

## Examination of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan (2011-2031)

### Examination hearing sessions

#### Statement of North Hertfordshire District Council

#### **Matter 11 – The housing allocations and the settlement boundaries: the Category A villages - Barley**

##### ***11.9 Though a Category A Village, no housing allocations are proposed for Barley. Why? What is the approach taken here and what is the justification for it?***

1. One site was considered in Barley (SHLAA ref BLr/02, HOU1 (appendix 2, p54)). It was not considered suitable for allocation as the site is part of a larger agricultural field and has no clear eastern boundary. It also forms an important link between the open space within the village and the wider countryside beyond.
2. Barley is a category A village and general development will be allowed within the defined settlement boundary in line with Policy SP2 of the plan. Barley has a range of facilities which also support the neighbouring village of Barkway and other nearby settlements.

##### ***11.10 Is the proposed settlement boundary:***

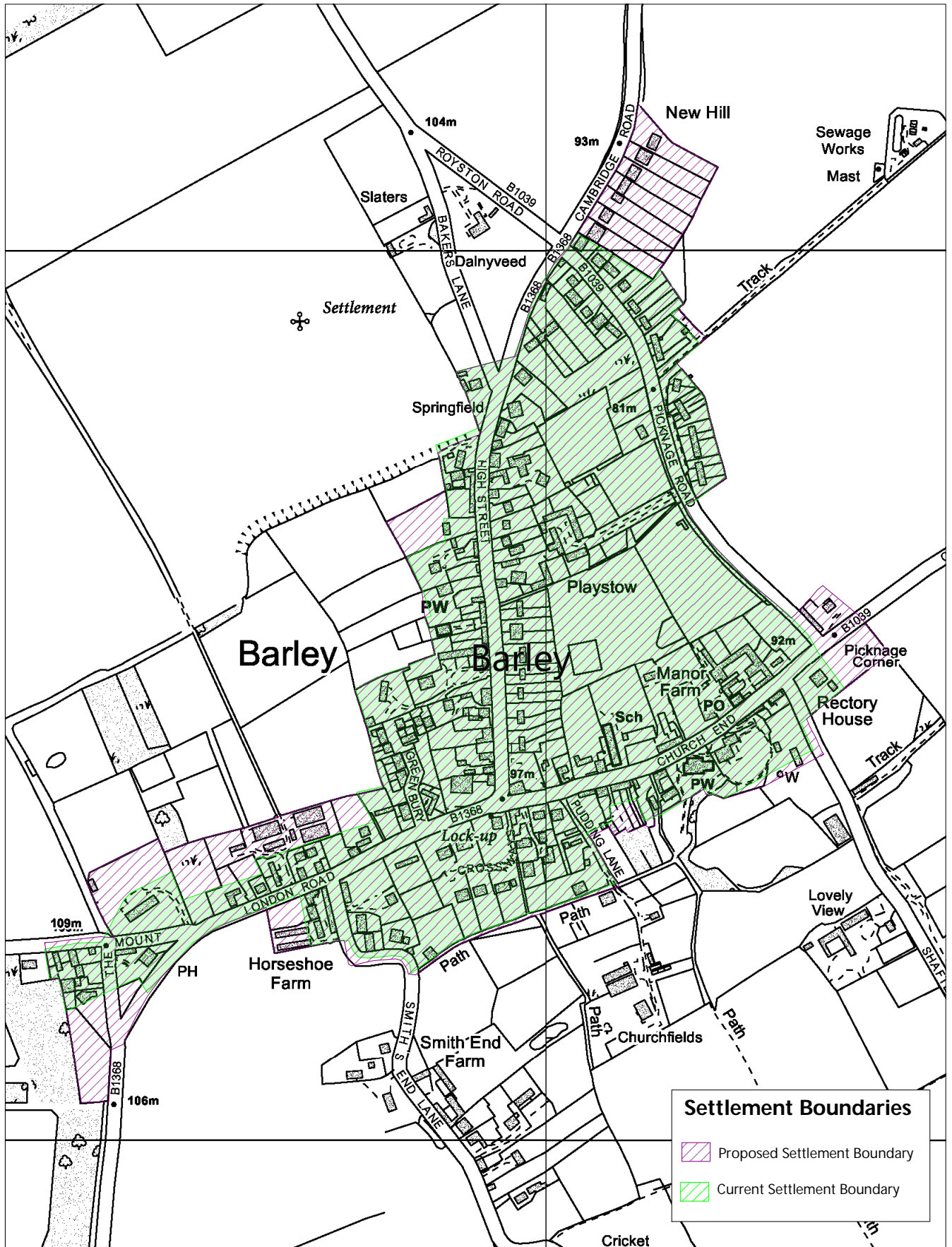
- a) consistent with the methodology for identifying the settlement boundaries?***
- b) appropriate and justified?***

3. The Council's proposed amendment to the supporting text of Policy SP2 (LP3, amendment to paragraph 4.13, p.2) makes clear that settlements are those areas excluded from the prevailing policy designation of the surrounding rural area.
4. Every effort has been made to clearly define the boundaries around the settlement using physical features such as roads and watercourses that are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent.
5. The settlement boundary has been drawn to encompass the existing developed extent and provides the opportunity for future development within the built core and is justified by consistency with policy SP2 Settlement Hierarchy.
6. A map showing the existing and proposed settlement boundaries for Barley is attached to this Statement as Appendix 1 to aid interpretation.

#### **Appendix 1: Current and proposed settlement extent of Barley**

Plan overleaf.

Barley



Scale: 1:6000  
Date: 10:10:17

