

Objection from Filkins & Broughton Poggs Parish Council

26/00072/SCOPE: Alvescot Downs

Filkins & Broughton Poggs Parish Council object to the scoping document. There is insufficient detail on this document and more should be sort before any decision is made.

This is a site of archaeological interest which is dismissed as local interest but cannot be ignored.

Ecology – Although the site is not an SSSI it is surrounded by them and any impact needs to be taken in to account. However, it is a Conservation Area and has been designated an area of high landscape value. It is in current use for the production of crops and as stated in the Local Plan 2031 food production should be protected. It is inhabited by local wildlife and if disturbed will not remain. An impact survey on the wildlife should be carried out to protect the birds, (some on red list and some requiring special action), badgers, brown hares (a priority species) and the Shill Brook may well contain newts which are protected. Their habitat would be totally destroyed.

When OCC are promoting dark skies and consulting on turning off all street lights after midnight how can the light pollution be justified that this would omit and how would this effect the wildlife.

This reasons this area is unsuitable for strategic scale development are stated in the WODC Local Plan. This is a disjointed site and if the proposed 600-1000 homes were to be built it would create a new village, considerably larger than most of those in the area, impacting all areas around it. Four times larger than the closest villages of Alvescot, Kencot& Broadwell, Filkins & Broughton Poggs and Langford. Carterton already struggles with providing waste water services and sewage and there is no solution to this proposed. The environmental impact of further sewage spills will cost the environment dearly and will impact surrounding villages.

The Shill Brook provides the natural boundary and this should be preserved. Whilst the proposal suggests linking east towards Carterton it is as likely there would as much movement of residents in westerly and southerly directions with poor infrastructure connectivity. The B4477 is already inadequate for the volume of traffic that uses it moving west and north. Very little maintenance is carried out on this road and it is in a very bad state of repair – as of this morning OCC have marked it as a failed road! And you want to add 1,000's more vehicles.. It also passes through the pinch point in Kencot and then Filkins which has a tight bend right and left is a narrow road leading over a historic bridge into Broughton Poggs. This road will not support the large number of cars associated with 600-1000 houses. The standalone community would not link back to Carterton and enhanced transport would be welcomed by all the villages surrounding this site to reduce car dependency. This should be addressed before any large number of new houses is considered and it must be assured it is built and not promised. If cars were travelling to Oxford from this site they would need to pass through Carterton – which is already crowded before it reaches the A40. However, Swindon is the next nearest hub for employment and further education so you cannot say that all traffic will go through Carterton. Model figures, as used by OCC for Salt Cross development, suggest that for each new house there would be an additional 1.5 cars. Do you have plans to ensure an easier way to access the A361 for cars travelling to Swindon/M4 and the west in general. When the plans were submitted in 2014 Filkins & Broughton Poggs Parish Council suggested to you that the old airfield road could be updated to provide access. The road could bend right before entering Kencot with a straight access to A361.

Flooding: This development is upstream of EA monitoring Station 7001 which directly feeds to Bampton. Potential for disruption to local watercourse by development around the Shill Brook is also likely to add to the flooding issues already experienced in the local area and the knock on effect to Bampton. Flooding has become a great concern and the run off from this site would overwhelm the surrounding area and watercourses.

RAF – there was recently a small application in Alvescot which mentioned attenuation ponds and RAF Brize Norton objected as they would attract large birds and massively increase the chance of bird strike. These attenuation ponds would be many times larger than those proposed in Alvescot and this site is within a stones throw of the runway.

Finally, this application has not been changed since the last submission which was rejected in 2014 and the flood risk has significantly deteriorated. Other sites identified in the Local Plan would enable the council to meet its housing needs without this one so they should prioritise those rather than resurrecting a previously rejected proposal.