

**From:** Julia Smitherman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 February 2025 18:08  
**To:** Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation  
**Subject:** Interested Party Representation on NPPF

**Categories:** SoS Consultation

Firstly, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the updated NPPF in relation to this application with regard to Greenbelt and Housebuilding.

It is well documented throughout the planning inquiry for this project, the reasons for opposition of Anglian Water's proposed sewage plant move.

The previous government's intention was to fund the move via 'levelling up' money. The Greenbelt Land in question is Honey Hill that is land of good agricultural quality.

Although Greenbelt definitions focus on minimising the impact of urban sprawl and preserving open environments. A key consideration specifically for Honey Hill has to be that, the land and its ecosystem would be compromised by development, its natural abilities to absorb water and carbon would be lost. This would create soil degradation which will have disastrous consequences eg flooding, increased pollution and threat to food production.

It cannot be denied Honey Hill does function amidst climate change to maintain a natural environment with wide ranging benefits ecologically and environmentally. In the case of Honey Hill, it would significantly harm the land if Anglian Water were to relocate their sewage plant to it.

a) It would put the chalk aquifer water source at significant risk of contamination- this is our drinking water.

b) The design and function of the proposed plant is inappropriate and would impact on the openness of this particular environment.

c) It serves as an accessible green space for local people (conservation) villages and new housing development of Marleigh  
All of which are consideration in the new NPPF.

Anglian Water's current site has dealt with sewage since 1890's. The surrounding area has grown and developed, in full knowledge that it was there.

Anglian Water has stated there is no operational reason to move.

The move would be paid for at tax payers expense despite that the current site has been upgraded and could be further developed and retro fitted for carbon reduction.

The argument to move the sewage plant onto green belt land of good agricultural quality (Honey Hill) is to meet housing need. It makes no sense financially or environmentally.

To date, Cambridge is already one of the largest house building authorities. However, The creation of Hartree on the old sewage site would not be realised for several years in that the land will need time to recover and be decontaminated after more than a century of foul use.

I would argue that the demand for housing and the environment are intrinsically linked and increasing pressure is being put on natural resources and therefore thoughtful planning and development is now required.

I respectfully remain opposed to Anglian Water moving their sewage plant to Greenbelt Land that is Honey Hill and therefore oppose a new neighbourhood being developed on their old site.