

I wholeheartedly support the proposal to create a Conservation Area in Bentley.

The area embraces many valuable landscape views, woodlands, listed buildings and other non-designated structures. These are all worthy of protection against encroachment by building works or any other form of future development, including housing, renewable energy installations and power lines.



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I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area, which is currently under consultation. The affected area consists of beautiful, peaceful countryside dotted with several historic buildings, crossed with footpaths and bordered by quiet lanes that are used extensively for recreational purposes by walkers, riders and cyclists. This is prime agricultural land, and its preservation would help contribute to our country's food security.

A conservation area would protect local biodiversity and the rural character of Bentley village, and would help prevent inappropriate development by local landowners.



### 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,

Conservation Area Consultation addendum.

Since I forwarded my views on the proposed conservation area, I have become aware the Tollemache family estate was heavily involved in slavery. They owned of some 1,000 slaves on six estates in Antigua until slavery was bought to an end by the British government. The government later paid substantial compensation for the loss of these slaves to the 1st Barron Tollemache as owner-in-fee.

At the time Bentley Old Hall was part of this estate and the obvious assumption is it was maintained by income from slavery. Further research is currently being undertaken into documentation of local resentment at the time. Evidence is coming to light of a local sugar boycott from the revulsion of the slavery connection.

St Mary's being the parish church to the Tollemache family may also be connected to this odious ownership. The church is essentially a 19th Century rebuild, largely the work of diocesan surveyor Richard Phipson, so very little of anything older has survived. As the church is constantly locked I have been unable to gain access to see if it contains memorials to the Tollemache family for the relevant period. However, I do understand there is a substantial memorial at Helmingham that was originally made for St. Mary's Church.

The current strongly held opinions on slavery do not make this an attractive element for the conservation area. It will further be a source of embarrassment as neither Bentley Parrish nor Babergh councils appear to be aware of this slavery aspect. It appears both councils have actively funded and promoted the proposed conservation area without revealing any of this. If the proposal did go ahead, a slavery warning notice would have to accompany any documentation and promotional material.

Once again, I am totally unable to support this conservation area proposal.



**Dear Sirs** 

I write as part of the Babergh Council consultation in its proposal to designate a conservation area in the northern part of Bentley

The area is within a designated and important landscape and an integral part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths - a hugely valuable and important landscape containing an area of important and historic buildings

I am therefore in full support of the proposal

Yours sincerely



To Philip Isbell, Acting Director of Planning - Sustainable Communities

Dear Mr Isbell,

Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area

I fully support the idea of a Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area as laid out in the CAAMP by Handforth Heritage dated November 2024. I would urge the Council to finalise and confirm the CAAMP as it stands.

The whole cluster of church and historic buildings in this proposed conservation area warrants protection (figure 8 on CAAMP page 12), as do ancient woods and the productive, sustainably farmed land.

Among the many benefits protection should bring is that of relief to Grade 1-listed Bentley Hall Barn, the one building among all the others of historical significance here that is derelict (CAAMP page 16).

Another crucial benefit is protection of immediate views out of the area. CAAMP page 27 states that development within the proposed area or its environs should consider the types of views identified. Please note therefore that views identified at 18, 19, 20, and 21 in figure 17 on CAAMP page 28 take in land just outside the proposed conservation area that is subject to an application for industrial development (see Re-Consultation on RSCC/0105/22B - Brockley Wood). Such development on that site runs counter to the conditions of the proposed conservation area and should be stopped by it.





The facts speak for themselves:

- Of the 27 Conservation Areas in Babergh, 23 of them were first designated in the seventies, 3 of them in the eighties and 1 of them (the HMS Ganges site - 60 acres) in 2010

To be rushing through a brand new designation in 2025 makes it worthy of careful scrutiny.

- Of those 27 Conservation Areas, the average size is 116 acres.

This proposal is nearly a whopping 1,500 acres, once again, this unusually large area (of which 90% is farmland) is odd. It goes against the guidance which this document gives about farmland:

Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management Historic England Advice Note 1 (Second Edition) (2019):

"Conservation area designation is not generally an appropriate means of protecting the wider landscape "

The designation includes several large fields of around 100 acres, none of which hold any special historic significance or uniqueness.



