



PLANNING STATEMENT

In connection with the
proposed replacement of bridge over Pagham Rife for the
Agricultural movements between Sefter Farm and Bowley farm

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in
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1.0 Background

Barfoot Farms Limited (BFL), is a family-owned company with an enviable profile within the agricultural industry. BFL are an established vegetable farming business based at Sefton Farm, Pagham, currently farming approximately 10,000 acres across West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

We predominantly farm vegetable crops including sweetcorn, courgettes, asparagus, green beans, peas, pumpkins and tenderstem broccoli as well as assorted cereal crops. The vegetable crops are grown, managed, harvested, packed at our in-house carbon net zero packing plant. Whilst our produce is sold to large national and international retailers any waste by-products is used within our anaerobic digester, producing energy for the site.

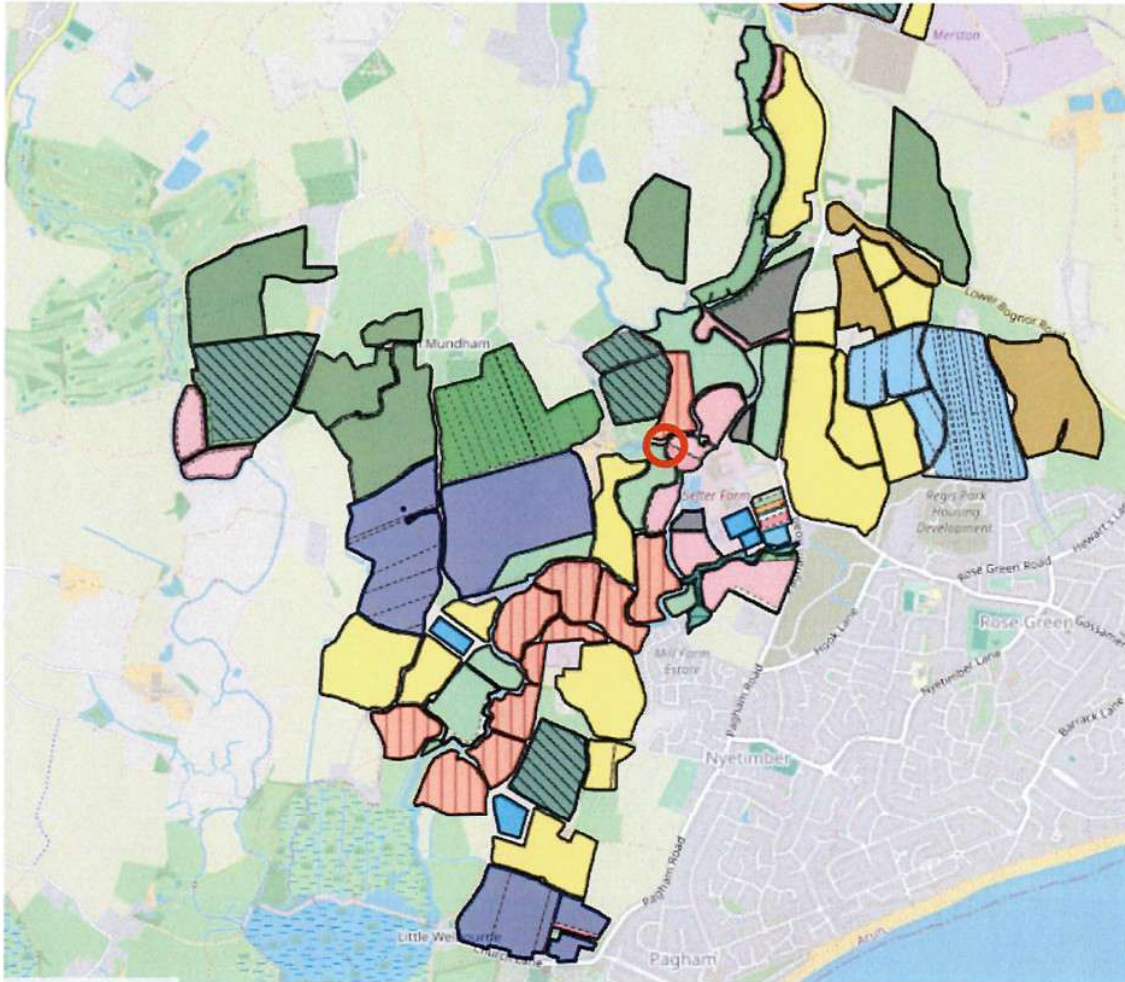
The company has multiple accreditations including:

