

## **Greater Cambridge Local Plan – The First Proposals**

### **Comments on Section/Policy**

**by Imperial War Museum (IWM) and Gonville and Caius College (Caius)**

13 December 2021

### **S/RRA: Allocations in the rest of the rural area**

IWM and Caius responded to the 2019 and 2020 “call for sites” ([Site reference 40095](#) : for 110,000 sqm of employment space and 800 new homes) to promote a globally significant aviation and air mobility innovation centre (“AvTech”) with a first phase (Avtech1) at IWM Duxford’s brownfield site, and the immediately adjoining Caius land (known locally as the “cabbage patch”), to be followed by a second phase (Avtech 2) south of the A505/east of the M11 with associated proposals to expand Duxford village to provide new homes and community facilities for existing residents and those working at the new innovation cluster and linked with Whittlesford Parkway for sustainable movement and access.

The published HELAA assessment found the proposals “available” and “achievable” but considered them “unsuitable” primarily because of the impact on the immediate historic environment around Duxford village.

We attach a separate report that follows the HELAA format and criteria with our updated assessment of criteria. For the reasons given in the attached report and table, it is considered a number of the assessment criteria should be re-considered and the sites accepted as suitable and included as an allocation in the Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

We also note that the HELAA did not appear to include any assessment of the overall economic, infrastructure and public benefits of the wider Avtech innovation cluster proposals or make any specific reference or assessment of the first phase Avtech (Avtech 1) proposals at IWM Duxford and the adjoining Caius land, and in the light of the economic benefits that the Avtech proposals would bring to Greater Cambridge and the wider UK economy (as detailed in the 2019 and 2020 submissions) and the associated residential proposals.

As such IWM and Caius ask that the GCLP reconsiders its HELAA 2021 assessment of the call for sites proposals (Site Ref 40095: Avtech 1, Avtech 2 and Duxford village expansion).

This is requested in the context of South Cambridge local plan adopted policies which recognise IWM Duxford as “special case” (E/7), support for innovation clusters which would embrace Avtech’s technologies (E/9), and support for growth of aviation where it brings economic benefits (T1/5); the NPPF (2021) support at Paras 81, 82, 83 and 104 for economic growth and aviation and the emerging OxCam ARC corridor focus on supporting innovation clusters (to be adopted as national spatial planning policy), as well as the objectives set out in the UK Innovation Corridor (London- Stanstead-Cambridge-Peterborough) and the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor.

IWM and Caius believe the Avtech innovation cluster should be considered a **special case** in the GCLP to secure the benefits of an innovation cluster majoring in carbon reducing technologies. Additionally, it constitutes a **unique economic and locational case** as Avtech occupiers require direct access to a runway and following the planned closure of Cambridge Airport, IWM Duxford will be the only significant operational airfield in the Greater Cambridge area.

This would accord with NPPF Para. 83 which states...” *Planning policies and decisions should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors. This includes making provision for clusters or networks of knowledge and data-driven, creative or high technology industries; and for storage and distribution operations at a variety of scales and in suitably accessible locations*”.

If this Avtech opportunity at Duxford is not supported, IWM and Caius consider that the benefits of existing aviation technology businesses in the area, as well as future major growth in an advanced technology cluster, may be lost to the Greater Cambridge area.

The following documents are attached:

1. HELAA criteria (Site reference 40095) – Proposed update (13 December 2021)
2. For convenience, copy of the submitted 2020 Call for Sites documents which provides detail and indicative masterplan on the Avtech 1 (IWM and Caius land) and Avtech 2/Duxford Village proposals.