

Dear Babergh,

I have lived in Bentley for over [REDACTED] years and have walked the many footpaths numerous times enjoying the beautiful views, the wildlife, the peaceful settings and historic buildings of this lovely village.

However I learned so much more about the origin and history of the village, and realised just how special and unspoilt this area of the village is when I studied the Conservation plan.

There are so many significant features which must be protected - the landscape of fields and ancient woods, the buildings - so many of historic importance and the wildlife living in and near these features.

I believe this area must be protected from any developments which would be to it's detriment.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Bentley Parish Council,

I am writing in support of the proposal, from the viewpoint of a regular [REDACTED] in Bentley, at least once, and often twice a year. I have also lived in [REDACTED] so I am conscious of its significance within the historic East Anglian setting.

It is clear from the information outlined in the document that Bentley 'demonstrably', and I would add indisputably, meets the 3 key criteria set by Historic England. The extensive and detailed photographic evidence provided confirms this, and more.

Bentley is one of many areas of historic significance which have already been regarded as potential sites for industrial intrusion, eg concrete processing, gravel extraction and a solar farm. These things are not unimportant but must be in the right place. Once such historic sites, along with ancient woodlands and a wealth of species of flora and fauna are lost, they can never be recovered.

This one is still in your power to save.

I now live in [REDACTED] where a quite small area of green recreation space has recently been preserved from development, and designated as a village green. The council and the people triumphed together.



Please register my support for the creation of the proposed Bentley Conservation Area.

As a Bentley resident for over [REDACTED] years I regularly walk around this area and it would be reassuring for future generations to be able to protect this historic core of the village so that it can continue to be enjoyed as it has for the last few hundred years!

I believe this well researched plan for a Bentley Conservation Area should be approved to protect our Village surroundings.

[REDACTED]



Dear Sir,

I have lived in the proposed conservation area for [REDACTED] years. I have never felt at any time there is any need for a conservation area. We were all assessed for listing long ago , and the rules and regulations that apply from that listing have served us all very well .

The Handforth Surveys description of all the properties is a wonderful testament to this fact. The landscape between these very well spaced apart buildings consists of run of the mill , modern agricultural land .Bearing no “medieval” traces, of field patterns . The woodlands enjoy all the protections afforded to them ,plus we have a designated tree warden in the conservation area, so they are well protected .

I cannot see that any of the above are at risk and feel disappointed that Babergh feel this is a worth while cause to spend it's scant resources on. The one building that deserved all the care that Babergh could give it, the barn, has been allowed to become a a disgraceful eyesore . Come on Babergh, get your priorities right.

You've gone down a rabbit hole created by manipulative, over protective and totally over reacting privileged people. There are several inaccuracies in the Handforth survey, in an attempt to justify this whole fiasco, I shan't bore you with them, I will save them for the appeal.

But I will say that trusted people associated with this application assured some residents that the conservation area would have no impact on them .But when shown the rules and regulations that applied to residents in a conservation area, felt they had been deliberately misled.

We are all aware , that this application has nothing to do with “conservation” , but is being used to prevent the solar and gravel pit applications. Where have the conservation concerns been for the last twenty years as the barn deteriorated.? No , it's just the solar and gravel pits . Neither will have any impact on any of these properties.

[REDACTED] our beautiful church. [REDACTED] it will still be there, just the same, unharmed, when the proposed solar panels expire.

But the people of Bentley will be able to hold up their heads as we observe the damaging effects of climate change, over the coming years, because we will have done our bit to ameliorate it , by allowing the solar to go ahead , and kicking this conservation area into the long grass.

Please , let common sense rule the day .

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]



I have lived in the proposed conservation area for [REDACTED] years and object strongly to this proposal.

[REDACTED] I feel this proposal will catastrophically limit the future of a modern farm business. [REDACTED]

As for the arable fields in this proposed area that have no historic features, I believe this is a misuse of an application.

As for a tree warden attempting to monitor and grant trimming permissions on the many miles of woodland and mature tree hedges alongside arable fields on [REDACTED] farmland, I know this will be unworkable and untenable. These ancient trees have stood for hundreds of years and shall continue to without a Conservation Area or a tree warden. They are already protected so using them as an argument for a Conservation Area is misleading at best and a lie at worst.

It is apparent that the impetus for this Conservation Area seems to have been driven by a small, very privileged, group of people but will have long-lasting, negative and costly implications for normal working people for years to come if it goes through.

In my view, small family farms are becoming rarer than Heritages Sites and as such, I think some form of common sense should prevail. Protection, instead, should be given to the current farming families who will hopefully farm into the future rather than the Tollemache family who are long gone from this area.



