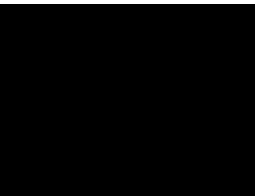


Hello,

I live at Bentley Park which is in the middle of the proposed conservation area. I fully support this proposal as it will retain the historical importance and outstanding beauty of the area which is enjoyed by many people from the village and the wider community of Suffolk.



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 "bourton on the water". Some of the comments made regarding the buildings in the report I find offensive and contradictory. For example; a comment was made and a photo taken of my residence. I believe the words were "unsympathic" upvc windows. However, the report then complemented plastic windows on another house. The fact that this house was a bigger, detached residence seems a little strange to me 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. (upvc windows are low maintenance and cheaper). 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 doesn'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.



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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 16th 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.

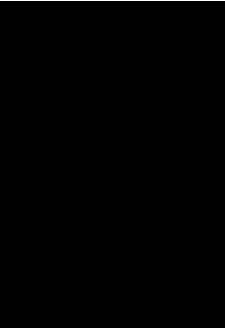
This household has seen holding letter of Objection which alone clearly counters content of the CAAMP and awaits full report. Not least is the point that the boundary of a conservation area should comprise only the historic core and not the surrounding agricultural landscape. There is no 'special interest'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

Originally this household in written comment suggested that 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.



> Babergh District Council

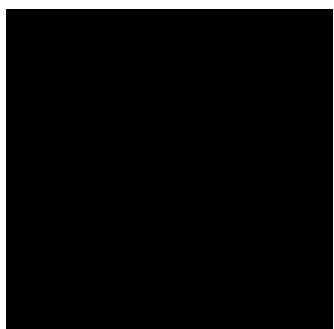
Dear sir/madam,

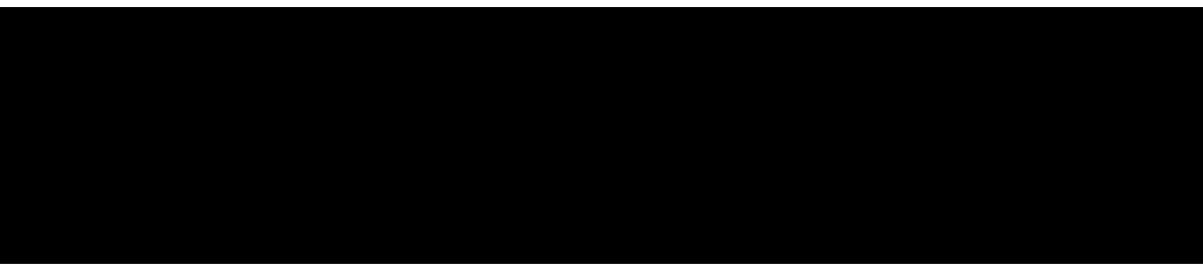
>

> 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).

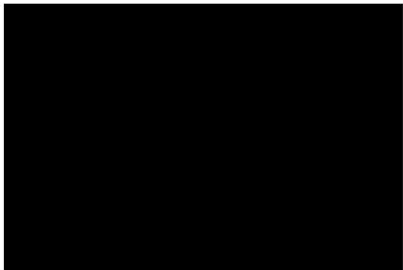
I would like to firmly register our family’s support for this proposal.

The Parish of Bentley has for centuries had a close connection with the Tollemache family and I have continued to visit the area with a number of family members still living there until recently. 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.

