

# **Ardleigh Parish Council Response to Minerals Local Plan Review Consultation**

## **Executive Summary and Conclusions**

Ardleigh has been the location of Minerals Extraction for at least the past 75 years. There are four current active sites, and a further seven sites are proposed within Minerals Local Plan currently under consultation. This is more than any other Parish. We consider that the cumulative effect of further sites in Ardleigh would be intolerable. This is without considering other issues and proposed changes facing our community which worsen the cumulative effect.

Ardleigh stands to be uniquely and profoundly affected by proposed infrastructure relating to electricity transmission: pylons, significant cabling and multiple substations are proposed in our Parish.

In addition there are plans for up to 1500 homes and associated infrastructure within our Parish as part of the proposed Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (of up to 9000 homes in total).

There has already been significant housing and business development, not all of it welcome. A Neighbourhood Plan for Ardleigh is nearing completion where residents strongly steered us to establish policies which enhance the rural and agricultural nature of our beautiful Parish.

Our residents tell us that they are fearful and that the changes proposed threaten their quality of life and the things they value about living in Ardleigh. Existing proposals are already reducing house prices and creating anxiety for our residents. These mineral extraction proposals are adding to the misery. Our feedback includes input from around 100 residents who attended an information event organised by our Parish Council and concerned residents on 1 March 2024.

Key concerns, informed by experiences of existing quarries in our Parish include

- The loss of agricultural land
- Traffic, unsuitable access
- Noise and pollution
- Future use of land- concern about further landfill

Although we were pleased to see an extension of time, Ardleigh Parish Council feels that the Consultation has been poorly conducted and inadequate. Having reviewed the ratings of each of the sites and taken residents comments in to account we do not consider that any of the proposed new sites in Ardleigh would be suitable.

**The Parish Council endorses what we believe is the overwhelming view of residents and would not support any further mineral extraction in the Parish of Ardleigh at this time. We would ask Essex County Council to take account of the cumulative impacts of minerals extraction and of wider issues facing our Parish when considering the suitability of sites.**

# Part 1 The Consultation

## 1. Introduction General Comments on consultation and scope of this response

- 1.1. Members of Ardleigh Parish Council were invited to attend a briefing held on 30 January, 2024. At that briefing they were told that a consultation would be held on the:
  - Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan 2025 - 2040
  - Candidate Sites Assessment report
- 1.2. The consultation initially ran from 1 February 2024 -19 March 2024 but after concerns raised by the community this has been extended to 5pm, Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. We welcome the extension of time but still feel that the consultation has been inadequate.
- 1.3. This response only addresses the Candidates Sites Assessment report. The Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan 2025 - 2040 is a long document (161 pages) containing policies and technical data. The Parish Council and members of the community do not feel equipped to address this document in detail. Rather, we have focused on specific matters for Ardleigh incorporating some general comments about the themes in the Plan where pertinent. Apart from the remote briefing and impenetrable documentation there has been no support from the ECC Minerals Planning team to understand the documentation.
- 1.4. The Parish Council and community were told that all properties within 250 metres of the proposed site received written notification of the consultation. Based on feedback from the Parish Council's Drop-in session on 1 March 2024, it appears that this has not been the case. Several residents and landowners reporting that they live or own land within 250m tell us that they have not received notification.
- 1.5. Although we shared information on our social media channels some residents were not made aware of the consultation and the submission of 7 sites until they received a flyer from the Ardleigh Parish Council, inviting them to attend a drop-in session at the Village Hall on 1 March, 2024.

