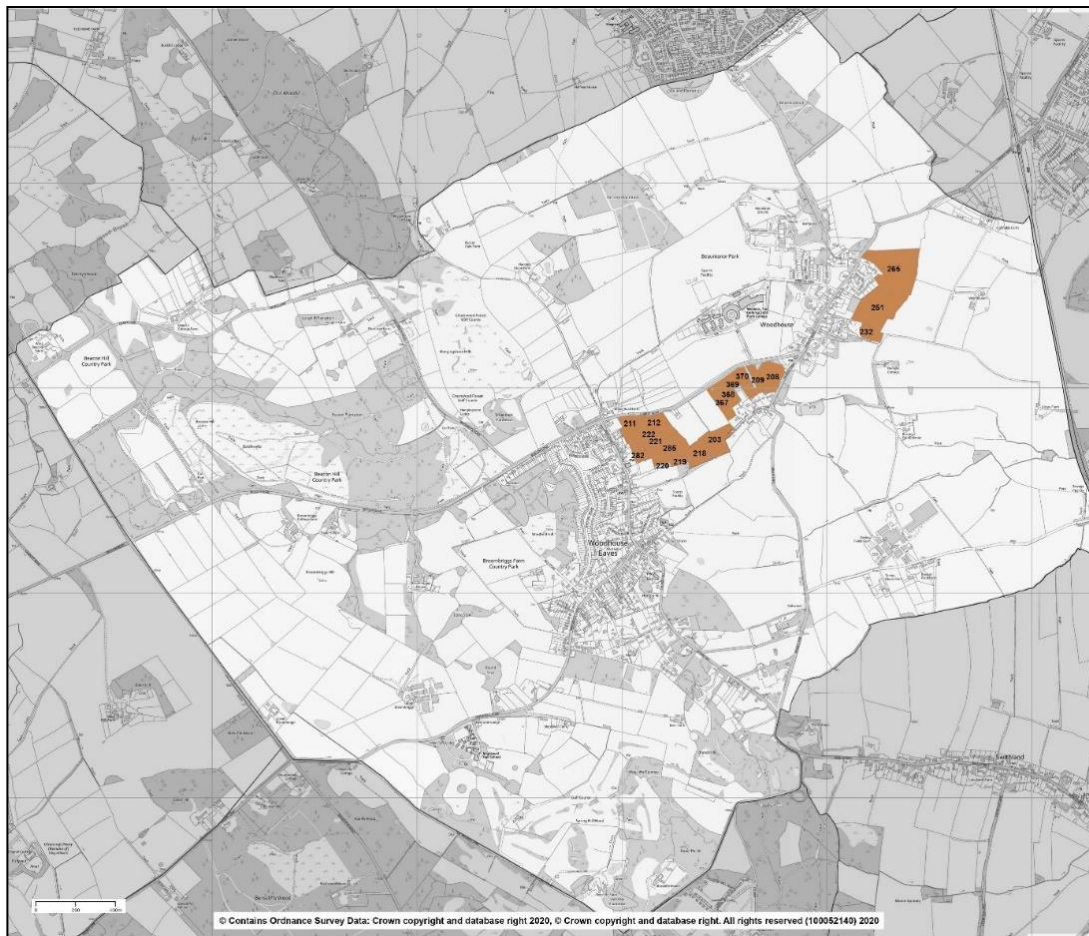




**Woodhouse Parish
Neighbourhood Plan 2020- 2036
Referendum version
August 2021**

107. In English legislation ridge and furrow fields (except for the few, not in this Plan Area, that are Scheduled Monuments) are not statutorily protected, despite recognition that “*as the open field system was once commonplace in NW Europe, these [surviving] sites take on an international importance*” (English Heritage, 2001). While the individual fields of surviving ridge and furrow in the Plan Area are not claimed to be of international importance, their rarity in the Plan Area and across the Midlands means that any further, avoidable, loss would be irreversibly detrimental. Historic England strongly recommends treating all surviving ridge and furrow as (non-designated) *heritage assets*, and this, supported by NPPF paragraph 190, is the approach taken in this Plan.

