

East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Comments of East Hagbourne Parish Council on the Reg 16 consultation representations.

This document reports our comments on the question raised by the Examiner on the Didcot garden town Green Buffer Zone map.

Comments on other representations are reported separately.

Comments of East Hagbourne Parish Council are shown in blue italics.

On 8th January 2019, the Examiner asked EH Parish Council:

Figure 4

I can see that this figure derives directly from the Buffer Assessment. However it has confused several of the organisations making representations to the Plan. In some cases they have directly objected to its inclusion. Others have commented that it does not directly inform policies. Could the Parish Council address these matters in its commentary on the representations?

We agree that our explanation of the Green Buffer Zones and how they relate to our policies can be confusing and are open to improving that explanation.

Objections have been raised to references to the DGT Delivery Plan, because it is not a publicly scrutinised document that does not represent adopted planning policy. This is certainly a reason for not relying on the Delivery Plan to inform our policies, but should not, we believe, preclude all reference to it, so we trust that the introductory discussion and inclusion of Figure 2 are acceptable.

Figure 4 is a stepping stone on the way to our own policies. Our consultants, Novell Tullett, chose the DGT proposals as their starting point and aimed their evaluation at better defining those Green Buffer Zones proposed by DGT that impact on East Hagbourne.

There is a source of potential confusion in the fact that the Green Buffer Zones, being defined on landscape grounds, are not constrained by political boundaries. Our own Green Gap policies, in contrast, are limited to our NP area.

Our policies are informed by the Novell Tullett study, however we have not adopted their Green Buffer proposals directly, but instead have used the information in the Green Buffer Assessment, together with other evidence, to define our own Local Green Gap policies.

Figure 4 is taken directly from the NT study in Appendix 10, so we have no objection should you ask for its removal from the main text, with a clearer explanation of how our own policies have been derived.