

A key custodian of the Parish of Pampisford is the Pampisford Estate. It's holdings include 2 AHA tenanted farms, in hand farm land, woodland, the village school currently used as the Village Hall, the village allotments, the Church Lane play-ground, the nature reserve, several farm yards converted for housing and employment, some cottages (mostly for employees) and a listed Hall surrounded by a nationally important starred arboretum planted in 1820. The new A11, constructed on top of the original Roman Road and on Estate farm land, forms the eastern boundary of the Parish while the hall is separated from the Village and it's Home Farm by the ever busier A505. As farming land falls in hand, the Estate's team are housed near the hall and at Brent Ditch End just opposite the listed main gates.

The ethos governing the management and maintenance decisions for these assets prescribes the very best efforts to protect the flora and fauna (biodiversity) of our Parish which require and deserve space and peace. The Parish woodlands are managed as sustainable: mixed age, mixed species plantations (where thinning and felling is always to the best) and to increase biodiversity, carbon sequestration and timber production rather than the less onerous and expensive clear fell and replant method of more business minded woodland owners. The Estate's fat A line hedges have significantly increased shelter for birds and plants in the cold winter months and the replanting and replacement of trees lost to age and disease is intended to ensure that the rural aspect is enjoyed by generations to come.

The ethos is not different for the Estate's buildings: repair and restoration and maintenance using the traditional materials and to the highest standard of workmanship available is undertaken wherever possible. Design is governed to keep as close as possible to traditional vernacular – using flint, recycled Cambridge White bricks, or traditional featheredged timber frames with wooden glazed windows to original design and slate or thatched roofs. In consequence they are pretty, very low carbon, efficient and most importantly built to last lifetimes.

A dilemma for the trustees is that such management precepts are often misunderstood and are expensive. While pressures to sell to highest bidder have been consistently resisted, change in support for farming has made it increasingly uneconomic to manage land for the amenity of all of us locals. None the less the really devastating loss of the Chequers Pub and so the loss of a key community facility, where so many enjoyed time together and the delicious food, we still retain a recreation ground, a playground, village allotments, nature reserve, village hall and an active and much beloved church. But it is necessary to recognize that the estate also has its needs if it is to survive.

These are the necessity to convert existing agricultural buildings into homes for our employees and for artisan's units for local craftsmen, erecting new farm buildings, extending Brent Ditch End and the creation of alternative use for marginal land too small to farm. These requirements fall in line with the NPPF and the Local Plan. However, there has hitherto been very little support either from the planning office or from our own parish for such endeavors and applications. It would be a shame if the inability to house and resource the team required to maintain the landscape, farms, arboretum and hall or to generate income to pay them, results in the demise of traditional land and building management. It is worth emphasising that the Neighbourhood plan survey of 2018 highlighted that we all, members of the Parish, feel that the rural character of our village and its immediate surrounds were the most valued and popular aspect living in or near Pampisford.

The stubborn protective management ethos of the Estate has protected Pampisford from the types of development which are now encircling Abington and Sawston and indeed Pampisford where the ubiquitous 'Industrial' fringe surrounding towns and villages is permitted and encouraged.