## 2. Submission of Candidate Sites

- 2.1. We understand that the call for sites was a two-stage process conducted during 2022. The Parish Council, residents and some local farmers were not made aware that this process was taking place and had no opportunity to comment on the call for sites. If we had been able to comment, then it is our contention that several of the sites in Ardleigh would never have made it to the consultation stage. For example, sites A45 and D6 (now sites A85 and A86) in the Site Allocation Issues & Options Paper (August 2011) were firmly rejected particularly in relation to their proximity to residential areas and negative impact on archaeology. As nothing has changed in this regard why have they not been filtered out.?
- 2.2. 52 sites have been put forward across Essex., 13 of which are in the District of Tendring (the second highest after Braintree with 15 sites). 7 of the 13 are in the Parish of Ardleigh. This is the highest number for any single Parish in Essex. It is obvious that the cumulative effect of 7 sites in one Parish is unacceptable, especially when there are already 4 active sites in operation.
- 2.3. In addition, under National Grid's controversial plans for 27 x 50m high pylons and underground cabling through a large part of Ardleigh, along with a 45 hectare National Grid substation and three additional adjoining windfarm substations Ardleigh should not be being considered for any additional infrastructure developments.
- 2.4. Three of the submitted sites A79, A85 and A86 have pylons, underground cables or both proposed on these sites. These sites should never have been included in the submissions as, clearly, they

cannot have both pylons and be a mineral extraction site. Until it is clear what is the outcome of the National Grid proposals there should be a moratorium on any minerals development in the Parish of Ardleigh and these sites withdrawn from the process.

### **3. Red Amber Green (RAG) assessment process**

- 3.1. The RAG assessment process appears very comprehensive with each site being assessed against 16 criteria. However, in reality it appears to be subjective and inconsistent. One of the criteria is "Soil Quality" there are three Grades of land throughout the 7 sites Grades 1, 2 and 3. Both A85 and A86 are Grade 1 A85 is rated Red and A86 is rated Red Amber. There is no explanation as to why it differs.
- 3.2. We would expect that the narrative to support each assessment of the criteria would clearly explain the evidence and rationale behind the rating. However, it does not. For example, Site A86 has 26 bullet points with no indication of which criteria they refer to and how they impact on the ratings.
- 3.3. There is also frequent use of baffling language. For example: "The cumulative impact of this proposal and the proposed site allocation A73 Martell's Western Extension would likely represent a high level of 'less than substantial' harm to the setting and significance of Hulls Farmhouse due to substantial curtailment of the agrarian landscape." What does "would likely represent a high level of less than substantial harm" actually mean and how is it rated?

### **4. Impact on Ardleigh**

- 4.1. Gravel extraction has been taking place at Martell's Quarry off Slough Lane in Ardleigh since at least 1948. Since then, the quarry sites have been extended several times as each site has been exhausted. The exhausted sites have been put to a variety of uses including recreational, industrial and landfill.
- 4.2. Martell's Quarry is approximately 1km from the centre of the Village and residents report being able to hear activity from the Quarry site on a regular basis and out of reasonable working hours. Since one of the exhausted sites has been used for landfill there are regular reports of residents being affected by bad smells which pervade the village as well as infestations of rats and flies.
- 4.3. The Parish Council has had periodic contact with Environment Agency officers (as well as liaising with Tendring District Council) to investigate where they have found breaches in various controls relating to the landfill site.
- 4.4. Slough Lane in the vicinity of the Quarry is covered in sand and the hedges are covered in fine dust. Residents are therefore generally, based on their experiences, against further extension and new sites.
- 4.5. In 2009, a further extraction site, Crown Quarry, was opened adjacent to Wick Lane and the Old Ipswich Road, making four active quarries in Ardleigh. Upon completion this will form an extension to the existing reservoir and will be landscaped around the boundaries to form a Public Open Space (Country Park). The reservoir extension will almost double the area of water to over 100ha. The community seriously questions how much more of this type of development can be accommodated.
- 4.6. The Parish Council regularly receives reports and concerns from residents about volume of quarry traffic- including through centre of village. Eg There has been a recent exchange with a quarry operator with a resident covering volume and alleged poor driving. Given that this is not a matter over which the Parish Council has powers or influence we would suspect that the problem is more

significant than the direct reports to us suggest. Residents comments at the recent drop in event included a number of concerns about worsening quarry and related traffic.

- 4.7. This is in addition to additional traffic- including HGV's- which residents have been subjected to during A12 night time closures. This is because ECC has approved Ardleigh as the default diversion route for A12 traffic when closed- despite alternatives suggested and agreed by National Highways. Residents experienced disruption to sleep etc for months on end in 2022-23 which could happen again. Please don't add insult to injury by proposing more lorries through our village.
- 4.8. Feedback, given verbally and in writing, from over 100 residents, who attended the Drop-in session on 1st March, 2024, indicates that they are overwhelmingly against any further mineral extraction in the Parish of Ardleigh. The feeling is that Ardleigh has given enough in terms of disruption and loss of land, in relation to mineral extraction.. They feel that any of the proposed sites would significantly adversely affect the quality of life in the village and outlying communities, in relation to noise, dust, traffic and potential health issues. Combined with the threat of Pylons etc. they feel it will also contribute to the devaluing of property prices. We are aware of at least one sale that has fallen through as a result of the consultation being announced.

