

From:



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MM40
237-239
Policy WP8

This text:

A. Proposals should seek to avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land; areas of poorer quality land should be preferred. Where the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land cannot be avoided, the harm involved will be weighed against the benefits of the proposal.

B. Proposals that would lead to the significant loss of agricultural land should in particular be accompanied by:

1. an appropriate up-to-date soil survey and technical land quality assessment; to determine whether the site is best and most versatile agricultural land; and

Should read (ADDITIONS/CHANGES IN CAPS):

A. Proposals should seek to avoid the loss of ANY agricultural land; WHERE THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE areas of poorer quality land should be preferred. Where the loss of ANY agricultural land cannot be avoided, the harm involved will be weighed against the benefits of the proposal.

ACTIONS WHICH CAUSE ANY BEST AND MOST VERSATILE AGRICULTURAL LAND TO LATER BE DEEMED POORER QUALITY AGRICULTURAL LAND WILL RESULT IN PROPOSALS BEING REJECTED AND AN ORDER TO RETURN THE LAND TO BEST AND MOST VERSATILE CONDITION. THIS IS TO ENSURE AGRICULTURAL LAND IS NOT HARMED BY LONG TERM ACTIVITIES BY LAND OWNERS OR THEIR TENANTS TO FACILITATE LATER DEVELOPMENT.

B. Proposals that would lead to the significant loss of agricultural land should in particular be accompanied by:

1. an appropriate up-to-date soil survey and technical land quality assessment; to determine whether the site is CURRENTLY best and most versatile agricultural land AND IF NOT, WHETHER IT HAS BEEN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST AND/OR IF THE LAND COULD BE ENHANCED OR RESTORED TO ACHIEVE BEST AND MOST VERSATILE QUALITY; and....

The reason for this proposed amendment is to prevent the likes of Leverhulme Estates (continuing to) play a long game to get their land sold to developers by getting good quality green belt farm land deemed poorer quality or "grey belt" and thereby succeed in later applications.

Best Wishes

