

NEW LOCAL PLAN

Information for Residents

What is happening?

North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) is beginning work on a **new Local Plan**.

The current Local Plan runs until **2031**, and work is now underway to prepare the plan that will guide development beyond that date. NHDC currently expects the new Local Plan to be in place around **late 2028 or early 2029**.

A Local Plan is an important planning document. It helps determine how an area will grow and develop and identifies where different types of development may be located, including:

- New homes
- Employment and business development
- Schools and other infrastructure
- Community facilities
- Open spaces
- Transport infrastructure
- Areas that should be protected from development

What is a "Call for Sites"?

As part of the early preparation of the new Local Plan, NHDC has carried out a **Call for Sites**.

This gives landowners, developers and other promoters the opportunity to put forward land that they would like the Council to consider for potential development or other uses.

It is important to understand that **putting a site forward does not mean that the site will be developed**.

NHDC will need to assess each site against a range of planning considerations, including matters such as:

- Access and transport
- Infrastructure
- Flood risk
- Landscape
- Biodiversity and nature
- Availability of services
- Sustainability
- The impact on existing communities

- Whether development is appropriate in the location

The submitted sites can be viewed on the NHDC website:

https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/call-sites?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#site-submissions-2025-and-current-local-plan-allocations-map

Why is the new Local Plan important?

The new Local Plan will influence where future development takes place across North Hertfordshire.

The Council has to plan for future housing and employment needs while also considering infrastructure, environmental constraints and the character of existing communities.

One issue that can affect planning decisions is the **five-year housing land supply**.

Where a council cannot demonstrate an adequate supply of housing land, national planning policies can affect how planning applications are considered. This can sometimes result in proposals being brought forward in locations that local communities or councils consider unsuitable.

It is therefore important that residents understand the development proposals being considered and take part in the consultation process as the new Local Plan develops.

Barkway

There is currently **one existing allocation in Barkway from the previous Local Plan that has not yet been developed**. This is the reserved school site associated with the **BK3 development**.

The site is approximately **1.78 hectares** and is identified for residential and education-related purposes.

The site became part of the expanded BK3 allocation in the current Local Plan and was reserved as a potential future school site.

Points to be aware of

- The site was previously allocated as part of BK3 but has not yet been developed.
- It was reserved as a potential school site.
- The wider BK3 development has only recently started.
- The development is expected to take approximately four years to complete, with full occupation potentially taking longer.
- The need for a school associated with the development has therefore not yet been realised.
- A shop was originally proposed as part of the development, but there is currently no indication that this has been delivered.
- Questions remain about the sustainability of further development, particularly public transport and the condition and capacity of local roads.

- There are also ongoing questions about whether local infrastructure, including wastewater treatment capacity, will be sufficient for future development.

The Parish Council will continue to seek information from the relevant authorities and infrastructure providers as the Local Plan progresses.

Other areas of interest

Residents may also wish to follow proposals relating to:

- **Barley**
- **Barkway**
- **Southern Royston**

These areas include sites that have been submitted for consideration as part of the Call for Sites process.

At this stage, the submission of a site should **not be interpreted as a decision that development will take place**. The sites will need to be assessed by NHDC before decisions are made about whether they should be included in the emerging Local Plan.

Previously developed land and the Green Belt

There is also wider debate about how future housing requirements should be met.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has published research identifying significant potential capacity for housing on previously developed land. This is relevant to the wider discussion about whether development can be accommodated through the reuse of previously developed sites, alongside consideration of Green Belt and other land.

Residents should consider the evidence published by the relevant organisations when responding to future consultations.

How can residents get involved?

The new Local Plan will take several years to prepare and there will be opportunities for residents, Parish Councils and other organisations to comment as the plan develops.

Residents are encouraged to:

1. **Sign up for NHDC Local Plan updates.**
2. **Keep informed about proposed development sites in the local area.**
3. **Read the evidence and assessments published by NHDC.**
4. **Take part in formal public consultations.**
5. **Submit comments when consultation periods open.**

The Parish Council will also continue to monitor the preparation of the new Local Plan and raise matters of importance to the local community.

