

FRISBY ON THE WREAKE



Local Green Spaces, Views and
Area of Separation

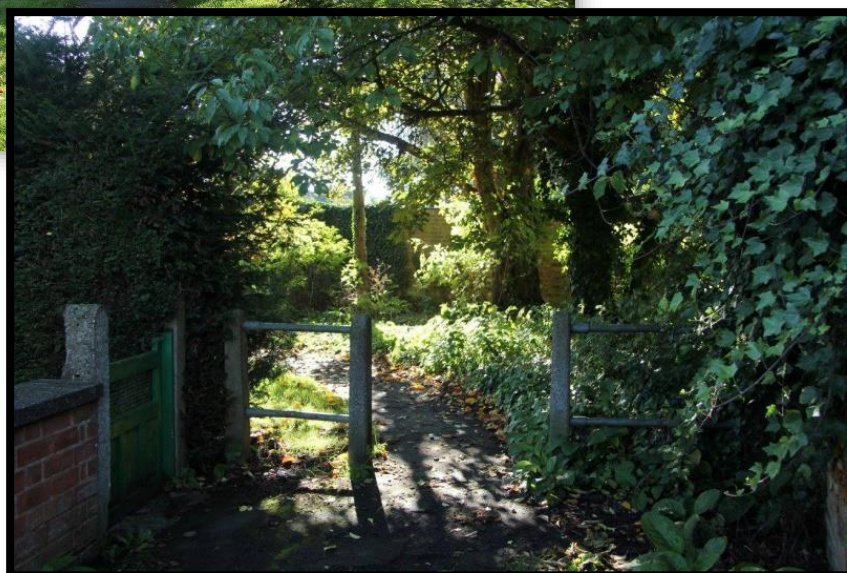
Introduction

In this document, we present some of our favourite views and important spaces to support the justification made in the NP for local green spaces and an area of separation. All photographs were taken from PRowWs or by permission of the landowner at the time.

Frisby on the Wreake is located on the side of a ridge looking north and overlooks a river valley to east and west. Frisby on the Wreake is a small, compact village with few open areas of useful size within the village itself. There are no communal play areas or recreation grounds within the village, and so the surrounding fields and footpaths play a significant role in providing relaxation for residents.

Proposed LGS: The Butts.

The Butts, or Butt End, gained its name because of the archery practice that used to take place here in mediaeval times (from the archery butts). The arches in the wall were constructed to support the wall in low lying land. There used to be three thatched cottages on the site until the 1950's. Now, this small green space (0.04 Ha) is surrounded by Conservation Area cottages and Ivy-clad walls. It forms a popular walkway, joining Church Lane and Wellfield Lane. Children climb the enormous horse chestnut tree and collect conkers in the autumn. In 2010, the green was planted with a fledging community orchard. For such a small area, it is home to mature trees, hedgehogs and nesting birds.



Proposed LGS: Dawson's field

Dawson's field lies on the south-western edge of the village Conservation Area. The meadow's northern boundary hedge lines Rotherby Lane and provides an important rural and tranquil context to the edge of the village. The grassland was once part of the open field system of agriculture and an intricate pattern of well-preserved ridge and furrow covers much of the site.

The route of the District-level, Leicestershire Round footpath lies along the length of the eastern hedgerow of the field, climbing the hill and providing treasured views across the village and much of the Wreake Valley (an Area of Particularly Attractive Landscape; View A in the NP). The Leicestershire Round footpath is popular with the local community and attracts many ramblers and people seeking a challenge for charity fundraising. The village shop and pub reap the benefit of patronage by such visitors from the wider community.

The footpath allows the only safe access to the Stump Cross Scheduled Monument sited on verge of the busy A607 on the fields' southern border.

Archaeologically rich; the area surrounding the Stump Cross, the roman site and the ancient road way beneath the modern A607 has yielded a staggering number of portable finds pertaining to several thousand years of history (Historic Environment Record, HER, entries shown in shaded box). There exists potential for further archaeological finds near Stump Cross and roman site.

Excerpt from Historic England listing 1014513:

"The Stump Cross south of Frisby on the Wreake is a good example of a medieval standing cross. Situated by the roadside, it is believed to stand near its original position and it illustrates the variety of the functions and forms of this type of monument, which is more often found marking churchyards or markets. Archaeological deposits relating to its construction in this location are likely to survive intact. The cross has been little altered in modern times and has continued in use as a public monument and amenity from the medieval period to the present day.

