

BEDFORD BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN CALL FOR SITES SUBMISSION FORM

Please use this form to make a submission to the call for sites process and promote a site for development or redevelopment in the new Bedford Borough Local Plan. Be aware that all sites submitted during previous call for sites exercises must be submitted again to be considered as part of this Local Plan.

Wherever possible, sites should be submitted electronically through the council's online consultation system. The online system allows all details to be entered and allows for location plans to be drawn using the map function. Please complete a **separate form for each site**. If you are unable to use the online system, forms can be returned by email to <u>planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk</u> (please return as a WORD document) or by post to:

Bedford Borough Council Planning Policy Team Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP

Your suggested site cannot be considered if you do not send along with the completed submission form a **location plan** which clearly identifies the site boundary and point of access to a public highway. The council is unable to provide blank plans for this exercise, but Ordnance Survey plans of sites may be obtained via external companies that can be identified through an internet search (there may be a charge for this service).

Please do not make submissions in more than one format or send to more than one email address. If you have sent information on a site electronically you do not need to print and post it.

Putting a site forward does not guarantee that the council will allocate it or support its development in the future, as all sites will need to be assessed in terms of site suitability, availability and deliverability against relevant planning policy and other considerations including site constraints. Further information can be found in the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment Methodology and the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment Methodology.

This form and any information it contains will be published on the council's website in due course. Contact information will also be kept on the Planning Policy database for the purposes of communication regarding your site submission and the preparation of the Local Plan. Personal data will be collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulations. Further information can be found on the council's Data Protection webpage and in the Privacy Notices for planning policy.

	Personal details	Agent's details	(if applicable)
Title		Miss	
Name			
Job title (if applicable)		Director	
Organisation (if applicable)		CODE Developr	nent Planners
Address	c/o CODE Development Planners Ltd	17 Rosemary Ho Kentford	ouse, Lanwades Business Park,
Postcode		CB8 7PN	
Telephone no			
Email			
			both
Your interest (please <i>indicate</i>)	Land owner	Agent 🖂	Other (please specify)
Current owner's name and address			

1.SITE DETAILS									
a)	Address of site Please attach location plan on an Ordnance Survey base clearly showing site boundaries and access to an adopted highway.	Land east and west of Barford Road, Little Barford St Neots	of	d)	Adjoining land uses, if known.	North RWE power s Alington Road Indust South Agriculture East Agriculture West River Great C	rial Estate		
b)	Gross site area (hectares)	84		e)	Has the site been developed previously?	Yes ⊠ No □			
c)	Current use of the land	Manor House and associated buildings grounds, farm buildin and agricultural land							
2 PF	OPOSED USE								
2.1	What do you think the site should be use	ed for?							
а)	What is the primary use you propose for the site? Please tick one only	Housing Gypsy and Traveller Site Employment Retail Hotel All other types		b)	For mixed use proposals, what further uses do you propose for the site? Please tick as many as apply	Housing Gypsy and Traveller Site Employment Retail Hotel All other types			
2.2	What time and pools (might me of decision			hia si	422 Diagon complete all valorisator	ations holow			
2.2									
a)	For housing (C2/C3 use classes) sites please indicate								

i)	The number of dwellings the site could provide.	1,115-1,305 subject to proportion of mixed-use area and setting of listed buildings	iii)	The density you have assumed	30-35 dph away from listed buildings
ii)	The type of housing you are proposing	Family houses	iv)	The tenures you are proposing	Market housing Owner occupied Private rented housing Affordable Housing
		Flats Other			Affordable rent Shared ownership
		Please specify			Other Please specify
b)	For Gypsy and Traveller sites and Trave	elling Showpeople sites ple	ase in	dicate	
i)	If you are proposing the site as a permanent site or transit site.	N/A	ii)	If the site is privately owned.	Yes No Don't know
iii)	For a Gypsy and Traveller site the number of pitches and for Travelling Showpeople the number of plots the site could accommodate.	N/A			
c)	For employment (B1/B2/B8 use classes)	sites please indicate			
i)	The type of employment the site could provide.	B1, B2 and B8	ii)	The gross floor space the site could provide.	B1: 9,616-20,244m ² or B2: 7,191-15,176m ² or B8: 6,568-13,861m ² or a mix of these uses (mix subject to employment evidence)