## **5. Archaeology**

- 5.1. All the sites in Ardleigh are, with the exception of A80, on land identified on the Stantec Historic Environment data map as being a Heritage Site and Monument. Ardleigh has been continuously settled since Neolithic times and is covered in significant archaeology, some of which has already been destroyed by mineral extraction and other developments. What remains should be preserved.

## **6. Agriculture**

- 6.1. All the sites are currently agricultural land rated Best and Most Versatile (BMV). They are Grade I Grade II or III. There is no mitigation to avoid destroying this BMV land through mineral extraction. The RAG assessment indicates mitigation would be difficult to achieve on some levels. There seems to be low regard for removal and/or destruction of precious habitats and top-quality agricultural land. Our residents' feedback supports the conclusion that these sites are unacceptable.
- 6.2. It is not a convincing case for top soil to be replaced at a later stage and for it to continue to be BMV, as without the underlying mineral it risks losing this grading. We are facing a food security crisis and use of BMV land should not be permitted. Ardleigh has and is likely to lose, significant hectares of land due to existing mineral extraction extensions, Tendring and Colchester Garden Community development, National Grid/North Falls/Five Estuaries/Tarchon pylons, cables and substations, large distribution centre development near to Sites 79/80. The loss of further land should be resisted.

## **7. Restoration- biodiversity**

- 7.1. Completed minerals extraction should be considered green field sites not brown field once extraction is completed. Several of the uses which have been approved along Slough Lane in particular, have been the source of considerable nuisance to residents: noise from metal / minerals recycling, large heavily laden vehicles/ HGVs and smells etc from landfill site. We do not consider that these are conducive to the countryside setting nor do they enhance biodiversity. The default expectation should be to return to agricultural use not business (nor housing) development.
- 7.2. We are also concerned about the long-term disruption and delays to realization of any public benefits as evidenced by the existing sites. In recent months both Crown Quarry and the Martells Landfill sites have applied for extensions of time to complete meaning that the public access to the

new reservoir is further delayed and residents will have to tolerate the impacts of active landfill for even longer.

- 7.3. We would wish to see a higher level of nature protection and recovery into policies of the new Minerals Plan. For example, all projects should deliver at least a 20% biodiversity net gain, and provide aftercare and stewardship for a period of 30 years after extraction has ended. There should be a commitment to meaningful community engagement and public access to additional green spaces should be facilitated where feasible.
- 7.4. We would wish to see climate resilience measures such as reed beds. Also taking care to preserve watercourses and underwater conditions and ensure that ancient trees and hedgerows are retained and protected.

## Part 2 Site Specific Comments

### 1. Overview and Introduction to Part 2

1.1. To support the views expressed above there follows feedback from the Parish Council and residents in respect of specific sites.

1.2. The table below shows the Red Amber Green (RAG) ratings for the proposed sites in Ardleigh.

**Table showing RAG ratings for all Ardleigh Parish sites**

Criteria	A72	A73	A79	A80	A85	A86	A87
Landscape & Visual Sensitivity	Amber /Green	Amber	Amber /Green	Amber /Green	Amber /Green	Amber	Amber
Biodiversity	Amber	Amber	Amber		Amber /Green	Amber	Amber
Historic Buildings	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Green	Amber	Red/Amber
Archaeology	Amber	Amber /Green	Amber	Amber /Green	Amber	Red	Amber
Flooding	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green
Transport	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
Access	Green	Green	Red/Amber	Green	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Green
Public Rights of Way	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red/Amber	Red/Amber	Red/Amber
Geo-Environmental	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Drainage	Amber	Amber	Red/Amber	Amber	Amber /Green	Amber	Amber /Green
Air Quality	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Soil Quality	Red/Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Red	Red/Amber	Red/Amber
Services & Utilities	Amber	Green	Red	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber /Green
Health & Amenity	Red/Amber	Red	Red	Red	Red/Amber	Red	Amber
Green Belt	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Airport Safeguarding Zones	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

