

Planning Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: TIM ORUYE



Vale of White Horse

District Council

Sent to Parish Clerk via email

Contact officer: Cheryl Soppet

cheryl.soppet@southandvale.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422 600

Abbey House,

Abbey Close,

OX14 3JE

11.03.2026

Dear Mr Urbick

Decision regarding the designation of Harwell Parish as a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended.

This letter confirms that on 3 March 2026, the Head of Policy and Programmes at Vale of White Horse District Council, designated the area shown in map one below as 'Harwell Parish Neighbourhood Area'.

This designation has been made for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan by Harwell Parish Council under section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended. It was decided not to designate the area as a business area under section 61H(1) of the Act as it is not primarily or wholly business in nature.

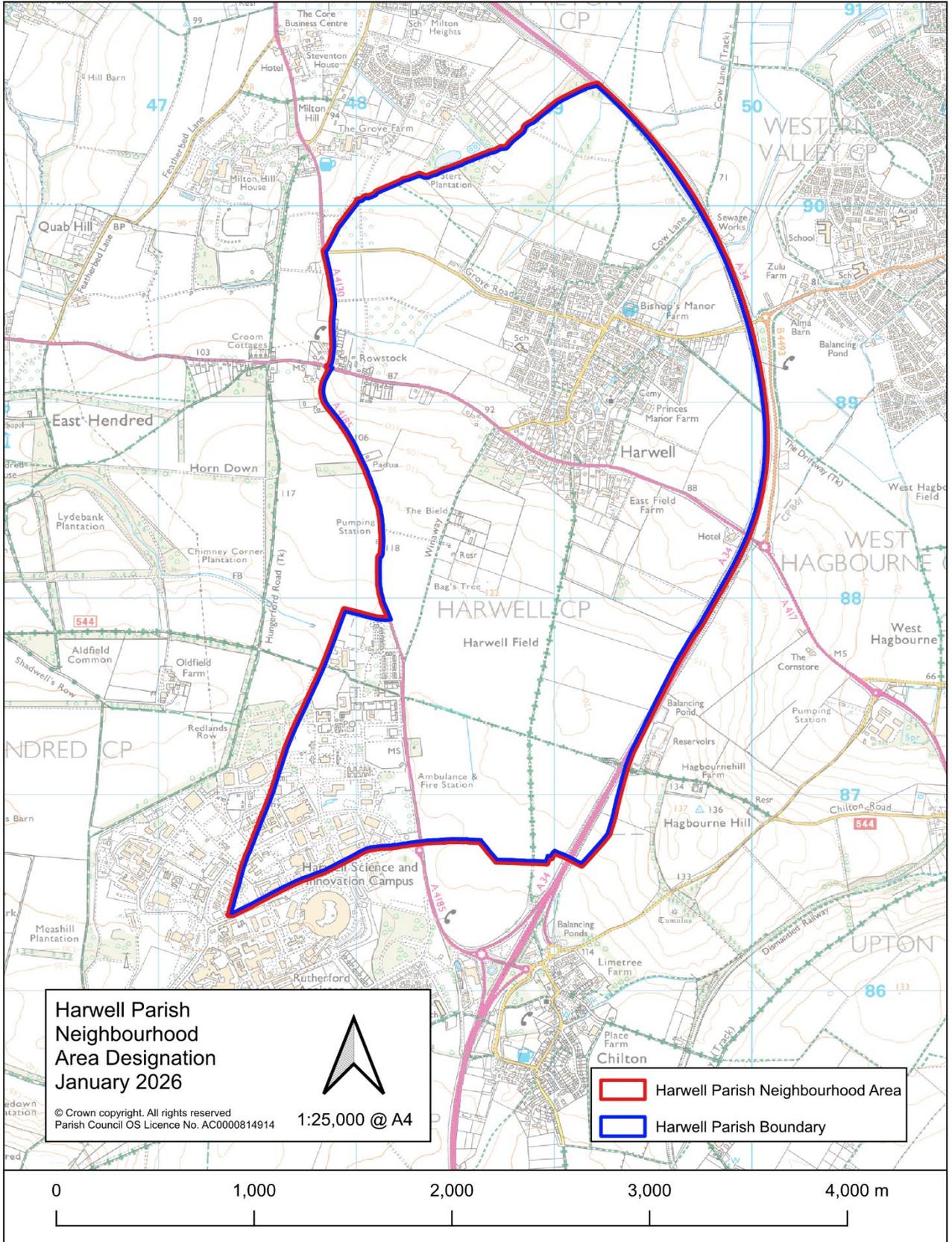
The following area designation information is set out below:

