



Ardleigh History & Heritage Survey

Produced by Ardleigh residents in response to
National Grid Norwich to Tilbury proposals.

Date: 17-04-2024

Bronze Age Landscape at Ardleigh,
c.1200 BC

Roger Massey-Ryan

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Introduction

Introduction

The infrastructure proposed for Ardleigh as part of the Norwich to Tilbury project would result in overhead and underground lines encircling the village and the building of the huge substation that forms the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN).

Ardleigh is noted for its rich heritage. The village has been continuously occupied since Neolithic times. The area is well known for crop marks in the fields that show signs of early occupation. In the village there are 69 Grade II and 2 Grade II* listed buildings, monument sites and the remains of Roman roads. The harm to this heritage would be extensive.

The Ardleigh History & Heritage Survey was produced by Ardleigh residents in conjunction with the corresponding ESNP campaign group survey, to help assess these harms. It adopts the same questions and provides the same options for multiple choice answers as the main ESNP survey. The information produced complements other responses relating to Ardleigh in the ESNP survey.

This document is intended to provide a brief overview of the Ardleigh survey. All map images are purely for illustrative purposes. Please refer to the NGET Norwich to Tilbury website for more accurate maps.

Introduction: The History & Heritage of Ardleigh

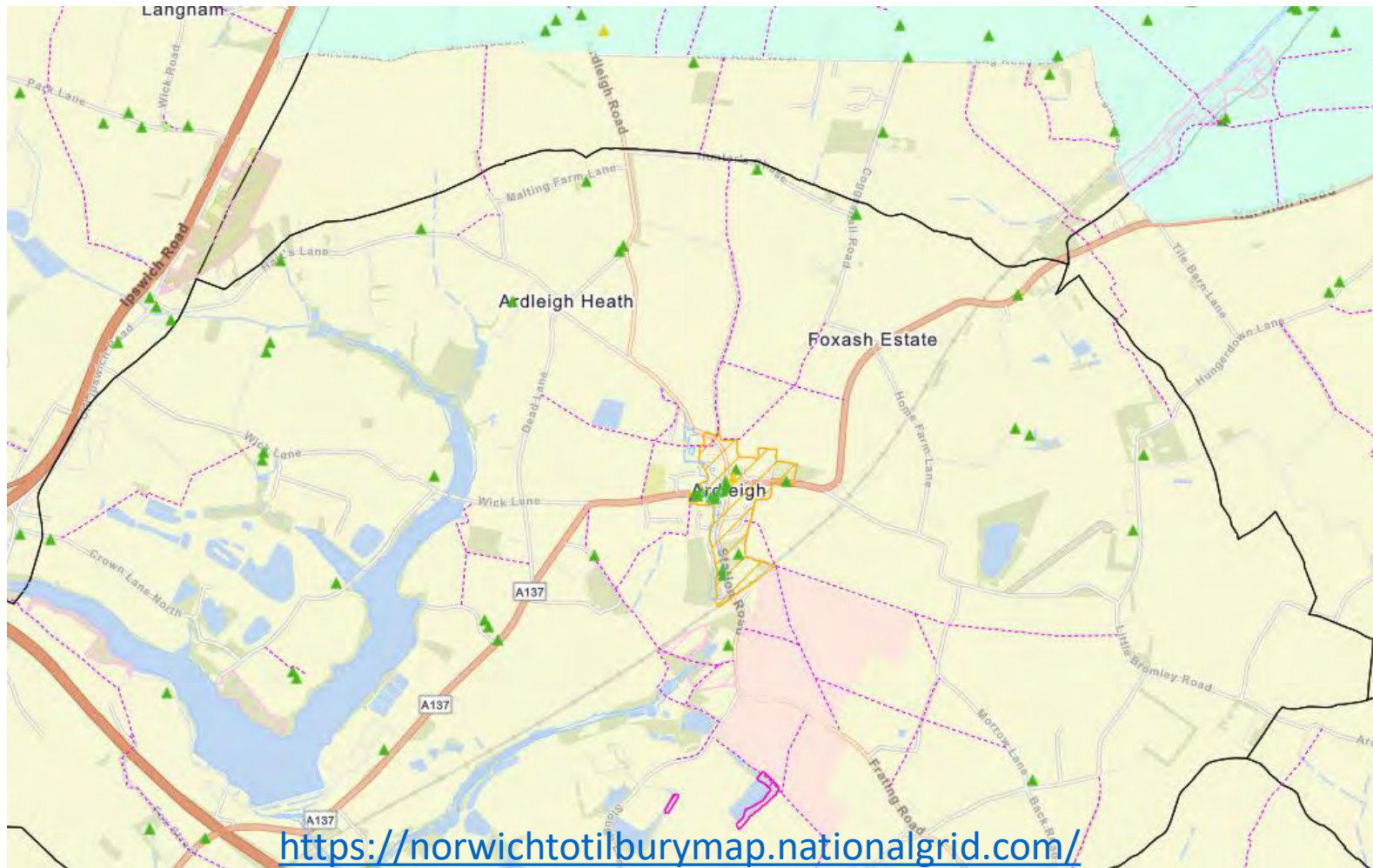
- A defining feature of Ardleigh is its rich historical and archaeological character.
- It is believed that the Parish has been settled in excess of 3000 years. Ardleigh appeared in the 1086 Domesday Book, with its population of 38 households placing it in the largest 20% of all settlements recorded at this time. It is notable that there are 5 entries for Ardleigh in the Domesday Book
- The Norman Conquest meant great changes for Ardleigh. The land was divided into four manors, which indicates the prominence of the settlement at that time.
- A tabulated history of Ardleigh is provided in Appendix A.
- The Parish currently has 69 Grade II and 2 Grade II* listed buildings and one Scheduled Monument site.
- There is a notably high concentration of Grade II listed buildings at the historic core of Ardleigh village along Colchester Road and The Street. The Grade II* listed St Mary's Church, parts of which date to the 14th century, is also prominently located here.

Additional information on the history can be found on the Ardleigh Parish Council website:

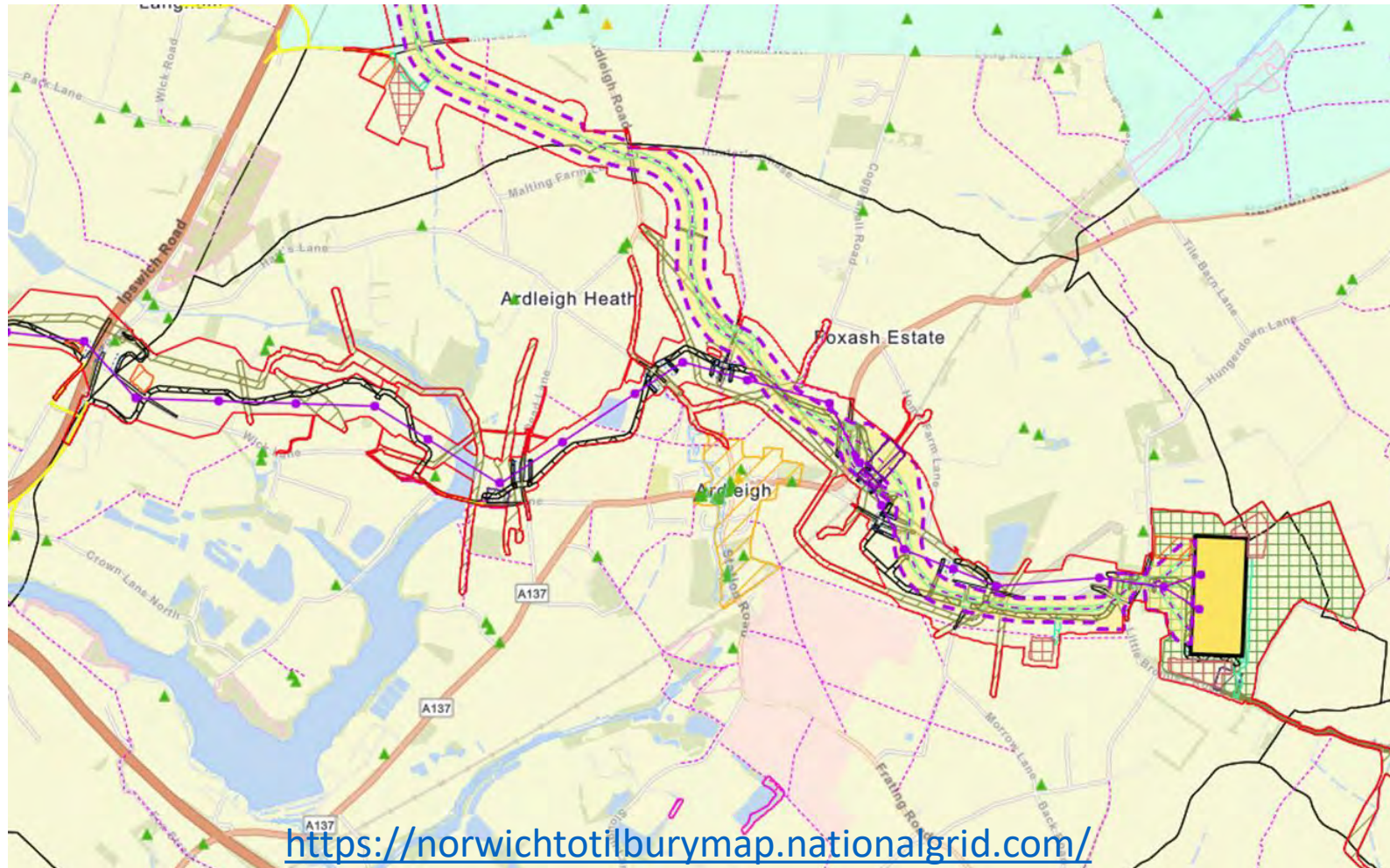
<https://ardleigh.website/ardleigh-history>