This brings me to the attachment which comes with my comments. This revelation from Bentley Parish Council's Councillor Mr Michael Bamford, has shaken my confidence in the consultation process. It appears that council could be using this platform as a way to frustrate or block agricultural growth in the village.



This brings me to my second point, the Handforth Heritage report included some errors. I am sure Mr Handforth did a thorough survey during the few hours he was visiting Bentley, but as someone who has lived here for years, I can probably give a more accurate account.

On page 4, he describes Bentley as :

"The area retains unique, quiet, intimate, small scale rural qualities, characterised by fields, many of which are accessible via public footpaths"

There is nothing "small scale" about Bentley farms. Perhaps 100 years ago, but not today.

I have attached photos of the fields which are included in the CA proposal.

I shall let you decide if they appear "initmate" .

I sincerely hope Babergh takes this consultation time to rethink its plans in light of the impact it will have on the agricultural industry here **agricultural** The Tolllemaches were famous for their farming skills, in the book - The Tollemaches of Helmingham and Hams by EdwardTollemache 1949.

It reads how his Grandfather, Lord John Tollemache (1804 - 1890) was rewarded for his contributions to agriculture, it reads:

In 1876 he was created Baron Tollemache of Helmingham, as a reward for the great good he had done for his country as the leading agriculturist of his day.

His labours in the interests of his tenant farmers and the poorer classes of Agricul<sup>¬</sup> turists were widely felt and appreciated. His total expenditure on farmsteads and cottages up to 1881 amounted to -£280,000."













#### Representation Form

e and the only be retained for the purposes of this consultation.

You can make comments here -

Reference my email to the carried 12/11/2025 - 13.16.

Or alternatively complete the questions on the next page -



Do you agree that the draft Bentley Conservation Area Appraisal provides an accurate assessment of the character and appearance of the area?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Don't know

Other, please provide further comment

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Do you agree with the conclusions of the principles set out in the Bentley **Conservation Area Appraisal** 

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If so, please provide your comments below

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### **Representation Form**



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Or alternatively complete the questions on the next page -





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If so, please provide your comments below

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THIS is RIDICULOUS.

Or alternatively complete the questions on the next page -





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If so, please provide your comments below



#### **Representation Form**

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You can make comments here -My initial view of the conservation area proposalwois that it was a disgraceful abuse of public policy engineered by " I mell wonker of influential (and in some cases easily influenced) individuals to serve their own interests. Having altended the public consultation my current view is that my initial assessment was generous. Things are far worse than I thought This public session was an other shambles. I only found out about this form because someone give me a wypy after the event. It was impossible to hell who was who. No one had a name brodge. The resources were limited to a ten maps propped up on chairs. The Parish Concillors refused to answer queitions. The church wurden started noisily setting down chairs and tables from 4:15pm mounds - hurrying the event to a close. The biggest single contern however was that no -on from Babergh wanted to histen. to the concerns that me Or alternatively complete the questions on the next page -being raised by business owners and residents who will be affected by this populat of implemented. No notes were beig taken - these torms were not being thided or hand Bubergh officers were more interested in hyiz to convince

vs that black is white Thewhole exercise was self serving

which bings me main to me prose perat. This toom is not a substitute for comments on the actual poposal theil which will be made separately.

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### Question 4

#### Do you have any further issues you would like to raise with the draft Bentley Conservation Area?

If so, please provide your comments below

So many issues - all the subject of ongoing enquiries and to be varied in due course.



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Contact email:

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Other, please provide further comment

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# Do you have any further issues you would like to raise with the draft Bentley Conservation Area?

If so, please provide your comments below


Babergh District Council

I am a resident in the proposed conservation area and I fully support the application by Bentley Parish Council. This unique area must be preserved so the future generations can also enjoy this medieval landscape.



