



Acle Neighbourhood Plan (Modified 2025-2040) Reg. 16 Consultation

FAQs

Who has produced the Neighbourhood Plan?

The modified Acle Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Draft) has been produced by a volunteer working group on behalf of Acle Parish Council, in consultation with the local community and stakeholder bodies.

It seeks to replace the original Acle Neighbourhood Plan, which was made by Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority in 2015.

What area does the Neighbourhood Plan cover and what weight will the Plan have in decision-making?

The modified Neighbourhood Plan covers the entire parish of Acle. It sets a framework for future development in this area up to 2040 and, if it is adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will continue to be one of the main considerations in determining planning applications in the area, alongside the Local Plan.

What is the background to the Neighbourhood Plan?

The original Acle Neighbourhood Plan, produced by a steering group working on behalf of Acle Parish Council, was adopted by Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority in 2015, following a successful referendum within the community.

The Parish Council decided to undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and this commenced in 2024. The aim for the review was to bring the Neighbourhood Plan up to date to address changes in legislation and changes in circumstances. The proposed modified Plan looks ahead to 2040.

Following pre-submission consultation, Acle Parish Council submitted the proposed, modified Neighbourhood Plan to Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority in May 2026.

In accordance with Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority have now made an initial assessment of the modified Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting documents and are satisfied that these comply with the specified criteria.

The next step is for Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority to undertake a formal period of consultation on the submitted Neighbourhood Plan, as required by Reg. 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

How do I view the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents?

Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority have now published the submitted Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. This consultation closes at **5.00pm on 29 July 2026**.

You can view and comment on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan in the following ways:

- By visiting the Acle Neighbourhood Plan Review webpage on Broadland District Council's website, at: [Acle Neighbourhood Plan Review | Broadland and South Norfolk](#).
- By visiting one of the following locations to view a hard copy of the Plan:
 - **Broadland District Council & South Norfolk Council offices** – The Horizon Centre, Broadland Business Park, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF (Please call to make a prior appointment – 01603 431133)
 - **Acle Library** – Bridewell Lane, Acle, NR13 3RA (check www.norfolk.gov.uk/40158 for opening hours)

If you have any difficulty accessing any of these documents online or at the above locations, then please contact Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority on (01508) 533805.

How do I respond to the consultation?

Response forms are available to complete in each of the above locations and online at the aforementioned webpage. Comments on this proposed Neighbourhood Plan must be submitted in writing and received by Broadland District Council no later than **5.00pm on 29 July 2026**.

Please send your completed response form to: neighbourhoodplans@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can post your response to: Place Shaping Team, Broadland District Council, The Horizon Centre, Broadland Business Park, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF

As part of your consultation response, you can also state whether you wish to be notified if and when the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by both local planning authorities.

What happens after this consultation period?

Once this consultation period has closed, Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority will appoint a qualified, independent person to conduct an examination of the submitted Neighbourhood Plan. All comments received as part of this consultation will be forwarded, with the Neighbourhood Plan documents, to the examiner for their consideration.

What is the role of the independent examiner?

The examiner's role is to ensure that the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the relevant legislative and procedural requirements. They will produce a report setting out their findings and recommendations.

If the examiner considers that the proposed revisions will change the nature of the original Neighbourhood Plan then they will recommend in their report that either the modified Neighbourhood Plan should be submitted to a referendum as it is, that the modified Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to certain further modifications before being submitted to a referendum, or that the modified

Neighbourhood Plan should be refused. Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority will subsequently consider the report and decide whether they are satisfied with the examiner's recommendations. The authorities will publish a decision statement setting out whether or not the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to a referendum, with or without the examiner's modifications.

However, if the examiner considers that the proposed modified Neighbourhood Plan will not change the nature of the original Neighbourhood Plan then they will produce a report in which their findings are binding on the local planning authorities - i.e. Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority will accept the recommendations of the examiner, whether that means making any necessary further modifications to the modified plan before adopting it, or withdrawing it on the basis that the modified Neighbourhood Plan does not meet the [Basic Conditions](#).

What happens at a referendum?

If the modified Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to a referendum then all those on the electoral register in the neighbourhood area will be notified of the referendum details via a polling card sent through the post. Referendum information will also be available to view on the Neighbourhood Plan Review webpage on Broadland District Council's website a minimum of 28 working days before the referendum date.

The referendum question will ask the voter whether they wish to see the modified Neighbourhood Plan being used to help determine planning applications in the neighbourhood area (requiring a 'yes' or 'no' answer).

How many people need to vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan in order for it to be successful?

If the referendum results in more than half those voting (i.e. greater than 50%) doing so in favour of the plan, then the modified Neighbourhood Plan will automatically replace the original Neighbourhood Plan and will become part of the statutory Development Plan for the area, meaning it will sit alongside Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority's Local Plan documents and will be used, with them, in the determination of planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

The District Council and the Broads Authority will adopt the modified Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible following the referendum, unless they consider it would breach or be incompatible with any EU obligation or the Human Rights

For further information on the Neighbourhood Planning process, please visit the Government's Neighbourhood Planning Guidance webpage at www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2