



Planning Application Consultation 21/02851/AOP - Destruction of Heritage, Community Asset, Valuable Green Space and Amenity Value

Further to additional submissions by the Applicant, this objection supplements others specifically regarding the western edge of the proposed development site adjacent to Edgcott Road, the Springhill housing estate and Willow Lodge.

This is an area of special heritage and archaeological value as it comprises extensive evidence of ancient ridge & furrow cultivation and agricultural practices.

This is illustrated below with views of the ridge and furrow located where the proposed development would create a new site entrance and an access road from Edgcott Road up to the new mega prison.

Also in this area will be the relocated football field, with associated floodlights, for HMP Springhill inmates along with other recreational aspects plus a SUDS pond and various planting. The result would be the almost total and irreversible loss of the ridge and furrow, a loss of amenity value and space for local residents, increased safety concerns due to the close proximity of inmates to local residents, the increased number of prison visitors, the potential for a significant increase in drug and other drop offs plus significant noise and light pollution. In addition, this green space and open landscape acts as a clear delineation between Grendon Underwood and Edgcott currently enjoyed by local residents that would be destroyed for evermore.

Significantly, this area is integral to the remaining part of the Historic Park and Gardens of Grendon Hall which would undergo serious harm and be permanently lost to an inappropriate development. Instead of wildlife and local residents frequenting this valued space there would be hundreds of HGVs and construction vehicles during the construction phase and then hundreds of cars and delivery vehicles during operation as well as prison inmates and visitors. The proposed mitigations and alleged 'benefits' cannot ever outweigh the harm that will be inflicted if this development was approved. Sometimes no words are required to make a very significant point; let the images of this wonderful, historic and special open, green space speak for themselves.



Image 1: From the footpath along Edgcott Road

Ridge & Furrow field in winter



Image 2: Clearly illustrating the ridge & furrow topography in winter



Image 3: With a stormy backdrop



Image 4: Clearly illustrating the ridge & furrow with differential growth characteristics in summer.



Image 5: Ridge & Furrow as seen looking across the field towards Springhill housing estate



Image 6: Clear delineation in winter.



Image 7: So cold and yet so warm



Image 8: Mysterious morning mist



Image 9: A bright spring day

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