

# Sutton Neighbourhood Plan



## Background Evidence Report

### Part 1 of 3 – Introduction and General Information



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Submission Version

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1. Background Evidence Report Structure**

This background evidence report is divided into three parts.

## **1.2. Part 1 – Introduction and General Information**

This part of the report explains the structure of the report and contains some general information about Sutton.

## **1.3. Part 2 – Natural Environment**

This part of the report provides background information about the natural environment of Sutton, including:

- Landscapes, Topography and Soils
- Hydrology
- Habitats
- Fauna

## **1.4. Part 3 – Developed Environment**

This part of the report provides background information about the developed environment of Sutton, including:

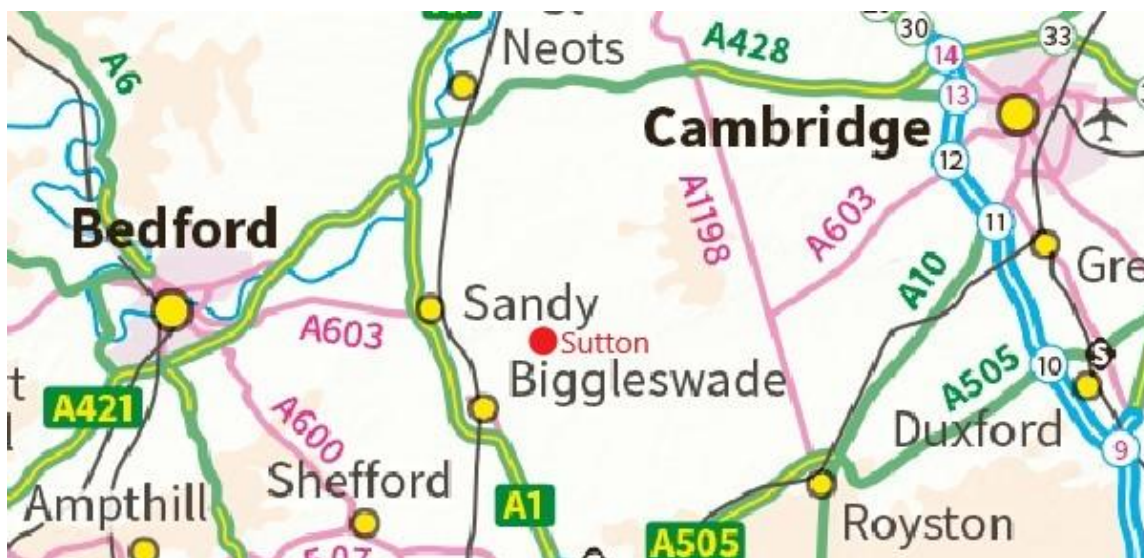
- Character Areas
- Parking
- Important Green Gaps



## 2. General Information

### 2.1. Location

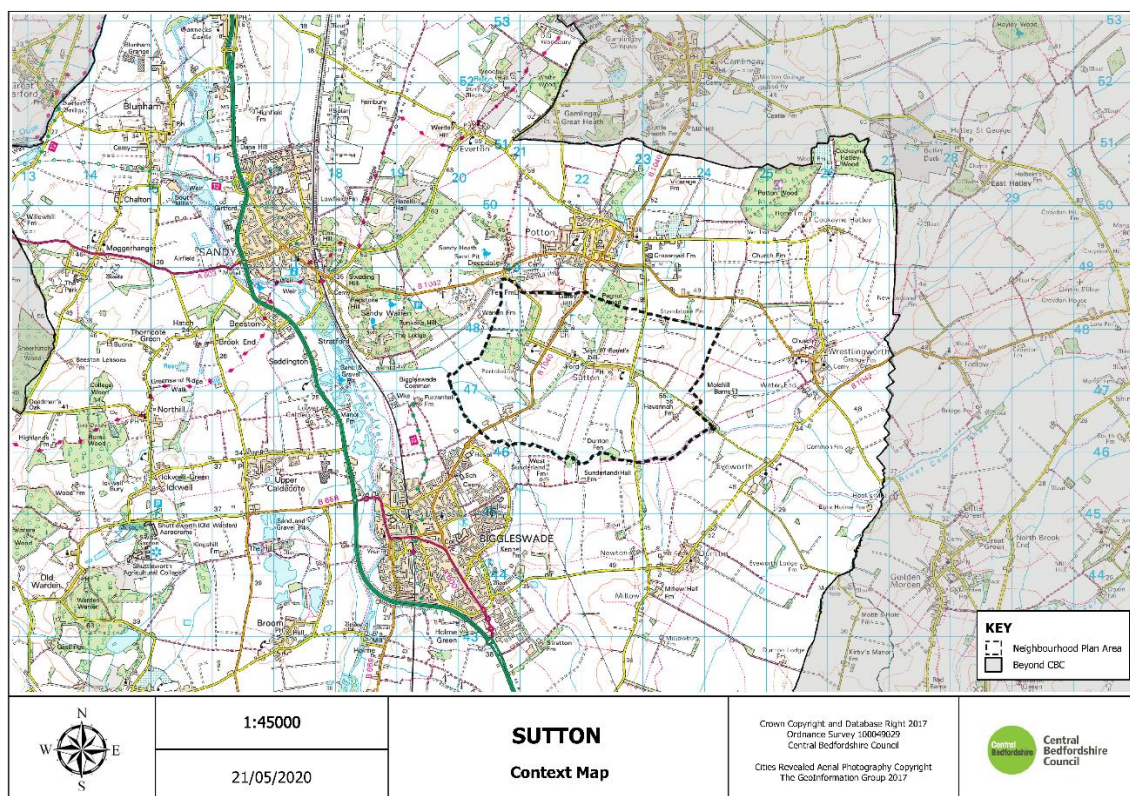
Sutton (Bedfordshire) is a rural parish with a small linear village in the east of Bedfordshire, close to the borders with Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Sutton lies 1-mile (2km) south of the growing market town of Potton, 2½ miles (4km) east of the expanding town of Biggleswade, 10½ miles (17 km) east of Bedford, 16 miles (25.5km) west-southwest of Cambridge, and 42 miles (67.5km) north of central London.