 $i \gg_{c} FAO$  - Philip Isabell Dear Sir I am writing to express our carefully considered views as a household directly affected by the proposed Conservation Area which the council has put forward. I have taken time to read the report that has been written and find that it has a very insular approach of the village that we live in. The report seems to be centered around 4 country houses. Whilst I appreciate the importance of these houses, they do not in my view , bear any significance to the character and appearance of the area. Most of these houses are hidden away and are not available for public access. Bentley is a quiet village with many diverse dwellings complimenting many decades of architecture and with respect it is not and will never be a  $\hat{a} \in \infty$  bourton on the water $\hat{a} \in \square$  Some of the comments made regarding the buildings in the report I find offensive and contradictory.

and perhaps the report is working to an agenda for the people who do not want to see progress in the village. I also find it astonishing that the council would support a report which concerns itself with the health and Wellbeing of buildings and not the health of its residents. I also found the comments on neighbours fencing unnecessary. Everybody deserves some privacy in their gardens. The fact that not all of us live in big country houses in acres of land where privacy is not an issue doesnâ $\in^{TM}$ t mean that supporters of this plan and the council can tell us what other households can and cannot do in their own properties. We moved to Bentley for a quieter life and to preserve our property and its original features. I take exception to being told what I can and cannot do to better my property just because other individuals do not want to move with the times. Bentley has been under attack by various plans for quarries, housing developments and solar farms so I understand why people are getting behind the conservation area debate. However, times are changing and we have to accept a certain amount of controlled change. People need homes and people need energy. We cannot stand in the way of progress. In conclusion, I would like to confirm that as a resident within the proposed area, I strongly disagree that there is a need for a conservation area to be put in place. I do not agree with the conclusions of the report and do not support any boundary changes.

### > Babergh District Council

Dear sir/madam,

#### >

> I am a resident within the proposed conservation area and I fully support the application by Bentley Parish Council.

> This unique area must be preserved so the future generations can also enjoy this medieval landscape.

It seems to me the the duty of present residents to make sacrifices to preserve this historic conservation area, even it is at our own expense.





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Dear Mr Isbell,

I have been following closely the proposal from the Bentley Parish Council to designate a new Conservation area in the Parish of Bentley and the formation of a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP).

I would like to firmly register our family's support for this proposal.

I am very aware of the historic significance of

the church, farmland, farmsteads, woodlands and historic manor houses and am keen to ensure their protection. We believe that the CAAMP will help preserve and protect this historic setting and provide comfort to the residents who live there and who benefit most from the surrounding area.

It is evident when reading the Handforth Heritage management plan, quite how many sites of Architectural and Historic interest there are, including wonderful ancient woodland. It would be devastating to see this changed or developed without effective consultation. I believe the CAAMP will help highlight the many sensitivities that need to be taken into consideration and provide a framework at a time when the future of the English Countryside is at risk.

Thank you for allowing this consultation period to be extended and providing a means to register our support.

With sincere thanks





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Dear Heritage Team,

### Subject: Full Support for Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area Designation

I strongly support the proposed designation of the Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area. This area holds exceptional architectural and historic significance, preserving a rare medieval landscape with buildings retaining their original character. Further research may uncover even earlier elements, reinforcing its value.

Its royal connections—including the Tollemache family and the Crown—along with ties to early landowners linked to the founding of the United States, add to its historical importance. The proposed larger designation, encompassing ancient woods, historic parkland, and unchanged agricultural fields dating back to the Tudor period, ensures a comprehensive approach to preservation.

This proposal meets Historic England's Conservation Area Criteria:

- a) The area holds special architectural and historic interest.
- b) Its unique character and appearance reflect this significance.
- c) Designation is essential to preserve and enhance these qualities amid modern development pressures.

Eminent ecologists, such as Oliver Rackham, have documented its medieval landscape and ancient woodlands, further underscoring the need for protection. Public footpaths, bridleways, and roads allow residents and visitors to experience this tranquil rural setting.

I strongly urge the council to approve this designation, safeguarding Bentley's heritage for future generations.

### Yours sincerely,





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# Subject: Strong Support for Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area Designation

Dear Heritage Team,

I fully support the designation of the Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area. This remarkable landscape preserves medieval heritage, with historic buildings retaining their original character and potential earlier elements yet to be uncovered.

The area's royal connections—including the Tollemache family and the Crown—along with ties to early American landowners, further enhance its significance. The proposed broader designation, encompassing ancient woods, historic parkland, and unchanged agricultural fields dating to the Tudor period, ensures comprehensive protection.

Meeting Historic England's Conservation Area Criteria, the area:

- a) Holds special architectural and historic interest.
- b) Reflects this significance through its unique character.
- c) Requires designation to safeguard against modern development threats.