### 2. Sites A72 & A73 – Martell’s Quarry

#### 2.1. Site A72

##### a) Landscape & Visual Sensitivity – currently Amber Green

- i. Close to Ancient Woodlands 200m – 800m
- ii. The Site is located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) Tendring Plain (E3), and possesses a number of characteristic features, including the large flat arable plateau, straight regular field pattern, low trimmed hedgerows, and woodland copses which has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age.
- iii. This site is designated as a Heritage site.
- iv. The site is visible from Bromley Road, Slough Lane and the A120 and protected lanes in Crockleford.
- v. The site is in close proximity to and will be visible to the development of Tendring and Colchester Garden Community

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber.*

##### b) Biodiversity – current rating Amber

- vi. Within 0 – 600m of at least 5 Priority Habitats

- vii. Within 800m of Ancient Woodland (Walls Wood)
- viii. There will be a cumulative negative effect on Bio Diversity due to the development of the Colchester, Tendring Garden Community in Crockleford Heath

*Conclusion: For the above reasons the site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**c) Archaeology – current rating Amber**

- i. This site is designated as a Heritage site

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**d) Geo-Environmental- current rating Green**

- i. How can this be rated Green when the area around Ardleigh Pit is designated SSSI?

*Conclusion: We think the rating should be Red Amber.*

**2.2 Site A73**

**a) Biodiversity – current rating Amber**

- i. Within 0 – 450m of at least 8 Priority Habitats
- ii. Within 600m of Ancient Woodland (Walls Wood)

*Conclusion: For the above reasons the site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**b) Geo-Environmental- current rating Green**

- ix. How can this be rated Green when the area around Ardleigh Pit is designated SSSI?

*Conclusion: We think it should be red amber*

**2.3 Both Sites A72/A73: Feedback from Ardleigh Residents at Drop-in session:**

- We are worried about how an extraction site will de-value our property which currently overlooks beautiful farmland.
- What happens once extraction is finished? More landfill??!! And the further problems that brings.
- We already have trucks going to and from the recycling site. This will add to traffic and pollution.
- Already substantial noise nuisance from Martell’s site to local residents. Further noise would be intolerable.
- Why is the reservoir at Hull Farm included in the existing Martell’s Quarry plan?
- Concerned (about) increased traffic on Spring Valley Lane.
- Did not receive letter.
- Noise, dust, smell and traffic impact.
- Cumulative impact on area.
- Water table as well is now affected.
- Current road access around Martell’s is narrow, dirty and inadequate.

**3. Sites A79 & A80**

**3.1 Site A 79**

**a) Landscape & Visual Sensitivity – currently Amber Green**

- i. The Site is located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) Tendring Plain (E3), and possesses a number of characteristic features, including the large flat arable plateau, straight regular field pattern, low trimmed hedgerows, and woodland copses which has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age.
- ii. This site is designated as a Heritage site & Monument.

- iii. The site is visible from Wick Lane, Lodge Lane, Dead Lane and footpaths 19 & 20
- iv. This site will be audible from a designated (emerging) Neighbourhood Plan Local Green Space

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**b) Biodiversity – current rating Amber**

- i. Within 0 – 500m of at least 7 Priority Habitats
- ii. Within 500m of Ancient Woodland (Birch Wood)

*Conclusion For the above reasons the site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**c) Archaeology – current rating Amber**

- i. This site is designated as a Heritage site & Monument

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**d) Transport – current rating Amber**

- v. Access to the main road network would have to be through the existing Crown Quarry which is scheduled to become a Country Park.
- vi. Construction of a Haul Road would be required through the County Park. Access to a Haul Road would entail crossing Wick Lane destroying hedgerows other wildlife habitats.
- vii. Wick Lane is a narrow, regularly used 'rat run' and is extremely dangerous which will only be made worse by use of HGVs.

