



# GREAT BARFORD WEST

## SITE NAME RESEARCH

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## 1. Introduction

Vistry Group and Axiom Developments have been working together to progress the proposals for Great Barford West, which is allocated for 500 new dwellings under Policy H1 of the Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan.

As part of this process, we have been working to bring forward a Development Brief and Design Code for the site, which sets out the key principles and parameters for the future development and explains how these meet local and national planning policies.

Ongoing engagement with the local community has been undertaken during the process of preparing the Development Brief and Design Code, which included our attendance at the Great Barford Neighbourhood Fun Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.

As a result of the feedback obtained throughout this consultation period, we are now undertaking a process to determine a name and identity for the site and scheme.

A key consideration is to ensure that the name sits well with the surrounding communities and rural environment. As such, we have undertaken comprehensive local research, which includes seeking information directly from those key stakeholders who live and work in the area.

This report details some of the information that we have gathered as part of this consultation process, and suggestions for the naming of the site and Development Brief and Design Code.



## **2. Individual local stakeholders**

The stakeholders below were contacted as part of our consultation to name the Great Barford West site. This was to help understand key local priorities and aspirations for the name, as well as to understand further the local heritage and history of the site and Great Barford as a settlement.

### **2.1 Bedford Borough Council (BBC)**

- a. Elected members
  - o Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Transport
  - o Cllr Henry Vann, Portfolio Holder for Town Centres and Planning
  - o Cllr Stephen Moon, Ward Member for Great Barford
- b. Officers
  - o Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeologist
  - o Matthew Tuohy, Historic Environment Record Officer

### **2.2 Great Barford Parish Council**

- o Graham Pendrey, Chairman at Great Barford Parish Council, as well as other members of the Neighbourhood Plans team, including Mr Duncan Edgar

### **2.3 Local amenity groups**

- o Bedford Architectural, Archaeological and Local History Society
- o Albion Archaeology
- o The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants
- o CPRE Bedfordshire – The Countryside Charity
- o Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
- o Great Barford Scout Group
- o Great Barford Girl Guides – Bedfordshire Girlguiding
- o Great Barford Women's institute



### 3. Responses from individuals contacted

This section sets out the responses that we received from individuals contacted. The response level was relatively low, however those who did provide information included very helpful knowledge of the local area, and a number of maps which can be found in the appendices.

#### 3.1 Elected representatives

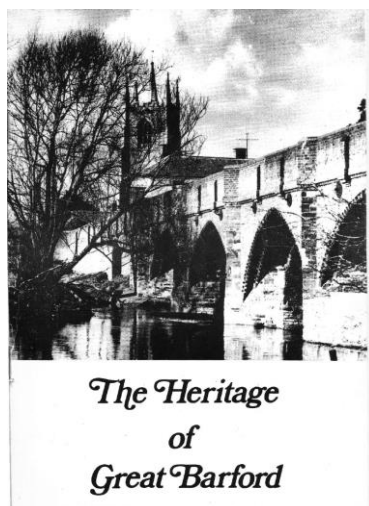
##### a. Great Barford Parish Council

The responses from Great Barford Parish Council suggested that any place name should include the name 'Millfield' as much of the development is on land which was once named Mill Fields. The Parish Council provided a map from the 19<sup>th</sup> century where this is shown. This can be found at Appendix A.

Mr Duncan Edgar, Parish Councillor and member of the Neighbourhood Plans Group, highlighted that there is also a Mill Brook on the other side of Bedford.

Mr Graham Pendrey, Chairman of the Parish Council, provided two books regarding the heritage and history of Great Barford (extracts of these can be found at Appendix B and Appendix C).

Within these books, it refers to the crop rotation in three main fields, which includes Mill Field (now the Great Barford West allocation area). In 'The Heritage of Great Barford', it also refers to the "Hundreds" of Bedfordshire, and the five "Manors" of Great Barford. These could be useful suggestions as part of a name for the site.



b. Councillor Stephen Moon (Ward Councillor)

Councillor Stephen Moon reverted with some suggested names that reflect local heritage and history:

- o Mill Fields
- o Manor End
- o A reference to birds, as per other new developments in the local area

**3.2 BBC Officers**

a. Matthew Tuohy (Historic Environment Record Officer)

Matthew Tuohy provided a historic map of Great Barford, which can be found at Appendix D, alongside some useful information on the history of the area:

- o The location of the development is in the area which was known as Mill Field in the open-field system prior to the Parliamentary Enclosure
- o The Green End to the north of Great Barford highlights the “End” suffix which is a common local / regional term for a hamlet or extension to a settlement.