Experts like Oliver Rackham have highlighted its rare medieval landscape and ancient woodlands, reinforcing the need for preservation. With public footpaths and bridleways offering access to this tranquil setting, protecting Bentley's heritage benefits both residents and visitors.

I urge the council to approve this designation to preserve this invaluable historic landscape for future generations.



We are writing in support of the proposed Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area.

The Appraisal and Management Plan produced by Handforth Heritage makes the historic significance of the buildings within the proposed conservation area clear. As people who have lived locally for most of our lives, we feel that buildings such as St Mary's Church are beautiful and well-loved and should be preserved for future generations. Bentley Hall Barn (Grade I listed) is of particular historical interest, being, as the Management Plan states, possibly the longest timber-framed barn dating to the 15th century in the country. These buildings don't exist by themselves but are situated within a landscape that also deserves protection.

It is this landscape that we are most concerned about. The ancient woodlands within this area are beautiful and irreplaceable and are a part of our heritage in the same way that historic buildings are. Ancient woodland covers less than 3% of the UK and is a precious asset. At a time when nature is under significant threat, we should be doing all we can the protect biodiverse areas like these from harm. The ancient woodlands surrounding Bentley are of historic significance, but they are also of great value to those living locally in the present day, allowing people to connect with and spend time in nature – something that has immense benefits for mental health. We hope that they will survive for people of the future also.



#### Good afternoon

I am writing to express that I would like the conservation area to be approved. This would protect some very important medieval buildings and woodland assets within the boundary of Bentley village. These assets are associated with the tollemache family a family with a rich history that should be preserved for the benefit of all.



As a long term resident of Bentley

I would like to voice my support for the proposed conservation area.

I have read the report and congratulate those involved for their accurate appraisal and description of the neighbourhood involved.

As has been noted Bentley has many historic buildings dating back centuries and a valued landscape which encompasses ancient woodland and productive farmland which is worthy of conservation and protection. I am aware of past planning applications that seek to industrialize this essentially rural landscape which would be both inappropriate and damaging. Without protection we will inevitably lose something which I believe to be unique.

Within this ancient woodland and rural setting are many protected species including Hazel Dormice, various bat species, Birds, Badgers and invertebrates including moths, butterflies stag beetles - all of whom are in decline and in desperate need of habitat protection

I have walked the footpaths and bridleways of this locality for many years and feel it is as important (if not more so) than nearby Dedham Vale, it's peace, tranquility is enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and equestrians not only locally but also by many appreciative visitors to the area.

Without protection that this proposal gives I fear that this unique landscape will fall victim to the increasing spread of urbanisation that has claimed so much of our heritage.

As a Bentley resident I give my full support and backing to this proposal.





To: Heritage Team, Babergh District Council Attention: Philip Isbell, Acting Director of Planning

# BENTLEY HISTORIC CORE CONSERVATION AREA, PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Dear Sir

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to designate a conservation area in the parish of Bentley.

I have read the CAAMP, and it is clear that Bentley fulfils all the criteria for designation as a conservation area. It is an area of great historical significance, set in beautiful rural countryside with many buildings of important architectural interest as well as many attractive landscape features, especially ancient woodlands. I believe it is vitally important to conserve such rural idylls and protect them from future despoliation; the CAAMP makes an unassailable case for doing so, as well as setting out a clear and realistic plan to achieve this.

Having lived in Suffolk all my life, I have a keen interest in working for the preservation of our beautiful County for the benefit of this and future generations. With regard to Bentley, I have a particular family interest in ensuring that this unique corner of Suffolk is responsibly conserved.

remain a frequent visitor to Bentley and have many contacts and friends within the village.

I have become aware over the years of various proposed projects which would have had the effected of desecrating for ever this unique and historic rural area. Such projects, which seem to be motivated by nothing less than naked greed, are clearly inappropriate for this delightful village. It is therefore all the more important to act now to conserve Bentley; if it is once lost, it will be gone for ever.

Ι

Yours faithfully,





Proposed Conservation Area - Bentley Historic Core

I wish it to be noted that I am a frequent visitor to Bentley, being a close relative of a resident.

I have got to know the area well, enjoying the beauty and peace of Bentley's Lanes, bridleways and footpaths .This much loved mature, indeed, ancient landscape should be valued and preserved,

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.