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**e) Public Rights of Way – current rating Green**

- i. This will have serious visual and environmental implications for footpaths 19 & 20 ,19 will be part of country park

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

**f) Soil Quality – current rating Amber**

- i. For consistency, this site is classified Grade 2 as is Site A72 and should therefore be Red Amber

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

### **3.2 Site A 80**

**a) Landscape & Visual Sensitivity – currently Amber Green**

- i. The Site is located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) Tendring Plain (E3), and possesses a number of characteristic features, including the large flat arable plateau, straight regular field pattern, low trimmed hedgerows, and woodland copses which has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age.
- ii. The site is visible from Wick Lane, Lodge Lane, Dead Lane and footpaths 19 & 20
- iii. This site will be audible and visible from a designated (emerging) Neighbourhood Plan Local Green Space

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

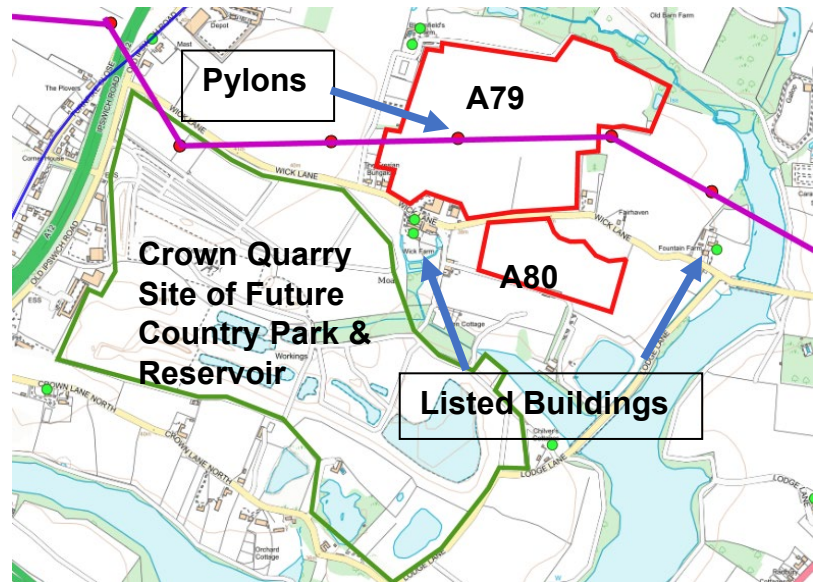
**b) Transport – current rating Amber**

- i. Access to the main road network would have to be through the existing Crown Quarry which is scheduled to become a Country Park.
- ii. Construction of a Haul Road would be required through the Country Park.

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*



This map shows sites A79 & A80, the proposed 50m high National Grid Pylon Route, the future site of the Reservoir Extension and Country Park and proximity of listed buildings



### 3.3 Both sites A79/A80: Ardleigh Residents feedback at drop in meeting

- i. Access via existing Crown Quarry? But that is supposed to be turned into a country park.
- ii. National Grid seems determined to cover Ardleigh with pylons while the community is totally opposed. Sites A79, A80, A85 and A86 should be excluded from consideration until the outcome of the NG regionally important NG proposal is known. (added to two categories)
- iii. We must not forget we need FOOD.

## 4. Sites A85, A86 & A87

### 4.1 Site A85

#### a) Landscape & Visual Sensitivity – currently Amber Green

- i. The Site is located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) Tendring Plain (E3), and possesses a number of characteristic features, including the large flat arable plateau, straight regular field pattern, low trimmed hedgerows, and woodland copses which has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age.
- ii. This site is designated as a Heritage site & Monument
- iii. The site is visible from Little Bromley Road, Morrow Lane and footpaths 28 & 29 and is close to the Village Conservation area see map below.

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red Amber*

#### b) Historic Buildings – current rating Green

- i. There are 5 listed buildings within 300m – 700m from the site which will be impacted both visually and by noise and dust

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red/ Amber*

#### c) Archaeology – current rating Amber

- i. This site is designated as a Heritage site.& monument
- ii. There are records of aerial photographs showing archaeology similar to that in the nearby Scheduled Monument and also in Site A86 which is rated Red

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

#### d) Transport & Access – current rating Amber and Red Amber

- i. Access to the main road network would have to be through agricultural land close to the Scheduled Monument and through a designated heritage site and monument
- ii. Construction of a Haul Road would be required on to Frating Road which is heavily used

- iii. HGVs would then have to travel to turn left into the bend at Slough Lane which would need to be modified to accommodate this
- iv. Elm Park (residential setting for people recovering from brain injury) is very close to the junction and would be disrupted by the inevitable noise levels etc
- v. Fruit producers in the area are likely to be impacted.