LCC HER MLE 21395. Roman site and Stump Cross *"Metal detecting in 2011-2013 has recovered 56 coins (3 silver, 53 copper alloy), 20 brooches, pieces of 2 copper alloy snake's head bracelets, a nail cleaner, a copper alloy finger ring with a green glass setting and a possible buckle. The majority of the coins are late Roman, the brooches may all be early Roman."*

LCC HER MLE 21396 Possible Bronze Age burial site, Stump Cross, south of Frisby on the Wreake *"Two Bronze Age copper alloy spear fragments and a tip of a blade or axe were found here via metal detecting in 2011/13."* .

LCC HER MLE 21397 Iron Age sword fitting from near Stump Cross, south of FOTW *"Probable copper alloy sword fitting 50mm long and 31mm wide, an open oval, covered in gold leaf, with V-shapes punched into it."*

Ecologically rich; residents report bats, grass snakes, hares, dragonflies and more in the area. A ‘field-by-field’ survey in 1990 (G.N Thurlow, LCC Ecology) identified the northern two-thirds of the land as a ‘Parish-level’ site of ecological importance, and this was reflected in the 1999 Melton Local Plan. The parish was re-surveyed in 2015-16 by Karen Headley (LCC Ecology), where the land was assessed to be a *potential or candidate Local Wildlife Site*. It is hoped that the two broad girth ash stumps, recently felled, will soon start to regenerate, and residents have requested that TPO’s be placed on the remaining four pLWS trees in the hedgerows.

3	SK694173	20, 62, 63, 66, 93,100	Rotherby Lane Grassland & Trees	Semi-improved neutral grassland & mature trees (x4)	4.8ha	part Parish-level	pLWS
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Excerpts from LCC Ecology Phase 1 survey Final Report.

63	Frisby on the Wreake	SK694173	Old ridge and furrow grassland, viewed from footpath only. Sheep-grazed. Sloping site. Fine sward with <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> , <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , <i>Phleum bertolonii</i> , <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> , <i>Hordeum secalinum</i> , <i>Trisetum flavescens</i> , <i>Briza media</i> . Herbs include <i>Ranunculus acris</i> , <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> , <i>Trifolium pratense</i> , <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> , <i>Bellis perennis</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> , <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> , <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> . Also <i>Luzula campestris</i> . Locally frequent <i>Cirsium arvense</i> . Several different grassland fungi present. Interest may be patchy?	Parish-level	V	Yes	Ok	pLWS or cLWS with TNS 20, 62 & 66	08/10/2015 & 16/08/2016	K Headley
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The meadow is not an extensive area, being a single parcel of land similar in area to that of the Planning Application on the adjacent land (approximately 7.2 Ha compared to 6.6 Ha respectively). (Application ref. 2016/0704/06/HCON is awaiting LPA Decision, though is not a favoured site in the Neighbourhood Plan.) Designation of this land as LGS is consistent with recommendation in the MBC Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study Final report (2015) p143; paragraph 4.111, which states “Features such as ridge and furrow field systems would be best conserved, enhanced and interpreted as part of a green infrastructure network.”





Dawson's field, Stump Cross and View A in the Neighbourhood Plan.

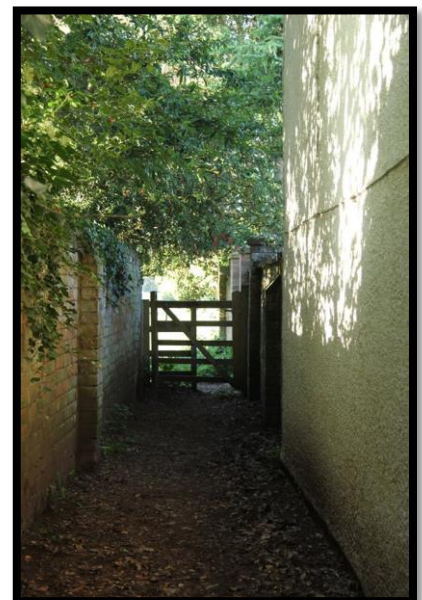


Proposed LGS: Jouni's paddock

This small field lies behind The Cedars and The Limes (Grade II listed) on Water Lane and Rotherby Lane, and is an important setting to the village Conservation Area. The Leicestershire Round footpath, county-level and locally favoured route, enters the village through Jouni's paddock, delivering walkers to the Market Cross (Scheduled Monument) via a short walkway. Containing ridge and furrow features, and being part of a green corridor for wildlife to move through the village, it is most important to retain the rural nature of the paddock.