He concluded that ‘Millfield End’ may be a good name given the geography of the site and local naming conventions in Bedford.



## 4. Great Barford Evidence Base

### 4.1 Brief History

- There were prehistoric and Roman settlements along the river valley before the parish of Great Barford was established in the late Saxon period.
- Great Barford is a village which historically owes its location to the Ouse River crossing and its proximity to the "Great North Road".
- One meadow situated along the High Street shows traces of an old medieval ridge and furrow field, probably the only one to be found within the village confines.
- There is a mention of Great Barford in the Domesday Book. Local administration was divided into 'Hundreds', and 'The Hundred of Bereforde' was one of nine in 'Bedfordshire'.
- Several buildings in the village are of significant interest and listed. There are three Conservation Areas in the parish – Great Barford Conservation Area; Great Barford Green End Conservation Area and Great Barford Hill Conservation Area.



### 4.2 Origin of name

- The name Barford is thought to originate from Norman culture, as a name for someone who often went shoeless.
- This is of religious significance in the local area, likely linked to the All Saints church near to the River Great Ouse.
- Great Barford castle was a Norman Castle located in Great Barford.
- The first names of Great Barford are noted in the Domesday Book as: Bereforde (1086); Berford (1257); Berfford (1542); and Bareford (1545).



### 4.3 Notable sites

There are a number of notable site features across Great Barford and the wider area:

- All Saints Church, with 15<sup>th</sup> century tower
- Great Barford bridge
- Green End farmhouse and other local listed buildings
- The Anchor Inn
- The White Hart pub
- The Crown Pub
- Great Barford Green End Conservation area
- Great Barford Old Vicarage



### 4.4 Archaeology

- There were remains of Iron Age and Roman settlement activity on site
- Iron Age pottery and animal bone found along trackways





## 5. Additional website research

### 5.1 Bedfordshire Archives website

- A number of maps are provided at Appendices E-H, which show the local history of the geography of Great Barford
- Great Barford has a wealth of Stone and Bronze Age sites, discovered from aerial photographs of cropmarks and isolated finds
- Four separate holdings for Great Barford are mentioned in the Domesday Book
- One holding contained a mill. At this date a mill meant a watermill, as there yet were no windmills in the country. This is believed to have resided in the area of Mill Field
- Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service has no further record of the watermill at Great Barford other than the name of the area around the island in the river near the point at which its course alters from running broadly west-east to broadly south-north - Old Mills
- The entry for a watermill at Great Barford, at Old Mills reads: "The site of a medieval watermill recorded in Domesday Book. The latest mill was probably demolished in the 19th century, prior to the construction of a navigation lock. Its foundations, including the wheel-pit, were revealed during navigation improvements in 1974".
- Green End Farmhouse, immediately to the north of the site, was listed by the former Department of Environment in 1983, as Grade II.
- Great Barford lies in the Barford Hundred.



## 6. Summary

Information on the site largely surrounded one topic, the history and heritage of 'Mill Field', which is the area which includes the site. This occurred across multiple sources and were mentioned by multiple individuals. This is worthy of consideration for inclusion as part of the scheme name and some details of this are highlighted below.

- Green End heritage – found in web based research and on historic maps
- Watermills in Great Barford – noted in the Domesday book
- Suggestions that Millfield End would be the best name given the heritage of the site and the use of the “end” suffix elsewhere in the local area – noted in a series of local maps
- Great Barford lies in the Barford Hundred.



