



B&DBC Local plan update - promoted sites.

Site Ref: CLID011 - Upper Swallick

This proposal would see a huge area of beautiful open countryside obliterated, with the consequential loss of productive farmland, opportunities for rural pursuits and the general enjoyment of this area of the North Hampshire Downs.

While Basingstoke and Deane's need for additional homes is understood, we believe there are far more suitable sites including those already in planning such as Manydown, which on its own could provide up to 8000 new homes over the next 15 years.

The Upper Swallick site lies outside any defined settlement policy boundary, in an open countryside location overlooked from afar. The proposed development would be hugely intrusive visually and would lead to the loss of the first swathe of traditional countryside south of Basingstoke and the M3. This loss would be widely felt.

The general principle of development in this location is not supported by B&DBC's current planning framework and in particular by Local Plan Policy S6. Furthermore, development on such a large scale in this location does not comply with the spatial strategy contained within the current adopted B&DBC Local Plan 2011–2029.

The site is adjacent to the Cliddesden Conservation Area and there are several Public Rights of Way which would be affected. The area includes a number of Grade II Listed Buildings: Manor Farm House, Cliddesden Down House and St Leonard's Church. There are notable buildings within Cliddesden village, at Swallick Farm and Broadmere where the Grade II* listed Church of St Andrew is located. Farleigh Wallop House (Grade II*), Hassacks House (Grade II) and the listed Park and Garden at Hackwood Park would also be impacted by the development.

The ecology of Ancient Woodland and SINCs at Middle Copse, Swallick Wood, Kingsmore, Allwood, Fryingdown and Doper's Copse, St Andrew's church Wood & Drove would all be threatened by this development.

The proposed site is remote from the facilities and infrastructure of Basingstoke town, both in terms of distance and the disconnect of the M3 motorway.

Rather than being able to take advantage of Basingstoke town's existing and planned road and other transportation links, the Upper Swallick proposal would lead to additional loads on routes south of the M3 to the detriment of the existing rural communities in that area.

In particular, the section of the A339 between Basingstoke and Alton is already at capacity and frequently blocked by town-bound queues up to the Venture roundabout during peak travel times on week-day mornings.

For these reasons, Herriard Parish Council strongly opposes the Upper Swallick proposal along with its inclusion as a development site in the update to the B&DBC Local Plan.

In our opinion there are far more viable and sustainable options available for housing development in the borough.

Herriard Parish Council