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HCA Press statement

Position on removal of buildings at former Oakington Barracks site

“The HCA remains committed to keeping the Oakington Barracks site safe and secure until it can be brought forward for housing development as part of Northstowe, and to maintaining an open dialogue with all partners involved to look at the best ways to make best use of the site in the interim where this is appropriate and at no major cost to the public purse.

Managing the ongoing maintenance liabilities is an important aspect of estate management and removing some of the buildings is a necessary part of this process.

At the time of writing, none of the buildings have been designated as listed by the Secretary of State or English Heritage. There is, however, an outstanding application being considered by the Secretary of State on the following buildings; 1) The Officer’s Mess 2) The Admin Block 3) The Sergeants Mess.

The HCA is mindful of this application, and the petition and lobbying from the local heritage group and is sympathetic to their cause to retain a number of buildings.

Following an initial assessment of the buildings, and in light of our discussions with local groups, partner organisations and local MPs, rather than remove all the buildings on the site it is now the intention of the HCA to retain the following buildings/areas: 1)The Officers Mess 2) The Guard House 3)The Admin Block 4)Open Space adjacent to the Admin Block 5)Shelter adjacent to Admin Block 6)The Water Tower 7) The Mushroom ‘Oakington; Pill boxes 8) The existing road layout and all trees around the barracks .

Furthermore, in the short term, the HCA will retain two of the H blocks adjacent to the Admin Block and undertake an assessment to see whether there is a business case for retention.

Investigation is also ongoing regarding retention of the former aircraft hangers for short term commercial use. All the other buildings will be removed, pending the outcome of the heritage application. Works has commenced on site outside the areas in question.

In addition, the HCA is offering the Longstanton and District Heritage Society floor space in the Admin Block as a secure and water tight storage facility for their collection of artefacts.

The HCA as a public body and landowner is always keen to determine how the character of an area could be captured in any future housing development. By selectively retaining some key buildings at Oakington Barracks we can hopefully create a heritage core for the future benefit of all. Moreover, we are pleased to have been able to reach what we believe to be an appropriate compromise that does not unduly impact the public purse.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

[The Homes and Communities Agency](#) and [Gallagher](#) have been working together as joint promoters of Northstowe since the beginning of 2006.

Gallagher is one of the UK's largest master developers, promoting and delivering residential and mixed use schemes across the country. In addition to Northstowe, Gallagher is currently promoting another new town in Bedford (The Wixams), and six other new communities in South Midlands/East of England growth areas.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is the single, national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England. Our vision is to create opportunity for people to live in homes they can afford in places they want to live, by enabling local authorities and communities to deliver the ambition they have for their own areas.

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