

Responses to Bredfield Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 16 Publicising a Neighbourhood Plan

Publicity period: 10 July to 21 August 2019

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What is the purpose of this document?

Bredfield Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to East Suffolk Council ahead of it being submitted for independent examination.

East Suffolk Council publicised the Plan and invited representations to be forwarded to the examiner for consideration alongside the Plan.

This document contains all representations received during the publicity period of 10th July to 21st August 2019.

Anglian Water

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bredfield Submission Neighbourhood Plan. The following response is submitted on behalf of Anglian Water.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this response.

General comments

We note that the emerging Suffolk Coastal District already includes district wide policies relating to water supply and wastewater infrastructure (Policies SCLP3.5 and SCLP9.7). Therefore it is not considered necessary to include a similar policy or policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

POLICY BDP.15 SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT

We note that it proposed to allocate three sites for residential development including a site which benefits from outline planning permission.

Anglian Water has no objection to the principle of residential development on the sites identified in the Neighbourhood Plan

Notifications

We would wish to be notified of the outcome of the examination and any subsequent decision made by the Council relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.

East Suffolk Council

We are satisfied that the Bredfield neighbourhood plan group has addressed our comments made as part of the Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation, as detailed in the submitted Consultation Statement. In our opinion the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the Local Plan for the former Suffolk Coastal area.

Neighbourhood Plan policy BDP.15 (Site 534 Land South of Tudor Cottage) is adjacent to a listed building. We recognise that the evidence produced to support the sites within the Neighbourhood Plan (as set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Site Assessment Final Report) identifies the site as suitable (subject to mitigation), and therefore we do not object to the principle of the allocation. The Council are however mindful that any development coming forward on the site must respect the setting of the listed building in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. The site has previously been subject to a refused scheme and appeal (APP/J3530/W/16/3165669), and any new proposals would need to address and overcome earlier concerns.

We have worked to support the development of the Bredfield Neighbourhood Plan and have developed a positive working relationship and constructive dialogue with the neighbourhood plan group. We commend the progress they have made with their plan.

Please note that these comments are given at an Officer level without prejudice to any future decisions that the Council may make.

Historic England

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 July 2019 inviting Historic England to comment on the Regulation 16 Submission version of the Bredfield Neighbourhood Plan.

We welcome the production of this neighbourhood plan, but do not wish to provide detailed comments at this time. We would refer you to any previous comments submitted at Regulation 14 stage, and for any further information to our detailed advice on successfully incorporating historic environment considerations into your neighbourhood plan, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

I would be grateful if you would notify me if and when the Neighbourhood Plan is made by the district council. To avoid any doubt, this letter does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed NP, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.

National Grid

National Grid has appointed Wood to review and respond to development plan consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regards to the above Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

About National Grid

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and Wales and National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) operates the electricity transmission network across the UK. The energy is then distributed to the eight electricity distribution network operators across England, Wales and Scotland.

National Grid Gas plc (NGG) owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use.

National Grid previously owned part of the gas distribution system known as 'National Grid Gas Distribution limited (NGGDL). Since May 2018, NGGDL is now a separate entity called 'Cadent Gas'.

To help ensure the continued safe operation of existing sites and equipment and to facilitate future infrastructure investment, National Grid wishes to be involved in the preparation, alteration and review of plans and strategies which may affect National Grid's assets.

Assets in your area

National Grid has identified the following high voltage overhead powerlines as falling within the Neighbourhood area boundary:

- **4ZW Route – 400kv two circuit route from Bramford substation in Mid Suffolk to Sizewell substation in Suffolk Coastal**
- **4ZX Route – 400kv two circuit route from Bramford substation in Mid Suffolk to Sizewell substation in Suffolk Coastal**

From the consultation information provided, the above overhead powerlines do not interact with any of the proposed development sites.

Gas Distribution – Low / Medium Pressure

Whilst there are no implications for National Grid Gas Distribution's Intermediate / High Pressure apparatus, there may however be Low Pressure (LP) / Medium Pressure (MP) Gas Distribution pipes present within proposed development sites. If further information is required in relation to the Gas Distribution network, please contact plantprotection@cadentgas.com

Electricity distribution

Information regarding the distribution network can be found at:
www.energynetworks.org.uk

Further Advice

National Grid is happy to provide advice and guidance to the Council concerning our networks. If we can be of any assistance to you in providing informal comments in confidence during your policy development, please do not hesitate to contact us. In addition, the following publications are available from the National Grid website or by contacting us at the address overleaf:

- A sense of place – design guidelines for development near high voltage overhead lines: A sense of place design guidelines for development near high voltage overhead lines:
<https://www.nationalgrid.com/sites/default/files/documents/Sense%20of%20Place%20-%20National%20Grid%20Guidance.pdf>
- Guidelines when working near NGG assets: <https://www.nationalgridgas.com/land-and-assets/working-near-our-assets>
- Guidelines when working near NGETT assets:
<https://www.nationalgridet.com/network-and-assets/working-near-our-assets>

Appendices - National Grid Assets

Please find attached in:

- Appendix 1 provides a map of the National Grid network across the UK.