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, these sites should be rated Red*

**e) Public Rights of Way – current rating Red Amber**

- i. If a PROW 28 is being completely destroyed, what mitigation would be possible?

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**f) Services & Utilities – current rating Amber**

- i. The site is proposed to have National Grid underground electricity cables installed across the width of the site

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

## 4.2 Site A86

**a) Landscape & Visual Sensitivity – currently Amber**

- i. The Site is located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) Tendring Plain (E3), and possesses a number of characteristic features, including the large flat arable plateau, straight regular field pattern, low trimmed hedgerows, and woodland copses which has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age.
- ii. This site is designated as a Heritage site & Monument
- iii. The site is visible from Little Bromley Road, Morrow Lane, Chapel Croft, The Limes, Glebe Cottages and footpaths 28 & 42
- iv. The site is Adjacent to the Ardleigh conservation area see below

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**b) Historic Buildings – current rating Amber**

- i. There are approximately 20 listed buildings within 200m – 450m from the site which will be impacted both visually and by noise and dust

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**c) Transport & Access – current rating Amber and Red Amber**

- i. Access to the main road network would have to be through agricultural land close to the Scheduled Monument and through a designated heritage site and monument
- ii. Construction of a Haul Road would be required on to Frating Road which is heavily used
- iii. HGVs would then have to travel to turn left into the bend at Slough Lane which would need to be modified to accommodate this
- iv. Elm Park (residential setting for people recovering from brain injury) is very close to the junction and would be disrupted by the inevitable noise levels etc

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**d) Public Rights of Way – current rating Red Amber**

- i. If a PROW 28 7 42 is being completely destroyed, what mitigation would be possible?

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**e) Soil Quality – current rating Amber**

- i. For consistency, this site is classified Grade 1 as is Site A85 and should therefore be Red

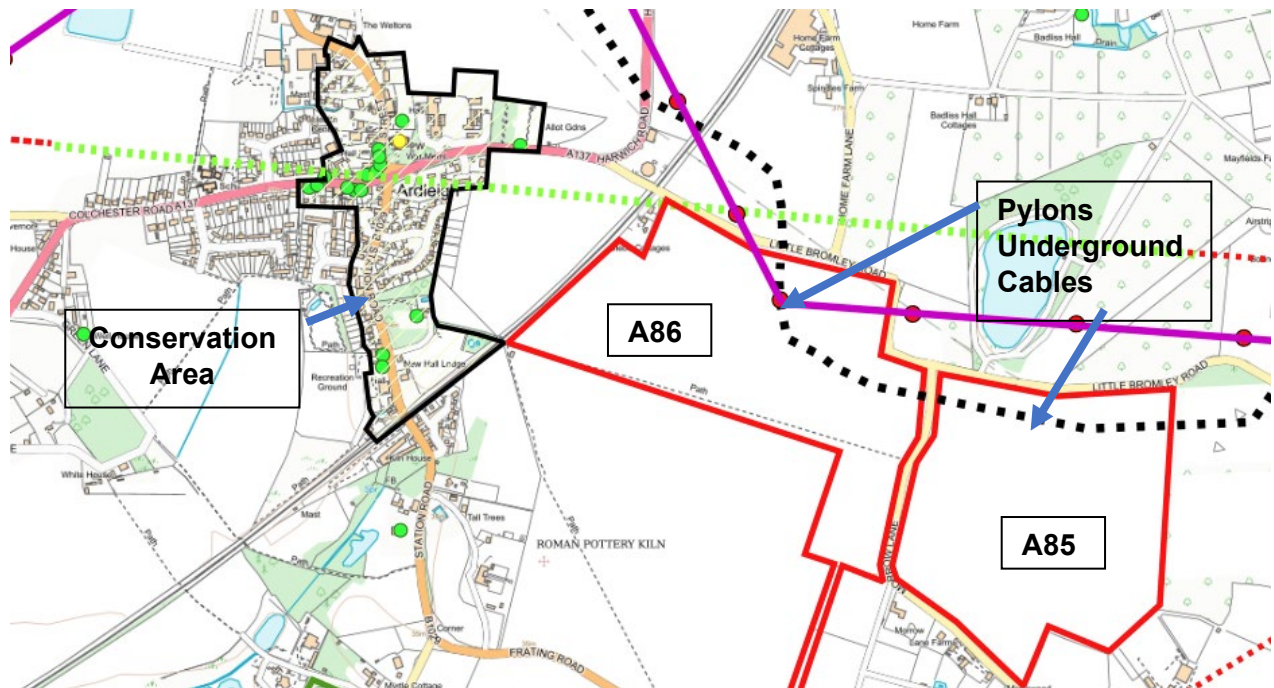
*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**f) Services & Utilities – current rating Amber**

