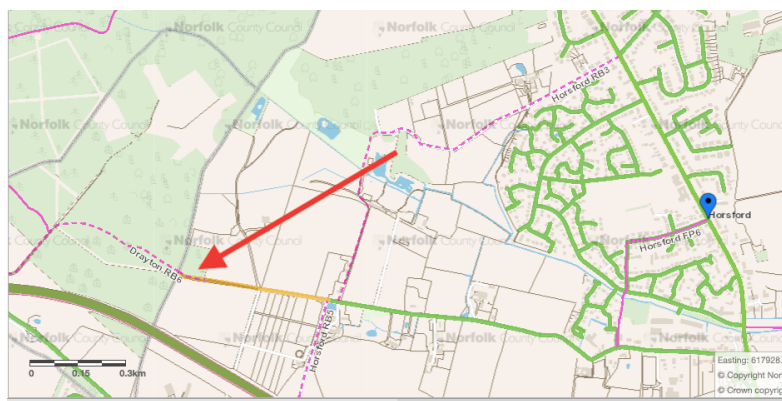
The aim is to increase the use of the pits that were filled in about twenty years ago and trees were planted in three of them. They are administered and maintained by Horsford Parish Council with the intention to be used for recreation and for encourage wildlife. [See maps](#)



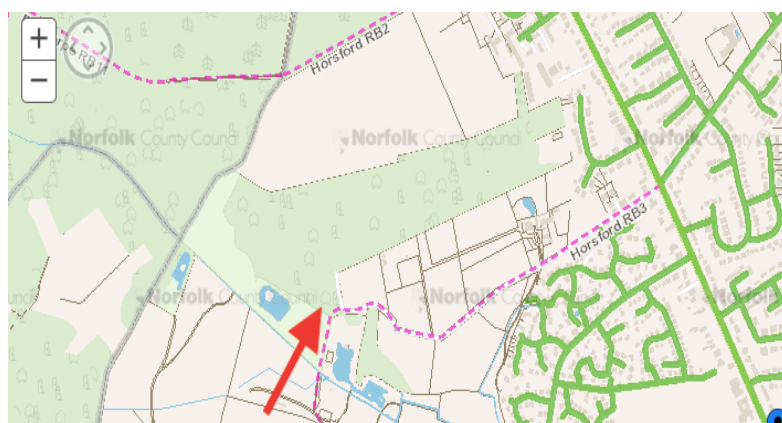
The Watering Pit One is located at the end of Mill Lane on Green Lane, that contains water and is in a woodland setting.

Green Lane Pit Another filled in old gravel pit also on Green Lane between the junction of Mill Lane and the A140 Cromer Road.

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Dog Lane Pit is at the far end of the road, along a track and the first piece of wooded area that adjoins Drayton Drewery.



Pyehurn Pit is at the end of Pyehurn Lane

Projects

- Improving the seating at the sites.
- Noticeboards showing the history of the site.
- Signage to be included
- Bike track
- Picnic areas
- Camping for scouts?
- Or other demographics to use with approval from HPC for small events.
- Rustic adventure playground where children could use their imagination with for example logs and branches being left around to build dens.

4 Setting local targets

As Horsford's part of national environmental indicators particularly those that relate to health, climate change, flood risk management and improved local biodiversity.

By being familiar with national and local targets the parish council will aim to play its part in reaching them.

5 Resources

A Finance Committee has been formed to help budget for S106 and CIL money. The needs of money and financial costs to be planned for with each project.

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6 Bibliography

“Nature Nearby” – Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

West Broadland Green Infrastructure [Link](#)

Horsford Planning guidance

Horsford Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Councillor’s Guide by John Prophet

Toward a Dark Sky Standard

<https://www.darksky.org/towards-a-dark-sky-standard/>