d)	For retail sites (A1 only) please indicate							
i)	The type of retail you are proposing.	N/A	ii)	The net floor space that the site could provide.				
iii)	The gross floor space that the site could provide.	N/A						
e)	For hotel (C1 use class) sites please ind	icate						
i)	The number of hotel rooms the site could accommodate.	N/A						
f)	For all other types, including leisure and	recreation (D2 use class),	comr	nunity uses (D1 use class) and o	ther uses please			
i)	Quantify the amount of development you propose	Refer to AL2 representation (additional information sheets)	ii)	Fully describe the use here	It is anticipated that a development of this scale would be supported by D1 uses. The exact nature and scale of these uses will evolve in parallel with Bedford Borough Council's evidence base.			
3 AC	CESS							
3.1	Can suitable access be achieved for the site?	Suitable access is achievable The current access is unsuitable/requires improvement There is no access to an adopted highway	3.2	Where will the site's access point(s) be? Please give details here and show access on the site location plan.	Refer to drawing 60830-PP-005			

4 A\	4 AVAILABILITY AND ACHIEVABILITY CONSIDERATIONS								
4.1	Is the site available for development now?	Yes No		4.2	Is the site currently subject to a planning application?	Yes No			
		Don't know				Don't know			
4.3	Is the site currently being marketed?	Yes No		4.4	Please provide details of any evidence of market interest in the type of development you are proposing on this site		being held with evelopment agent		
		Don't know							
4.5	Are you the landowner of the site?	Yes No		4.6	If you are not the landowner of the site you are submitting, do you have permission to submit the site for the council's consideration on their behalf?	Yes No			
4.7	Are you aware of any issues that might affect the viability of developing the site?	Yes No			Please provide details				
5 DE	ELIVERABILITY AND DEVELOPABILITY C	ONSIDERATIO	ONS						
5.1	If the plan is adopted in December 2023 as currently proposed, when would you expect development to take place on site? (please write in)	Years 1-5 years (2024/25-202 6-10 years (2029/30-203 11-15 years (2034/35-203	420 33/34)	5.2	What year, post adoption, would you expect development to start on site?	2024			

		16+ years (2040 onwards)					
6 CLIMATE CHANGE							
6.1	6.1 The council has declared a climate emergency. Please explain how your proposal will respond to climate change (see <u>Local Plan 2030</u> Policy 51S)		app neig	site promotes sustainable transpor copriate layout, design and landsca hbourhoods, promote the use of re iencies in the fabric of the buildings	ping to encourage walkable newable energy and/or energy		

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL CALL FOR SITES, AUGUST 2020



REPRESENTATION

Client:	

Project: Local plan promotion
Site: AL2: Little Barford village

Date: 14 August 2020

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following representations should be read in conjunction with the call for sites form, drawing 068 001-002, Richard Jackson's Transportation Technical Note and drawing 60830-PP-005 in respect of site AL2 which proposes the expansion of Little Barford village to accommodate new housing and employment and associated infrastructure. Subject to further assessment these proposals could also accommodate a primary school and other community uses.
- 1.2 The proposed site comprises the site of the Manor House, Lower Farm Barns and fields (or defined areas within larger fields) on the west and east of Barford Road to create a sustainable settlement around the historic core the village with links north to St Neots.
- 1.3 In addition to the proposed site the control land edged blue on drawing 068-001-002 and wish to engage directly with members and officers of Bedford Borough Council as appropriate, to discuss the configuration of uses and associated infrastructure.
- 1.4 It is anticipated that as Bedford Borough Council progresses its evidence base in support of the preparation of the local plan review, flexibility will be necessary to ensure an allocation of the site accords with the tests of soundness. Such flexibility will also ensure that assessments and surveys undertaken in support of the site, on a proportionate basis aligned to the timing of stages of plan preparation, will inform the overall quantum of development and the infrastructure required to support it.
- 1.5 At this time based on available information the development of the site is deliverable over the plan period.
- 1.6 The representations are structured to aid assessment by Bedford Borough Council against criteria associated with the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment detailed in the July 2020 methodology.

