

South West Cambridge Action Group

Zoom Public Information Meeting
20 January 2021, 6-7 pm

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction: *Susan van de Ven*
- ▶ What we learned from meeting with Thakeham: *Sebastian Kindersley*
- ▶ Freedom of Information output: *Aidan Van de Weyer*
- ▶ Other new information: *Peter McDonald*
- ▶ Next steps: *Peter McDonald*
- ▶ What you can do: *Aidan Van de Weyer*
- ▶ Questions: *Peter McDonald*
- ▶ Closing - *Susan van de Ven*

SWCAG Objectives

- ▶ ***Prevent the proposed Thakeham development***

Background:

SWCAG 16 December public meeting presentation and
Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.swcag.org.uk/news-and-events>

District & County Councillors

Representing villages within the Thakeham proposal area, and promoting SWCAG objectives:

- ▶ Jose Hales - *District Councillor for Melbourn, Meldreth, Whaddon, Shepreth*
- ▶ Sebastian Kindersley - *County Councillor for Barrington, Orwell, Wimpole & the Gamlingay Division villages*
- ▶ Peter McDonald - *County Councillor for Shepreth, Foxton & the Duxford Division villages*
- ▶ Susan van de Ven - *County Councillor for Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Whaddon, Meldreth, Melbourn*
- ▶ Aidan Van De Weyer - *District Councillor for Barrington, Orwell, Wimpole*

(District Cllrs Nigel Cathcart and Deborah Roberts - Observers only, protecting their right to vote on the Local Plan)



Since the last meeting

1. Meetings sought:

- Thakeham - January 4
- Anthony Browne MP - January 21st
- 2. Freedom of Information correspondence in progress.
- 3. Queries to Bassingbourn Barracks, and Cambridgeshire County Council as land owner.
- 4. Parish Councils in process of appointing SWCAG representatives.

Thakeham meeting:

Thakeham is an infrastructure led developer, currently building 1000 homes per year.

Next biggest scheme is 9K homes, then half that.

Area chosen due to inclusion in OxCam Arc. Working on it for past two years.

“We had not envisaged going through the Local Plan.” Assumed scope too large for Local Plan.

Approached SCDC as courtesy to leader and chief planner. SCDC told Thakeham it must work through the same transparent Local Plan process as any developer.

Preparing to submit to SCDC Call for Sites at Easter, at which point a map could be provided.

Pursuing national channels too. *“We are looking to have concurrent conversations with national stakeholders.”*

Still busy with land assembly, but have enough to go forward.

Not yet interacted with Cambs County Council.

“Homes England know of the scheme’s existence.”

Detailed meeting report: <http://www.swcag.org.uk/news-and-events>

Freedom of Information responses

Cambridgeshire County Council: January 2018 - Thakeham letter to Cambs County Council CEO expressing interest in purchasing County-owned land in Shepreth, in conjunction with aspiration to create a new town settlement.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority: Report no contact until South West Cambridge new town announcement letter dated December 8th.

Homes England: Request for search to be refined.

