

To: crowncasework@communities.gov.uk

Reference: Application PCU/RARE/C3105/8843

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION AT SITE A, MOD BICESTER

Dear Secretary of State,

I wish to register my objection to planning permission being granted to a proposal to build a so-called asylum accommodation centre for 1256 people at the site above. There are a number of reasons why such a building programme should not take place, especially because of the inordinately swift timeline that is being used.

There are several reasons why I believe this site to be completely inappropriate for such a place to be chosen, not least because a very similar proposal, albeit smaller in size, was rejected in 2003. These reasons are:

a. There has been insufficient time given to conduct inspections of an ex-military site which might well have unexploded ordnance underground, especially as there are no habitable buildings, and the ground may be contaminated by various chemicals. I believe that the previous rejection in 2003 had difficulty with this too.

b. Alongside this, as an avid historian I would not want to see potentially historic sites partly or fully destroyed because there was no real examination of the potential finds beneath the surface. The Romans used the not-far-away Akeman Street for movement and undoubtedly there are Bicester area villas and other constructions to be found.

c. The piece of land chosen for the housing of people is at a very low level by comparison with other areas of the camp and is subject to flooding. This in turn is likely to contaminate waste-water pipes, and probably clean water pipes too. This, therefore, is clearly not an ideal location for 1256 people to inhabit and slosh around when it is waterlogged.

d. The camp being situated out in the countryside it is essential to conduct a full assessment of the environment and the impact on the various animals, birds, reptiles, etc to ensure that those under threat will not be affected by the camp. This has not been done sufficiently well in the timeline and has completely insufficient figures of the very large numbers of wildlife that will be affected.

e. Accommodating such a large number of predominantly young people in a rural location with few amenities is likely to lead to boredom, frustration and friction at times. Fights will be inevitable. The road system is poor and often dangerous for pedestrians by day and buses rare. There is not much road lighting, so after dark, with winter coming, the danger is exacerbated. However, young, bored people may well choose to walk out sometimes and suffer the consequences.

f. The influx of 1256 people (or perhaps 3 times that number) in a rural area is likely to impact significantly on our medical system, which is already under considerable pressure here, and all over the south-east of England. Surely a less-populated part of the country where there is lower pressure on their health services would be better places to use.

g. Finally, as the site in question has no accommodation on it, the cost of putting in all electrics, gas, water, telephones etc, plus the amenities and buildings for the inmates is likely to be extremely expensive. This is especially so if sporting and other recreational facilities are put in place (which local villages do not have, of course), and the costs are likely to be significantly higher than taking over buildings already in place in a better location. Is this therefore good value for money raised by taxation at these difficult financial times?

All of the above issues have not been considered carefully and as far as I can tell, there has been no real evaluation of a range of different sites around the country to determine which ones are the most suitable for housing the huge numbers of illegal immigrants we appear to be getting year-on-year. I believe that the right ex-military camps should be used to shelter, bed, feed and look after the inmates, but that they should not be let out, and should remain under guard until their cases have been considered and they are given asylum and welcomed here, or rejected and sent back to their own countries.

In this case, it is clear that this has been a rushed job and needs much more time to assess whether it is, indeed, a correct site to house hundreds if not thousands of illegal, mainly young, people. I therefore object to wholeheartedly to this application.

Yours sincerely

