Reg. 19 GNLP Consultation -Supporting Statement

Land at Pound Lane, Blofield (GNLP4013)



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Prepared for Client: Braydestone Farms Ltd.



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Date of Submission February 2021

Consultation Regulation 19 Greater Norwich Local Plan

Consultation

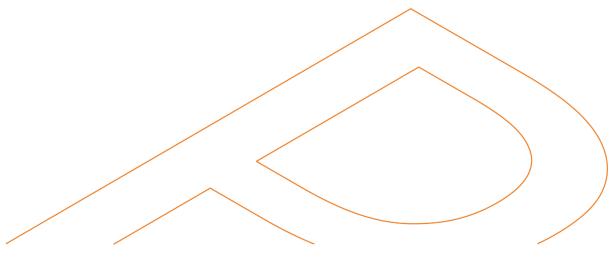
Local Planning
Greater Norwich (Broadland District)

Client Braydestone Farm Ltd.

Our Reference 2655

Authority

Report Revision V1.0



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) is being prepared by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) and will cover the plan period to 2038, identifying sites for new homes, jobs and infrastructure.
- 1.2 The GNLP has reached the Regulation 19 preparatory stage and the GNDP are, as part of the current consultation, seeking the views on the 'Soundness' and 'Legal Compliance' of their Local Plan as drafted and as proposed for submission to the Secretary of State, to be followed by an examination in public (EiP).
- 1.3 My client's site at Pound Lane, Blofield (Council Reference GNLP4013) has been identified as a potential residential allocation within the context of the emerging Local Plan. However, the site has not been included in the Regulation 19 Consultation Draft version of the Local Plan as an allocation.
- 1.4 The intention of this statement is to reaffirm the *suitability*, *availability* and *achievability* of my client's site at Pound Lane, Blofield for allocation within the context of the GNLP. This Statement will also identify why the GNLP's strategy for the settlement of Blofield is potentially an unsound one with the omission of my client's site.
- 1.5 It is not the intention of this Statement to provide contextual information that has been submitted at previous stages in the Local Plan preparation process, including the content of our submissions at the most recent Regulation 18 Stage in March 2020 (please find completed Reg. 18 submission at appendix A).
- 1.6 This consultation response considers all relevant aspects of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that has informed the GNDP's approach to preparing the GNLP. All planmaking bodies are expected to have regard to the provisions of both the PPG and NPPF in the requisite Local Pan preparatory stages.
- 1.7 We can confirm that, for the reasons outlined within this statement, our client's site is **suitable**, **available** for development now and **achievable** and would be appropriate for market housing development (to include an element of affordable housing provision). Furthermore, our client can

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confirm that delivery of their site is economically viable.

1.8 Furthermore, we consider that the Strategy for the settlement of Blofield is potentially unsound with the omission of our client's site as it does not provide sufficient flexibility in 'plan-making' as is required by the provisions of the *Framework*.



Fig. 1.1 – Plan illustrating the full extent of my client's site at Pound Lane, Blofield (site ref. GNLP4013).

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2.0 Site Assessment - Suitability, Availability, Achievability (including viability)

Suitability

- 2.1 Blofield Village is identified as a *Key Service Centre* under Policy 7.3 of the emerging GNLP. Services include a primary school, shop, doctor's surgery, village hall, library, and public house.
- 2.2 The settlement is therefore considered to be a sustainable location for new residential development to meet the needs of the sub-region with the GNLP identifying that allocations totalling 695 new dwellings should be made across all of the *Key Service Centres* up to 2038.
- 2.3 Following appropriate assessment of sites within the context of (among other) the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and SA/SEA processes, there is just one site allocated providing for 15 new homes (GNLP2161). There is also one carried forward allocation (reference BLO1) for 163 homes and a total of 138 dwellings with planning permission on other sites. This gives a total deliverable housing commitment for Blofield of 316 homes between 2018 2038.
- 2.4 It is considered that that an increase in quantum of development across the Key Services would provide sufficient flexibility in 'plan-making' terms as further considered at section 3.0 below and as required by the 'Framework'.
- 2.5 Furthermore, it is considered that our client's site is inherently more 'suitable' for allocation than the other site currently being 'preferred' for allocation in Blofield. As demonstrated in our March 2020 regulation 18 submissions, our client's site has no 'features or limitations' that might constrain development on this site.
- 2.6 By the GNDP's own admission, there are a number of constraints that have been identified in respect of site GNLP2161 that is being considered for allocation within the Reg. 19 versions of the GNLP. Indeed, the *Blofield Booklet* evidence base document (p.18) identifies how further information

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is needed on how potential development of this site relates to the ambitions for the Norwich Camping and Leisure business. 'Development Management' have identified how the existing business on this site is a local employer and provides a number of local services and it would not be good planning to compromise its ability to continue operating.