- i. The site is due to have National Grid underground electricity cables and 50m high pylons installed across the width of the site

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

*This map shows the proximity and scale of sites A85 & A86 to Ardleigh Village Conservation Area & the proposed route of Pylons and Underground Cables*



**4.3 Site A87**

**a) Landscape & Visual Sensitivity – currently Amber**

- i. The Site is located in Landscape Character Area (LCA) Tendring Plain (E3), and possesses a number of characteristic features, including the large flat arable plateau, straight regular field pattern, low trimmed hedgerows, and woodland copses which has been occupied since at least the bronze age.
- ii. This site is designated as a Heritage site & Monument
- iii. The site is visible from Park Road, Frating Road and Slough Lane
- iv. 500m from the hamlet of Burnt Heath

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated at least Red/ Amber*

**b) Biodiversity – current rating Amber**

- i. Within 180m of Green Island which is a 9Ha private garden and woodland open to the public
- ii. Green Island is designated a Priority Habitat and would become a designated Local Green Space in the emerging Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan

*Conclusion For the above reasons the site should be rated Red*

**c) Archaeology – current rating Amber**

- i. This site is designated as a Heritage site.& monument
- ii. It is immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Monument to the north of the site

iii. The historic Roman Road from the Hythe runs across the southern edge of the site

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, this site should be rated Red*

**d) Transport & Access – current rating Amber**

i. It is not clear how access to the main road network would be achieved

*Conclusion: For the above reasons, these sites should be rated Red*

**e) Geo-Environmental- current rating Green**

i. How can this be rated Green when the area around Ardleigh Pit is designated SSSI?

*Conclusion: Should be rated red*

**f) Soil Quality – current rating Red Amber**

i. For consistency, this site is classified Grade 1 as is Site A85 and should therefore be Red

*Conclusion: Should be rated red*

#### **4.4 Three sites- A85 A86 & A87: Ardleigh Residents feedback at drop in meeting**

- National Grid seems determined to cover Ardleigh with pylons while the community is totally opposed. Sites A79, A80, A85 and A86 should be excluded from consideration until the outcome of the NG regionally important NG proposal is known. (added to two categories)
- Local business – traffic flow, access, health, dust, congestion, property value, development.
- Residential – effects on property value and development, dust, noise, congestion, nature.
- A85 would put a quarry to our left, pylons to our north, batteries storage to our east. Surrounded!!!
- Oh Dear! Issue with pylons as well!!! Destruction of already threatened countryside. Trees, birds, all habitats. More heavy vehicles on all small roads. Devaluing of housing and general quality of life. Pollution and degradation for all sites in RED or ORANGE categories.
- Devaluation of properties.
- HGV traffic on B1029 is excessive. Damage to roads. Road width not enough for HGVs to pass each other.
- Noise pollution, dust pollution, damage to wildlife, changes to the water table. Vibration damage to houses by HGVs.
- Noise!, traffic, dust, ecological disruption, property valuation, water table!
- How is A85 accessed?
- Congestion, noise, dust, excessive traffic, effect on wildlife, property value. Residents suffer!!
- No information received. What will happen to the area afterwards? Worried about huge amounts of extra vehicles and large lorries.
- Health risks are red. How is this justified to locals?
- Pollution, noise, smell, dust. Lorries through Ardleigh.
- Long term – landfill! (They won't make ALL of these into fishing lakes!).
- We have blueberry farming, pylons, battery storage, housing developments. Our quiet enjoyment is under threat.
- A85/A86. Much too close to residential properties. Noise, dust pollution, lights. Heavy traffic, damage to roads. Wildlife threat. Loss of habitat, loss of farmland.
- A86 Huge impact on noise and dust pollution. Very close to our house.
- Rats are terrible from the pit.
- Even more noise. Pollution. Storage of minerals? Site already isn't big enough. Wildlife. Dust causing health problems. Impact of lorries on my road – Slough Lane.
- Loss of more farmland. De-value houses. Environmental impact. Well water going. Impact on Blueberry farm and Ardleigh looking an eyesore. Smell of methane will be worse.