Dear Mr Isbell

We have lived in [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] years, and raised [REDACTED] children here. We have loved its peace and unspoilt tranquillity and appreciated its historic connections. Recently it has been threatened by industrial development which would have destroyed its historic nature for ever.

While no one expects life to stand still, there are some aspects which are worth preserving, with minimum alteration. This is a precious survival from mediaeval times and beyond, with many ancient woodlands and historic buildings, preserved largely unchanged thanks to caring owners and good land management. How many villages can boast links with the Constables, Samuel Pepys and the Tollemaches? And we are in the Domesday Book.

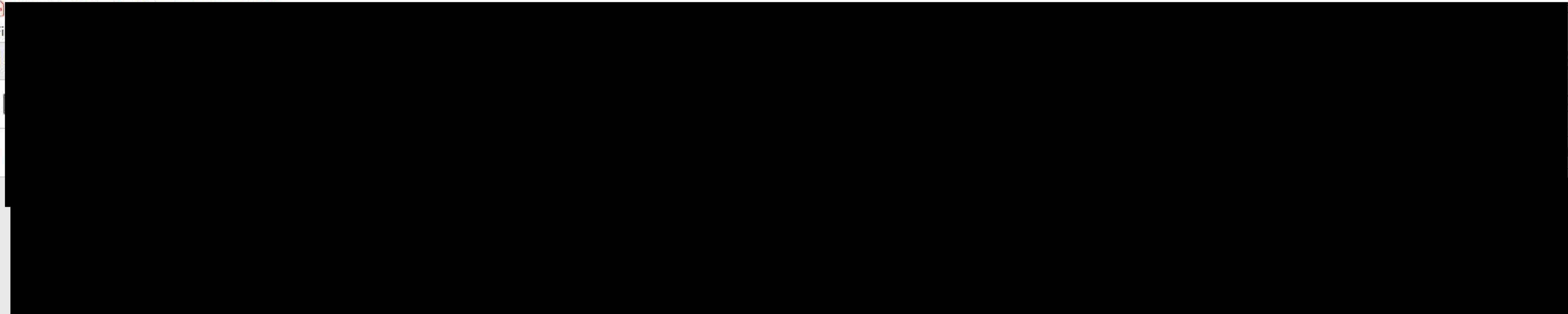
Once it's gone, it's gone. We can't put it back.

There will be inconveniences for residents and no doubt some extra form-filling but that is a small price to pay for the protection this designation affords.

Reading through the proposal it is evident that the criteria set by Historic England are met. Additionally the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan, reflecting the views of the Bentley community, expresses the wish that the area remains rural.

We strongly support the proposed designation..





Please take my comments below in full support of this important designation.  
Since 2018 I have been a full supporter of our democratically approved legal Neighbourhood Plan and having lived in Bentley for over [redacted] years and enjoyed walking around the village I understand that an approved Bentley Historic Core Conservation area would protect the whole area for future generations to enjoy.  
I agree with all the reasons put forward by Bentley Parish Council and others who fully support this designation.

[redacted] and we raise funds to pay for annual insurance and other essential conservation maintenance. [redacted] the rules of the Charity [redacted] to try to ensure the longevity of our Parish Church which features on the northern edge of the proposed Conservation area.  
Please register my full personal support for this Conservation area designation.

Kind regards





**EXTERNAL EMAIL: Don't click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Click [here](#) for more information or help from Suffolk IT**

**BENTLEY PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Further to BDC Public Drop-In Meeting of 16 January 2025 and original emailed comment of 12 January I would like to add the following:  
One doesn't wish to be critical or negative but it's impossible not to be. Relevant Babergh parties both executive and elected need to take a long look at how this has been done. If matters cannot be done openly, with full transparency and those affected fully engaged from the beginning then they should not be done at all. Credibility of both parish and district councils has been tarnished.

The former introduced this as a confidential item in May 2024, excluding those it represents and has never engaged with them, not even those directly affected within and around this proposed area. Because of that, as far as this household is concerned this matter has never had credibility. It has clearly been introduced primarily to counter planning application.

Then there is the cost. Bentley PC did not engage with those it represents yet spent £6975 of public money on the CAAMP. That was matched by Babergh. Did Babergh know parishioners had not been engaged and could Babergh care less? Indeed, are parishioners even regarded as relevant to this? There are those who not feel like it. And how much was spent by Babergh on its commissioned ICENI Review?

Is there nothing better to do with public money than pander to a parish council that ignores its parishioners? I don't want to live in a 16<sup>th</sup> century feudal village where a small body of influence holds sway over everyone and ignores them. But I obviously do.

