From: Danny Reeve
To: Crown Casework
Subject: Formal Objection – Proposed Use of Piddington MOD Site
Date: 11 September 2026 09:28:34

[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed use of the MOD site at Piddington to accommodate approximately 1,250 migrants.

My objection is not based upon the nationality, ethnicity or immigration status of those who may be accommodated at the site. It concerns whether this particular location can safely, proportionately and sustainably support accommodation on such a significant scale, given the size of the existing community and the limited infrastructure, transport and public services available locally.

1. Scale and proportionality

Piddington has a population of approximately 315 residents. Accommodation for approximately 1,250 additional people would therefore represent a population almost four times the size of the existing village population.

This is an exceptional increase for a small rural community and would fundamentally change the scale and functioning of the settlement.

The suitability of the proposal should therefore not be determined simply by whether the MOD site contains buildings physically capable of accommodating this number of people. The relevant question is whether Piddington and the surrounding area have the infrastructure, services and capacity necessary to support accommodation on this scale.

2. Limited local facilities and transport

Piddington is a small rural settlement with very limited everyday facilities. There is no village shop, and residents rely upon neighbouring communities for many essential goods and services.

Those accommodated at the site would similarly require access to shops, healthcare, public transport, recreation and other services outside the immediate site.

I therefore ask that clear evidence is provided demonstrating how this additional demand has been assessed, including the capacity and frequency of public transport and the ability of neighbouring settlements to accommodate increased demand for essential services.

3. Pedestrian and highway safety

Piddington and the surrounding rural roads do not have a comprehensive network of pavements suitable for significant levels of pedestrian movement.

If accommodation on the proposed scale proceeds, there is likely to be

increased movement between the site, public transport connections and facilities in surrounding communities.

I therefore ask that a detailed pedestrian and highway safety assessment is undertaken and made available, addressing likely walking routes, existing footways, road crossings, traffic speeds, visibility, accident risk and any additional infrastructure that would be necessary to provide safe access.

4. Street lighting and night-time safety

There are additional concerns regarding street lighting, including periods when local lighting is switched off overnight.

The combination of rural roads, limited pedestrian infrastructure and restricted night-time lighting raises legitimate questions about pedestrian safety.

I ask that the suitability of likely pedestrian routes after dark is specifically assessed and that any measures necessary to make those routes safe are identified before the site is approved for use.

5. Healthcare and public-service capacity

Accommodation for approximately 1,250 people would create additional demand for healthcare and other public services.

I therefore ask that evidence is provided regarding the capacity of local GP surgeries, dentists, pharmacies, hospitals, ambulance services, mental-health and welfare provision, police and fire and rescue services.

The relevant service providers should be consulted directly, and any additional resources required to accommodate the increased demand should be identified and secured rather than assuming that existing services have sufficient capacity.

6. Emergency planning and safeguarding

The rural location and scale of the proposal also require appropriate emergency and safeguarding arrangements.

Before the site is brought into use, there should be clear evidence that adequate provision has been made for emergency vehicle access, fire safety, evacuation, medical emergencies, policing, safeguarding and emergency communications.

These arrangements should be assessed against the proposed occupancy of the site rather than simply against its previous use.

7. Impact upon neighbouring communities

The effects of this proposal cannot reasonably be assessed solely within the boundary of the MOD site or Piddington itself.

Because many essential services and facilities are located elsewhere, neighbouring communities are likely to experience some of the additional demand arising from the site.

The assessment should therefore consider the cumulative impact upon surrounding shops, healthcare facilities, public transport, railway

stations, roads, public spaces and emergency services.

8. Community cohesion

Introducing accommodation for a population considerably larger than the existing population of Piddington inevitably raises questions about community cohesion and successful integration.

This is not an argument against providing appropriate accommodation for migrants. Appropriate accommodation should be provided.

However, successful integration requires appropriate scale, infrastructure, transport, services, facilities and support for both those being accommodated and the existing community.

I therefore ask for a clear plan explaining how community cohesion will be supported and how the practical needs of both existing residents and those accommodated at the site will be addressed.

9. Overall suitability of the location

The existence of buildings capable of being converted or used for accommodation does not, by itself, demonstrate that the wider location is suitable for accommodation on this scale.

A proper suitability assessment should consider not only the buildings themselves but the environment in which people would be expected to live: transport, healthcare, pedestrian access, lighting, shops, emergency services, recreation, utilities and access to appropriate support.

The central question should therefore be whether this particular site and its surrounding infrastructure provide a safe, proportionate and sustainable location for accommodation on the scale proposed.

10. Evidence supporting the proposal

Before any final decision is made, I respectfully request that the evidence underpinning the selection of Piddington is published or otherwise made available.

In particular, I ask for the assessments relating to:

- highways, traffic and pedestrian safety;
- night-time pedestrian safety and street lighting;
- public transport capacity;
- healthcare capacity;
- police, ambulance and fire-service provision;
- fire safety and emergency evacuation;
- safeguarding;
- waste and refuse management;
- water, sewage and other utilities;
- environmental impacts;
- community cohesion;
- the impact upon neighbouring settlements; and
- the cumulative impact and proportionality of accommodation on the proposed scale.

I would also ask for clarification of the evidence used to determine the proposed occupancy level and why accommodation on this scale has been considered appropriate for this particular rural location.

Conclusion

I respectfully request that the proposed use of the Piddington MOD site is reconsidered and refused, or that a more proportionate and suitably located alternative is identified.

The issue is not whether migrants should receive safe and appropriate accommodation. They should.

The issue is whether this particular site and its surrounding infrastructure provide a safe, proportionate and sustainable location for accommodation on the scale proposed.

A suitable building is only one part of that assessment. Accommodation on this scale also requires adequate transport, healthcare, utilities, emergency provision, pedestrian infrastructure, public services and a credible strategy for supporting both the existing community and those who would be accommodated there.

In the absence of clear evidence demonstrating that these matters have been comprehensively assessed and can be adequately addressed, I believe there are substantial grounds for concluding that Piddington is unsuitable for accommodation on the scale proposed.

I therefore respectfully ask that my objection is formally recorded and that these concerns are fully considered before any final decision is made.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Reeve