- 2.7 Norfolk County Highways have commented on how the sites allocation would be subject to provision of frontage footway and possible 'de-engineering' of former trunk road and that the availability of appropriate visibility splays remains to be demonstrated.
- 2.8 Such uncertainties surrounding deliverability of the only new allocation in this settlement could potentially render the growth strategy for this Key Service Centre an 'unsound' one.
- 2.9 In respect of my client's site (GNLP4013) the *Blofield Booklet* (p.38) identifies:

This large site lies to the south of the village. Although it has access to some services, the southern and western parts are in Flood Zone 2 and also at high risk of surface water flooding. The site is considered to be too large for the level of commitment already in Blofield, and even on a smaller boundary would be less accessible than other sites under consideration.

- 2.10 It is clear from the Environment Agency data (Appendix C) that the developable area of my client's site, in its entirety, lies within Flood Zone 1. Furthermore, it was made clear in respect of our submissions at the Regulation 18 Stage in March 2020 that the intention was not for the whole of our client's site to be developed and that the relatively low-density housing would overlook the valley to the South of the site.
- 2.11 It was also made clear in our March 2020 Site Submission Statement that the precise number of units to be delivered would be negotiable with the GNDP in due course.
- 2.12 It is considered that our client's site is an inherently 'suitable' (sustainable) 'option' for allocation within the context of the GNLP. Indeed, the Stage 2 HELAA Comparison table (Blofield booklet, p.35 table 1.1) would appear

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to confirm this. We therefore consider that the site should have been considered as a 'reasonable alternative' and as such assessed within the context if the SA/SEA processes.

Site reference	Site access	Access to services	Utilities capacity	Utilities infrastructur e	Contaminatio n/ ground stability	_	Market attractivenes s	Significant landscapes	Sensitive townscapes	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Historic environment	Open space & GI	Transport & roads	Compatibility with neighbouring
							field							
GNLP0082R A	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green
GNLP0082R B	Green	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Green
GNLP0252R	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
GNLP2024AR	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber
GNLP2024BR	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber
GNLP4013	Green	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Green
GNLP4017	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green

STAGE 2 - HELAA COMPARISON TABLE

Table 1.1 - Stage 2 HELAA Comparison Table

Availability

1.1 A site will normally be considered available by the Council if it is in the ownership of a developer or landowner who has expressed and intention to develop or sell the land for development. Site GNLP4013 is under the control of a landowner who is actively promoting the site for development within the emerging GNLP process.

Achievability (including viability)

1.2 A site will be considered achievable within the context of the HELAA/Local Plan where there is a reasonable prospect that development will occur on the site at a point in time. A key determinant of this will be economic viability of the site. This will be influenced by the market attractiveness of



- a site, its location in respect of property markets and any abnormal constraints on the site.
- 1.3 It is considered that development on this site is viable, being in an area with considerable demand for both market and affordable dwellings. Indeed, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is applied to new developments in Blofield, which in itself proves that development must be viable.
- 1.4 Furthermore, there are no abnormal constraints pertaining to the site, i.e., 'reds' in the context of the RAG assessment undertaken as part of the HELAA table 1.1 above. Again and for this reason, it is considered that the site ought to have been assessed as a 'reasonable alternative' in respect of the SA/SEA processes.

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2.0 Test of Soundness

- 2.1 Para. 35 of the NPPF identifies how Local plans and spatial development strategies are examined to assess whether they have been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements, and whether they are **sound**. Plans are 'sound' if they are:
 - a) **Positively prepared** providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development,
 - b) **Justified** an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence,
 - c) Effective deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground and,
 - d) **Consistent with national policy** enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework.
- 2.2 NPPF (para. 23) is clear insofar as Strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, and at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period, in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area.
- 2.3 Therefore, in order to ensure that the provision of sites remains robust and flexible, additional sites should be included that will ensure that the volume of housing delivery required is achieved with a suitable buffer in order to ensure flexibility in delivery.
- 2.4 We contend that the proposed 49,492 new homes to be allocated in the GNLP are considered insufficient to fulfil the sub-regions housing requirements and does not provide sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change as required by Paragraph 11(a) of the NPPF (2019).



