

CPRE Oxfordshire's Reponse to HEAR 3 and 4

Re: HEAR4

Section 2 (p.3) defends the number of jobs the Vale has said will be created in the space programme at Harwell. It is supported by an email from the UK Space Agency - Appendix 1 (p.11).

However this email, which the Vale uses to justify its position, still makes it clear that the figure is an aspirational target, accepted by the Harwell campus as a "challenge", and described in the email as an "ambition".

CPRE believe these are unreliable grounds to sacrifice AONB land for houses which might not be needed.

Re: HEAR3:

As you will recall, the Vale DC agreed to meet with CPRE to clarify the position on the proposed changes to the Green Belt contained in the Draft Local Plan.

After having had more time to go through the detail of the latest update published by the Vale (HEAR3), we are now satisfied that we have a clear understanding of what is proposed – albeit that we disagree on the soundness of such changes!

However, we do think it would be helpful if the list of Green Belt sites in HEAR3 included a clear indication of which sites are specifically allocated for housing, but believe this is something the Inspector has already requested.

Therefore, our conclusion is that a meeting is no longer necessary. We have made this clear to the Vale.

However, there are several other areas of concern that CPRE has with HEAR3, which the Vale might wish to make clear when they update HEAR3 (at the Inspector's request).

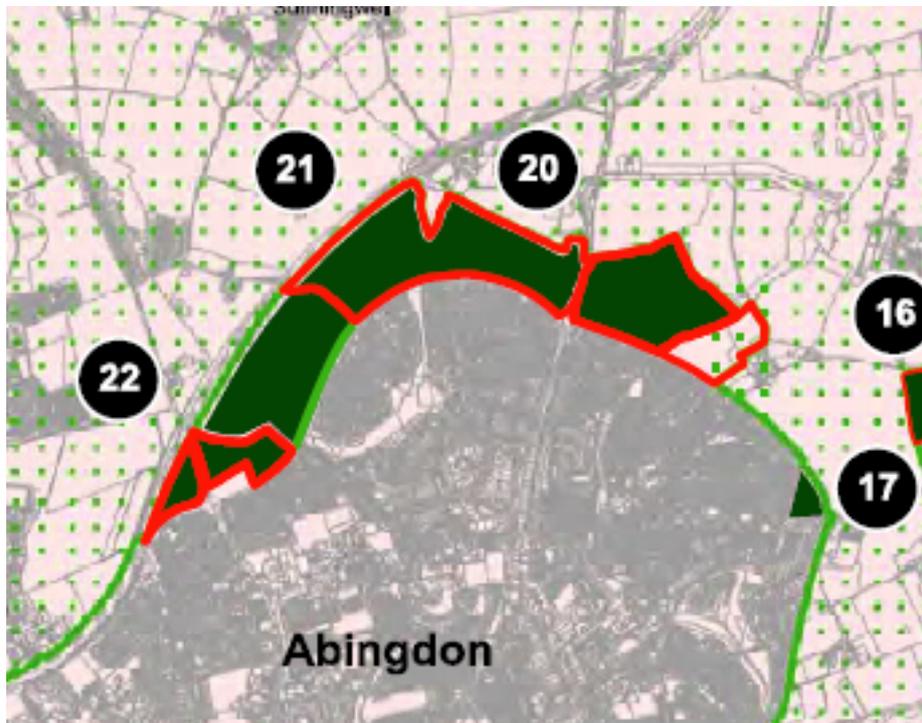
We have shared these concerns with the Vale since the Hearings.

We believe there are three outstanding areas that need clarification in the map contained in HEAR3:

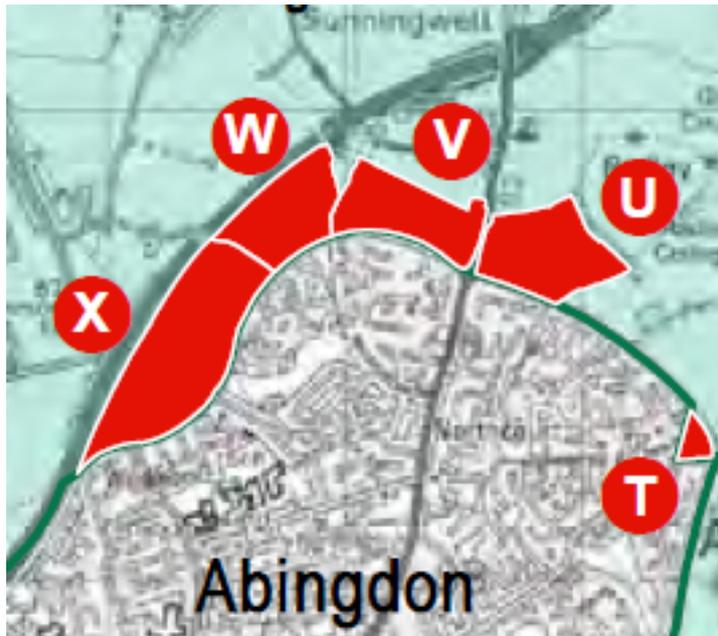
1. Re: Site U:

The Vale's latest map produced for the Hearing (HEAR3 or referred to here as map #2) doesn't identify the section of site 'U' (formerly known as site 20 in the Vale's original map produced for the Hearings, referred to here as map #1) which has not been released from the Green Belt, but which is nevertheless part of the Strategic Housing Allocation.