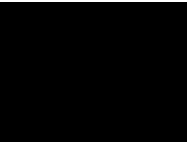
Its royal connections—including the Tollemache family and the Crown—along with ties to early landowners linked to the founding of the United States, add to its historical importance. The proposed larger designation, encompassing ancient woods, historic parkland, and unchanged agricultural fields dating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

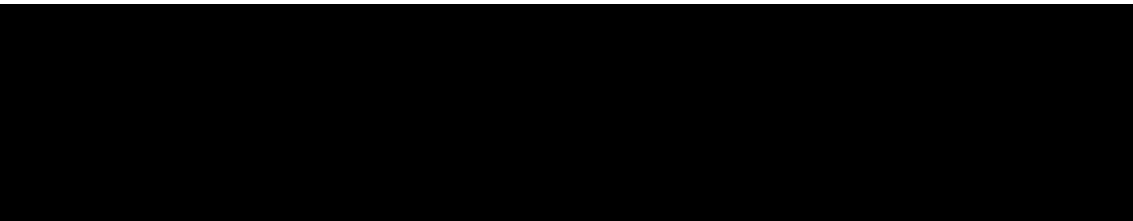
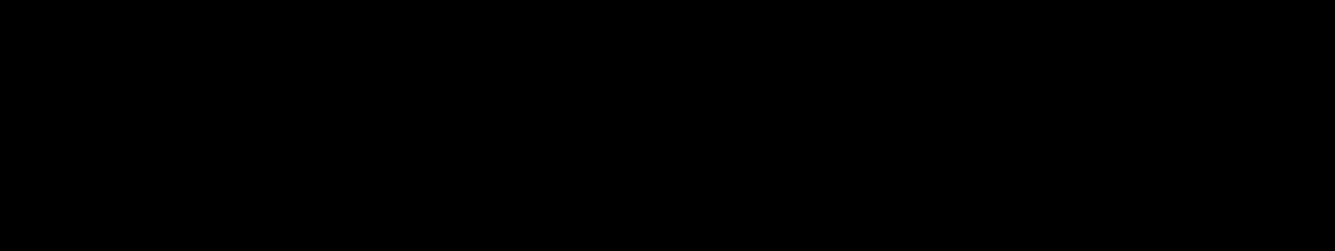
- This proposal meets Historic England’s Conservation Area Criteria:
- a) The area holds special architectural and historic interest.
 - b) Its unique character and appearance reflect this significance.
 - c) Designation is essential to preserve and enhance these qualities amid modern development pressures.


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,

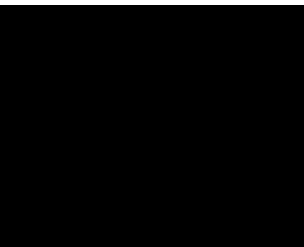
I fully support the designation of the Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area. This remarkable landscape preserves medieval heritage, with historic buildings retaining their original character and potential earlier elements yet to be uncovered.


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.



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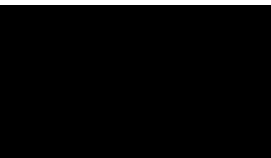
Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the Bentley Historic Core Proposed Conservation Area.

I have been a Bentley resident for 15 years and was attracted to the village because of it's quiet rural location. Since then I have taken great advantage of the many public footpaths on my daily dog walks around the village. I have taken great pleasure in the delightful landscape and enjoy seeing the variety of wildlife attracted to the woodland and farmlands. The village has a friendly has a thriving community feel, largely because it is in a quiet undeveloped area, therefore it is important that the rural character and appearance of the area is preserved.

Whilst I was aware of many of the old buildings within the village boundary, I had not appreciated the significance of their historic importance until reading this report. By designation the area it will further increase public awareness of the historic importance of the area and will likely encourage maintenance and enhancements to the structures and landscapes in the future.

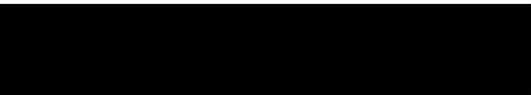
I had not realised that such a beautiful railway building had once stood at the site of the MOT garage, it is a real shame that this building has been lost. The designation of the area would mean that other such buildings may be retained for the future enjoyment of generations to come.

