

PROPOSED MEGA PRISON AT GRENDON UNDERWOOD

INFORMATION SHEET 11 ON LOCAL GREEN SPACE

1. Objection Details

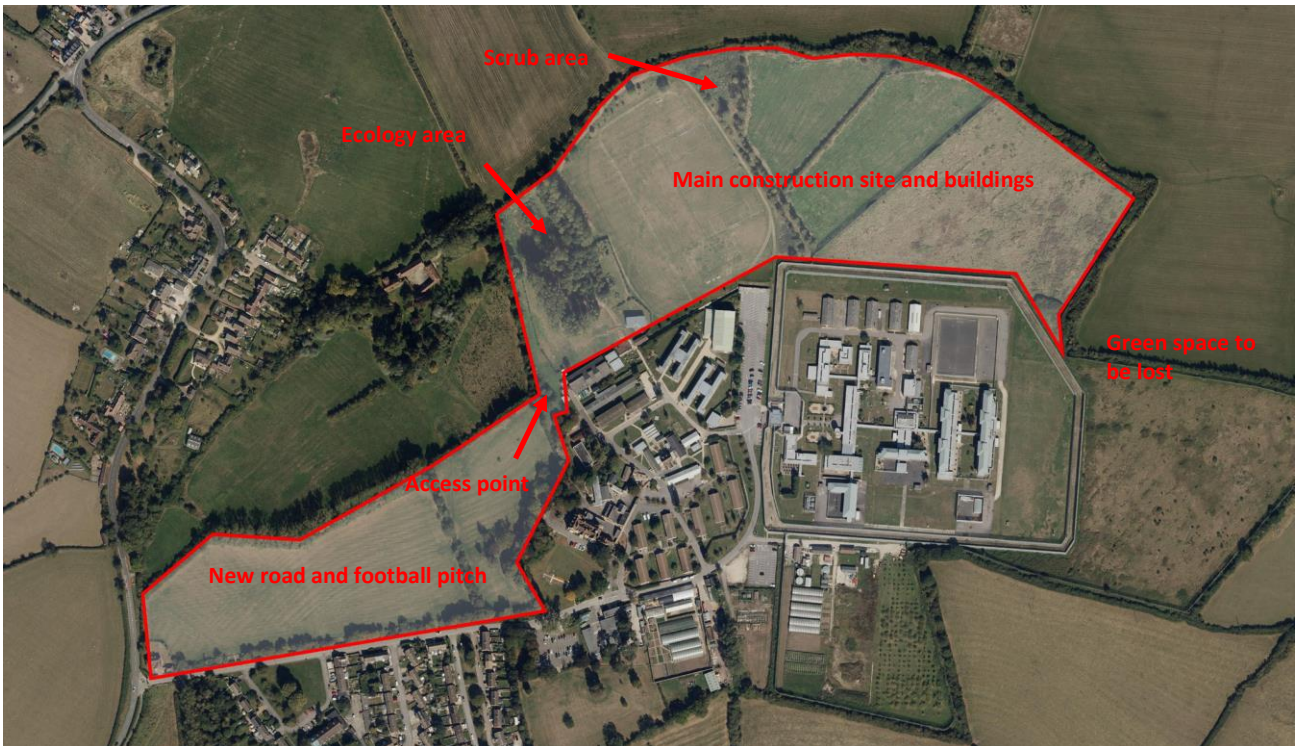
Describe the main objections to the proposal in relation to the subject. Make sure that, where possible, the objections are backed by factual information and or data.