- a) Name of neighbourhood area: Harwell Parish Neighbourhood Area
- b) Map of neighbourhood area included below
- c) Relevant body: Harwell Parish Council
- d) The area designation application as submitted is available in Appendix 1

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Soppet
Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood)

Map 1 – Designated Harwell Parish Neighbourhood Area



Appendix 1

Neighbourhood Planning Area Designation Application Form



Application to designate a Neighbourhood Area
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012



1. Single point of contact regarding the Neighbourhood Plan

Title: First Name: Surname:
Address:
Postcode: Telephone:
Email:

2. Parish clerk details (if different from those above)

Title: First Name: Surname:
Address:
Postcode: Telephone:
Email:

3. Relevant Body

Please confirm that you are the relevant body to undertake neighbourhood planning in your area in accordance with section 61G of the 1990 Act and section 5C of the 2012 Regulations.

Yes No

Name of Relevant Body:

Note: in areas covered by a town or parish council, the town or parish council is the relevant body. For applications covering more than one parish area, please nominate a lead parish to act as the Relevant Body. If your area is not covered by a parish council (only a parish meeting), please contact the Planning Policy Team before making your application.

4. Extent of area

Please attach an OS plan showing the extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area and indicate below the relationship of the proposed area to parish boundaries. For further information about obtaining OS maps please see note 1.

Proposed area covers the whole of a single parish boundary area:

Proposed area covers part of a single parish boundary area:

Proposed area covers multiple parish boundary areas:

5. Applications covering more than one parish area:

If your application area covers more than one parish area, please list the parishes covered by the area application, the extent of the parish included and obtain consent from the parish by getting them to sign below:

Name Town/Parish Council	Extent of parish included in Neighbourhood Area	Name and Position	Authorising Signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

By signing this form your Parish Council is agreeing to the inclusion of part or the whole of your parish into the Neighbourhood Area named below and shown on the attached OS map.

6. Name of Neighbourhood Area

Please give the name by which your Neighbourhood Area will be formally known

Harwell Parish

7. Intention of neighbourhood area:

Please indicate which of the following you intend to undertake within your neighbourhood area:

Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Neighbourhood Development Order:

Community Right to Build Order:

8. Reasons for considering the area appropriate

Please briefly describe below why you consider this area is appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area:

See supporting statement and attachments

9. Previous applications

Has this relevant body previously submitted an application to designate a neighbourhood area, which has not yet been determined?

Yes

No

10. Withdrawal of previous application

If you answered 'yes' to question 9 above, please sign below to withdraw your previous application

I/we hereby wish to withdraw any previous application/s to designate a neighbourhood area made by this relevant body

Name: Date:

Signature:

11. Declaration

I/we hereby apply to designate a Neighbourhood Area as described on this form and the accompanying plan.

Name: Date:

Signature:

Please return the form to:

Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House, Abbey Close
Abingdon, OX14 3JE
planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

or **South Oxfordshire District Council**
Abbey House, Abbey Close
Abingdon, OX14 3JE
planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

Publications of applications to the Council's website.

Please note, as required under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a copy of this form and accompanying information will be published on the Council's website. However, all personal information, with the exception of the name and address of the main contacts, will be redacted from the website. The complete form will be available to view in the council offices. If you require any further clarification, please contact the Planning Policy Team.

Supporting statement

Harwell Parish Council considers the Harwell parish boundary to be an appropriate Neighbourhood Area because it represents a clearly defined, long-established, and locally recognised community with coherent governance, shared infrastructure, and a strong sense of place.

The parish is experiencing increasing development pressure arising from a combination of factors, including the expansion of Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, significant recent land acquisition within the parish, planned housing renewal and investment in parts of the village, and ongoing uncertainty surrounding district-level and national planning policy.

Designation of the parish boundary as the Neighbourhood Area will enable the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan that complements the Vale of White Horse District Council's Local Plan by providing locally specific, evidence-led policies on matters such as housing mix, design quality, landscape and biodiversity, infrastructure, and community resilience.

Using the parish boundary provides a simple, transparent, and proportionate basis for neighbourhood planning, while still allowing for cooperation with neighbouring parishes and the District Council on cross-boundary matters where appropriate.