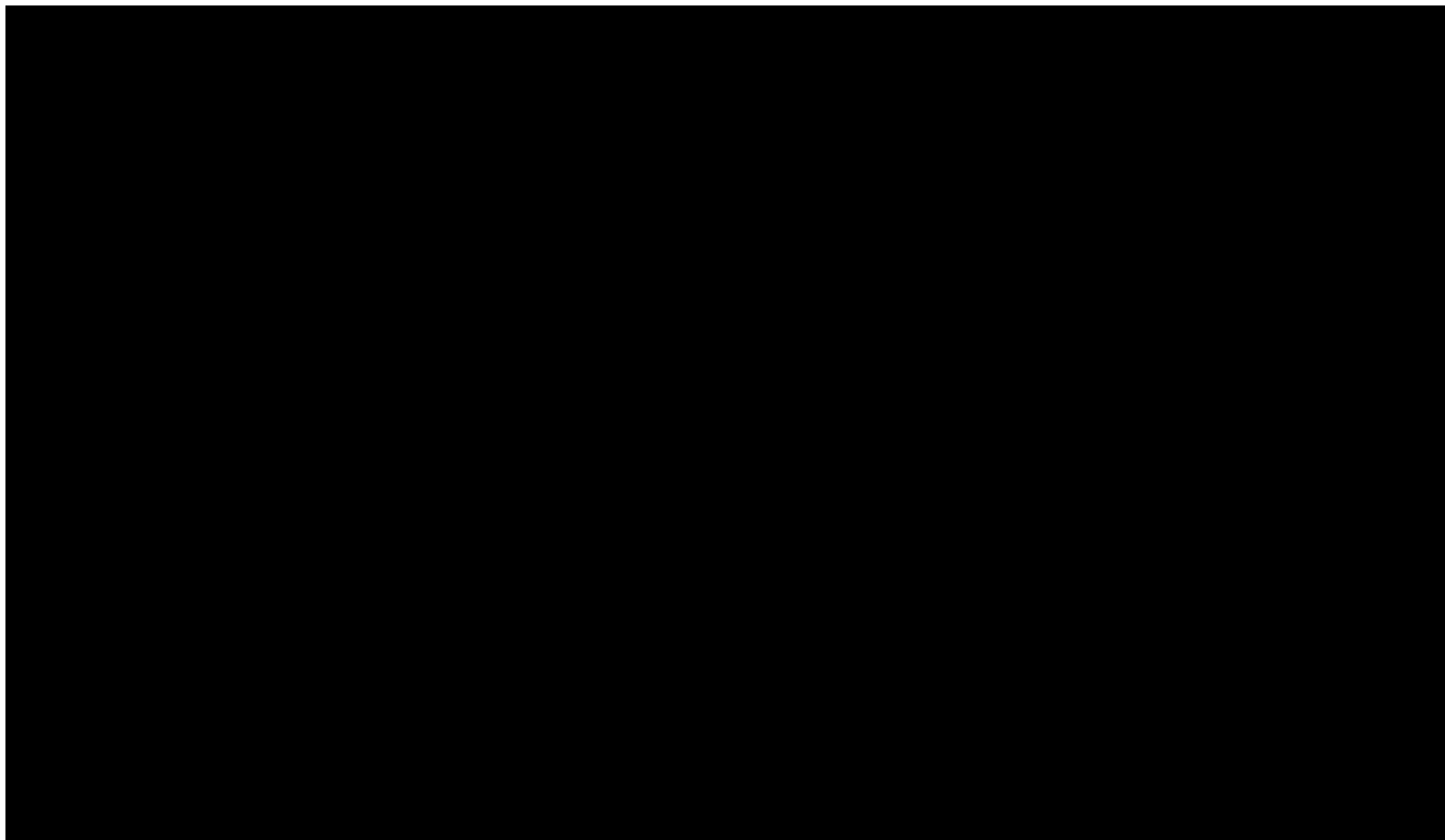


We are writing in support of the proposed Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area.

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 to 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.