- 2.5 In order to be genuinely plan-led (NPPF, para. 15) and ensure that Site Allocation Local Plans are effective, the GNDP should seek additional allocations now through the plan-making process to provide an additional supply buffer. Additional allocations will also ensure the plan is 'positively prepared' to meet minimum identified housing needs including the unmet needs of the sub-region more generally in addition to those of adjoining Local Authorities.
- 2.6 The Regulation 19 GNLP strategy, as drafted, relies on 'unplanned' development to meet the total housing 'potential' figure of 49,492 dwellings in the form of 'windfall' and dwellings delivered via Policy 7.5. Allocation of my client's site (or part thereof) would make the GNDP less reliant on such 'unplanned' developments which may or may not come forward in the plan period at the rate identified within the draft Plan.
- 2.7 Further, this would conform with one of the Government's planning reforms as espoused in their *Planning for the Future* White Paper that was consulted upon in the Autumn of 2020 whereby LPAs could be required to identify a stock of reserve sites which could come forward for development if needed. Such reserved sites or 'over allocations' are intended to allow flexibility in plan-making and respond to situations where, for example, an allocated site has deliverability issues and cannot come forward for development as planned.
- 2.8 We contend that our client's site (GNLP4013) should be allocated as part of the emerging GNLP to ensure that it meets the tests of soundness and Framework in the following respects:
 - Positively prepared Provides an appropriate growth strategy for Blofield (and the wider sub-region) that meets objectively assessed needs and provides sufficient flexibility to respond to any unmet needs from neighbouring areas.
 - **Justified** Provides an appropriate strategy that is commensurate with Blofield's status in the 'Spatial Strategy' and takes into account a site that is demonstrably 'suitable' (sustainable) as evidenced by the HELAA process (table 1.1 above).
 - **Effective** Ensuring the GNLP includes a site allocation for Blofield

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that is demonstrably deliverable within the plan period.

• **Consistent with national policy** – Meeting the 'tests' of the Framework insofar as plan-making is concerned including the requirements that plans are positively prepared and contain sufficient flexibility to respond to rapid changes in circumstance.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 For the reasons outlined within this Statement, my client's site (GNLP4013) is considered *suitable*, *available* and *achievable*.
- 3.2 To ensure that the strategy for Blofield is commensurate with this 'settlement's' position in the spatial hierarchy and to ensure that the GNLP, in more general terms, meets the tests of soundness insofar as it is positively prepared and contains sufficient flexibility to respond to rapid changes in circumstance, my client's site (or part thereof) should be allocated for development. Site GNLP2161, that is currently proposed for allocation, would appear to have issues in terms of its deliverability.
- 3.3 Parker Planning Services would like to be kept up to date with the progress of the GNLP and reserve the right to participate in the forthcoming Examination Hearings. For further information, or to discuss, please contact Magnus Magnusson on 01284 336119 or magnus@parkerplanningservices.co.uk.

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Appendix A - Regulation 18 Stage Submission (Excluding Site Supporting Information Statement)

1a. Contact Details					
Title	Mr				
First Name	Magnus				
Last Name Magnusson					
Job Title (where relevant)	Planner	Planner			
Organisation (where	Parker Planni	ng Services			
relevant)					
Address	Northgate Bu	siness Centre,			
	10 Northgate	Street,			
	Bury St Edmu	nds,			
	Suffolk				
Post Code	IP33 1HQ				
Telephone Number	01263 720332				
Email Address	magnus@par	magnus@parkerplanningservices.co.uk			
1b. I am					
Owner of the site		Parish/Town Council			
Developer		Community Group			
Land Agent		Local Resident			
Ш		Ц			
Planning Consultant		Registered Social Landlord			
Other (please specify):					

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Grid reference (if known)

N/A



1c. Client/Landowner Details (if different from question 1a)					
Title					
First Name					
Last Name					
Job Title (where relevant)					
Organisation (where relevant)	Brayde	stone Farms Ltd.			
Address	The Gro Brayde	<u> </u>			
	Biofield	l			
Post Code	NR13 5	AP			
Telephone Number					
Email Address					
2. Site Details					
Site location / address and code	post				
(please include as an atto to this response form a loci plan of the site on a scaled base with the boundaries of site clearly shown)	ation d OS	Land at Pound Lane Biofield			
,					



Site area (hectares)		ó hectares				
Site Ownership						
3a. I (or my client)						
Is the sole owner of the site	ls a pa	rt owner of the site	Do/Does not own (or hold any legal interest in) the site whatsoever			
⊠						
See above and attached 3c. If the site is in multiple						
landownerships do all		Yes	No			
landowners support your proposal for the site?						
3d. If you answered no to the above question please provide details of why not all of the sites owners support your proposals for the site. N/A						
4a. Current Land Use (Pleas	Current and Historic Land Uses 4a. Current Land Use (Please describe the site's current land use e.g. agriculture, employment, unused/vacant etc.)					



