

**Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan**  
Pre-submission Draft Representation Form Part B

Name            Roger McCartney  
Site              H2.6                                  Southwick Court  
Paragraphs    5.77 – 5.84                        Figure 5.10

1. The plan is not sound. The historic importance of the site is underestimated, and the proposals are not consistent with paragraphs 132 – 141 of the NPPF.

Paragraph 5 – Reason the Plan is not Sound

2. I note that a Heritage Impact Assessment has been requested. Paragraph 5.78 of the Draft Plan, refers to “Southwick Court Farmstead”. It is a Medieval Manor House with a moat. The earliest written record dates from c1421. It is of national significance. For example, it was the home of John Stafford, who became Archbishop of Canterbury 1443 to 1452. He served Henry V as Lord Privy Seal, 1421 to 1422. Under Henry VI he was Lord Privy Seal and Lord High Treasurer 1422 to 1426, and also Lord Chancellor 1432 to 1450. His mother, Lady Emma Stafford is buried in St Nicholas Church, North Bradley. Humphrey Stafford, grand nephew of John Stafford, entered Parliament in **1461** (not 1641) as Lord Stafford of Southwick. He supported the Yorkists during the Wars of the Roses. King Edward IV created him the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Devon on the 17 May **1469** (not 1649). Later that year, the Yorkist army was defeated at **Edgecote** Moor (not Edgecome). Stafford escaped from the battlefield, but was captured by a mob in Bridgewater and executed on the 17<sup>th</sup> August **1469** (not 1649).

3. Originally Southwick Manor had extensive land attached to it. The “ingrounds” around the Manor consisted of “7 closes” of some 97 acres. (The Victorian History of Wiltshire vol 8). A medieval water meadow still exists on the site.

4. There is already a significant solar panel farm visible from the Southwick Court site. Moving the existing boundaries, and building houses close to the Manor, would further detract from the site.

Paragraph 7 – Changes Necessary to the Plan

5. At the western end of the site is Southwick Country Park. In 2006 the former West Wiltshire District Council received a recommendation, from Consultants, to develop Biss Meadows at the expense of Southwick. The Council was advised to undertake only minimum conservation work, so not to prejudice any future development of the site. At the eastern end of the Southwick Court site, but separated by one field, is the Trowbridge Football Club ground. Club facilities are basic, and the site is liable to flooding. It is fenced off to members of the public, and in January 2015 a public right of way across the field was closed.

6. A restored water meadow, with an area of land crossed by public footpaths, and with

established wildlife would provide an alternative to the Southwick Park. Moving the football field to the Country Park would potentially provide a bigger and better site for the club. Links, over the Frome Road and to the Bradley Road site via Boundary Walk would give walkers and cyclists access to all three areas. It may be possible to build houses on a brownfield site in the town centre, to pay for any development work. Apparently, constraints on the Southwick Park prevent it being used for housing.