Figure 20: Surviving ridge and furrow in the Plan Area, 2019



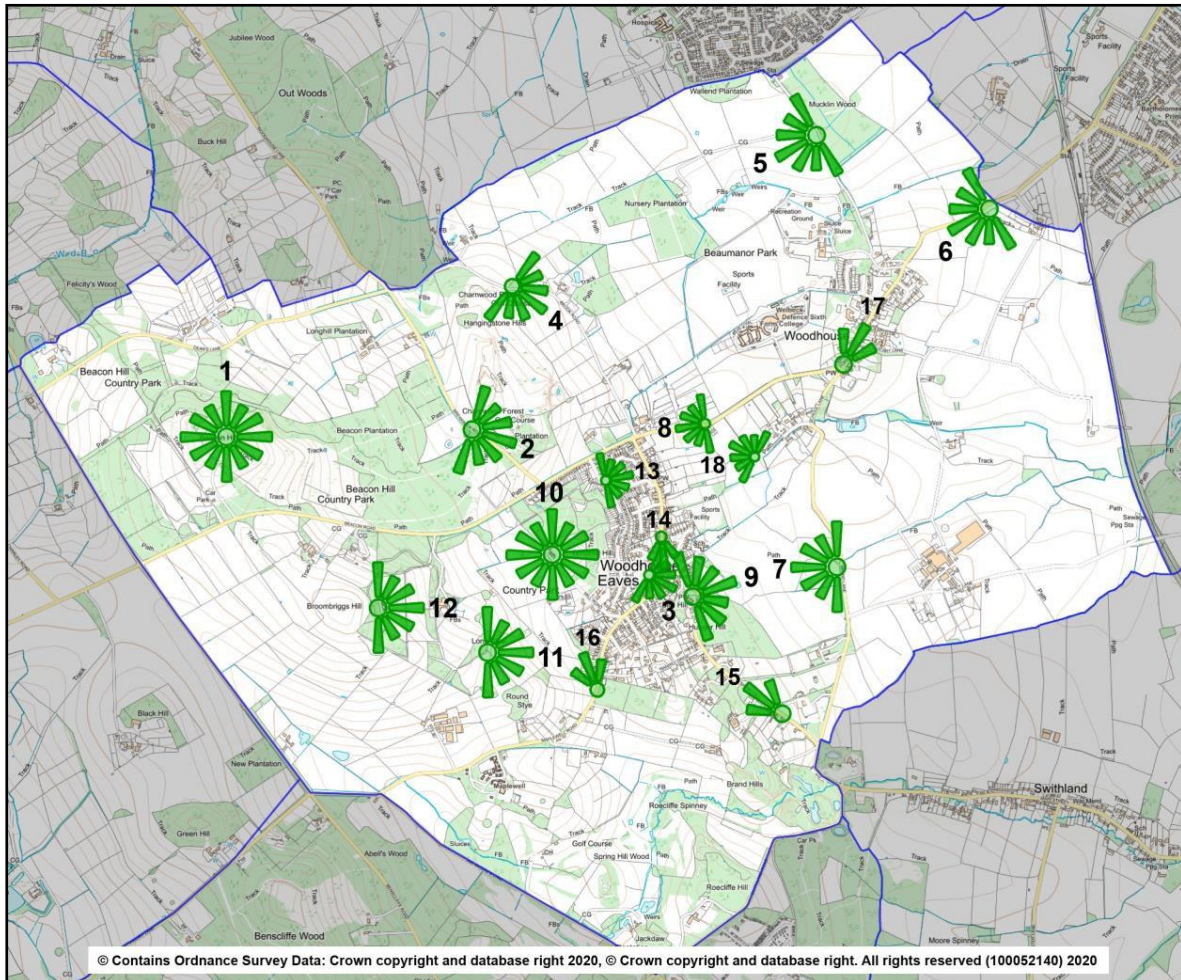
POLICY ENV 7: RIDGE AND FURROW - The areas of ridge and furrow earthworks mapped in Figure 20 are non-designated local heritage assets. Any loss or damage arising from a development proposal (or a change of land use requiring planning permission) is to be avoided unless essential to achieve sustainable development

Important views

108. Consultation during the Neighbourhood Plan’s preparation identified a widely held wish to protect Woodhouse Parish’s rural setting, and its relationship with the surrounding landscape, including the attractive contrast between the upland of Charnwood Forest and the Soar Valley lowlands.