Agricultural/Greenfield								
4b. Has the site been previ	ously	Yes No						
developed?	-							
	4c. Describe any previous uses of the site. (please provide details of any relevant historic planning applications, including application numbers if known)							
None relevant								
Proposed Future Uses	description of the description	ant or lend the tree						
	description of the developme ; if it is for a settlement bound	-						
proposing a site to be design	gnated as local green space							
question 6).								
Residential development								
5b. Which of the following	use or uses are you proposing	g?						
Market Housing	Business and offices	Recreation & Leisure						
Affordable Housing	General industrial	Community Use						
Residential Care Home	Storage and distribution	Public Open Space						
Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	Tourism	Other (Please Specify)						
	e further details of your proposed floorspace of commerc	osal, including details on number of clai buildings etc.						
	the site could <u>potentially</u> be su							
	affordable dwellings to be agr vellings on 0.5acre plots overloo	eed. The family housing will be oking the valley to the south.						
5d. Please descril could provide.	be any benefits to the Local	Area that the development of the site						

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Housing is accepted to be a (societal) benefit, particularly in a location defined as a "Key Service Centre" in the emerging settlement "hierarchy", i.e. a relatively sustainable location There are other 'economic' benefits arising from construction, such as temporary employment and purchase of (local) materials. Residents will also provide a source of

The development would realise a 'policy compliant' provision of (among other) affordable housing and accessible open space in accordance with the Council's SPD for Recreation

Local Green Space

If you are proposed a site to be designated as Local Green Space please complete the following questions. These questions do not need to be completed if you are not proposing a site as Local Green Space. Please consult the guidance notes for an explanation of Local Green Space Designations.

6a. Which community would the site serve and how would the designation of the site benefit that community.

6b. Please describe why you consider the site to be of particular local significance e.g. recreational value, tranquillity or richness in wildlife.

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Site Features and Constraints Are there any features of the site or limitations that may constrain development on this site (please give details)? 7a. Sile Access: is there a current means of access to the sile from the public highway, does this access need to be improved before development can take place and are there any public rights of way that cross or adjoin the site? iate access will be achievable, details to be agreed with the LPA and ghway Authority in due course. 7b. Topography: Are there any slopes or significant changes of in levels that could affect the development of the site? affect the development of the site? No topographical features have been identified at this stage that will negatively impact on the development potential of the site. 7c. Ground Conditions: Are ground conditions on the site stable? Are there potential ground contamination issues? There are not known to be any contamination issues pertaining to the site. Furthermore, ground conditions on the site are stable. 7d. Flood Risk: Is the site liable to river, ground water or surface water flooding and if so what is the nature, source and frequency of the flooding? The stelles within Flood Zone 1 (According to the Environment Agency's mapping data) and as a consequence at a low risk/probability of flooding. 7e. Legal Issues: Is there land in third party ownership, or access rights, which must be acquired to develop the site, do any restrictive covenants exist, are there any existing tenancies? 7f. Environmental Issues: is the site located next to a watercourse or mature oodland, are there any significant trees or hedgerows crossing or bordering the site are there any known features of ecological or geological importance on or adjacent to the site? The site is does not lie within or adjacent to an area subject of any statutory ecological or geological designation. The site is not located next to a waterco or mature woodland. The site is not subject to any constraints identified in the Broadland Policies Map (2015) Part 2. 7g. Herflage Issues: Are there any listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parklands or Schedules Monuments on the site or nearby? If so, how might the site's development affect them? There are no listed buildings in close proximity to the site. The site does not lie with a conservation area.



7h. Neighbouring Uses: What are the neighbouring uses and will either the proposed use or neighbouring uses have any implications?						
Neighbouring land uses are resi conflict in terms of land-use.	dential in nature o	and therefore the	e will be no			
 Existing uses and Buildings: are there any existing buildings or uses that need to be relocated before the site can be developed. 						
No						
7]. Other: (please specify):						
N/A						
Utilities						
8a. Which of the following are II enable its development? Please			ce the site and			
	Yes	No	Unsure			
Mains water supply	⊠					
Mains sewerage	⊠					
Electricity supply	×					
Gas supply	×					
Public highway	×					
Broadband internet	\boxtimes					
Other (please specify):						
	8b. Please provide any further information on the utilities available on the site: Utilities are available now or will be made available on commencement of development.					