Location of the Proposed Infrastructure in Ardleigh

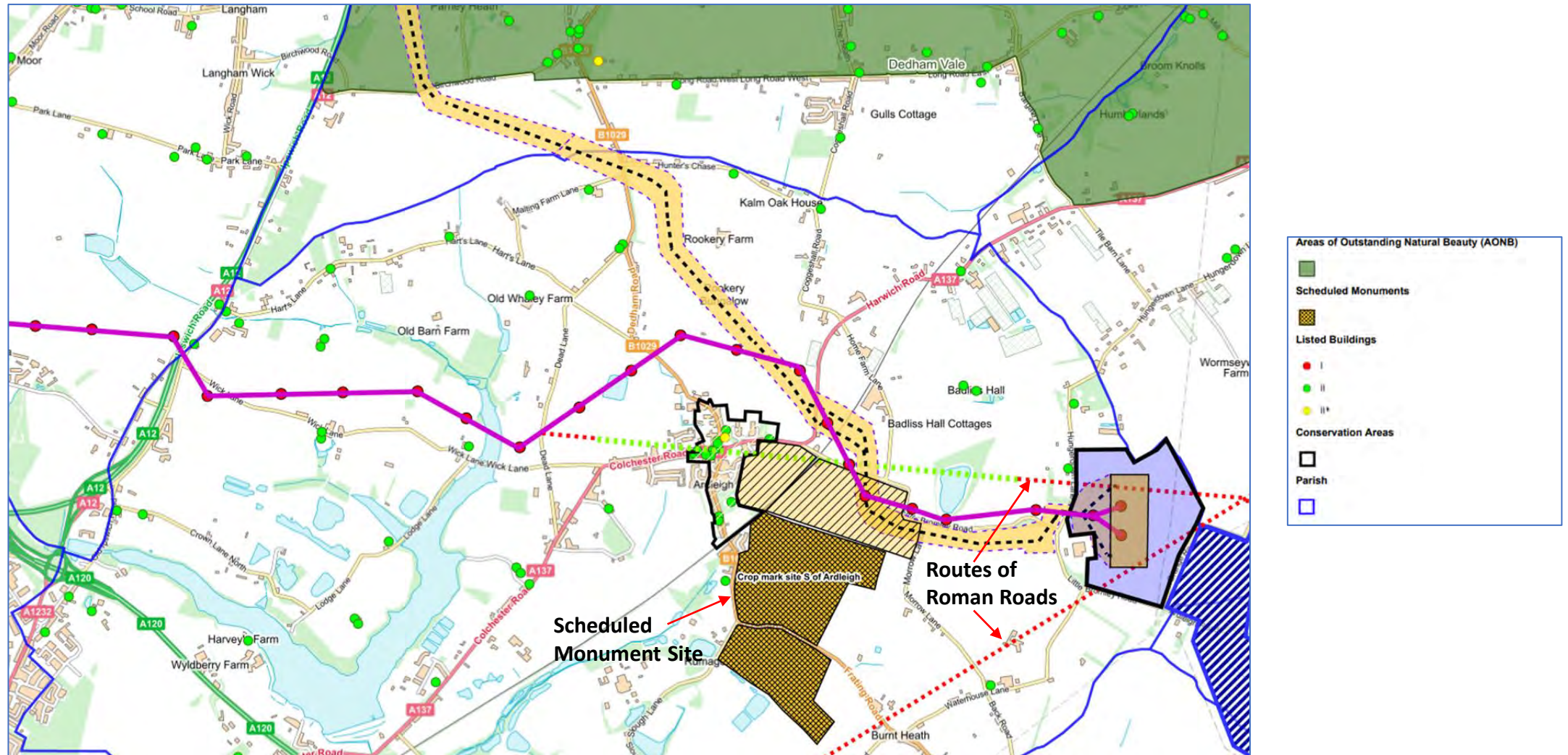
National Grid's Plans for Ardleigh: *The area before construction*



National Grid's Plans for Ardleigh: *The area during and after construction*

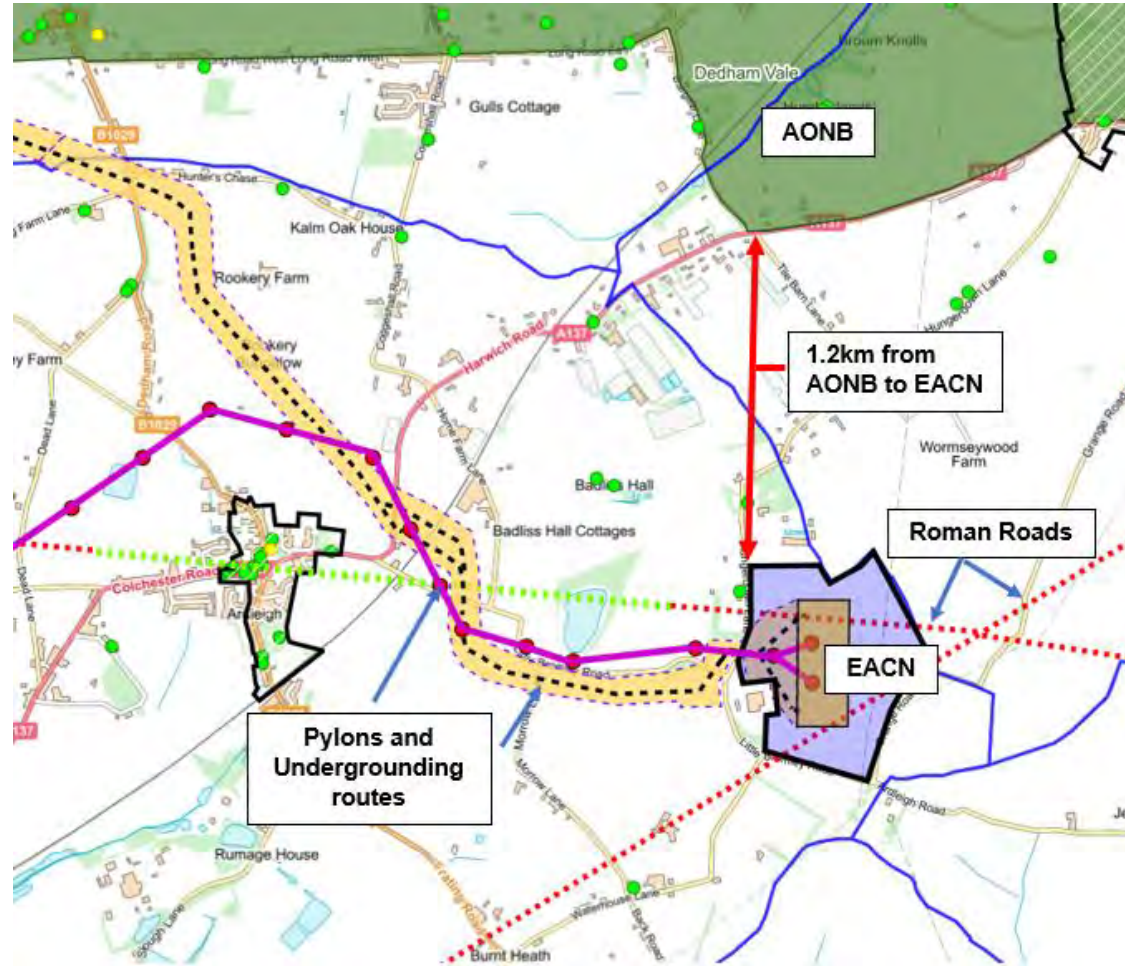


Approximate location of the proposed pylons, undergrounding and substations in Ardleigh in relation to heritage assets



Proposed EACN substation site

Proximity of the proposed EACN substation site to the Dedham Vale National Landscape (AONB)



Proposed EACN substation site



Image showing the proposed site for the EACN substation.