## **7. Conclusions and naming recommendations**

### **7.1 Research overview**

The research exercise drew out a number of local connections and characteristics specific to Great Barford. Credible naming options uniquely related to the site are very limited. The identified site specific characteristics are as follows:

- Green End Farm, located on the northern entry of the site. The site is in private ownership and is listed as a Grade II building.
- The site is on land formerly known as Mill Field – as per maps from the 19<sup>th</sup> century

### **7.2 Potential scheme name options and rationale**

The sites characteristics and connections have led to the below name option which has been preferred by most parties engaged with.

#### **Scheme name option: Millfield End**

The suffix 'End' was suggested by the Heritage Officer at BBC as a common local / regional term for a hamlet or extension to a settlement.

'Millfield' represents the historic name of the field as per the information set out in this report.

This option reflects the heritage of the site and its history, whilst linking with the local area by using the common Suffix, which also ties the site with the historic Green End Farm at the north of the site.

ENDS



**APPENDIX A**

**1824 MAP PROVIDED BY GREAT BARFORD PARISH COUNCIL**







## **APPENDIX B**

### **HERITAGE OF GREAT BARFORD BOOK**







*The Heritage  
of  
Great Barford*

suggestion of the latter, could have been held by them. The site of this dwelling house, possibly in the north east corner of the parish, may perhaps some day come to light.

Bushmead, Newnham and Chaucombe priories also held land in Barford at various dates; the prior of Newnham being granted the "right of warren" for ever!

To relate the Undertenants named in Domesday Book with those of the later Manors is far from easy but careful research, especially for mention of the later Tenants and their Overlords in the Feudal Aids (1242-1428) as relating to Bedfordshire and the Barford Hundred, has made it possible to give an assessment of the probabilities but it obviously contains some degree of speculation and must not be regarded as completely factual. The following tables summarize the early Tenants and their Overlords and most of the later Owners/Lords of the Manors. It is not possible of course to list the names of all the families who have actually lived in these Manor Houses.

++ +++ ++

<u>Century</u>	<u>Overlords</u>	<u>Owners/ Lords</u>	<u>Tenants</u>
<hr/>			
<b>CREAKERS</b>			
Domesday	Hugh de Beauchamp		Tetbaud
13th/15th	Latymer		de Crevequer
16th/17th	Nevil - Fitzjefferie		Anscell
18th/19th		Pedley	
<hr/>			



<u>Century</u>	<u>Overlords</u>	<u>Owners/ Lords</u>	<u>Tenants</u>
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NETHERBURY

<u>Domesday</u>	Hugh de Beauchamp		Rualon
<u>13th/15th</u>	de Beauchamp (Bedford)		de Bereford
	Latymer	Duchess of Somerset	Newman
<u>16th/18th</u>		Mordaunt	
		Delaune	
<u>19th</u>		Metcalfe	

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BURDELEYS/NETHERBURY

<u>Domesday</u>	Hugh de Beauchamp		Anschetil
<u>13th/14th</u>	Braybrooke- Longueville		de Burdeley
			St. Neots
			Priory (Bar- ford Manor)
<u>15th</u>		Fitzjefferie	
<u>16th/18th</u>		Mordaunt	
		Delaune	
<u>19th</u>		Metcalfe	

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<u>Century</u>	<u>Overlords</u>	<u>Owners/ Lords</u>	<u>Tenants</u>
<b>VESEYS</b>			
<u>Domesday</u>	Hugh de Beauchamp		Wimbund de Taissel
<u>13th/14th</u>	Braybrooke - Longueville		de Supple- thorp
<u>15th/16th</u>	Cricheley		L'Enveise St. Neots Priory (Bar- ford Manor)
<u>16th/17th</u>		Hatley	
		St. John	
<u>17th/19th</u>		Francklin	
<b>BIRCHFIELDS</b>			
<u>Domesday</u>	Hugh de Beauchamp		Wimbund de Taissel
<u>13th/15th</u>	Braybrooke - Longueville		de Bret- ville de Burdele (southern part)
<u>16th/18th</u>		Spencer	
<u>18th/19th</u>		Polhill	

## **APPENDIX C**

### **HISTORY OF GREAT BARFORD BOOK**



HISTORY  
OF  
GREAT BARFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE

BY  
J. HAROLD BROWN, J.P., C.A.