109. One of the main ways in which residents expressed this wish was by describing a number of highly valued views within the villages and, in particular, out into and back from the surrounding countryside. These consultation findings were supported by the environmental inventory, which although principally aimed at identifying sites of environmental significance also confirmed the exceptional quality and sightlines of the suggested views and mapped them (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Important Views. See text for explanation



POLICY ENV 8: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS – The following views (Figure 21) are important to the setting and character of the villages and appreciation of the landscapes of the Plan area. New development should be designed to respect these locally important and valued views and where possible enhance them.. Development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area, that have the potential to have a significant visual impact that unduly detracts from the views as indicated at Figure 21, without appropriate mitigation, will not be supported. Visual impact should be the subject of professionally prepared Landscape Visual Impact Assessments.

1. 360° panorama from the summit of Beacon Hill. This is one of the signature views in Leicestershire.
2. South and east from the top of the hill on Breakback Road over the Beacon Road area of Woodhouse Eaves to Windmill Hill
3. View looking south west from the allotments across to St Paul’s Church and the Soar Valley.
4. From Brook Road on the northern flank of Hangingstone Hills close to Pocket Gate quarry southeast over falling ground toward Woodhouse and the Beaumanor estate
5. From the western edge of Mucklin Wood on the track extending Beaumanor Drive northwards,

southwest over Beaumanor Park, the weirs and open countryside with the hills of Charnwood as backdrop.

6.From the point where Woodhouse Road enters the parish, southwest across rolling gently rising farmland to Woodhouse village

7.From Brand Lane and public footpath K7 west to see Woodhouse Eaves village spreading along the eastern edge of the Charnwood hills and the wooded slopes and crags beyond

8.From Beacon Road at its entrance to Woodhouse Eaves, 180° vista from north through west to south, taking in Hangingstone Hills, the north part of Woodhouse Eaves village and the attractive pasture fields (with ridge and furrow, Local Wildlife Site) on the edge of the village

9.From the rocky outcrop of St Paul's churchyard, Woodhouse Eaves, an elevated view east and north over the whole of the eastern half of the Plan Area

10.From Windmill Hill, Woodhouse Eaves, an elevated panoramic view including Broombriggs Country Park, Broombriggs Hill, the Soar Valley and over the village

11.From the eastern flank of Broombriggs Hill close to the plantation known as Long Sty, 180° vista east over the southern half of Woodhouse Eaves village with Hunger Hill marking the edge of the Charnwood hills

12.180° vista from the summit of Broombriggs Hill over the whole of this part of Charnwood Forest and out to the Soar valley and ultimately into east Leicestershire

13.Village view over Herrick Green open space, Woodhouse Eaves

14.Village view south along Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves

15.Up the attractively wooded Brand Hill toward Hunger Hill, Woodhouse Eaves

16.Down Maplewell Road at its entrance into the village

17.Village view northeast from St Mary's church, Woodhouse, along Forest Road

18.Tranquil views looking north east from the footpath through Johnson's meadows between Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves

Flood risk

110. Even if international cooperation and national strategies and policies eventually succeed in halting the human and industrial contributions towards climate change, the effects of recent and current warming on weather events will likely persist for decades. It is therefore desirable to plan for at least a medium-term future, in which weather events will continue to become more extreme, by putting in place measures that mitigate the challenge of climate change for the lifetime of this Plan and beyond. This objective is explicitly supported by the Environment Agency (EA) draft *National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England* (2019), in which the strategic emphasis for the EA shifts from mitigation to resilience; in other words from requiring new development to reduce its adverse effects on flood risk and to avoiding creating or adding to flood risk at all.

111. Environment Agency Flood Zone mapping suggests the Plan Area to be largely in Flood Zone 1 (low flood risk zone). However, the flood zones are derived from fluvial river models, predominantly for those reaches which are defined as 'Main River'. As the Parish does not contain any section of Main Rivers, then the Flood Zone Maps do not reflect the true level of flood risk for the area. Instead the published Surface Water Flood Maps, illustrated in Figure 22, are generated by large scale models which apply rainfall data directly to the wider topography. For the steeply sloping characteristics of the area, this