Babergh's role in this attracts no merit – with the notification or otherwise of stakeholders/residents being nothing short of inadequate. It is fair to suggest Babergh has been made aware of that both in writing and at public drop-in meeting held 16 January 2025. Babergh officers are also aware of opposition to this and would have been made aware a lot earlier had this been done in a credible manner. The origins of this leave questions unanswered and to put it mildly, that does not sit well. A good few think this is a fait accompli and that the meeting of 16 January was window dressing, or given its location, perhaps that should be stained glass window dressing. Who can blame them? One has to wonder if a three hour window on a weekday afternoon during working hours outside of the main body of the village and originally scheduled 8 days before the end of consultation period ( had it not been extended due to notification issues) was sufficient.

Regardless, it remains to be seen whether Babergh pays regard to those with concern and objection to this. There is no need for such a large area. I fail to see how it can be described as having any special character.

This household has seen holding letter of Objection which alone clearly counters content of the CAAMP and awaits full report. Not least is the point that the boundary of a conservation area should comprise only the historic core and not the surrounding agricultural landscape. There is no 'special interest' there apart from that to counter planning application.

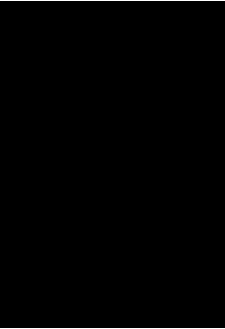
Will any following Report countering the Draft CAAMP be posted online for public consumption or are we expected to accept the draft CAAMP as the definitive work on this matter? Because many certainly do not. Will public comments of all persuasions be made available? If not, why not? What happened to 'full, open and engaged.'? (ICENI. P6.)

████████████████████ whilst having no enthusiasm for such designation there might be compromise in the form of a reduced area. Having spoken to Heritage expert with contrary view to the CAAMP and residents who live in and work this area and its land, it is now of the opinion that such proposed Area would be more negative than positive and should most definitely be very considerably reduced if indeed it is to be designated at all. Leave the Farmers alone. Leave those residents within this proposed area who do not want this, alone, and do not burden them with unnecessary bureaucracy. And pay more attention to them than high status dwellings which will remain unaffected either way.



And prioritise devising a credible protocol for future such designation requests that is not a total embarrassment, manipulation of the concept of Conservation Area to help sway planning decisions and insults people. e.g. Advise parish councils Babergh will not get involved until parish councils have engaged fully with parishioners. And that not one penny of public money will be spent until it can be shown parish councils have done so. And if district council is to disappear, hopefully parish council will follow. Because this has had nothing to do with local democracy.

Consultation? That should have begun from the very start way back last year. Asking question recently has been as pointless as someone in front of a firing squad asking where they get their rifles.



I am objecting to my property being included within the conservation area.

I would like to object to my property being included in the proposed conservation area.

I find the guidance for what requires planning permission within a conservation area vague and ambiguous.

The first I knew of this application for the conservation area was once the "Bentley Historic Core Proposed Conservation Area: Appraisal and Management Plan", had been submitted to Babergh. I would like to think that as my property is in the proposed area I might have been consulted as the plan was being created. I was told by the Bentley Parish council that this application was not at their request, which might account for the nil contact prior to submission.

Notes and observations with respect to the report/Public consultation/Conservation Advice 1<sup>st</sup> edition:


- 1) The ariel view of [REDACTED] are outdated being over 10 years old and [REDACTED]
- 2) Para "Altering existing buildings in Conservation Areas" pages 10/11, comment is made that "increases the value of properties in the area", this is at odds with "Search and comment on a planning application" (<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/application-search-and-comment-accesses> 8 Jan 25), where it states; effect upon property values, do not count as a material planning consideration, and yet it is stated as though this is a positive.
- 3) Although, at the public consultation the planning officer stated that a telephone call could mitigate against a planning application being required and the associated costs, this is not documented and could be revoked with a change of staff or policy.
- 4) The title of the proposed conservation area seems misleading, it is referring to the Historic "Core", when in fact the proposed area covers approximately half the area of Bentley village. So how can it be the core? If I purchase an apple and half of it was core, I would be most peeved
- 5) From the Handforth report, "*The special interest of the Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area is predominantly derived from its connection with the Tollemache family who consolidated four manors at Bentley in the 16th century, enlarging an estate which they had held since at least 1200*" However in the current climate is it right to hold this family in such reverence, with regard to their participation in slavery? "*Tollemache received £12,669 2s 7d in March 1839 as compensation for the emancipation of 822 formerly enslaved men and women on his late father's six sugar plantations in Antigua. He had also inherited an initial £10,000 after his father's death in 1837.*" English Heritage: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/beeston-castle-and-woodland-park/history/#:~:text=Tollemache%20received%20%C2%A312%2C669%202s,his%20father's%20death%20in%201837>. Accessed 14Feb 25



[REDACTED]

---

**Subject:** Proposed Heritage Conservation Area in Bentley

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL: Don't click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Click [here](#) for more information or help from Suffolk IT**

Dear Sirs

The Bentley Heritage public meeting in January was a disgrace.