View F: Looking across Jouni's paddock (midground) towards the edge of the village from the Leicestershire Round, and (below) the alley which leads walkers to the Market Cross.



Mill Lane fields (The Horse Meadow and Christine's field)

The Horse Meadows is individually proposed to be a Local Green Space, but it shares some important features with Christine's field. They are part of an extensive area of ridge and furrow and medieval village earthworks (SHINE DLE8012), which stretches across the eastern edge of the village and the parish beyond. The earthworks are well defined, wide and have a reverse-S shape characteristic of earthworks of medieval date and are ascribed to be of 'High significance' by Natural England. The Selected Heritage Inventory for England (SHINE) designation includes the rectangular medieval house platform in The Horse Meadow, which appears in the HER as MLE3740 'Medieval village earthworks north of Great Lane'. Whilst DLE designations are used in agricultural Countryside Stewardship schemes, they do, nonetheless, demonstrate historic value worthy of conservation. A great many people view these to be beautiful fields.

The ridge and furrow is important to local landscape character and to the setting of the Conservation Area, relating the whole village to its past. Designation of these meadows as LGS is consistent with recommendations for the parish expressed in the MBC Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study Final report (2015) p143; paragraph 4.111, which states *"Features such as ridge and furrow field systems would be best conserved, enhanced and interpreted as part of a green infrastructure network."* and *"There is evidence of historic landscape elements such as intact hedgerows and ridge and furrow field systems, which would be best avoided in relation to development."*

Proposed LGS: The Horse Meadow

Calm and tranquil, this field has no roads, just a rural footpath cutting diagonally across the well-pronounced ridge and furrow (neatly adding an opportunity to experience exercise, history and nature all at once).

The footpath leads from the Conservation Area on Mill Lane to the neighbouring villages, Asfordby and Kirby Bellars. It is a favourite route with residents from all three villages and features in LCC's 'Parish Series' and the AA's walk, 'Villages of the Wreake'. The spires of all three parish churches can be seen here, creating a strong sense of sharing in the observant walker. The footpath overlooks the historic, Grade II Mill House and lock and bridge on the low ground beside the river. The railway is too far to be an intrusion yet, several times a year, provides the spectacle of the Flying Scotsman or other steam trains passing through the valley.

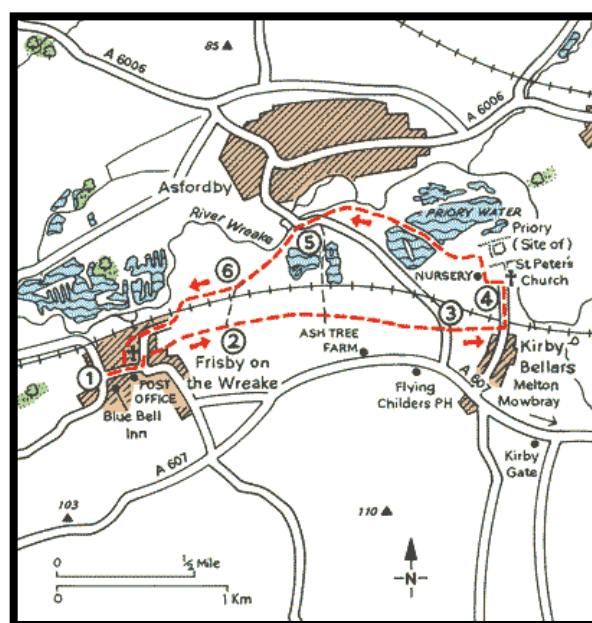
For more than forty years, villagers have also enjoyed more an informal access to the Horse Meadow. Families have sledged on the snowy slopes behind the farmhouse, appearing in substantial numbers when conditions are right. Throughout the year, the slope of the land, its natural beauty and views (Viewpoint C in the Neighbourhood Plan), provide opportunity for wildlife spotters and photographers alike, particularly when the sun is low in the sky. There are a number of mature ash trees in the hedgerows, some are ivy-clad with deadwood in the canopy and are potential Local Wildlife Sites. These include the wonderful, hollow ash tree in the hedgerow, shared with Christine's Field, which features in many photographs taken by residents. The grassland is described in the LCC Phase 1 survey as being 'species-rich with frequent herbs', and is awaiting further survey.

