

DURNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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27 October 2021

Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wilts

For the attention of Cllr Richard Clewer and Cllr Nick Botterill

Dear Sirs,

Sites for Development at Vineys Farm and High Post

Reference is made to the consultation on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review and specifically to three sites which have been proposed around Amesbury and the Woodford Valley for shortlisting for rezoning from agricultural use to development land – Vineys Farm to the South of Amesbury, and the two sites near High Post between Amesbury and Salisbury.

Durnford Parish Council seeks to register extreme concern at these proposals for the reasons set out below and urge that Wiltshire County Council exclude consideration of these sites in future iterations of the Local Plan.

It is clear that the proposed sites are disproportionate to the scale of both housing and employment development proposed by the Council for the Amesbury and Salisbury, represent development in unsustainable locations and on green fields which runs counter to the Council's stated goal to prioritise sustainable development within settlement boundaries, together with other recent housing developments do not address the critical lack of infrastructure in the area.

Vineys Farm, South of Amesbury

Proposal for development of 1,200 houses to the South of Amesbury

The scale of this proposal is far in excess of the 350 homes that the consultation documents have suggested. Amesbury has in recent years experienced a significant increase in housing development and there is already a clear deficiency of essential services to support such development including transport infrastructure, GP surgeries, dentists and secondary schools. The proposed development would further aggravate the situation.

The site comprises 182 acres, currently as farmland, and is highly sensitive in terms of landscape and visual impact, with views to and from the Stonehenge and Avebury UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Avon Valley. The land is within the Special Landscape Area applied by Wiltshire Council to protect landscapes of county-wide importance and represents a valuable amenity to the people of Amesbury and adjacent communities which would be lost with the proposed development.

The site runs alongside the River Avon, which is protected as a valuable chalk stream with international rare wildlife habitats. The additional stress of such a large housing development could cause irreversible damage to this protected ecology.

It represents an ecologically unsustainable development that is beyond walking distance from any local shops or services. Residents would have to rely on the notoriously deficient public transport or private vehicles causing both further congestion on the already overburdened roads and related pollution.

High Post

Two adjacent sites totalling 500 acres comprising employment land and housing developments close to High Post, between Amesbury and Salisbury, in total for 500 houses together with business and industrial space.

The development of the proposed sites which are currently farmland would represent the permanent loss of farmland in a predominantly rural area

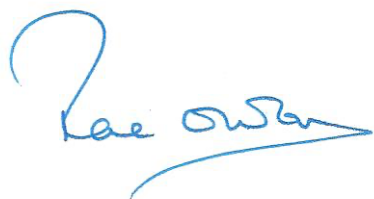
The proposed development for business/industrial space would far exceed local requirements: land at Fugglestone Red in Salisbury is already allocated for employment use but not yet developed.

The proposed sites are clearly an unsustainable location for both housing and employment. The sites are remote from Amesbury and Salisbury necessitating employees, residents and visitors to drive for every journey. This would add further traffic pressure to local roads, creating further to congestion with associated carbon emissions.

Development of these sites would be a significant step towards a ribbon development linking Salisbury and Amesbury, not at all an attractive or practical development for S Wiltshire and the ancient cathedral city of Salisbury.

It seems clear that the developers of the various sites have timed the presentation of their proposals to avoid the normal consultations that would otherwise have been conducted had they been put forward at the proper time. In the light of the many and significant factors detailed in this letter and the clear position of the many residents of Amesbury and adjacent communities in objecting to the proposed developments, we strongly urge that Wiltshire County Council apply the same rigour in assessing the proposals had they been properly presented.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee Owen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Parish Clerk
Durnford Parish Council

Copies to
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