2 Identification of sites and broad locations

2.1 Stage 1 of the methodology involves identifying potential sites and broad locations for development.

National Planning Practice Guidance identifies the following potential sources for development:



- Existing housing and economic development allocations and site development briefs not yet with planning permission.
- Planning permission for housing and economic development that are unimplemented or under construction.
- Planning permissions that have been refused or withdrawn.
- Land in the local authority's ownership.
- Surplus and likely to become surplus public sector land.
- Sites with permission in principle, and identified brownfield land.
- Vacant and derelict land and buildings.
- Additional opportunities in established uses.
- Business requirements and aspirations.
- Sites in rural locations.
- Large scale redevelopment and redesign of existing residential or economic areas.
- Sites in and adjoining villages or rural exception sites.
- Potential urban extensions and new free standing settlements.
- 2.2 Proposed site AL2 would aid in the delivery of development by providing an extension to the village of Little Barford. The proposed development areas would provide a mix of residential and employment uses on brownfield and greenfield sites to create a sustainable settlement around the historic core of the village with links north to St Neots. Employment land would adjoin the existing employment sites of RWE power station and Alington Road Industrial Estate. Subject to Bedford Borough Council's evidence base on employment need, this could deliver between 6,568sqm and 20,244sqm of B1, B2 and/or B8 floor space. Residential development would be provided around the core of the existing village extending northwards to the proposed employment. Between 1,115 and 1,305 new homes could be delivered.
- 2.3 The number of new homes achievable requires further assessment in relation to the setting of the listed buildings, specifically St Deny's Church and the listed barn within the Lower Farm barns complex.
- 2.4 Further assessment is also required to ascertain the importance of the vacant buildings comprising the Manor House and associated outbuildings and the complex of buildings at Lower Farm Barns. Subject to the conclusions of those assessments and Bedford Borough Council's and other stakeholders eg the NHS and clinical commissioning groups assessed needs, some of the buildings could be repurposed to provide community facilities such as doctors surgery or childcare facilities (a nursery or play group).
- 2.5 Site AL2 also includes proposals for the redevelopment of the Dower House. Based on historic mapping, to gauge relationships between St Deny's Church and previous built forms, it is proposed that up to 15 new homes could be provided on the Dower House site. This would provide for the removal of the Dower House and replacement with a built form that better respects its relationship with St Deny's Church.
- 2.6 The inclusion of additional land for residential development to the south and south east of the existing village would provide for a new primary school subject to the educational needs of the catchment area.



- 2.7 To aid Bedford Borough Council's judgement as to whether to progress the site through the HELAA process, an initial assessment follows. This has been prepared in the context of the four criteria (refer below) set out in the July 2020 methodology.
 - Sites delivering fewer than five dwellings' or economic development on sites of less than 0.25ha.
 - Sites that are not in accordance with the development strategy of the emerging local plan.
 - Sites that are within a designated site of special scientific interest or Natura 2000 site.
 - Sites within flood zones 3a or 3b.
- 2.8 The accompanying call for sites submission form details that site AL2 is proposed to deliver between 1,115 and 1,305 dwellings and between 6,568sqm and 20,244sqm gross employment floorspace and has a site area of 84ha. The range of new homes that could be delivered will depend on the number of new homes that can be provided in areas of the site affected by the settings of listed buildings and the average density (these figures are based on 30-35dph in areas not restricted by the settings of listed buildings). An assumption has also been made that one primary school site of circa 2ha would also be required. The areas identified for employment assume that B1(a), B1(b), B1(c), B2 and B8¹ would be appropriate in the locations identified, however, the type of businesses that need to be provided for, the mix of employment use classes, storey heights etc needs to be discussed further with Bedford Borough Council in relation to its employment land availability and need assessments.
- 2.9 Given this is the initial call for sites for the local plan review there is little detail on the emerging development strategy for the Bedford Borough Council area. As highlighted above the site would support the broad locations suitable for potential development as outlined in National Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.10 The site is not located within a designated site of special scientific interest (SSSI) or a Natura 2000 site. The site is located within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone. However, given the sites distance from the SSSI only very specific types of development would require LPA consultation with Natural England none of which are proposed.
- 2.11 The site is not located within flood zones 3a or 3b.

3 Site assessment

3.1 Stage two of the assessment involves assessing whether the site is, suitable for the type of development proposed, available and achievable.