Please remember to consult National Grid on any Neighbourhood Plan Documents or site-specific proposals that could affect our infrastructure. We would be grateful if you could add our details shown overleaf to your consultation database:

Lucy Bartley

Consultant Town Planner
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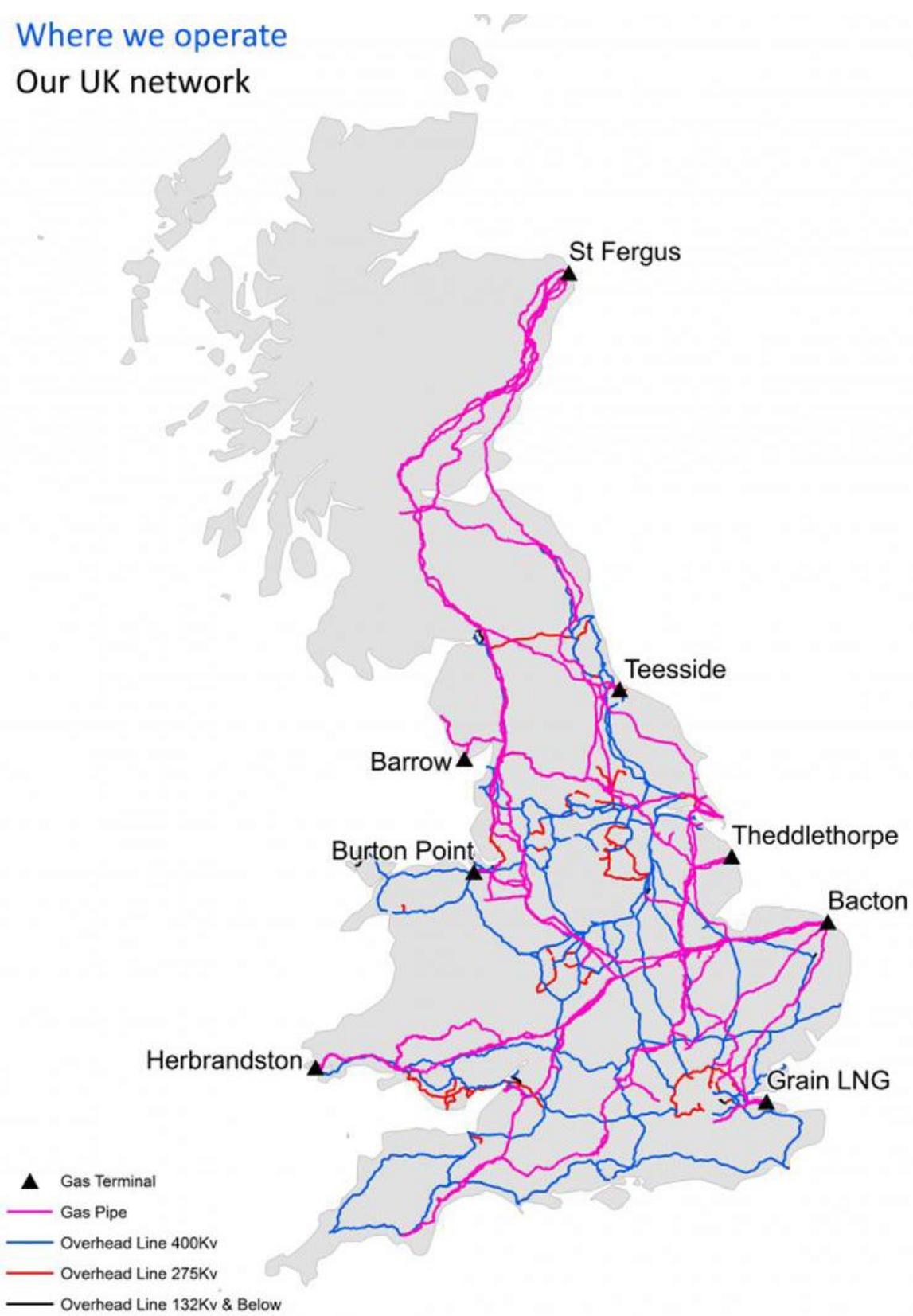
Wood E&I Solutions UK Ltd
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Development Liaison Officer, National Grid
box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com

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Gallows Hill
Warwick
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I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL GRID'S UK NETWORK**Where we operate****Our UK network**

Natural England

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 July 2019 .

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

Natural England, having submitted comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Draft Bredfield Neighbourhood Plan, June 2019, does not have any further specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.

However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact:

consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

Natural environment information sources

The Magic¹ website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available here².

Priority habitats are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found here³. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity

¹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

² <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/con servation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found here⁴.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the Magic⁵ website and also from the LandIS website⁶, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Natural environment issues to consider

The National Planning Policy Framework⁷ sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Planning Practice Guidance⁸ sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

⁵ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

⁶ <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807247/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

⁸ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed here⁹), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Ancient woodland¹⁰. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed here¹¹) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice here¹² to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 171. For more information, see our publication Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land¹³.

Improving your natural environment

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

⁹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/consevation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹⁰<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

¹¹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/consevation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹²<https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

¹³<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see Planning Practice Guidance on this ¹⁴).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

¹⁴ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>