

# **West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Examination**

## **Policy DOR 10 Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan – Confirmation of suggested changes to the allocation boundary.**

Arising in Matter 13



West Dorset District Council and  
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

1. At the EIP session on Tuesday 9 December, Matter 13 Eastern Localities of West Dorset, the Inspector asked the councils to confirm whether or not a proposed change to the allocation boundary (to make the site larger) had already been suggested.
2. The councils can confirm that Suggested Change SC67 of document SSC1a refers to a suggested Map Change in connection with DOR 10. The change referred to is: *“Extend allocated area to north to boundary with A35”*. The comment related to the suggested change is *“To allow flexible arrangements for surface water attenuation”*.
3. As explained by the councils at the hearing, the extension of the allocation area northwards to the boundary of the A35 was a pragmatic step to ensure that there was sufficient area available to attenuate surface water flooding. By including the area to the north, the boundary of the allocation would be moved closer to the existing built-up form of Dorchester. On this basis, the change was not considered to result in additional harm to the character of the area or the setting of the scheduled monuments to the south and south-west.
4. With regard to the landowner’s request to extend the boundary further to the south, it was decided not to suggest a change to the boundary of the allocation in that location. This decision was based on the fact that such a change would result in the site extending further into the open landscape of the Dorset AONB. The boundary would also be moved much closer to the Scheduled Monument of Herringston Barrow. The land also becomes more elevated in the south of the site. Being mindful of the concerns already expressed by Natural England, English Heritage and the Dorset AONB team, it was apparent that a southward enlargement was highly likely to result in increased harm to the landscape and the setting of the scheduled monuments. If the area to the south was needed to accommodate landscape mitigation for development within the allocated site, then this still could be carried out beyond the allocation boundary.