3.2 Suitability

3.2.1 National Planning Practice Guidance advises that a site or broad location can be considered suitable if

¹ Use classes E, B2 and B8 from 1 September 2020



it would provide an appropriate location for development when considered against relevant constraints. In the Bedford context there are a number of particular circumstances where sites may be excluded on suitability grounds. These include sites that:

- Do not relate well to the structure of the settlement and existing facilities. In many cases, to relate
 well will mean that the site should be within or adjoin the settlement policy area or the urban area
 or be within the built form of a defined small settlement. This is particularly important for residential
 development proposals.
- Would harm Local Green Space designated either through a local plan or a neighbourhood development plan. Government guidance gives Local Green Space a similar status to Green Belt, where inappropriate development should not be allowed except in very special circumstances.
- Would cause substantial harm to heritage assets. Heritage assets include designated conservation
 areas, listed buildings, areas of archaeological importance, scheduled monuments, registered
 parks and gardens or ridge and furrow earthworks. Only where the development of a site is likely
 to have a seriously harmful impact is it considered to make the site unsuitable.
- Have overriding access constraints that cannot be overcome.
- 3.2.2 Site AL2 is located immediately south of the RWE power station and the Huntingdonshire town of St Neots, providing nearby facilities and employment opportunities. AL2 also includes the proposed development of employment land to the immediate south west of the RWE power station and south of Alington Road Industrial Estate, identified by the Bedford Borough Council as a key employment site which could be further enhanced with the development of site AL2.
- 3.2.3 The site would provide no harm to any Local Green Space designations.
- 3.2.4 Two listed buildings are located within the proposed development site; Parish Church of Saint Denys (Grade II*) and Lower Farm Barn (Grade II) and a third listed building, Lower Farmhouse (Grade II) is within close proximity of the site. Special care will be taken to ensure that the setting of the listed buildings is not adversely affected. As shown in the supporting plans the proposal includes the reduction in the density of development heading south towards both Lower Farm Barn and especially St Deny's Church. A detailed heritage assessment will be submitted at a later date, which will inform the scale, siting and form of development within the settings of these listed buildings.
- 3.2.5 Access to the site is currently provided by junctions onto Barford Road. Additional access points will be required to support the proposal via junction types appropriate to the development or the provision of roundabouts. Further details of the access proposals can be found in the Transportation Technical Note submitted in to support of this call for sites submission and are displayed on drawing 60830-PP-005.
- 3.2.6 National Planning Policy Guidance also advises that physical limitations including hazardous risk may make sites unsuitable. Given the proposed site's proximity to RWE power station advice was sought using the HSE Planning Advice Web App. The site identified currently lies within the consultation

Call for Sites: Site AL2 – Little Barford village 14 August 2020 Page 5 of 6



distance (CD) of at least one major hazard site and/or major accident hazard pipeline. Development proposals have been designed to provide a layout that would satisfy the HSE methodology for suitable development within the consultation zone. Residential and employment development proposed in the outer zone whilst the inner zones will be used for recreational purposes. Within the park/green grid there may be potential for more formal recreation including the provision of sports pitches. The precise form of recreational uses is to be determined in consultation with Bedford Borough Council and HSE guidance.

- 3.2.7 The park/green grid will provide sustainable connections from the south eastern part of the site to the historic core of the village. Background analysis has been undertaken to ensure that the principles of walkable neighbourhoods can be achieved.
- 3.2.8 The different character areas that evolve from the varied settings to areas of the site will provide the potential for more than one area of the site to be developed at any one time to assist Bedford Borough Council with its housing supply.

3.3 Availability

3.3.1 The call for sites submission form demonstrates the availability of the site for development. The entirety of the site is under single ownership and there is a willingness on behalf of the landowners to engage with Bedford Borough Council to support the delivery of future development.

