

## **Fressingfield's Unique Heritage and Environment**

Fressingfield is not just a gem in the context of Suffolk, but a rarity nationally having **58 listed buildings**.

The famous grade I listed church is notable for its fine Perpendicular architecture. There is also a rare grade I listed raised aisle open hall house which dates from the 14th Century and many medieval moated sites. It is home to badgers, deer, great crested newts, rare birds, otters, ancient trees and hedgerows.

Luckily the remote and isolated setting of the village means its heritage has remained relatively untouched. The small size of Fressingfield means that it is truly incorporated into the countryside and open landscape around it. These assets bring many tourists and visitors to the area.

Already in a village with just 350 houses at its core, the 47 already granted will have a huge detrimental impact on the setting of the heritage and many listed buildings as well as its rural character. To grant any more major development here represented in these three applications would tip the balance and be devastating for the rural and historical nature of this village. Instead of being on the edge of rolling countryside, we would be hemmed in by new developments which are totally inappropriate in scale.



I ask you councillors - to be custodians for future generations - to preserve the priceless heritage of this village and limit development so that it is sustainable to local need, the local surroundings and context of this very special place.

Heritage and environment is protected by law in both the NPPF and the District's local plans, regardless of the lack of five year land supply. These are considerations that need to be given real weight.

Within the Core Strategy, "A better heritage for future generations" clearly states that it is essential to "safeguard the cultural and historical heritage".

The new developments proposed about the conservation areas of the village which should be given the special protection they deserve, and as the local plan states that the integrity of such sites will not be adversely affected.

It is the same with landscape and our relation to the rural environment.

"Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is an important component of the National Planning Policy Framework's drive to achieve sustainable development (as defined in [paragraphs 6-10](#). The appropriate conservation of heritage assets forms one of the 'Core Planning Principles' ([paragraph 17](#) bullet 10) that underpin the planning system."

Our distinctive and valuable rural landscape is also our heritage and as the Core Strategy sets out that the District's approach to sustainable development must conserve and enhance the local character of different parts of the district as well as restrict development in the countryside to defined categories.