

Assault course will 'promote enjoyment of special area'

A school in north Norfolk has unveiled plans to build one of the best playgrounds in the county.

Gresham's School in Holt wants to build a raised bunkhouse, climbing tower, zip line, high ropes course and a 20-piece assault course in neighbouring woodland.

It has applied to North Norfolk District Council for planning permission for the site off the town's Holt Road, with a change of use from woodland to outdoor activity area.

Helen Thompson, a chartered landscape architect commissioned by Gresham's

School to undertake a landscape and visual appraisal of the proposed activity course, says in her report to councillors: "The effect on the Norfolk Coast AONB (area of natural beauty) and its setting is negligible. The proposal does not detract from the special qualities of the AONB.

"There may be some very minor change of local views but only part of the tower element which extends higher than the tree canopy will ever be seen at any distance from the installation.

"Otherwise... the proposal will help promote the enjoyment of this special area."