Please note that this shows just a small section of the 40ha greenfield site that has been selected for EACN.

Proposed location of further substations

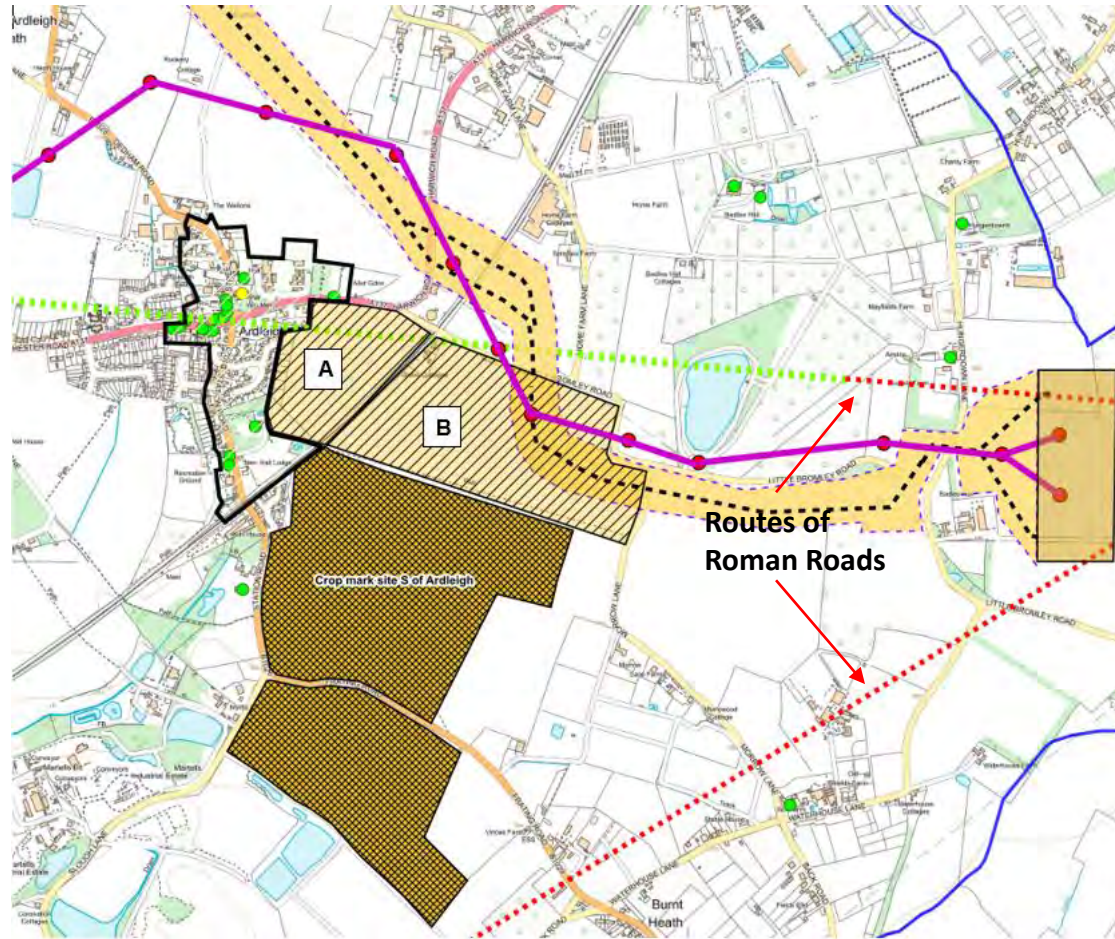


View of the fields adjacent to the proposed EACN site where the additional windfarm substations are currently planned to be located.

The mounds of soil are from excavations associated with the archaeological surveys.

Monument Sites

Monument Sites



Map to show the approximate location of two monument sites in Ardleigh in relation to the proposed routes for the overhead lines and undergrounding.

This is split into two sections:

The top single hatched areas marked A and B represent the corresponding areas identified in EAA Report 90, as referenced in the next slide.

The lower cross hatched sections represent Scheduled Monument List Entry Number: 1002146 "Crop mark site S of Ardleigh".

The incursion of the proposed infrastructure is clearly visible on this map. The disruption extends significantly beyond the cable route, due to the width of the undergrounding, the haul roads and land required during construction.

Important archaeology is therefore very much at risk.

Monument Sites

“Ardleigh is rich in archaeological cropmarks representing prehistoric and RomanoBritish burials, boundaries and settlement” *

The ancient monument sites play a central part in the ancient history of the village of Ardleigh.

The area around the Scheduled Monument in Ardleigh has produced a huge number of archaeological finds, from the earliest Neolithic finds through the Bronze Age, Roman period, Iron Age and Saxon period. The largest Bronze Age urnfield ever found in England was found in the area, which shows that Ardleigh was a flourishing community in the years 1400BC to 800BC.

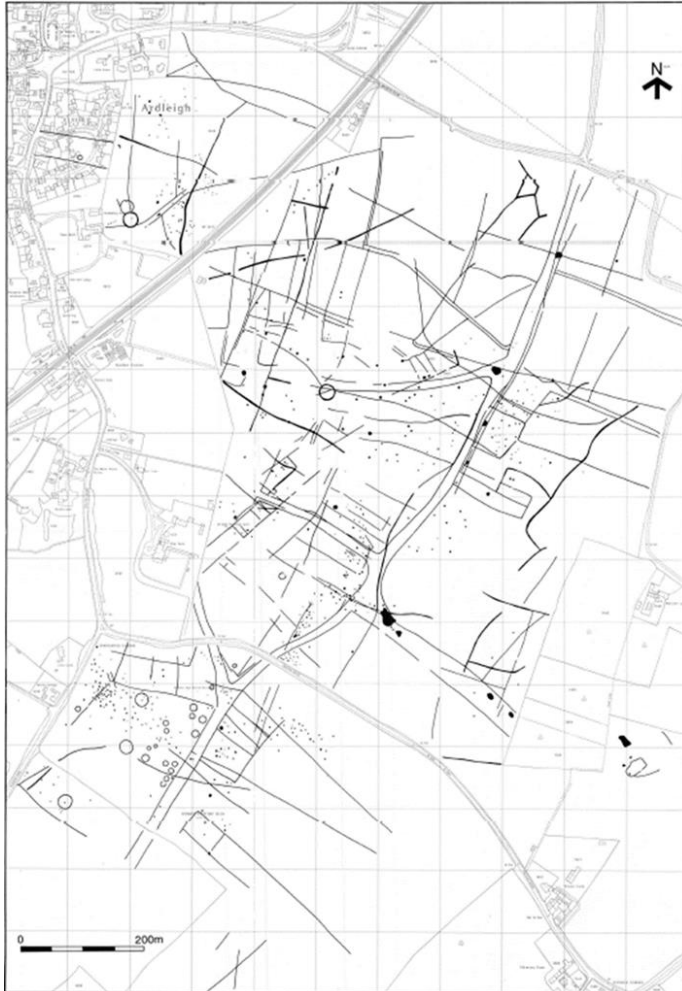
The regions denoted by Areas A and B in the previous map are additional ancient monument sites identified in EAA Report 90**. These ancient settlements extended significantly beyond the Scheduled Monument. Further evidence that the ancient settlements extended significantly beyond the Scheduled Monument, is illustrated in the image showing “The Ardleigh cropmark complex” on the next slide.

