

Boughton Parish – Boughton Village

Suggested Northampton Boundary Changes Technical Engagement with Parish Councils February 2024

We are currently working on a new Local Plan for West Northamptonshire to guide development in the period up to 2041. The West Northamptonshire Local Plan will replace the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) and the Part 2 Local Plans which were adopted for the former Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire areas. There have already been two formal consultations on the new Local Plan and there will be more opportunities for you to get involved with the preparation of the new plan through further consultations. You can find out more about the new Local Plan at westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-policy/new-local-plan-west-northamptonshire

As part of the new plan, we will need to define a new planning policy boundary for Northampton. When considering the new boundary we need to consider how nearby settlements relate to the existing built-up area of Northampton.

The purpose of this document is to explain the suggestions for the new boundary and the implications for Boughton. We welcome the Parish Council's comments on these suggestions; details of how you can submit your comments are at the end of this document.

Why do we need a new planning policy boundaries?

The existing planning policy boundary for Northampton is based on the former Borough administrative boundary plus areas allocated for development to meet Northampton's needs in the former Daventry and South Northamptonshire Districts. This is known as the Northampton Related Development Area or NRDA. As the former local authority boundaries no longer exist, the new Local Plan will need to define a new planning policy boundary for Northampton.

Administrative boundaries do not always make good planning policy boundaries. Administrative boundaries are often based on historic patterns of local administration and have evolved over time. Planning policy boundaries are required to define a particular planning policy designation or allocation and are often defined by physical features such as roads or watercourses.

In order to take a systematic and consistent approach to reviewing the boundary, the following criteria have been developed to guide what should be included within the new Northampton boundary and what should be excluded. The suggested criteria for defining the Northampton planning policy boundary are shown below and we welcome your thoughts on this.

Suggested Northampton Boundary Criteria

The following will be classified as being inside the Northampton boundary:

1. Buildings and curtilages, which are:
 - contained by strong physical boundaries,
 - visually separate from open countryside, and;
 - clearly part of a coherent network of built development
2. Green spaces where they occur within built development
3. Areas of land allocated for future built development, which are contiguous with other existing or proposed built development.

The following will be classified as being outside the Northampton boundary:

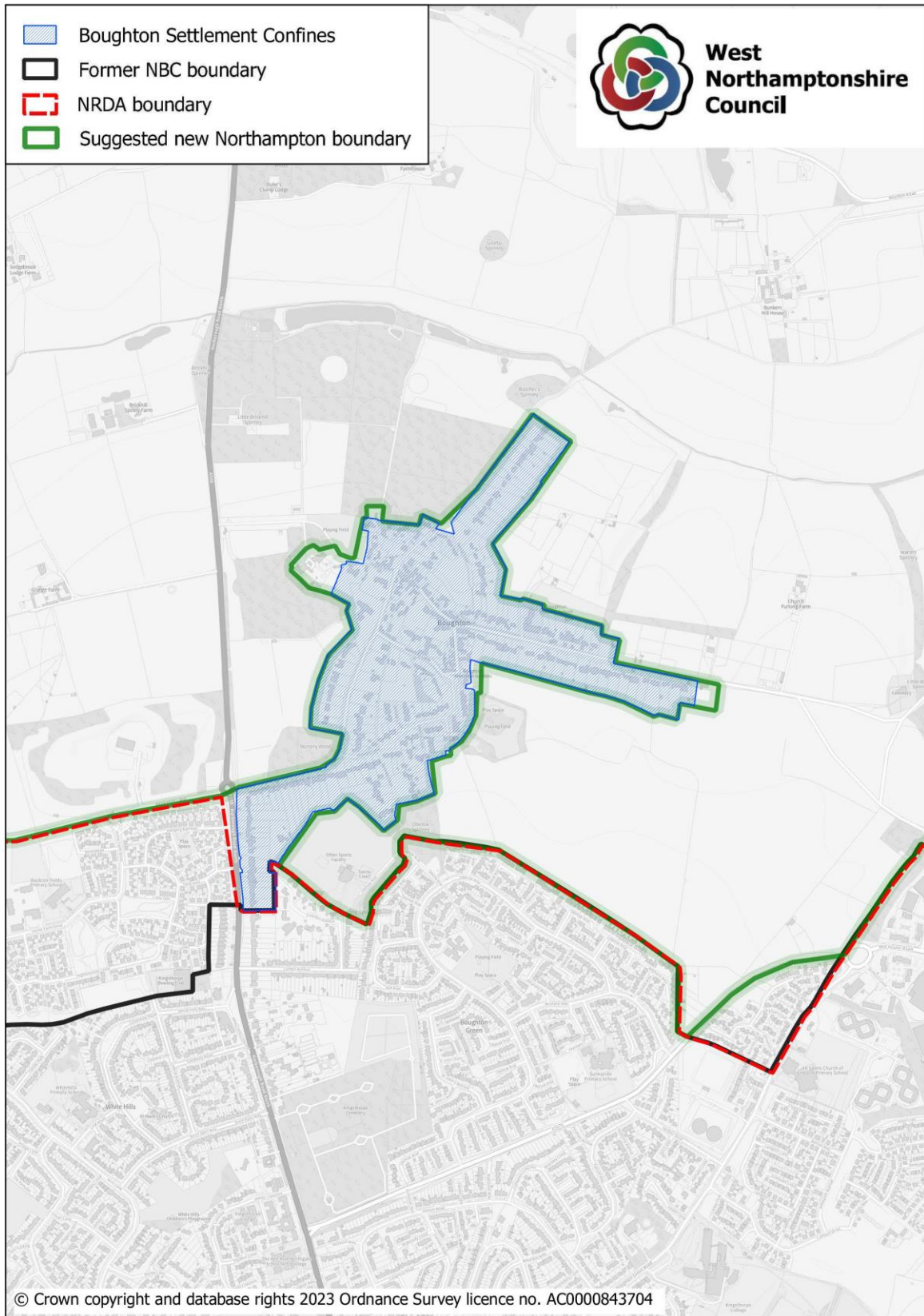
4. Areas of open space which are wholly on the edge of existing built development
5. Areas of land allocated for open space which are wholly on the edge of existing or proposed built development
6. Individual and groups of buildings that are detached or peripheral to the urban area and relate to the open countryside rather than the built form of the settlement.

What does this mean for Boughton?

Currently, Boughton is identified as a Secondary Service Village in the Daventry Part 2 Local Plan and has its own settlement confines. Boughton's settlement confines adjoin the old administrative boundary between Northampton and Daventry at a point across the A508 Harborough Road, as shown on the enclosed plan. However, the old administrative boundary does not reflect anything meaningful in spatial planning terms. The village immediately adjoins Northampton, and there is no obvious point where Northampton stops and the village begins, as there is continuous frontage development along the A508.

As there is no physical feature on which to base a planning policy boundary and based on the suggested boundary criteria above, we are therefore considering whether:

1. the new planning policy boundary for Northampton should include all the existing built development at Boughton; and,
2. there should be no separate settlement defined at Boughton.



Your views

We welcome the Parish Council's views on this as a way forward.

1. Do you have any comments on the suggested Northampton boundary criteria?
2. Do you have any comments on the suggestion that Boughton is included in the new Northampton planning policy boundary?

Please email your comments to localplan@westnorthants.gov.uk by **Tuesday 2nd April 2024**. If you have any queries about this consultation, please contact the Planning Policy team using the above email address or on 0300 126 7000.