1950  
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY CHARLES ELPHICK,  
BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE

## APPENDIX I.

### FIELD NAMES

The Common, North Field, Mill Field, Little Field and Langley, Wren Park (Greenend rick yard), Vesey's Mead (Long Leys), Goulds' Close (towards Creakers), Teals Close (towards Creakers), Kits Close (towards Creakers), Dothans (back Greenfield), Solomons (back Greenfield Farm), Pease Hill (Peas Hill), Prior's Meadow (Birchfields), The Wilderness (Birchfields), East End Close (Windmill), Damworth Fields (Birchfields), Fools Close (Vicarage tennis court), Sutton's Pyghtle (School Cottages), Church Craft (left side Church Walk), Lower Hillands (The Highlands), Buckle Pyghtle (W. Pitts' cottages), Pound Close (Central Villa), Street Close (front of Central Villa), Townsend Leys (A. Norman's, near Cross), Bush Pasture (this side Tollgate), Flawn's Meadow (next Tollgate), Furze Pasture (next Woodfield), Herrings Close (Bee Hive, etc.), The Grove and Dog Kennel Close (Mr. Davison's), Greenditch Baulk (Grinnage), Stonehill (Stonhill), Boseley, Cat's Moor, Clerk's Close, Sharford, Sudden's Croft, Mannings Croft and Mooring's Piece, Shakers Way (Wilden Hill), Little Bedford Way (Bedford Road).

## **APPENDIX D**

### **MAP OF GREAT BARFORD PROVIDED BY BBC OFFICER**





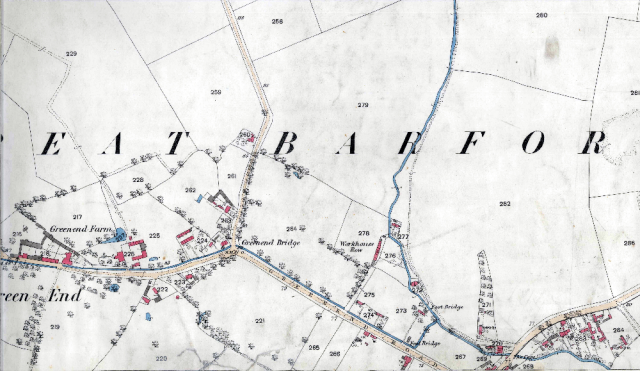
**APPENDIX E**

**GREEN END IN 1883**





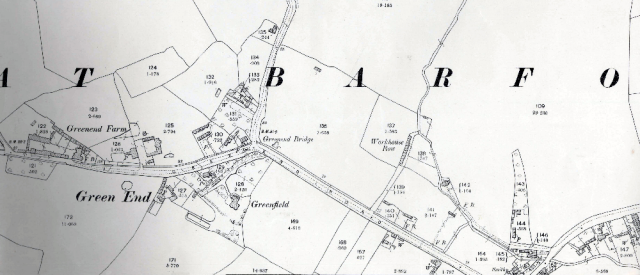
*E A T B A R F O R*



## APPENDIX F

### GREEN END IN 1901





**A T B A R F O**

*Greenwood Farm*

*Greenwood Bridge*

*Workhouse Hut*

*Green End*

*Greenfield*

172  
11-000

176  
2-770

14-000

189  
4-510

188  
0-000

187  
0-011

2-000

1-700

184  
1-000

145  
1-000

140  
1-100

5-000

123  
2-400

124  
1-078

122  
1-000

125  
2-704

126  
3-000

120  
1-000

128  
2-100

126  
-000

122  
1-000

120  
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100  
2-000

107  
2-000

106  
1-000

103  
1-100

101  
0-100

142  
1-100

143  
0-000

144  
0-000

100  
0-000

147  
0-000

19-100

## **APPENDIX G**

### **MAIN PART OF THE VILLAGE IN 1901**





## **APPENDIX H**

### **GREAT BARFORD FIELD NAMES IN 1902**





G R E A T B A R F O R D

L D

Hardhouse Road

Room

TRAIL ROAD

THE WOODS

THE PASTURE

THE MEADOW

THE PASTURE

THE PASTURE

THE PASTURE

THE PASTURE

THE PASTURE

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