The boundaries of the Scheduled Monument were drawn purely to illustrate the extent of the archaeological investigation that had been carried out at the time (hence the straight line for example). There are currently large areas of unexcavated archaeology. It is considered highly likely that if it was properly investigated the scheduled monument site would cover a much greater area, including land north of Little Bromley Road.

* Colchester Archaeological Trust <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/reports/CAT-report-0894.pdf>

** The Archaeology of Ardleigh, Essex: Excavations 1955-1980 by N.R. Brown East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 90, 1999

Monument Sites

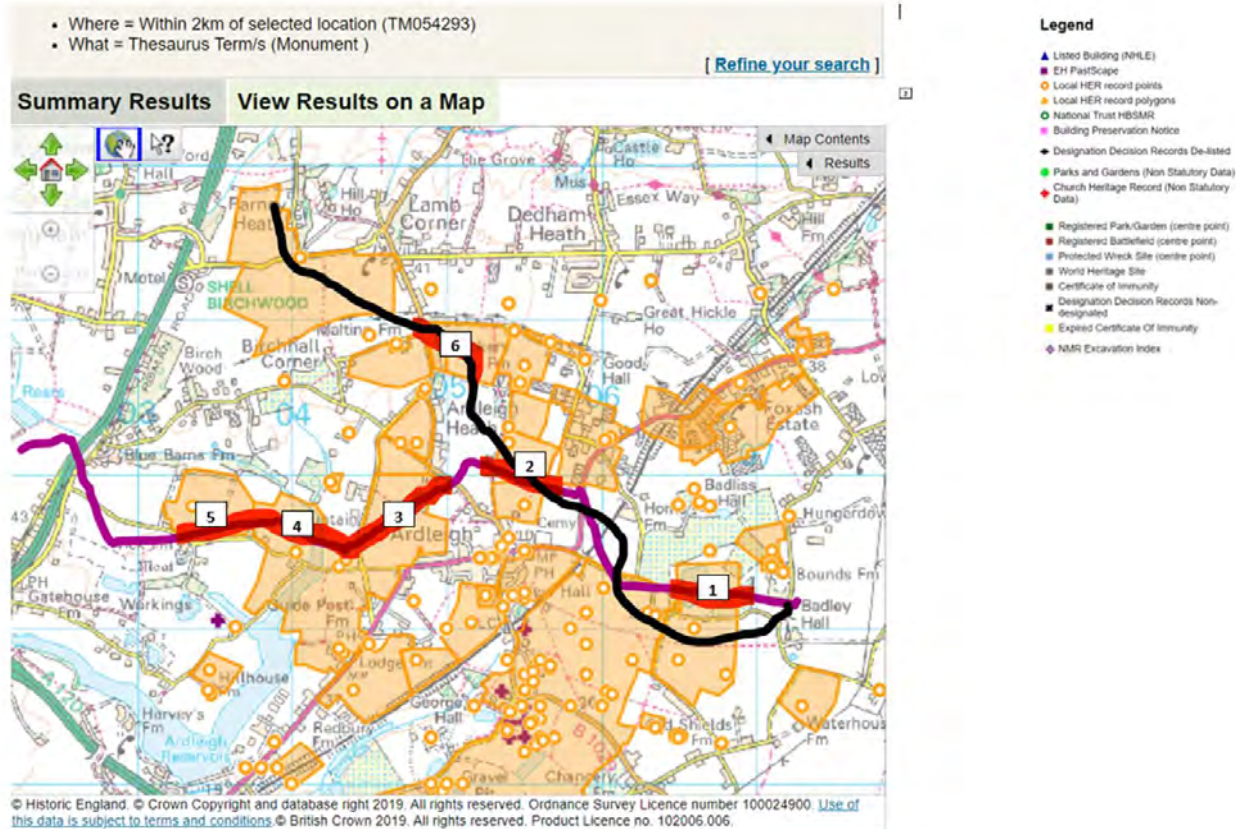


“The Ardleigh cropmark complex”

1994 rectified plot from:

*The Archaeology of Ardleigh, Essex:
Excavations 1955-1980*

Monument Sites



Additional monument sites were located using “Heritage Gateway”
<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

The approximate route of the proposed infrastructure in Ardleigh was added to the Heritage Gateway map on the left.

Details of the HERs numbered 1 to 6 that coincide with the route are referenced in the survey and links to Heritage Gateway included.

It was notable how much of the route is across HER record polygons and how many additional HER record points are in close proximity to it.

Monument Sites

- As can be seen from the slides presented, Ardleigh has an incredibly significant ancient history. Images such as the paintings by Roger Massey-Ryan and the evidence of the settlements, help in visualising within the current landscape the lives that were led in much earlier times.
- It should also be noted that, even with the extensive and compelling evidence that the cropmark images provide, this is just the evidence that is visible at the surface.
- From the limited exploration to date, it is to be expected that further important archaeology is buried and is therefore at great risk from the construction of infrastructure on the huge scale that is being proposed.

Roman Roads

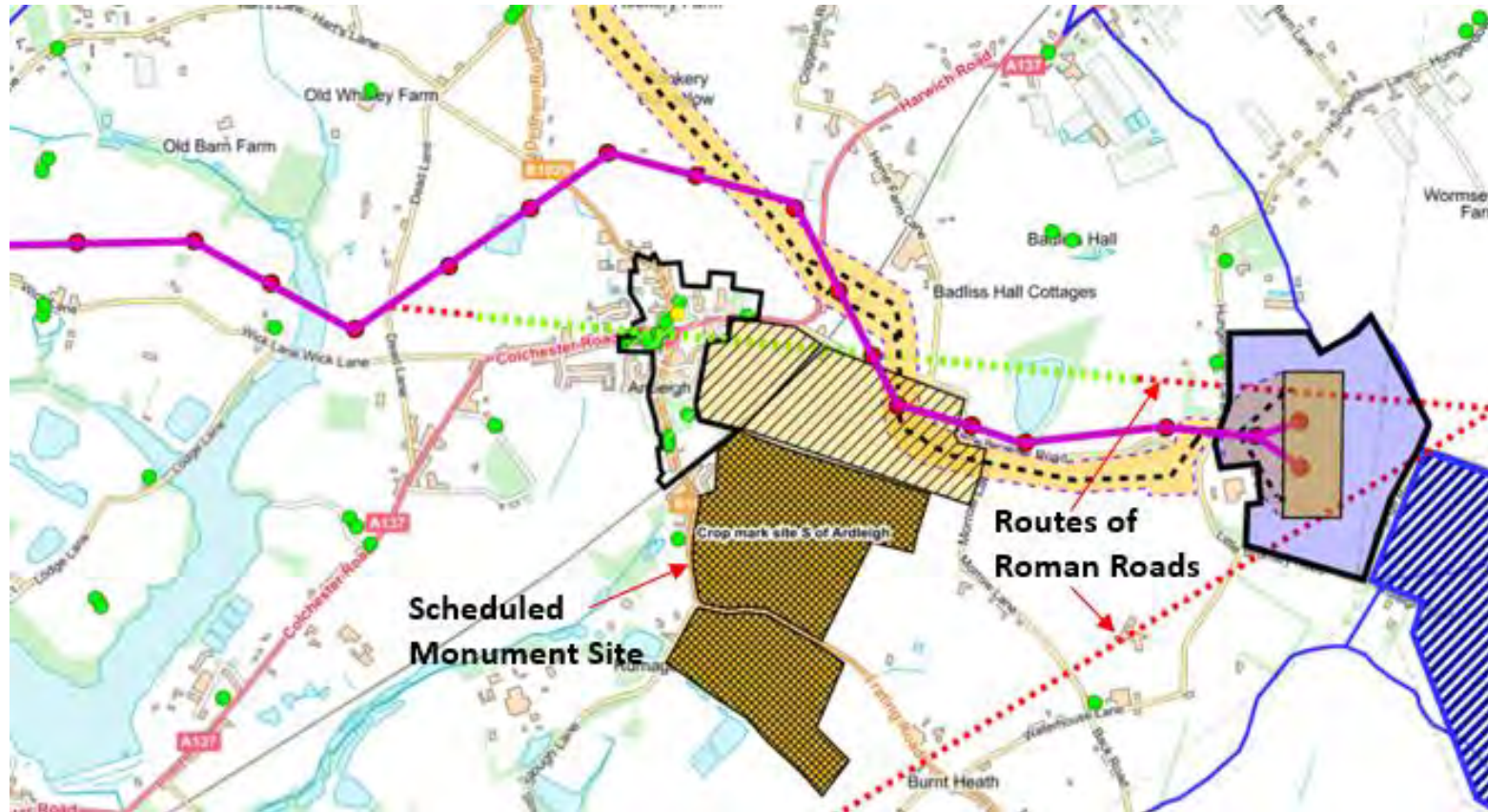
Roman Roads

- The nearby city of Colchester occupies the site of Camulodunum, the first major city in Roman Britain and its first capital. The remains of Roman pottery kilns have been discovered on farmland in Ardleigh. Pottery was produced there using clay from the nearby Martells Pit.
- The village is also intersected by two Roman roads. Both of these cross the proposed Norwich to Tilbury EACN site.
- Evidence of one of these roads was obtained during excavation at Ardleigh Park by P R Holbert in 1975*. Recently available LiDAR data** released by The Environment Agency has helped verify this.
- Initial evidence of the second of these roads was presented in CAG Bulletin Vol19 1976 (ref. R H Farrands). This route was also recently verified by LiDAR data and by satellite images.
- The approximate routes of these roads are shown in the next slide. This is followed by some of the supporting evidence.

* Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin Vol. 19 1976

** <http://www.twithr.co.uk/> <http://www.twithr.co.uk/essex/colchester-lawford-harwich.htm>

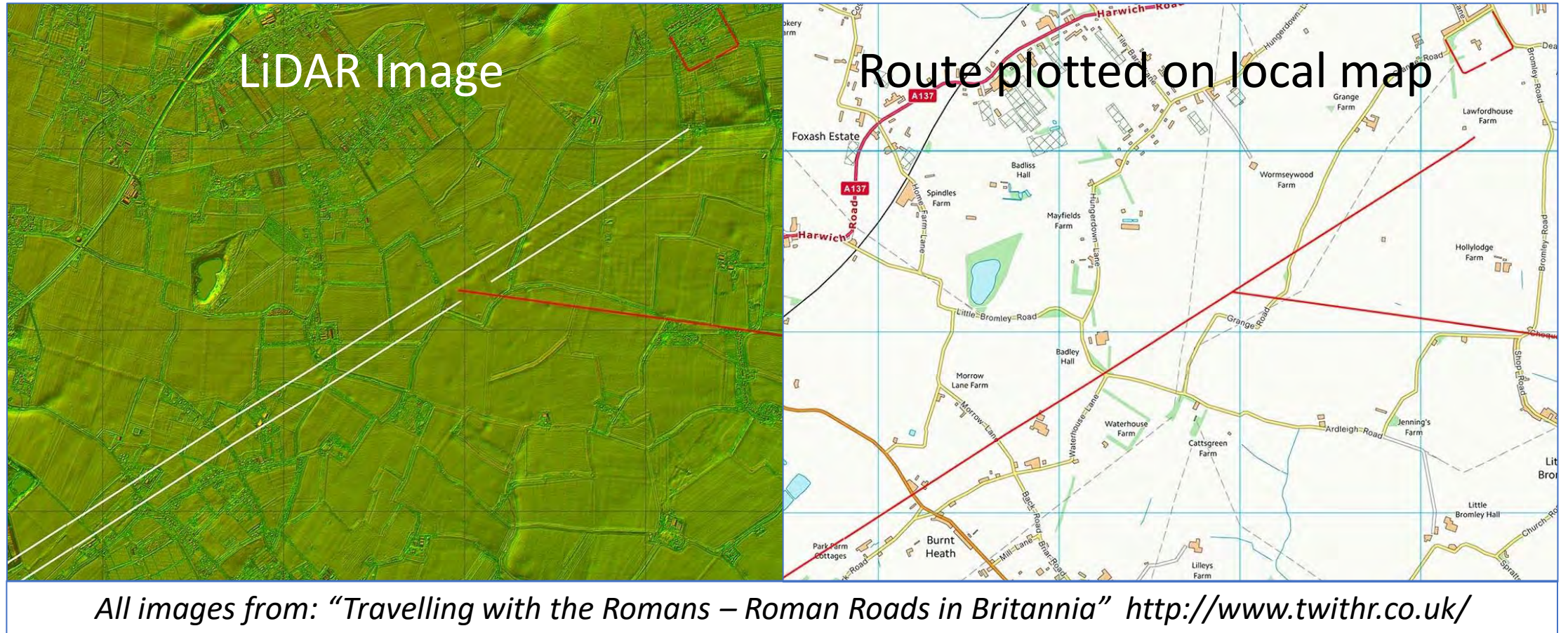
Roman Roads



The red dotted lines are known Roman roads.

The green dotted line is the projected route of a Roman road.

Roman Roads: LiDAR Images



All images from: "Travelling with the Romans – Roman Roads in Britannia" <http://www.twithr.co.uk/>

Roman Roads: LiDAR Images



Proposed “East Anglia Connection Node Substation 2023 Indicative Substation Zone” added to LiDAR image (in blue) to show how the Roman road (as bounded by the parallel white lines) intersects the site.

It was subsequently discovered that the Roman road shown in red on the right of this image continued to the left in a straight line through the village.

Roman Roads: Satellite Images



The pink lines are known Roman roads.

The green line is the projected line of a Roman road.

Roman Roads: Satellite Images



Roman Roads: Satellite Images



Conservation Area

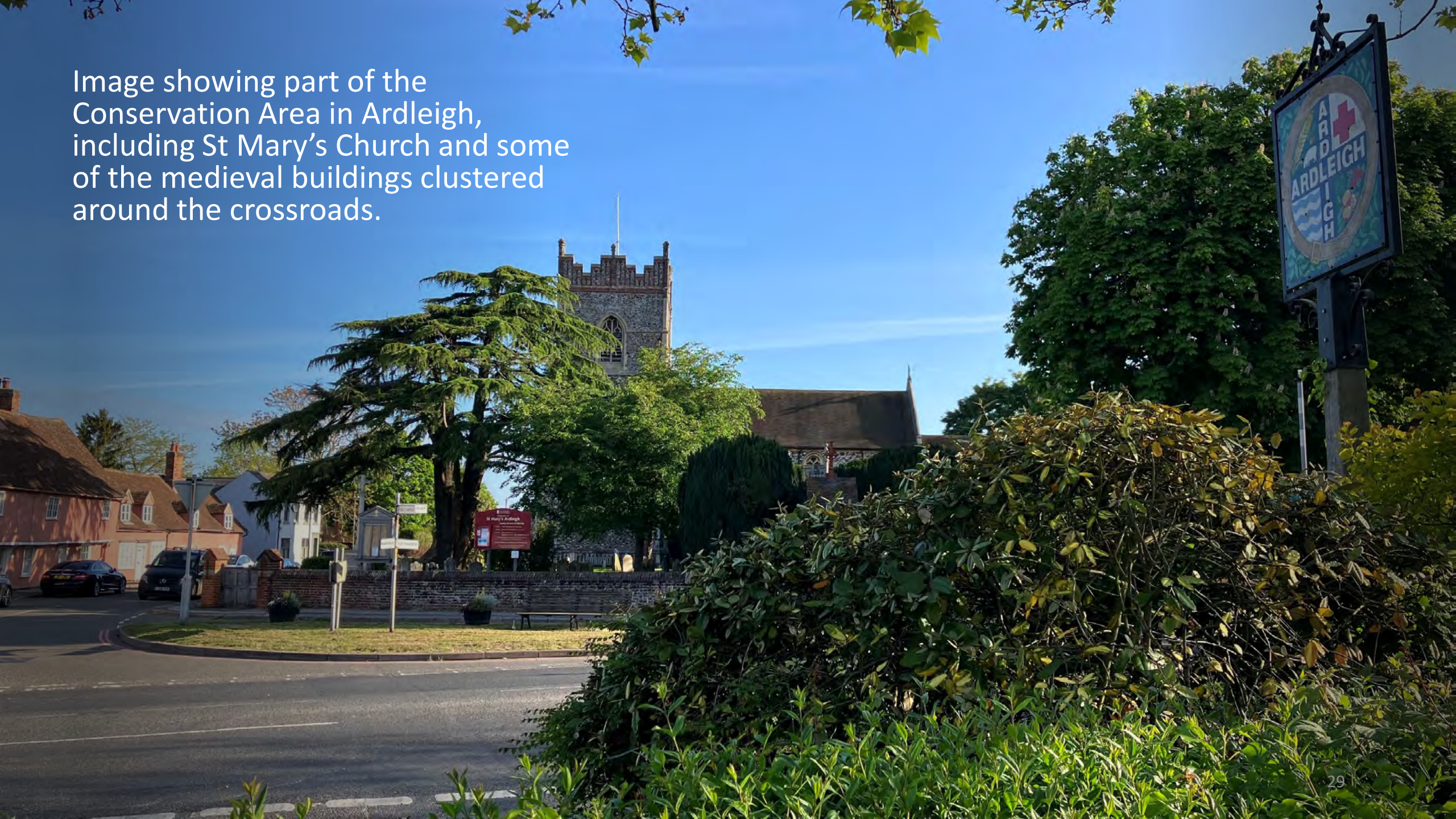
Conservation Area

In recognition of its clear heritage value, a substantial proportion of Ardleigh village has been a designated Conservation Area since 1981.