Availability						
	ite cou	ld be made available for the land us	e or			
development proposed.						
Immediately 🗵						
1 to 5 years (by April 2021)						
5 - 10 years (between April 2021 and 2026)						
10 – 15 years (between April 20	026 and	d 2031)				
15 - 20 years (between April 20)31 and	i 2038)				
9b. Please give reasons for the		-				
There are no legal or ownership impediments to development on site. The land is under the control of a single landowner/developer who is actively promoting the site through the Local Plan process. The site is available immediately for development, i.e. in a 0-5-year period. There are no unresolved multiple ownership issues, ransom strips, tenancies or operational requirements of other landowners, which may affect the availability of the site.						
Market Interest						
		ate category below to indicate what he site. Please include relevant date				
	Yes	Comments				
Site is owned by a developer/promoter	×					
Site is under option to a developer/promoter	Site is under option to a					
Enquiries received						
Site is being marketed						
None						
Not known						
		•				



11 a Managara Indianta when you will alook the account	d develor		ld ba	
11a. Please indicate when you anticipate the proposed development could be begun.				
Up to 5 years (by April 2021)			×	
5 - 10 years (between April 2021 and 2026)				
10 – 15 years (between April 2026 and 2031)				
15 - 20 years (between April 2031 and 2038)				
11b. Once started, how many years do you think it was proposed development (if known)?	uld take to	complet	e the	
1-2 years				
Viability	Ι			
12a. You acknowledge that there are likely to be poll-	ov requires			
		nenis	1	
and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) costs to be n	et which v	vill be in		
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Land at Pound Lane, Blofield (GNLP4013)



12e. Please attach any viability assessment or development appraisal you have	
undertaken for the site, or any other evidence you consider helps demonstrate th	e
viability of the site.	
The development is economically viable and can be delivered immediately, i.e.	٥

The development's economically viable and can be delivered immediately, i.e., 5 years. There are no abnormal costs associated with the proposal that might impact upon viability.

Other Relevant Information

13. Please use the space below to for additional information or further explanations on any of the topics covered in this form

This site is available, achievable and deliverable (and viable). Further information in respect of this site will be submitted to the GNDP in due course.

Check List	
Your Details	Y
Site Details (including site location plan)	Y
Site Ownership	Y
Current and Historic Land Uses	Y
Proposed Future Uses	Y
Local Green Space (Only to be completed for proposed Local Green Space Designations)	Y
Site Features and Constraints	Y

Land at Pound Lane, Blofield (GNLP4013)



Utilities	Y
Availability	Y
Market Interest	Y
Delivery	Y
Viability	Y
Other Relevant Information	Y
Declaration	Y

14. Disclaimer

Lunderstand that:

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

The Data Controller of this information under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)2018 / Data Protection Act 1998 will be Norfolk County Council, which will hold the data on behalf of Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk District Council. The purposes of collecting this data are:

- to assist in the preparation of the Greater Norwich Local Plan
- to contact you, if necessary, regarding the answers given in your form
 to evaluate the development potential of the submitted site for the uses proposed within the form

The Site Submission response forms received as part of the Greater Norwich Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation will be published and made available for public viewing. By submitting this form you are consenting to the details about you and your individual sites being stored by Norfolk County Council, and the details being published for consultation purposes. Any information you consider to be confidential is clearly marked in the submitted response form and you have confirmed with the Council(s) in advance that such information can be kept confidential as instructed in the Greater Norwich Local Plan: Regulation 18 "- Site Submission Guidance Notes.

See our Privacy notice here http://w on how we manage your personal information

I agree that the details within this form can be held by Norfolk County Council and that those details can be made available for public viewing and shared with Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council for the purposes specified in the disclaimer above.

N	D-1-
Name	Date
Magnus Magnusson	13/03/2020
	1

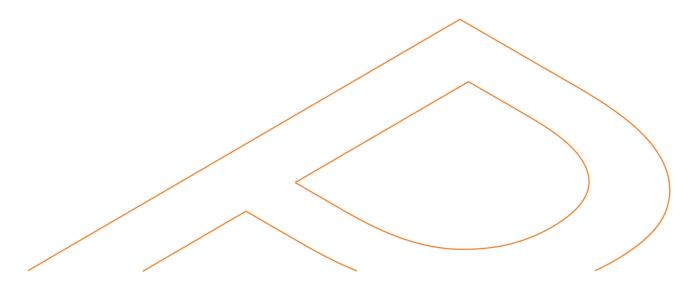
Land at Pound Lane, Blofield (GNLP4013)



Appendix B – Environment Agency Flood Mapping

Source: https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/





parker planning services

Thanks for your valued business.

