

URGENT consultation response by CPRE:

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) promotes the beauty, tranquility and diversity of rural Oxfordshire by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

We wish to object to above application on the following grounds: The site is outside the Residential Settlement Boundary as specified in the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP). The MCNP states clearly that such a scheme should not be supported. Development of the site would extend the housing area of the village far further to the west adjacent to an area of open fields, thus increasing the footprint of the village into the countryside. The proposed detached houses are substantial and do little to address the need for affordable, sustainable housing to provide for the local community. Steeple Aston has recently had housing applications accepted but these were within the settlement area and thus complied with MCNP and LP policy.

The biodiversity gain estimates look very substantial but the actual figures and calculations appear not to be given. The opinion of the Council ecologist would be of value on this matter.