Christine's field

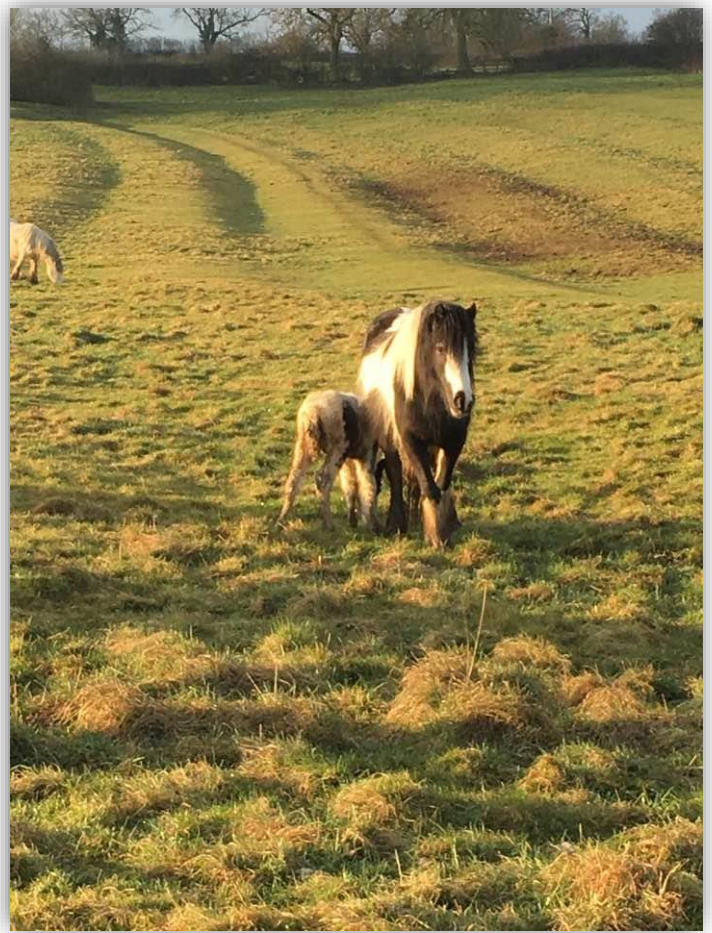
The late Christine Hayward allowed some residents on an informal agreement to walk the fields and to view her fish pond here. For example, an excerpt from a letter from one resident says "I walked the fields freely when Christine was alive and would intentionally join her off the footpath, usually because [dog's name] would run to her from 200 yards or more for a treat. I'd then walk with Christine on her route."

The wonderful, hollow ash tree in the hedgerow shared with the Horse Meadow is a potential Local Wildlife Site and features in many photographs taken by residents. The large fish pond created by Mrs Hayward is stocked with goldfish, but serves to benefit local wildlife too. The herons and egrets are regular visitors to the pond, rabbits live beside it. Tawny owls have been heard in the area by residents on Great Lane. Bats and hedgehogs (BAP species) use the land (Community Wildlife survey).

Although not scoring enough to meet LGS criteria, Christine's Field is special to the community. It lies behind existing houses on Great Lane and is important to the integration of the village edge with surrounding countryside. It is also adjacent to the FRIS 1 development site and viewable from paths and planned recreation areas within the site. Immediately prior to submission of the Neighbourhood Plan, FPC was informed that the land is to be put up for sale. It is the hope of Frisby Parish Council that Christine's Field could provide a new rural footpath as a pedestrian link from the new development to the rest of the rural network of footpaths, joining in the Horse Meadow. Such an addition, although minor, would have a disproportionately large improvement to how the new housing will relate to the existing village. It could provide a short, circular walk at the top of the village and aid integration between new and old residents.

