

Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Green Gap and Green Wedge Assessment March 2023

ADDENDUM to the Final Report – June 2024

This addendum to the Green Gap and Green Wedge Assessment carried out by AECOM and Icen Projects in 2023, has been prepared by Place Studio on behalf of the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It provides an update to the Assessment as an addendum to the evidence that supports policy 19 of the modified Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan (JMNP2).

Policy 19 is a new policy that has been introduced in response to local concern about the balance between development and the protection of landscape, especially where that performs a function to separate settlements.

Following the pre-submission Regulation 14 2023 consultation responses, together with changes in context, the policy is updated and one of the Green Wedges proposed in the Green Gap and Green Wedge Assessment is removed.

Since the 2023 Consultation on JMNP2 (Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2) despite local opposition, outline planning permission was granted through appeal for 210 dwellings and a 70 bed care home on Land South of Western Way.

The Berryfield, Bowerhill and Melksham Wedge is therefore removed due to the fact that the context has changed for a large part of the area covered by that wedge and the methodology in the Aecom report (see criterion 2 and 3) is no longer applicable to the Berryfield, Bowerhill and Melksham Wedge.

All other Green Wedges, as identified and evidenced in the Assessment will remain in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The policy as proposed in the Assessment has also been updated following feedback as part of the Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation in 2023 where concerns were raised that the policy was too restrictive, and should allow for exceptions such as employment development and new community facilities. See JMNP2 and policy 19 for more information.