

Executive Summary

Community Responses on Area N (Sheep Street), Burford

A **total of 96 individual residents and stakeholders** submitted written comments on the proposed development of **Area N (South of Sheep Street)** as part of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan consultation.

Key points emerging consistently across submissions:

- **Overwhelming opposition** to the proposed allocation.
- Strong consensus that the development would **exacerbate traffic congestion and road safety risks**, particularly on Sheep Street, Tanners Lane and Priory Lane.
- Widespread concern that **local infrastructure is already at capacity**, notably GP services, schools, water and sewage systems.
- Significant objection to building on land within the **Cotswolds National Landscape**, with repeated references to harm to landscape character, biodiversity, and Burford's historic setting.
- Frequent emphasis on the **historic significance of the site**, including its identification as the location of the Battle of 752 AD.
- Many respondents questioned the **evidence of local housing need**, citing recent developments and unsold properties.
- A shared view that the proposal risks **irreversible damage** to Burford's character, heritage, and long-term sustainability.

Overall, the volume and consistency of responses indicate **strong and broad-based community resistance**, with respondents asserting that the cumulative harms of the proposal significantly outweigh any potential benefits.

Source: Compiled public consultation responses submitted November 2025

Summary compiled by ChatGTP V5.5, prompted by G Haines