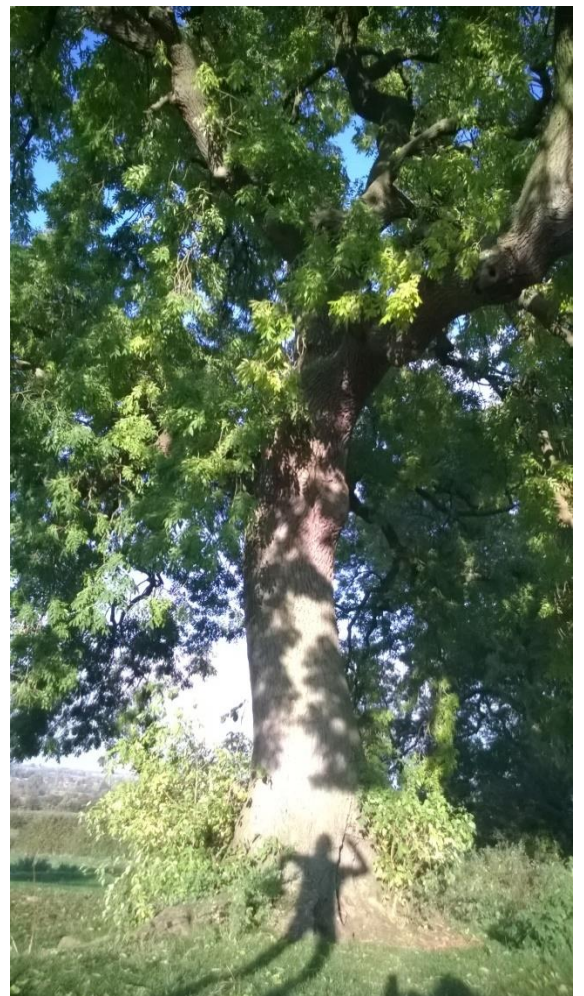
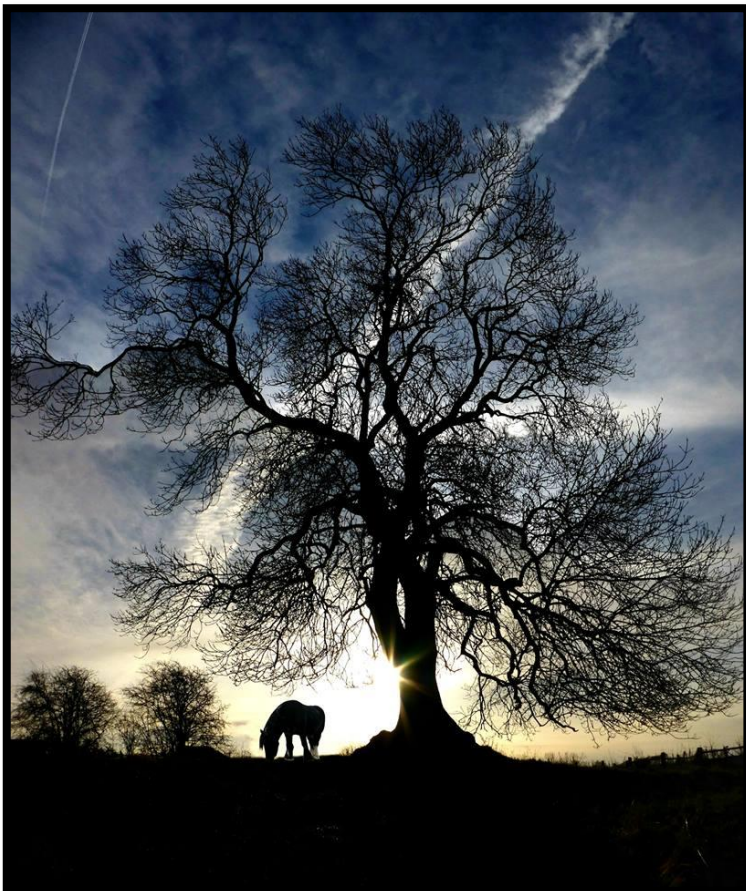


