

SAVE OUR COUNTRYSIDE: SAY NO TO A NEW TOWN AT HEYFORD PARK

A message from local residents

We are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful and historic rural areas in England. Now, this landscape and our way of life face an unprecedented threat.

WHAT IS PROPOSED

Developers have submitted plans for **9,000 new houses** at Heyford Park - spreading across the former air base and surrounding **farmland (greenfield) owned by New College, Oxford**. There will be further large-scale structures including **industrial buildings and wind turbines**.

Heyford Park is also on the **Government's shortlist of 12 possible New Towns**, which could grow to **13,000 houses with expressed plans for almost unlimited further growth** - endangering nearby villages in the decades ahead.

This is not the "village community" once promised at Heyford Park. It is the creation of a **major new town** in the heart of rural Oxfordshire.

This is **not an eco-town** - it is the urbanisation of our countryside.

WHY WE OPPOSE IT

Traffic and Infrastructure

- **Thousands of cars will overwhelm our narrow rural roads.**
- Developers have earmarked **Heyford's small village train station** as their major transport hub to serve a town-sized population - an unrealistic plan.
- Suggested "green transport" options (including "passenger drone flights") are **vague and inadequate**.
- Roads such as the A34 and M40 are **already at breaking point**.
- Proposed works could **encroach on floodplains** and risk **more floods** in neighbouring villages.

Destruction of Villages and Countryside

- The plans include **building on greenfield land**, even inside the **Rousham Conservation Area**, intended to protect the landscape surrounding the **Grade 1 listed** Park and Gardens.
- Buildings up to **18 metres (four storeys)** will dominate the landscape.
- The development will **erode village identities** and destroy the rural character of the area.

Environmental Harm: an “eco-town” is not built by destroying the countryside.

- **Wildlife habitats**, hedgerows, and dark skies will be lost forever.
- **Light, noise and car pollution** will worsen - permanently scarring this environment.
- Once farmland and nature are gone, they **cannot be replaced**.

Unsustainable Resources

- **Water and sewage systems** are already at full capacity.
- **GPs and hospitals** are struggling to cope.
- Promised traffic calming, bus routes and community facilities from earlier Heyford Park phases have **not been delivered**.

A developer-led scheme, not community-led

- Dorchester Group - a developer with links to international investors - will profit, while local people bear the costs.
- This plan ignores the views of residents and the capacity of our countryside.

OUR COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

We reject the idea that opposing urbanisation is “NIMBYism”. Housing needs can be more practically fulfilled by developing and regenerating urban areas - with extant infrastructure and a less heightened risk of catastrophic environmental harm.

Rural England is not empty land to be filled - it is a **living, working landscape**. Just as we need towns and cities, we also need **villages, biodiverse fields, flood plains and dark night skies**.

We owe it to future generations to protect this landscape and way of life.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Act now - register your objection without delay.

1. **Object to developer-led plan (9,000 dwellings) by writing to Cherwell District Council** by email planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk quoting **25/02190/HYBRID** and including your name and address.
2. **Object to Government's New Town proposal (13,000 dwellings) by writing to your MP:**
Bicester & Woodstock: calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk
North Oxfordshire villages: sean.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk
3. **Share this leaflet** with neighbours, friends, and family. The more voices raised, the stronger our community's defence.

PROTECT OUR VILLAGES – DEFEND RURAL OXFORDSHIRE