Many major stakeholders, business owners and households were not even informed of the event.

The Church was too small and inconvenient for the meeting. Displays were all cramped together up one corner. This didn't allow the public to 'flow' around them. Babergh officials and Parish Councillors were not wearing identification tags which would have been more helpful.

Wheelchair access to displays was impossible and the opening hours of the meeting did not allow people at work to attend. How was this a fair and democratic public meeting for all?

This event should have been held in the village hall.

The show-stopper of the afternoon was when Councillor Busby admitted to several of us that the Heritage Area scheme was indeed "***only created to stop the proposed solar farm and quarry development***". This now fits in with the tree and bush removal on the South facing aspect of the churchyard - facing proposed solar farm. This tree work was instigated by [REDACTED] in January 2024 in his email to the Bentley Parish chairman. This work was carried out on 14 February 2024.

[REDACTED] has been totally misrepresented in the Handforth Report.

I spoke to [REDACTED] at the church event, and he admitted to me that the picture shown in his report [REDACTED] had been taken by him from [REDACTED] and he'd needed to walk around a blind corner to gain the photograph.

[REDACTED]

The medieval theme of [REDACTED] portrayed in the heritage report is rather diminished by firstly, the nearby railway line with the non-stop train warning hooters from 6am until twelve midnight (because of the three PROW crossings over the tracks) and secondly the combined noise of the A12 and A137.

Regards

[REDACTED]

## Proposed Conservation Area - Bentley Historic Core

I wish it to be noted that I am a resident of Bentley, a fairly new one, [REDACTED] and have come to love and appreciate the unique historic evidence of this particular site. I have got to know the area fairly intimately, helped by ‘lock down’ where I first took my steps along Bentley’s Lanes, bridleways and footpaths to discover this incredible and fairly untouched area hidden away off the A12.

It is remarkable that there are so many Listed and significant buildings in the area that make up a distinctive historic landscape and to be able to trace where this landscape has matured and evolved from, this being the Domesday Book - Enclosures Act and Modern Farming where now all come together to provide what is an incredible history lesson for all to learn from and for those who will follow us. There is a timeless relationship between the landscape and buildings which needs to be preserved for future generations to experience and embrace personally.

Alongside all of the ancient coppices and woods, and trees which make up the varied woodlands there is also the provision of habitat and sanctuary for protected species (under the Wild Life and Countryside Act 1981) of dormice, bats, badgers, invertebrates et al. It is also home for species of Moths and Butterflies which are becoming increasingly threatened by industrial intrusion into their rural sanctuaries.

I therefore robustly support the Conservation Area of Bentley’s Historic Core and trust it will be preserved and treasured for the uniqueness that it is.



>> I strongly support the proposal to designate “Bentley Historic Core” as a conservation area. This is a remarkable and beautiful surviving area of Ancient Countryside. I first visited the area on a cycling tour in the [REDACTED] and was astonished to find such well preserved countryside and woodland so close to Cambridge and Ipswich. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I am determined to ensure that it is preserved for the benefit of future generations.

>>

>> We are very fortunate that the woods and landscape have survived in such good condition from the Middle Ages up to the present time.

>>

>> Unfortunately, there has recently been increasing pressures to develop parts of the area both from government and from landowners. This is clear from recent planning applications to develop the area for gravel extraction (Brockley Wood) and a solar park (Grove Farm Solar). Both of these developments have been resisted so far but without additional protection it is only a matter of time before these or similar developments are allowed. This will destroy the unique character of the area. Whilst it is true that a conservation area may add an unwanted element of bureaucracy to living and working in the area (such as notification for tree pruning) I believe that this is a very small price to pay to ensure the preservation of this unique area.

Yours faithfully



EXTERNAL EMAIL. DON'T CLICK any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Click [here](#) for more information or help from Suffolk IT

## Proposed Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area

Having lived in [REDACTED] Bentley, [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] years [REDACTED] we wholeheartedly support the proposal to create a conservation area to preserve and enhance the historic and unique character of the surrounding farm land and woodlands.

[REDACTED]

We very much hope the council will see fit to create this conservation area.

Kind regards