3.4 Achievability

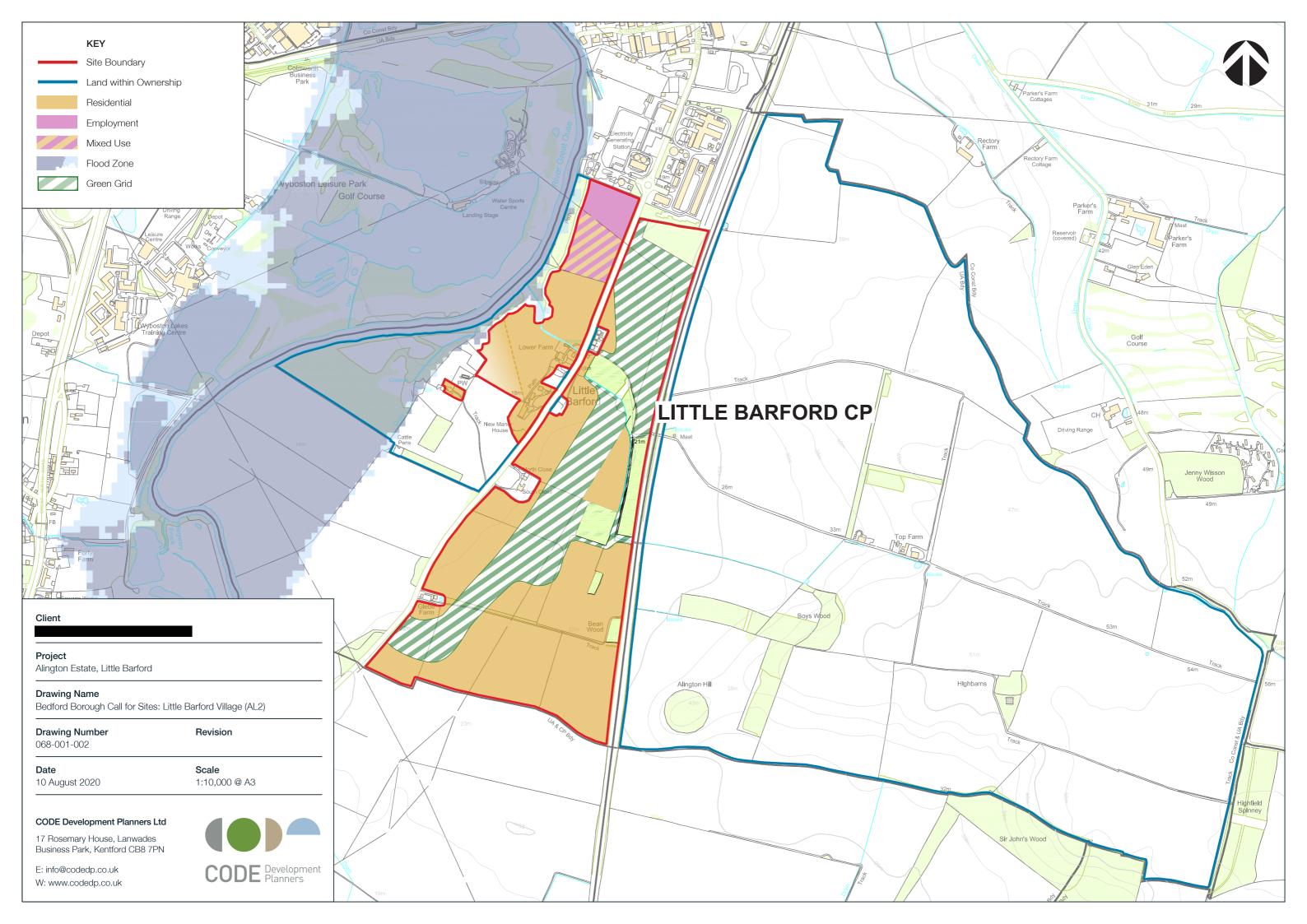
- 3.4.1 National Planning Practice Guidance advises that a site should be considered achievable for development where there is a reasonable prospect that the particular type of development will be developed on the site at a particular point in time. This is essentially a judgement about the economic viability of a site. At this stage of the process and based on available information (which includes initial work in relation to on-site and off-site infrastructure works) the consider that the development of the site is achievable (viable).
- 3.4.2 The site is available for immediate development and would contribute to the delivery of Bedford Borough Council's objectively assessed need for housing of 14,550 homes in the period 2015-30 along with the enhancement of an existing area of employment.
- 3.4.3 Sites that are suitable, available and deliverable will be listed in Appendix 3 of the HELAA. These are the sites that are considered to be deliverable or developable and will be considered for site selection.

4 Conclusion

4.1 The information above and evidence provided through the call for sites submission demonstrate that site AL2 is suitable, available and achievable and should be considered for site selection and allocation in the review of the local plan.



4.2 As mentioned above the landowners, through CODE Development Planners, would welcome dialogue with Bedford Borough Council through meetings via suitable means in the context of the ongoing Covid - 19 situation.





TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL NOTE

11 AUGUST 2020

ALINGTON ESTATE, LITTLE BARFORD

60830

Access and Transportation Strategy

The following technical briefing note is provided by way of clarification in relation to access and transportation accessibility for the development of land at Little Barford, Bedfordshire.

This note should be read in conjunction with the forms and associated information in relation to all three sites submitted in respect of the Alington Estate to Bedford Borough Council's Call for Site consultation, August 2020. Whilst enclosed, drawing 60830-PP-005: Highway Access, identifies development in respect of the larger of the three sites (Site AL3), access and transportation accessibility has, inter alia, informed the configuration and development quantum in respect of all three sites (AL1, AL2 and AL3) i.e. each of the three sites can be delivered individually or as a whole."

It will specifically refer to the aspects of the development connection junctions with the existing highway network, connectivity to the wider footway, cycleway and highway network as well as provision for public transport. The hierarchy of sustainable transport is considered, aligned with local and national transportation policy to deliver sustainable links for the development.

Footway / Cycleway Connections

Consideration has been given to the accessibility on foot and connections to the wider footpaths, footways and Public Rights of Way (PROW).

There are very few PROW across the site, with the exception of the footway that links to the north west of the development towards the River Great Ouse and onwards to the Ouse Valley Way and into St Neots. It is hoped that the connection to the PROW next to the River Great Ouse can be made more accessible and deliver greater potential for pedestrians and other users if land constraints allow.

Other connections from the development site are to be promoted. As an example, improvements to the current East Coast Railway Line (ECRL) underpass for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, links over the existing ECRL in the southern part of the site and over the proposed A428 near to Top Farm. The later will enable access near to Gipsy Corner on Potton Road to the wider footway network of Footpath 1/11 near Parker's Farm and also footpath 1/9 near Hen Brook.

Improved facilities on Barford Road will also be considered to gain access to St Neots. Footways and cycleways will be an integral part of the development infrastructure to deliver sustainable choices for residents, employees and visitors.

Public Transport

The existing public transport for Little Barford is currently poor and there is only a single service which runs between Biggleswade and St Neots on a Thursday.

The proposal for the scheme would mean that accessibility to public transport would be greatly enhanced and all development would be within 400m of the main public transport corridors with an improved frequency to meet demand and local policy. Accessible compliant bus stops and infrastructure will be introduced with Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) provision proposed where appropriate to enable better communication to customers of the services provided. Additional segregated bus infrastructure routes could be introduced should major benefits be realised by providing these.



Highway Access

Connectivity to the wider highway network would be provided to enable access to the neighbouring conurbations, employment, shopping and leisure activities.

The initial primary access can be made via Barford Road via junction types appropriate to the proposed number of trips expected, generated by the development type. The main accesses to the development will be provided by roundabouts. Other T-junctions and Right Turn Lanes may need to be provided but these will be kept to a minimum.

Access to the east of the ECRL will be made via an overbridge combining footway and cycleway facilities, with the existing centrally located railway underpass improved to provide pedestrian and cyclist provision.

A further overbridge is proposed near to Top Farm as part of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet new expressway for farm traffic. This bridge could be widened are part of the Highways England scheme or an adjacent bridge built next to the current proposal to accommodate not just farm traffic but provide an access for all modes of road transport to connect to the wider highway network at Potton Road.

Where necessary access will be provided in line with local and national policy, designed to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) where appropriate or local design standards for residential and commercial development.

Local Highway Improvement Considerations

The access to the site can be made via Barford Road to the north and south, which will remain in place with the A428 improvements. Some widening of the Barford Road may be needed within the vicinity of the site to accommodate increases in local traffic, which could be provided.

Access to the east towards Cambridge could be made via Barford Road and the current A428 or via the new infrastructure over the ECRL and the proposed A428 linking to the existing highway network. Some widening of Potton Road may be needed to enhance the carriageway up to its proposed junction improvement connection with the B1046 near Parkers Farm.

Summary

An initial overview of the development proposals and accessibility indicates that there are some infrastructure requirements to facilitate the access, some onsite improvements and wider highway network upgrades, however these all appear to achievable. This assessment has considered the new A428 proposal and existing constraints such as the ECRL and existing gas mains and overhead electricity pylons and cables.

Martin Doughty, Director, BEng(Hons), CEng, FICE, FCIHT, MAPM on behalf of Richard Jackson Ltd Date 10.8.20