See below the difference between Map #1 (which makes this clear) and Map #2 (which doesn't):



Map #1



Map #2

This needs to be made clear in the Vale's final version of the map in HEAR3.

2. Re: Site X:

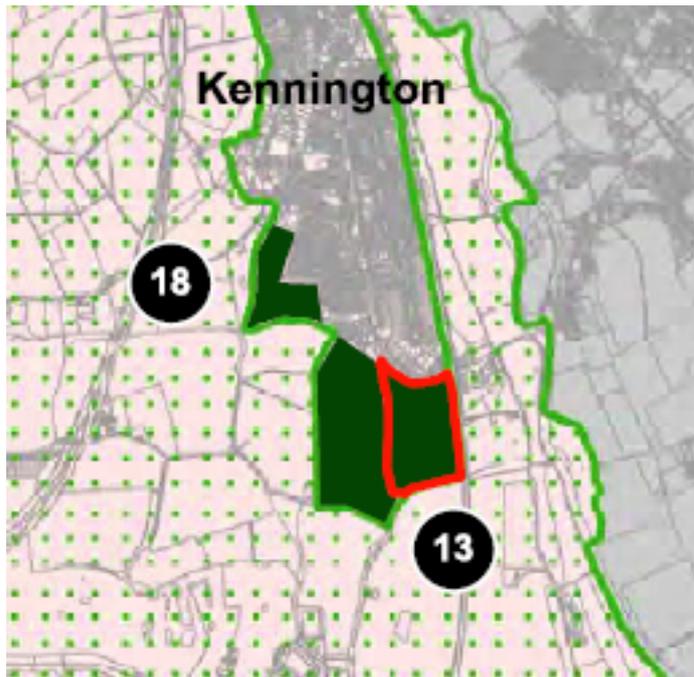
Also, site 'X' (formerly known as site 22 in map #1) is shown as a site for release in map #2, but it isn't clear that much of site 'X' is not a Strategic Housing Allocation site (eg: Tilsley Park), as seen in map #1 above.

This also needs to be made clear in the Vale's revised map in HEAR3.

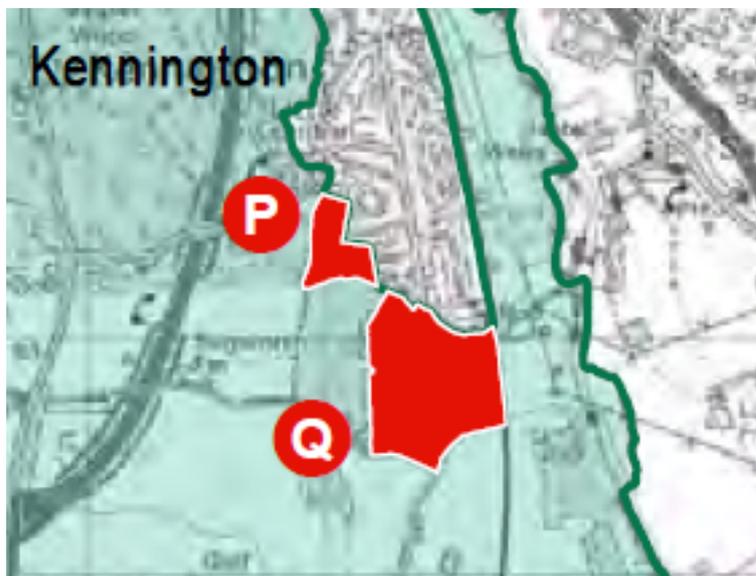
3. Re: Site Q:

Finally, site 'Q' (formerly known as site 13 in map #1) is also shown in map #2 as a Strategic Housing Allocation site, when map #1 correctly showed the eastern section of the site as a SHA, but the western section of the site as proposed for release, but not a SHA site.

See below the difference between Map #1 (which makes this clear) and Map #2 (which doesn't):



Map #1



Map #2

This also needs to be made clear in the Vale's revised map in HEAR3.

Finally, we remain unclear as to why Farmoor (Site 'A' in the Green Belt Review Phase 3) does not appear on either of the Vale's maps (#1 or #2) produced for the Inspector at the Hearing.

We look forward to seeing the Vale's revised (and definitive) map of those areas in the District that are proposed for removal for the Green Belt, along with the sites for Strategic Housing Allocation.

With many thanks for your assistance.

Helena

Dr Helena Whall Campaign Manager Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)