*Ordnance Survey Map with location of Sutton (Bedfordshire) indicated*

*Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020*

*Ordnance Survey 0100060387 Sutton Parish Council*



*Map showing Sutton in relation to the towns of Biggleswade, Sandy and Potton*

## **2.2. About Sutton**

The first written record of Sutton is its listing in the Domesday Book. Sutton was a settlement, spelled 'Sudtone' and 'Suttone', in the hundred of Weneslawe and the county of Bedfordshire. Sutton had a recorded population of 20 households in 1086, and is listed under 11 owners in the Domesday Book including: Alwin the reeve, Eudo the steward and Countess Judith (niece of William the Conqueror and whose daughter married David King of Scotland). The name Sutton is thought to mean 'South Farm' or 'South Settlement'.

Much of the land area of Sutton parish is given over to agriculture, predominantly arable farming. Another large area of land within the parish is taken by the two 18-hole golf courses which comprise the John O'Gaunt Golf Club and includes the parkland of Sutton Park.

Sutton has one main settlement, which is linear in nature. Sutton village is surrounded by attractive countryside with several farms spread across the parish. It is a rural village with a mix of building ages and styles, with a conservation area at the centre of the village which includes the stunning 13th century packhorse bridge and adjacent ford.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Local Plan 2015-2035 defines Sutton as a Small Village within their Settlement Hierarchy.

Sutton is particularly blessed with its natural environment; it has a good and abundant variety of wildlife, dark skies and exceptional tranquillity.

There are currently approximately 125 dwellings in Sutton (with granted permission as at 1st January 2020 for a further 16 dwellings yet to be completed). The parish has a population of around 250, including children, with the majority living within the village itself.

Data from the 2011 Census (which is combined with Eyeworth parish), indicates that there are fewer than the average number of children in the parish at 17% (compared with 21.4% for England), with a significantly higher than average population of people aged 65 or over at 22.2% (compared with 16.4% for England). 61% of people aged 16 or over are married, compared to 46.6% for England as a whole.

The parish has a few amenities, which includes the ancient parish church, a village hall, a pub/restaurant, a farm shop/café (outside of the village), a riding school and a golf club. There is a lower school within the village and an independent day school outside of the main village.

There is a strong sense of community within the parish, with many events held throughout the year, including the annual flower festival and popular duck race.

## **2.3. Public Services**

Sutton is in the Pottton Public Water Supply Zone (RW50). The water supplied by Anglian Water comes from groundwater boreholes and is chloraminated and classed as hard. [Drinking Water Quality Information, Anglian Water, May 2020].

Most of Sutton village is connected to mains drainage, linked to the wastewater treatment works in Pottton.

The Eastern Power Area of UK Power Networks is the distribution network operator for electricity ["Check if you're in our area". UK Power Networks. May 2020].

There is no mains gas supply [nongasmap.org, May 2020].

Most of Sutton is served by Openreach fibre to the premise (FTTP) broadband infrastructure, with current speeds of up to 300Mbps.

The nearest healthcare facilities (GP surgeries) are outside the parish in the nearby towns of Potton and Biggleswade.

The two nearest general hospitals are Bedford (Bedford Hospital NHS Trust) and Lister Hospital, Stevenage (East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust).

Ambulance services are provided by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Bedfordshire Police cover the parish.

There are public libraries in Potton, Biggleswade and Sandy.

There is a good network of public footpaths and public bridleways within the parish.

There is an infrequent bus service to Biggleswade and Sandy 6 days per week, and to Cambridge on one day per week.

There are railway stations in the nearby towns of Biggleswade and Sandy.

Sutton V.A. Lower School is in the centre of the village and currently takes 75 children aged from 4 years old to 9 years old. The school has strong links with All Saints Church and describes its Mission and Vision Statement: To educate all children for life through inspirational, Christian focused teaching.

OneSchool Global Biggleswade Campus school is outside the village, on the Biggleswade Road (B1040). This is an independent school taking children from 7 to 18 years of age. The Guiding Principles of this school are based on the teachings of the Holy Bible, as believed, taught and practised by the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church.

Bedfordshire Growers is a medium to large, grower-owned, produce handling and packing business on the Biggleswade Road (B1040) within the parish. Bedfordshire Growers also has a farm shop and popular café on the site. There are several small businesses on a small area of converted agricultural buildings behind Manor Farm in the village centre, as well as a number of home-based businesses.

Other than the farm-shop at Bedfordshire Growers (which in practical terms cannot be walked to from the village), the nearest shops and post-office are in Potton and Biggleswade, with the nearest bank being in Biggleswade.

## **2.4. Church of All Saints**

The Church of England parish church forms part of a joint benefice along with the nearby market town of Potton and small rural village of Cockayne Hatley.

## **2.5. Governance**

Sutton Parish Council is the lowest tier of government for the parish.

Sutton falls within the area covered by Central Bedfordshire Council – a unitary authority.

Sutton falls within the parliamentary constituency of North East Bedfordshire.

Prior to 1894, Sutton was administered as part of the Hundred of Biggleswade. From 1894 until 1974 the village was in Biggleswade Rural District and from 1974 to 2009 in Mid Bedfordshire District.

### **3. Acknowledgements and Copyright Information**

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