

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 – Hexton

11.26 Though a Category A village, no housing allocations are proposed for Hexton. Why? What is the approach taken here and what is the justification for it?

1. No sites were promoted for Hexton. Hexton lies within the Green Belt and the Chilterns AONB and is currently a ‘washed over’ village in the Local Plan. Creating a village boundary for this Category A village will allow general development within the defined settlement boundary in line with Policy SP2 of the plan.

11.27 Is the proposed settlement boundary:

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

2. 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; the boundaries of Hexton are ‘inner’ boundaries to the Green Belt rather than ‘outer’ boundaries to the settlement itself.
3. Every effort has been made to clearly define the Green Belt boundaries around the settlement using physical features such as roads and watercourses that are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent.
4. 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.
5. A map showing the existing and the proposed settlement boundary for Hexton is attached to this Statement as Appendix 1 to aid interpretation.

Appendix 1: Current and proposed settlement extent of Hexton

Plan overleaf.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Hexton