- The site of the proposed new mega prison is located within the 'Poundon – Charndon Settled Hills' Landscape Character Area (LCA 7.1) and the 'Woodland Rolling Lowlands' Landscape Character Type as defined by the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment 2008. It is a predominantly pastoral area with limited woodland, although there are trees on top of the small rounded hills which are a feature.
- It is noted in the LCA 7.1 assessment record that one major intrusive element in this landscape is Grendon and Springhill prisons. The building of a new mega prison on top of the hill adjacent to the other two prisons would represent a significantly and greater intrusive and irreversible element than the two current prisons. In addition it would result in the loss of a total of approximately 70 acres of green field space.
- The main part of Grendon Underwood is located in the LCA 7.4 Kingswood Wooded Farmland (LCT 7). The landscape character is of gently sloping or undulating landform with some small hills. It is predominantly pastoral with large areas of ancient woodland. The south of the area was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood. Hedgerows are generally strong and clipped with fine mature oak trees adding to the sense of a landscape with good tree cover. To the south of Grendon Underwood there is a line of small hills. Although there is settlement within the area it is mostly at the edges, much of the area retains a slightly forgotten character with areas of less intensive management and narrow curving lanes.
- The new site entrance and road to the site would pass through what is part of the Historic Park and Gardens associated with Grendon Hall (*Report: Bucks Gardens Trust, Site Dossier: Grendon Hall, Aylesbury Vale Area March 2021, revised in June 2021*). Hence this green field area used to be part of a much larger area of historically important green field space and should be preserved. In addition a large part of the lower part of this field would be lost to the relocated football pitch and hence further reduce the amount of green field space on the site.
- The green field area proposed for the new site entrance and road into the site, as well as the location for the relocated football pitch, consists of historically important ridge and furrow land. This particular green field used to be connected to a more extensive region of ridge and furrow on Springhill and Mill Hill and behind Grendon Hall before the two prisons and the Springhill housing estate were built in the 1950s and 1960s. This development would cause irreversible destruction of much of this ridge and furrow land. It would be extremely harmful to destroy the remaining part of the ridge and furrow land in the Historic Park and Gardens of Grendon Hall.
- The green space proposed to be developed has a role to play in the locality including supporting wildlife, recreation purposes, positive impact on the character of a landscape, wellbeing for nearby residents, protecting historical aspects of the landscape like ancient ridge and furrow, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, with the potential to support animal grazing and hence food

production. Pursuing the development of a new 'mega' prison on this valued green space would cause irreversible and significant harm to the whole locality. It would take away the nature and the tranquillity of the countryside present and essentially urbanise close to 70 acres of green space.

- Developing the green field space on the prison site would result in a total loss of 70 acres of green field space which is a crucial feature of the character and setting of the area. The locality is one of rolling hills and lowland, green field space predominantly used as pasture land. The building of a new 'mega' prison would permanently destroy the green field space and conflict with national as well as local environmental policies for the protection of such space.
- The loss of green field space to the construction of a new 'mega' prison, new site entrance and road as well as a relocated football pitch park would be at considerable variance with the existing character of the locality and would result in a permanent deterioration and urbanisation of the existing character of the area.
- Mature trees, woodlands and hedges are sensitive to the impacts of development, both directly through their removal or indirectly through the impacts of construction. Due to the contribution they can make to the quality of development, and the length of time and the cost taken to replace mature features, they should be retained and protected wherever possible.
- The development of a new 'mega' prison would result in the unacceptable loss of, and damage to, or threaten the continued well-being of trees, hedgerows, veteran trees and some woodland which make an important contribution to the character and amenities of the area and hence should be resisted.
- The road into the main prison site and the buildings, would pass very close to the current prison ecology area. This area consist of trees, shrubs and a large pond along with bird and bat nesting boxes. It is clear that some of the trees, hedging and other habitats will be removed to create more space for access and/or the construction of buildings and other amenities like car parking and a bicycle shed.

- At the far northern part of the area proposed to locate the prison buildings is a region of ‘scrub land’ which is rich in wildlife and adds character to the green field space adjacent to this (see image below). This area would be totally destroyed and hence permanently lost if the new mega prison was to be developed.



View of the prison site highlighting the green field areas that would be lost if the proposed mega prison was built



Modified plan showing the revised and extended amount of green field space that will be lost in the Eastern part of the development

2. Any Other Points

Include any other relevant information or sources that might help in making the objection.

Express the importance of green space to individuals plus any relevant photos.