- A85/A86 Excessive traffic of HGVs in the village, damage to the roads. It is already bad, it will be much worse.
- A86/A85 Huge impact on mental health due to increased traffic, dust, pollution!
- A86/A85 Human health impact due to excessive dust!
- Devaluation of property values. Destruction of local roads. Health implications from pylons and dust. Increased traffic and now loss of prime farming soil for food.
- Noise pollution, dust pollution, effect on water table, increased traffic, valuable agricultural land being lost, effect on house prices, wildlife impacted.
- We, in the Tendring District, have some of the finest food production in the UK. At a time when there are so many conflicts in the world we should be focusing more on self-sufficiency!! We all need to eat!!
- Health risks, noise and pollution, HGVs through village, danger to wildlife, destruction of good arable land, diminution of property values, detrimental effect on water table.
- Lorries, dust, noise, pollution, health risk, conservation area, wildlife risk.
- De-value properties, dust, wildlife destroyed, roads destroyed, noise of lorries and diggers.
- A86/A85 Destruction of archaeological sites, destruction of Rights of Way.
- A86/A85 De-value of properties near these sites.
- Why should I have to wash my car every time I drive down Slough Lane?
- Threat to health from dust and pollution.
- Destruction of endangered wildlife ie great crested newts, long-eared bats, hedgehogs.
- Did not receive letter ref quarry despite our land abounding A85. (added to two categories)
- HGV traffic, noise, air pollution, property values, general quality of life.
- Did not receive letter. Noise, dust, smell and traffic impact. Cumulative impact on area. Water table as well is now affected. (added to two categories)

## 5. General Comments from Residents

Some additional non-site-specific comments from residents are reproduced below:

- Residents/ landowners who believe their property or land is within 250 metres of a site reported not receiving letters.
- Have ECC reduced distance to homes ie 500m to 250m for notification? (added to two categories)
- Did not receive letter ref quarry despite our land adjacent to A85. (added to two categories)
- Did not receive letter.
- Noise, dust, smell and traffic impact. Cumulative impact on area.
- Water table as well is now affected. (added to two categories)
- Impact on Spring Valley Lane
- SRC have been excellent over the management of Crown Quarry excavation. They have managed HGV movements so that none have strayed from agreed routes (none down Crown Lane). No noise, no dust. Regular updates on progress.
- Dust, noise, wildlife, health issues, property values. Much too close to residential areas. Already an excessive number of heavy lorries.
- Have ECC reduced distance to homes i.e. 500m to 250m for notification? (added to two categories)
- Need to pause any non-domestic development in Ardeleigh until the result of the N.G. (National Grid) proposals are known. If substations go ahead then other developments should be stopped.
- As a farmer and grower of fresh produce in the UK, (name redacted) has sympathy with growers diversifying because of the lack of community and government support, current unprofitable

produce and adverse market conditions. This has meant that to stay in farming and fresh produce, they are having to diversify and find other sources of income for their land. That said, any mineral extraction and development project near our fruit farm should not impact the access and farming of our land. They would have to show full mitigation of the control of any dust blocking out light to our tunnels and fruit crops, or other contamination effecting both our crops and our water supply. It should also in no way pollute or affect our access to irrigation water, or lowering of the water table or restricting our supply of irrigation water.

### **Submitted by**

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*Ardleigh Parish Council*

*March 2024*