



## **Planning Application Consultation 21/02851/AOP -**

### **Comment on Archaeological Consultee Response, Dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

#### **1. Summary**

The latest plans for the proposed development show that less than 20% of the historic ridge and furrow land in the western part of the site would remain if the application was approved. This is due to the location of the new site entrance and road to the main site, the siting of the relocated football pitch, the SUDS area, the running track and additional planting. In addition this area of land is one of the main remaining parts of the Historic Park and Gardens of Grendon Hall and hence would undergo irreversible and significant harm if this development went ahead.

As a result of the above factors both Parish Councils remain strongly opposed to the application.

#### **2. Details**

In the Archaeological Consultee Responses, both in July and November 2021, the following statement was made with regards to the ridge and furrow area of the site which is adjacent to and highly visible from Grendon Road.

*“The western two fields of the proposed development contain medieval-post medieval earthwork ridge and furrow cultivation which is part of a large and important survival of the open field system of Grendon Underwood Parish. We would rather see this significant area preserved and as the proposed masterplan has this area as mostly green space, with careful thought much of it could probably be retained.”*

We would like to respectively highlight that in fact the latest site plans which now show the addition of a running track as well as the location of the relocated football pitch in this field, show that less than around 20% of the ridge and furrow would be retained. This is because the majority of the green space has been taken up by the new road, SUDS pond, the football field, the running track and additional green planting. All of these aspects of the development would destroy the existing ridge and furrow and leave only a small proportion remaining. Hence it does not matter how much thought goes into the plan as it stands, much of the ridge and furrow cannot and will not be retained (see figure below).

In addition, and very significantly, this area of land is one of the main remaining parts of the Historic Park and Gardens of Grendon Hall, as highlighted by the Bucks Garden Trust report published in March 2021 and updated in December 2021 as well as the Garden Trust objections (September and December 2021) which was strongly opposed to the proposed development, and this area should be preserved not undergo irreversible harm. As a result both Parish Councils further enhance their earlier comments in terms of strongly objecting to the proposed new prison.

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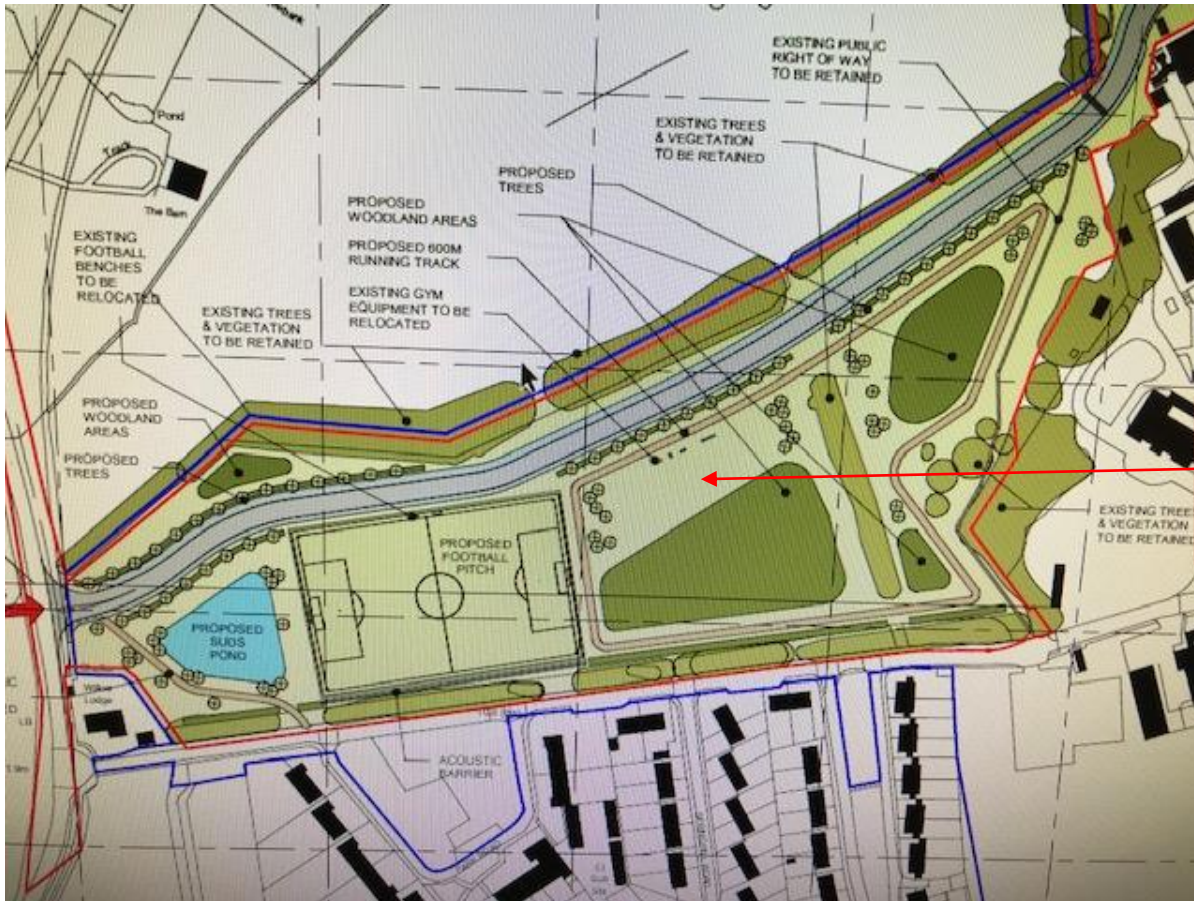


Figure 1: Field adjacent to Willow Lodge and opposite the Springhill housing

***Compiled by Grendon Underwood and Edgcott Parish Council's Joint Working Party***