- Assured Produce Standard
- LEAF marque
- TESCO Nurture
- Assured Combinable Crops
- SMETA
- Beacons of Excellence
- Global Gap Accreditation

In addition, BFL own and farm a LEAF Demonstration Farm and have won numerous farming awards including the Specialist Crop Growers category for Farmers Weekly (2016).

2.0 Sefter and Bowley Farm – General Description

The below map shows the extent of the land farmed by Barfoot Farms Limited at Pagham, the hub of this area is Sefter Farm to the East of the Pagham Rife. Sefter Farm hosts both the main farmyard with our barns and fridges as well as the main factory site for our sister company Barfoots of Botley where the majority of our fresh produce is processed. The bridge, shown in the red circle on the below plan, has historically allowed easy agricultural access over the Pagham Rife to enable the fields on either side of the bridge to be farmed with a reduction of agricultural machinery on the public roads.



The bridge has been in place to facilitate the movement of agricultural vehicles for many years, in this time the agricultural machinery has got larger and heavier and as such the bridge is now in need of repair/replacement. It is our intention to replace the bridge to futureproof the structure and improve the safety aspects of the current design.

3.0 Bridge Proposals

The existing bridge will be removed and replaced with a new structure with steel frame structure with a concrete roadway and Armco barriers. The replacement bridge will be The bridge will also have a fence and lockable gate to prevent trespass and unauthorised use which has become a problem over the last few years.

The bridge has become a vital piece of infrastructure to enable farming between the two farms as well as the provisions for the agricultural workers caravan site at Bowley Farm with the use of the bridge to transport caravans onto site being a condition on the planning permission P/22/17/PL.

4.0 Planning Details

The new bridge design is materially similar to the current structure with the exception of the addition of an Armco barrier on each side and slight widening of the structure to account for the size of the agricultural machinery and the additional width required to fix the Armco barriers.

All plant, materials and labour to install the bridge will be brought onto site from the Sefter Farm (east) side of the Pagham Rife to minimise an impact on locals for the construction of the bridge. The bridge will be constructed of steel girders with concrete slabs to make the travel surface. This will be anchored into each bank of the Pagham Rife as has been done currently. This design is sufficient to carry the significant payload of modern agricultural machinery.

5.0 Bridge Rationale and Proposed Mitigation

The proposed site shown on the plans accompanying the application has been identified as being the most suitable location for the bridge, the decision being influenced by the following factors:

- i. The proximity of the bridge site to:
 - The existing bridge therefore reducing area of previously undisturbed bank
 - The existing farm tracks reducing the need for additional works and area taken
 - Provides minimal visual impact on users of the surrounding area as is not overlooked by residencies
- ii. The bridge enables the existing agricultural operations to continue producing fresh vegetable crops for UK consumption in a cost-effective manner due to less fuel, labour and machinery wear costs. As well as reducing the frequency required for road sweeping on public roads to clean mud from tractor tires.

- iii. The working bridge will reduce the agricultural traffic experienced by the residents of North Mundham as the tractors can access much of the farmland without having to use public roads. The route without the bridge is shown in the below image taken from Google Maps.

- iv. The new bridge enables Barfoot Farms to progress in the pursuit of the government's net zero target of 2050 as well as the target set by National Farmers Union of net zero carbon Emissions by 2040. Without the use of the bridge the agricultural vehicles travelling from Sefter Farm to Bowley farm must travel a distance of 4.4 miles instead of 485m if the bridge is in use, this is of course a very significant difference with the total number of tractor movements per year.



Dated the 7th day of October 2026