The Conservation Area Appraisal adopted by the District Council in 2006 summarises the special interest of the Conservation Area as follows:

“Ardleigh is a small medieval village at an important road junction, and retains its fine church and sequences of attractive vernacular buildings. The well-treed approaches to the north and the east are essential to the character of the village and are also included in the Area. The village expanded southwards in the 19th century, resulting in further groups of distinctive buildings, which with their settings are also recognised by Area designation.”

Image showing part of the Conservation Area in Ardleigh, including St Mary's Church and some of the medieval buildings clustered around the crossroads.



Conservation Area – Ancient House

Ancient House, Ardleigh (Grade II Listed)

From: Tendring District Council

“Heritage_Strategy_290719.pdf”

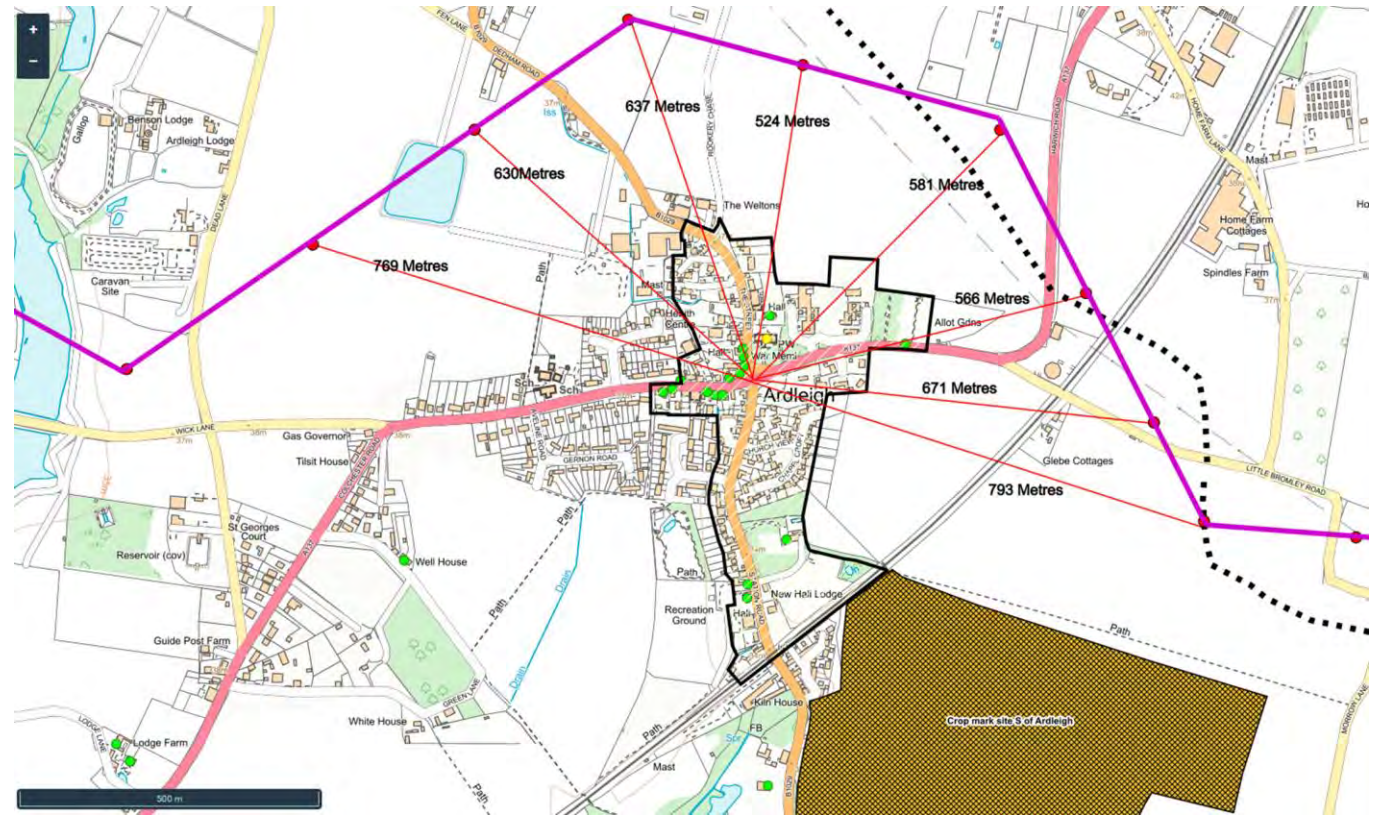
“This house dates to the fifteenth century, with some sixteenth, seventeenth and later alterations and additions. It has retained its original roof structure, and once housed the Kings Head Public House in the late eighteenth century. The identified features are prominent features of the building and are typical of Essex’s medieval vernacular.”



Conservation Area

This map shows the location of the listed buildings within the Ardleigh Conservation Area (denoted by the black boundary) and the approximate distance of nearest pylons to the centre of the village.

Please note that the undergrounding section, which is denoted by the black dotted line, is even closer in some cases. Trench widths of up to 120m also need to be considered.



Green Spaces

Green Spaces

Various green spaces in the village that have historical connections were identified as part of the survey. These were divided into the categories of either “Local Green Space” or “Safeguarded Open Space”, in accordance with the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2033*.

* Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2033

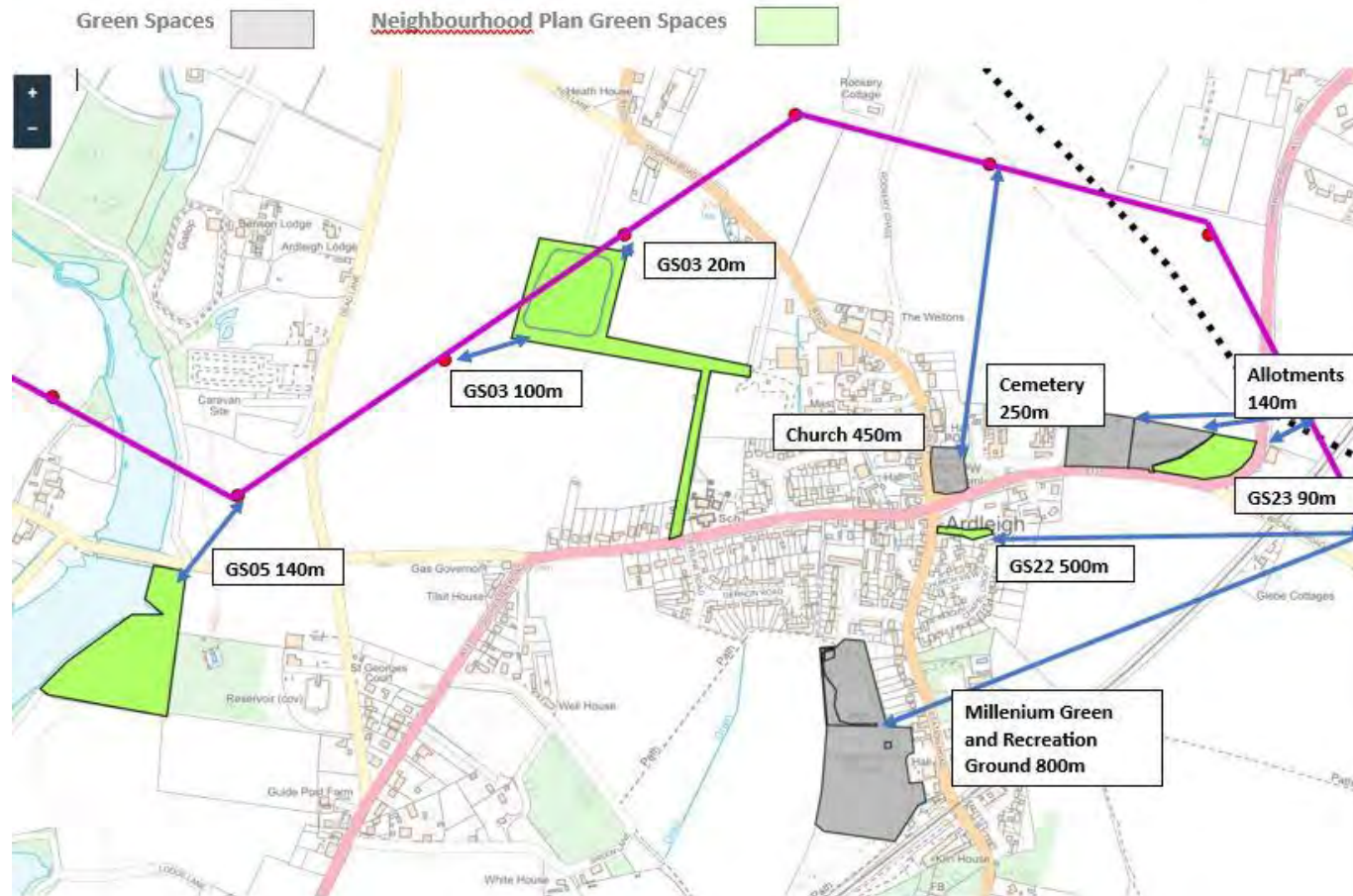
https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/planning/Planning_Policy/Ardleigh/Ardleigh%20Neighbourhood%20Plan.pdf