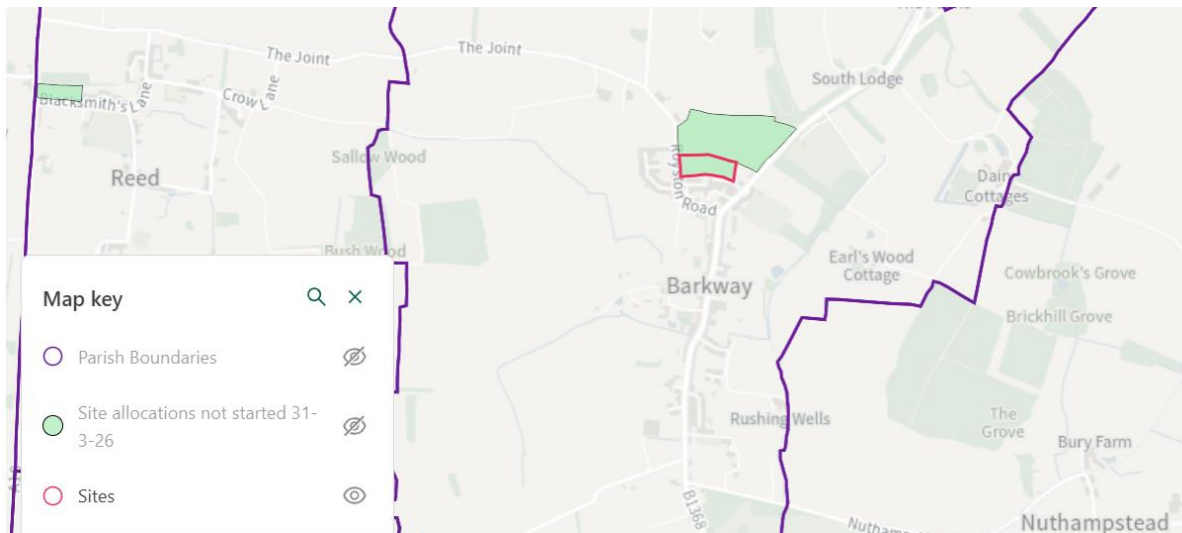
Please stay informed

The Call for Sites is an **early stage in the preparation of the new Local Plan**. No conclusion has yet been reached about whether individual submitted sites will be allocated for development.

The coming stages of the Local Plan process will provide further information about which sites are considered suitable, how much development may be required and where it could be located.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and take part in the consultation process so that local views and evidence can be considered as the new Local Plan is prepared.

Further information:



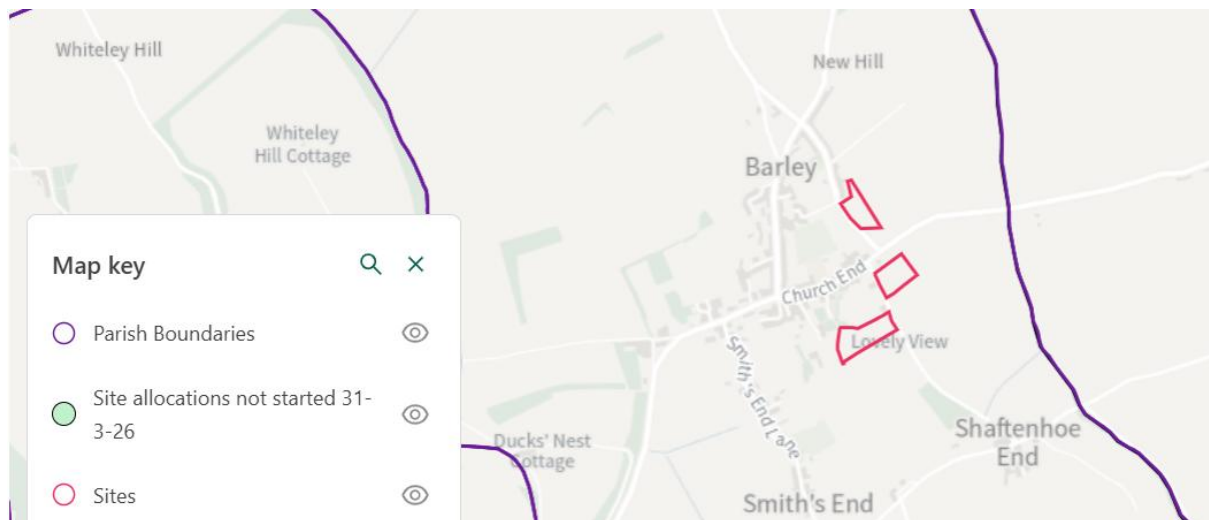
Barley

Barley has 3 sites that have not previously been offered up.

Lovely View Farm 1,76 ha

A paddock on Shaftenhoe end road 1.21h

Picknag road 1.05ha mixture of residential and retail



Royston

There are multiple sites, 2 of which are important and may impact Barkway. 1 has just been passed which is the land of Barkway Road and north of flint hall this was 18.49 ha and for 240 homes the land opposite has also been offered up as a potential site 35.51ha which could be over 500 homes.

