

BACKGROUND INFO

Local Connection Test

With the adoption of the Housing Supplementary Planning Document (on 19th November 2024) the Councils introduced a local connection test for the self-build registers.

Applicants that can demonstrate a connection to the area they are looking to build in, are or have been a member of the Armed Forces, will be placed on Part 1 of the registers. All other applicants will be placed on Part 2.

- *Local Authorities have a duty to count entries on Part 1 of the register towards the number of suitable serviced plots that they must grant development permission for.*
- *There is no such duty for entries on Part 2 of the registers.*
- *The combined number of entries in Parts 1 & 2 is used when assessing needs at Local Plan level, to identify/designate land for self-build*

To be eligible for entry on Part 1 of the register for Babergh or Mid Suffolk areas, applicants must demonstrate they meet one of the following criteria:

- *Your only or principal home is in the authority in which you are looking to build and you have resided there for at least 2 years*
- *You have previously lived in the area (Babergh or Mid Suffolk) for three continuous years of the last five years*
- *You are permanently employed (i.e. not temporary or seasonal work) in the area (Babergh or Mid Suffolk)*
- *You have a child, sibling or parent who is aged 18 or over and lives in the area (either Babergh or Mid Suffolk) and has done so for at least five years*
- *You are aged 18-20 and have been placed in care in the area (Babergh or Mid Suffolk)*
- *You are in the service (or were in the immediately preceding five years) of the regular armed forces of the Crown*

Please Note: The Local Connection test will not be applied retrospectively, the Test will only apply to new entrants, to the Register, from 19th November 2024 (base period 10) onwards.