Local Green Spaces

- The Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2033 states that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is...“Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife”.
- The plan includes 24 Local Green Spaces. This document just focusses on those where there is considered to be an historical link and that are either in close proximity to, or coincide with, the proposed Norwich to Tilbury power lines.
- It should be noted that all the more recent Local Green Spaces were identified by local residents as part of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation. The announcement of East Anglia GREEN (subsequently renamed as Norwich to Tilbury) was a later development.

Local Green Spaces

Locations of the referenced Green Spaces and approximate distances from the proposed pylons



GS05 was not included in this survey as no historical links were identified

Local Green Spaces

GS03: “Fishing lake and footpaths north of Colchester Road”

The description for Local Green Space 3 from the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2033 states:

“Parts of the site support beautiful, far-reaching public views to be had both across the arable landscape and back towards the settlement edge. These views are genuinely representative of the Landscape Character Area and largely unchanged since historic times. The space is emblematic of the historic (and, in other places, eroded) abrupt spatial relationship between the medieval nuclear village of Ardleigh and the surrounding working countryside. It has been used for recreational walking by villagers for hundreds of years...The fishing lake is replete with local wildlife, including a variety of birds and bats. Given its close proximity to the village centre, it is a surprisingly tranquil place with a perceptible sense of being far away from people and settlement. It is subject to regular recreational use by a local fishing club”.

Image of the fishing lake, which is part of GS03: "Fishing lake and footpaths north of Colchester Road"



Image of the footpaths and fields adjacent to the fishing lake, which is part of **GS03: “Fishing lake and footpaths north of Colchester Road”**



Local Green Spaces

GS03: “Fishing lake and footpaths north of Colchester Road”

In the current Norwich to Tilbury plans, an overhead line passes directly over the lake. The tranquillity referenced in the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan would be severely harmed by the humming sound and wind noise from the overhead power lines. The mature trees and hedges around the lake would also be at risk.

Local Green Spaces

GS22: “Car park land”



Local Green Spaces

GS22: “Car park land”

The description for Local Green Space 22 from the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2033 states:

“This space comprises a small section of public amenity land that sits adjacent to the village’s central car park. It consists of undulating grassed land containing various trees and a well-used pedestrian pathway. It is located within the Conservation Area, in close proximity and in view of the landmark, Grade II* listed village church. It is also close to and overlooked by the nearby residential estate, providing a well-used informal play area for children living there. The land is considered to make a very valuable contribution towards the landscape qualities of the Conservation Area. In particular, it greatly softens the hard-edged character of the public car park, provides a welcome gap in built form and confers maturity on the adjacent modern housing estate.”

This area, like rest of the village centre, has a strong historical context due to previous occupation of the land in medieval and earlier times.

There is known to be a very fine example of a ring ditch underneath the car park, as it was discovered during construction.

Local Green Spaces

GS23: “Glebe Corner land”



Local Green Spaces

GS23: “Glebe Corner land”

The description for Local Green Space 23 from the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2033 states:

“This space comprises former glebe land (historically attached to the village church) that now appears as rough grassland, bordered by dense and mature hedgerows of some quality. The space is considered to provide a very important landscape function, marking the unofficial “entrance” to Ardleigh from the east. Its partial treed enclosure clearly distinguishes it from the wider open landscape and serves to signpost the transition from large-scale arable countryside to small-scale rural settlement. In its current state, the site has clear biodiversity value and appears to support an abundance of butterflies and bees. It also assists to preserve the tranquillity and landscape qualities of the adjacent allotments and cemetery. Although it is no longer glebe land, it retains many of the undeveloped qualities that it would historically have held as glebe land and it continues to form part of the church’s heritage setting. Its retention provides an evocative reminder of the ecclesiastical origins of this part of the Parish.”

Local Green Spaces

GS23: “Glebe Corner land”

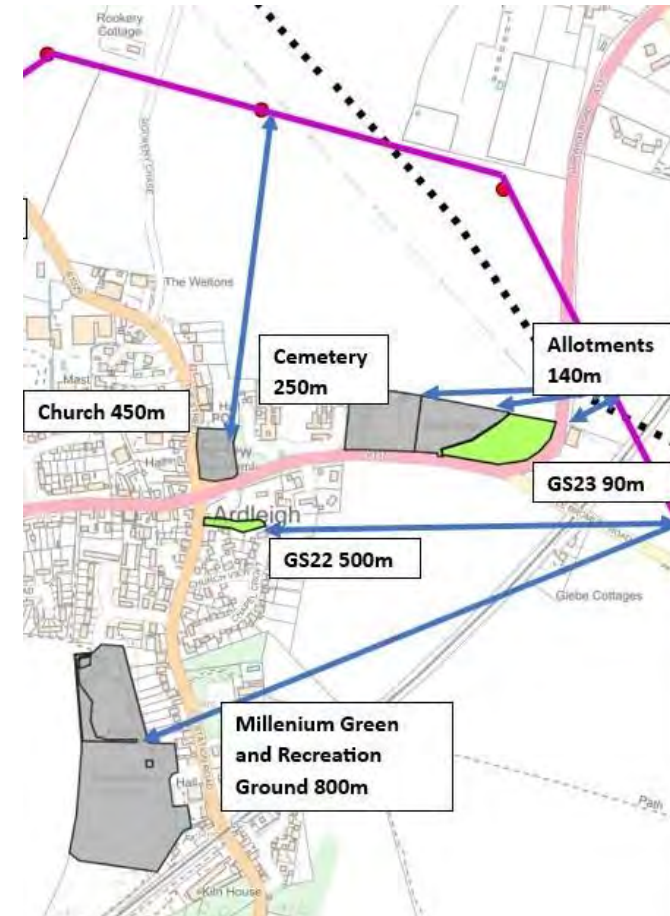
This area in combination with the adjacent allotments and cemetery completes the tract of formerly glebe land. The extremely close proximity of this area to the proposed infrastructure would be extremely harmful to all the qualities described on the previous slide. The nearest 50m pylon would only be 90m away from it and the undergrounding even closer, noting the required trench width of up to 120m.

It should also be noted that this area of land is actively being pursued for an extension to the neighbouring cemetery, as this is nearing capacity. The environment would be severely compromised by the close proximity of towering pylons.

Safeguarded Open Spaces

- The Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2033* states that “Safeguarded Open Spaces comprise of local green and open spaces (including parks, churchyards, allotments and playing pitches) which make a considerable contribution to the quality of life of residents and visitors and which promote sustainable communities.”
- For Ardleigh these are the Recreation Ground, Millennium Green, churchyard, cemetery and the allotments, as shown on the right. The map also shows the approximate distances to the proposed pylons.

* Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2033
https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Planning/Planning_Policy/Ardleigh/Ardleigh%20Neighbourhood%20Plan.pdf



Safeguarded Open Spaces

- These spaces have considerable value to the local community.
- The Millennium Green was created in 1999. Aspects of Ardleigh history are represented here via a "human sundial". There is also a large "Wartime Ardleigh" plaque, which highlights different aspects of village life in Ardleigh during WW1 and WW2. A beacon was installed on the green in 2002 and this is used to commemorate special events. On many occasions it has been used as part of National Beacon Lighting. The proximity to the proposed pylons would be very detrimental.
- The cemetery and garden of rest would be overlooked by 3 pylons located at distances of between 140m and 250m away, which would therefore severely impact those sitting and reflecting in these spaces.

Other Heritage Assets

Other Heritage Assets

This category was created to capture heritage assets that were not covered by the other categories.

- Public Rights of Way. The paths are considered a heritage asset as they are likely to date back to the early history of the village. Many of these follow a roughly radial route from the centre of the village and the church and would therefore be intersected by the proposed arc of pylons around the village centre.
- Ardleigh St Mary's Primary School. The school was opened in 1865. It is located in the historic village centre and has played a key part in the history of Ardleigh. It featured in the wartime history of the village. In WW1 it was used to billet troops, including the mounted West Somerset Yeomanry. In WW2 children evacuated from London attended the school.

Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings

The survey identified 69 Grade II and 2 Grade II* Listed Buildings in Ardleigh.

In order to make the task more manageable the level of detail included in the survey was determined as follows:

- For all Listed Buildings within 500m of the proposed infrastructure, and for any further Listed Buildings located in the Conservation Area, the full survey details were completed. The same approach was applied to the additional heritage assets listed under the headings of “Monument Sites”, “Roman Roads”, “Conservation Area”, “Green Spaces” and “Other”.
- For additional Listed Buildings that are within 1km, the question “What is the asset?”, was answered and the full "Official list entry" from Historic England was included for each of these.
- For the remaining Listed Buildings, i.e. those that are greater than 1km away from the proposed infrastructure, the response was restricted to answering the question “What is the asset?” and providing the proximity information. An exception was made for Spring Valley Mill where the "Official list entry" from Historic England was included due to its Grade II* Listing.
- Further information on the full methodology applied is outlined in the survey spreadsheet.

Headlines from the Survey

Headlines from the Survey

Information from the survey was used to provide an indication of the density of heritage assets within the swathe of the proposed infrastructure in Ardleigh. This is presented in the next slide.

The survey identified a total of: **88** heritage assets in Ardleigh
of which **71** are listed buildings (69 Grade II and 2 Grade II*)

The number of identified heritage assets located within **500m** (0.3 miles) of the proposed infrastructure in Ardleigh is: **36**
of which **20** are listed buildings
and **7** are monument sites

National Grid's "Primary Consultation Zone" (PCZ) is **1km**

The number of identified heritage assets located within **1km** (0.6 miles) of the proposed infrastructure in Ardleigh is: **64**
of which **47** are listed buildings
and **7** are monument sites

With a total route length of: **5.5** miles around the village (approx.)

This equates to an average of: **6.5** heritage assets per mile
Of these, there is an average of: **3.6** listed buildings per mile
within the 500m band

This equates to an average of: **11.6** heritage assets per mile
Of these, there is an average of: **8.5** listed buildings per mile
within the 1km band

Listed buildings, monument sites, the routes of Roman roads, a Conservation Area and various green spaces with historical connections were included in the survey.

Appendix A

A Brief History of Ardleigh

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 250,000 years ago | The snout of a whale, found in 1965 in the London clay at Martells Pit shows a sub-tropical sea covered Ardleigh. |
| 1400BC – 800BC | Middle Bronze Age settlement in Ardleigh; the largest Bronze Age urnfield ever found in England was found near Vinces Farm by Felix Erith. Many ring ditches have been discovered in Ardleigh, including under Church View. |
| 700BC – 100AD | An early Iron Age farmstead was established between Vince’s Farm and Morrow Lane. Later peoples, the Belgic tribes, settled in the same area, producing many well-crafted items of pottery, gold and bronze. |
| 43AD – 140AD | Early Roman period pottery was produced in a kiln, using the light, white clay from Martells Pit. |
| Roman occupation | Ardleigh was on two main Roman roads. One ran from Hythe Quay in a straight line to Mistley Quay, whilst the main Colchester-Ipswich road bordered Ardleigh for about a mile. Old native customs flourished, however, despite Roman rule. |
| 3rd century AD | A votive offering was made, using a hollowed-out tree trunk, buried into the clay, at Martells, with stag horns, horse bones and pieces of pottery. This is thought to be a Celtic offering to an underground stream for a plentiful water supply. |
| The ‘Dark’ Ages | The Saxons established the kingdom of Essex in 527 and the Danes took Colchester in the 9 th century, but Ardleigh’s role remains unknown. |
| 1066 and 1086 | The Norman Conquest meant great changes for Ardleigh, which were recorded in the Domesday book. The land was divided into four manors: Picotts (Ardleigh Hall), Bovills Hall, Moze Hall and Martells Hall. |
| The Middle Ages | The Court Rolls of Bovills give us an insight into daily life – trespass, enclosure, quarrels and thefts in an agricultural community. St Mary’s Church is first mentioned during King Stephen’s reign (1135-1154), but the oldest remaining parts of the Church, the tower and porch, date from 1460. In 1882-3, the rest of the church was rebuilt, with William Butterfield as architect. |
| 1648 | Ardleigh supported the Parliamentarians in their siege of Colchester, which was held by the Royalists. |
| 1796 | The Vicar, John Kelly, who had already translated the Bible into Manx, compiled a list of Ardleigh’s inhabitants, in case of French invasion. There are 1145 names listed, from 201 households. |
| 1811 | The Methodist Chapel was built, with a schoolroom added in 1911. Before that, Methodists worshipped in private houses and barns. |
| 1843-1847 | The autobiography of ‘Cannibal Jack’ (William Diaper, of Fountain Farm) covers these years. The rest is lost, unfortunately! He claims to have fathered 38 children, with 99 known grandchildren. |
| 1846 | The coming of the railway changed village life. By the 1900s, vegetables travelled up to London and horse manure travelled back – for the veg growers. Livestock went by train and the post was sorted on the train and delivered from the station to the surrounding villages. |

A Brief
History of
Ardleigh
contd.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1865 | The newly built National School was opened; it expanded following the 1870 Education Act and by 1897 there were 226 pupils. |
| 1902 | The Rev Grubbe (Eton and Cambridge) became Vicar, his tenure lasting until his death in 1937. A great antiquarian, he preserved Ardleigh records. |
| 1914-18 WWI | Many Ardleigh men served in the War. Afterwards, the War Memorial was unveiled to their memory. A second storey was added to the Vicar's Room and it became a hospital for soldiers, whilst the school was requisitioned for troops. The old coaching inn, The King's Head (now called 'The Ancient House'), was a War Work Depot. |
| 1930s | A branch of the Land Settlement Association was set up, with smallholdings in Ardleigh and Lawford, giving a new start to deprived families from the north east of England. |
| 1936 | Ardleigh Historical Pageant: an impressive affair! |
| 1939-45 WWII | Air Raid Wardens were recruited under Mr Elin then Mr Lyon; the Home Guard was established under Mr Alfred Abbott. Anti-tank ditches and machine gun pill boxes were built. A 'doodlebug', V1 flying bomb, crashed opposite Redbury Farm, causing death and destruction to the farm cottages and inhabitants. A Halifax bomber crashed near Badliss Hall, killing all its crew. |
| 1962 | Ardleigh Station was closed in the 'Beeching Cuts'. |
| 1977 | Ardleigh celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee; in 2002 her Golden Jubilee; in 2012 her Diamond Jubilee; in 2022 her Platinum Jubilee. |
| 1982 | The new Village Hall was opened after years of fund raising. |
| 1992 | The Crown pub burnt down and was rebuilt. |
| 1994 | The Parish Council celebrated its centenary. |
| 1995 | The magnificent chancel paintings in the Church were restored. |
| 2000 | The Millennium Green was opened after years of fund raising and hard physical work. Much of the equipment was funded by the GCG Trust. The new millennium was welcomed in by a 'Millennium Spectacular' show/event on what has become 'Ardleigh Showground'. |