On the path in the Horse Meadow and the AA's "Villages of the Wreake" routemap



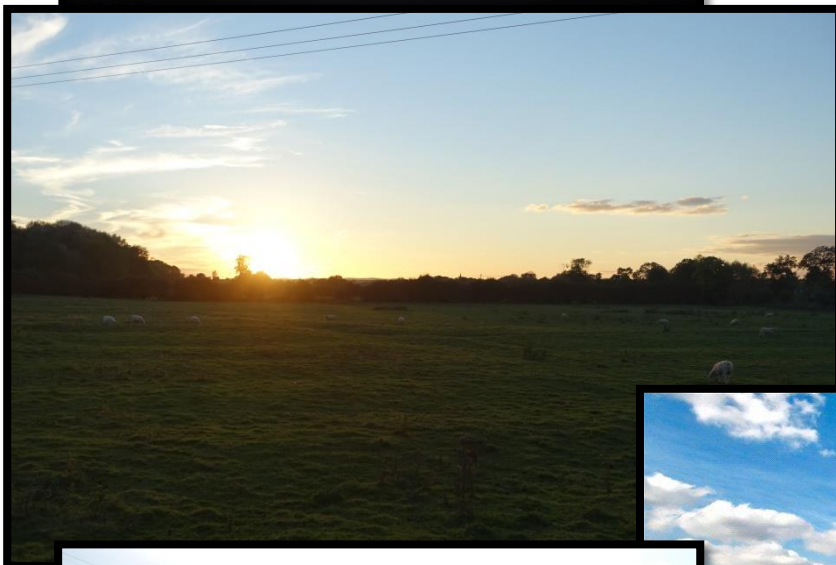
Ridge and furrow in the Horse Meadow

The lovely hollow ash, Horse Meadow/Christine's Field

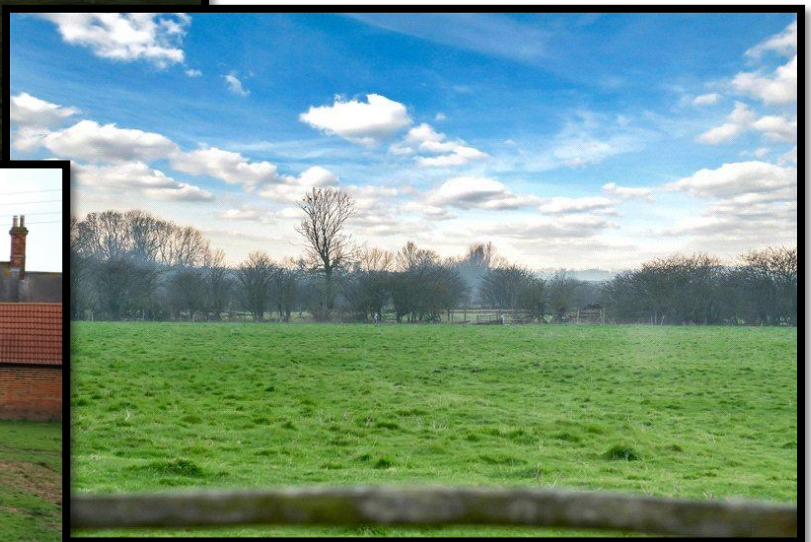




Above: **View B. Wreake Valley from Great Lane (FRIS1 and 1A in field to the right); Sunset over Charnwood from Frisby Top**



Below: **View E, Towards Hoby church. Open views from Water Lane to the west invites countryside into the village.**





View D, Residents images from around Frisby Lakes





**View C, Behind Mill Lane,
in various directions**



**Below: Spires on the horizon: Kirby Bellars church
(left), Frisby on the Wreake church spire (right)**



Aerial view of proposed LGS and new housing sites



The other criteria used by our Advisors, Your Locale, for assessing the need or justification for AofSs are:

There is a realistic risk of the named settlements coalescing during the lifetime of the Plan. This is not considered likely to occur, though there is potential for further erosion of the distance between the two sites if residences were to be built in the paddocks beyond the railway line.

The settlements are currently separated by open or undeveloped countryside. This is clearly so.

The MLP study supported the AOS in principle because of the landscape character, but deemed it to be unnecessary due to natural landscape features such as the River Wreake and the railway line. It is accepted that whilst the River Wreake and the railway line provide some measure of separation, the river is merely 10m wide and vehicular access across the track is already available in two places on Mill Lane, so diminishing its function as a barrier to development.

The photograph below, was taken from the river edge on the Frisby on the Wreake parish boundary, showing the 100 house development site, Asfordby, on the riverside in the foreground.

Asfordby consented site for 100 houses.
The site under Appeal, for a further 70 houses adjoins this site along the river to the left of the picture.



These photographs show the two vehicular railway crossings on Mill Lane. The first crossing provides access to the residence, Mill Deeping, and the second provides access to paddocks and meadows.



After consideration of these parameters, the parishioners of Frisby on the Wreake expressed a wish to define an Area of Separation between Frisby on the Wreake and Asfordby to preserve the rural setting and distinct characters of the settlements. The proposed AOS is shown above in Figure B.

ENDS