

Appendix 2

Saved Policy: Strategic Site, south of Chesterton, Cirencester (Policy S2)

Introduction

7.3.1 The site comprises 120 hectares of predominantly agricultural land, divided into small to medium sized arable fields. The A429 (Tetbury Road) defines the western edge of the site, while the eastern boundary abuts Spratsgate Lane; the industrial estate at Wilkinson Road; and allotments at Somerford Road. The site does not lie within a designated landscape. The AONB terminates at the western edge of the A429, while the Kemble/Ewen Special Landscape Area lies to the south of the site.

7.3.2 The landscape is open and very gently rolling with a number of individual and groups of trees covered by tree preservation orders. Public rights of way cross the site, providing access into the town and to the surrounding countryside. The town centre lies about 1.3km to the north of the site.

7.3.3 The majority of the northern boundary of the site abuts modern residential development; with the cemetery and Cirencester Business Park adjoining the north western edge of the site. Man-made constraints on the site include two gas pipelines and electricity transmission lines. The site does not lie within any areas designated by the Environment Agency to be at risk from flooding.

7.3.4 There are a number of heritage assets in and around the site. At the centre of the site lies the grade 2 listed Chesterton Farmhouse and barn, with a number of associated outbuildings and cottages. To the north of the site lies a large residential property, The Cranhams, while to the west is the Royal Agricultural University, both of which are also Grade 2 listed buildings.

7.3.5 Some 4.7 hectares of a large scheduled ancient monument - a Romano-British settlement - lies at the southern edge of the site.

Policy S2

STRATEGIC SITE SOUTH OF CHESTERTON, CIRENCESTER

- 1. Land to the south of Chesterton, shown on the Policies Map, is allocated for a sustainable, high quality, mixed used development, including up to 2,350 dwellings (net), incorporating up to 40% affordable housing and approximately 9.1 hectares of B1, B2 and B8 employment land.**
- 2. Infrastructure provision, informed by the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the Vision and Objectives (Appendix B) for the site, will be required relating to matters including:**
 - **Community facilities and culture (including Neighbourhood Centre);**
 - **Education;**
 - **Health care;**

- **Open space, sport and recreation;**
 - **Transport and highways;**
 - **Flood management, waste water, and a Sustainable Drainage System; and**
 - **Water supply.**
- 3. The development will be master planned and implemented on a comprehensive basis. It will be designed and phased to ensure:**
- a. Maximum practicable integration between the different uses within and beyond the site;**
 - b. All necessary supporting infrastructure and community facilities are delivered in synchronisation with housing and employment development; and**
 - c. To maintain a timely supply of housing and employment land over the Plan period.**

Explanation

7.3.6 The majority of the development will be undertaken within the Plan period, though the housing element is expected to deliver 1,800 dwellings by 2031 and the remaining 550 dwellings after 2031. This will be monitored to ensure a steady and sustainable delivery of housing and employment land. Infrastructure will be delivered in accordance with the phases of development to meet the needs and demands of the development as it grows.

7.3.7 The development will include a range of housing types and, in accordance with Policy H2, up to 40% of the dwellings will be affordable, subject to assessment of viability. The Council will seek to ensure that a range of open market dwelling sizes and types are provided to meet local existing and future needs and to provide a mixed community. These could include self-build and dwellings specifically designed to meet the needs of an ageing population.

7.3.8 The Strategic Site will deliver a significant part of the employment land provision for the District over the Plan period, and the amount allocated reflects anticipated future needs. Options for new employment uses will respond to the findings of the latest economy evidence and meet future employment needs and demands for a mix of types and sizes of business spaces. These will accommodate, for example, business start-up and incubation, expansion of existing businesses, technical hubs and company headquarters. The evidence also identifies future accommodation needs for business and visitors to the area, in order to support the local tourist and business economy.

7.3.9 It is anticipated that a neighbourhood centre will provide convenience shopping and service uses, though the Council will seek to restrict the floor area of the commercial (class A1-A5) units to protect the vitality and viability of the existing town centre. Retail uses will form an integral part of the neighbourhood centre and will contribute towards community cohesion. However, the scale and format of units and floorspace within the neighbourhood centre should be limited. This ensures they primarily serve the day-to-day needs of residents of the strategic site, though it is inevitable that some existing, neighbouring residents will also patronise the new facilities. The neighbourhood centre will also include

facilities to serve the new community, e.g. community meeting space and healthcare facility. Developers will be expected to provide these facilities in phase with development.

7.3.10 The prospective developer will be expected to mitigate the impact of the development on the local highways network. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies these and other infrastructure requirements which the developer will be expected to provide or contribute towards.

7.3.11 The development should maximise opportunities for sustainable modes of travel. The development will include a comprehensive network of safe and convenient footpaths and cycleways (including necessary improvements to existing routes) linking different uses within and beyond the site, such as the town centre, Deer Park School, Kemble station and the Cotswold Water Park.

7.3.12 Prospective developers will be required to identify, in liaison with the County and District councils, a comprehensive package of public transport improvements which will have the effect of reducing car dependency. Public transport improvements must be implemented as early as is practicable, offering residents/employees viable alternatives to travelling by private car, and thus influencing travel behaviour from the outset.

7.3.13 However, despite the provision of public transport, it is recognised that some residents of the new development will choose the private car to visit the town centre. This will have an impact on central area parking, and contributions will be sought to mitigate the resulting impacts from the development.

7.3.14 The public open space provision provides an opportunity for the creation of new habitats to enhance biodiversity; for example, through the creation of ponds. This can include the use of native planting and the creation of 'green corridors' across the site, and linking to green infrastructure beyond the site.

7.3.15 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) also provide an opportunity to create habitats for biodiversity while retaining surface water runoff rates to the same level as the undeveloped site.

7.3.16 An archaeological assessment and evaluation of the scheduled ancient monument at the southern edge of the site will be required before a detailed planning permission can be approved. The assessment and evaluation will include other historic monuments within the site boundary.

7.3.17 A Tree Preservation Order protects various trees across the site, and the development will have to incorporate these where practicable, and protect them during construction. The Council will require that replacement trees are planted where protected trees have to be removed.

7.3.18 Supporting infrastructure and services will include the provision of superfast broadband, utilities and foul sewers. The latter is likely to include strategic upgrades to the sewage network, and detailed modelling will be required to establish the precise nature and extent of any upgrades. The provision of high speed broadband will support new and relocating businesses as well as facilitating home-working for residents.

7.3.19 To achieve high standards of design and all the other objectives for the site, the development will be master planned and implemented on a comprehensive basis. The master planning process will ensure that all aspects of development are properly addressed, including layout, landscape, density, mix of uses, scale, materials and detailing.

7.3.20 The Council will utilise some or all of the measures summarised below:

- effective pre-application engagement at the outline and reserved matters stages;

- the use of design review;
- on-going monitoring, of conditions and infrastructure delivery and, if necessary, review of detailed master planning material (e.g. design codes);
- engagement with key partners and the local community;
- planning performance agreements;
- the use and implementation of planning conditions; and
- post-occupancy surveys of residents.