

PRESS RELEASE

Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan Project Team

Issued: 12th January 2014

For Immediate Release

WE LOVE LOVEDEN HILL so much so that we hope to declare it South Kesteven's first 'Local Green Space' in our Neighbourhood Plan

Hough on the Hill Parish is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to help ensure that local people can have a stronger influence over the way change and development takes place in coming years.

One of the important issues to emerge from consultation with residents in the Parish is the significance and importance of Loveden Hill as a loved and valued feature in our landscape. This ancient burial mound, distinctly prominent just to the south of Gelston, is believed to have been the meeting place for the Loveden Wapentake (Hundred) and is one of the largest Anglo-Saxon burial sites in the country.

Parish Councillor Roger Kingscott said:

"Loveden Hill dominates the topology of this area, and a walk round the hill affords a breathtaking panorama across the Trent Valley and beyond. This ancient hill has always been a significant place, and we still feel the power of it even today."

"The Government has given new powers to local communities in the Localism Act 2011 to declare a *Local Green Space* in Neighbourhood Plans. We think Loveden Hill meets the criteria, and so we are now consulting further with residents to see if this is what they would like to see happen. We have a Public Workshop session taking place on Saturday 25th January (11am at All Saints Church, Hough on the Hill). All residents, local landowners and businesses in the Parish are invited to attend."

For further information see website: www.loveden.org.uk/np

Ends

Notes to editors

- 1 This Press Release is issued by the Hough on the Hill 'Neighbourhood Plan Project Team' (set up by Hough on the Hill Parish Council).
Further information and photos (.jpg format) available from:
Marilyn Taylor: 01400 251462 or 07768 503203 mzt2010@hotmail.co.uk

- 2 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new right for Parish Councils to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan to plan the shape of future development in their local areas. An adopted Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan of the relevant local authority, and therefore has full weight in the determination of planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans must comply with European and national legislation and policy and be in general conformity with existing local strategic planning policy. Their adoption as policy is subject to a public referendum for all registered voters within the area concerned, in which a minimum 50% vote in favour (of those voting) is required.
- 3 Hough on the Hill Parish was approved as a 'neighbourhood area' for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan by South Kesteven District Council in February 2013.
- 4 Local Green Space is a new designation introduced in The Localism Act 2011 for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans. The Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. The designation should only be used:
 - where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- 5 Loveden Hill is the site of an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery, featuring both inhumations and cremations. It is one of the largest such sites in England, suggesting that the site was important to the Anglo Saxons. It covers about 1.2 acres and has a date range from the fifth to the seventh century with over 1700 cremations and 45 inhumations. Many of the finds from site excavations are in The Collection - Lincoln's Art & Archaeology Museum and others are in the British Museum, as well as museums at Grantham, Newark, Nottingham and Scunthorpe.
- 6 Wapentake Loveden Hill is at the centre of Loveden Wapentake (the Danelaw equivalent to the "Hundred" in Anglo-Saxon England). The court is likely to have met monthly at Loveden Hill. The word Wapentake means "show your weapon". The idea was that all in favour of a resolution would raise their sword etc. to show agreement.