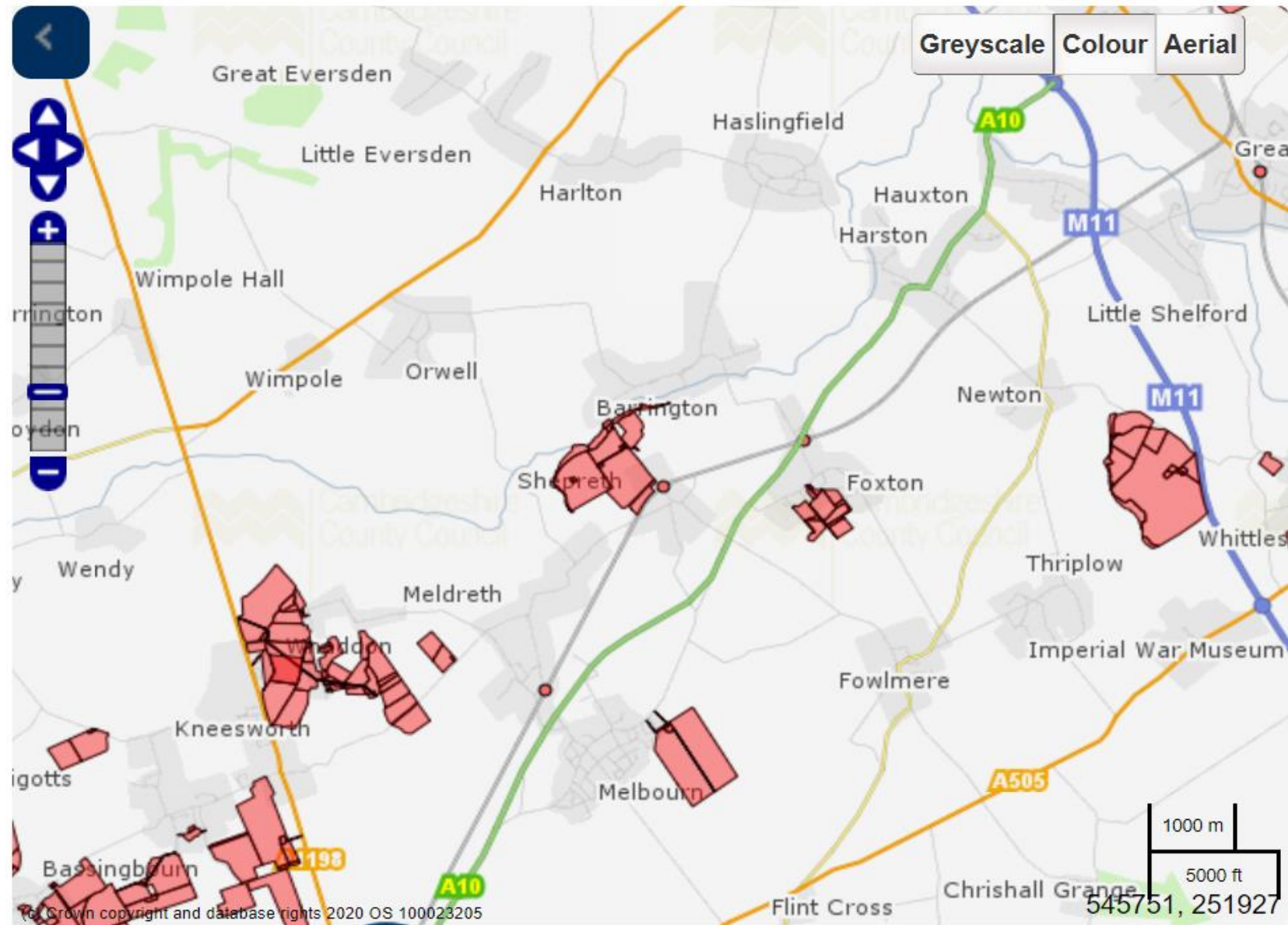
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Request for search to be refined.

Cabinet Office: Request for search to be refined.

Treasury: Pending.

East West Rail: Pending, beyond statutory deadline.

Cambridgeshire County Council Farms Estate Land



Land at Bassingbourn Barracks

The Ministry of Defence at Bassingbourn Barracks:

“MTMC (the current occupants of Bassingbourn Barracks) have engaged with Army Infrastructure (who run the plans for Army basing) and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (who own the estate) to see if there are any known plans for development on the Barracks site or its backdoor training area. They have responded that DIO is not engaged with any developer or in discussions about any kind of development or potential disposal (in part or full) of the barracks – all high level consideration was dropped by DIO once the Northern route for the east West Rail link was selected.”

Next Steps

- ▶ Convene with parish council appointed representatives.
- ▶ Complete FOI process.
- ▶ Approach Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), National Trust, Wildlife Trust, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- ▶ Possible crowdfunding for specific advice/expertise.
- ▶ Begin anticipating the case against the proposal within a Local Plan context.
- ▶ Any other suggestions?
- ▶ SWCAG public meeting number 3.

What can you do?

1. Engage with:

- Your local parish councils
- Your district and county councillors
- MP Anthony Browne

2. Make your views known via letters to the local press

Any questions?

Please write to: info@swcag.org.uk

Further information:

Website www.swcag.org.uk

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwestcambridgeactiongroup>

Thank you and stay safe

