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**MEDIA RELEASE
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**CONSERVATION OFFICER GOES TO PASTURES NEW – BABERGH TO
EXPAND CONSERVATION EFFORT**

Babergh District Council has announced that Richard Ward, its current Conservation & Design Officer, is to become the Director of the Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) from mid-April onwards.

Richard Ward commented "I have worked at Babergh for 14 years and have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Council. However, the role at the SPS promises to be both challenging and exciting".

The SPS works to protect both buildings and the natural environment throughout the county. Based in Lavenham it has a small part-time staff backed by the efforts of volunteers.

Richard Toft, Chairman of the SPS, welcomed Richard Ward's appointment "Thanks to his successful tenure of the conservation brief at Babergh, Richard has the knowledge and dynamism to spearhead the Society's efforts. I'm looking forward to working with him".

Neil Greig, Babergh's Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development praised Richard's work for Babergh "He has made an enormous contribution to protecting and enhancing the many listed buildings and conservation areas in the district. Babergh now aims to build on his successes through not only recruiting a replacement but also by expanding the number of officers working on conservation and related issues". ENDS

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