

West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041 (adopted June 2025)

Policy DM32

Development within AWE

Development within the site boundaries of the Aldermaston and Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishments (AWE) will be supported where it directly sustains the functioning of each of the AWE sites as Government research and defence establishments.

Supporting Text

12.11 The NPPF outlines that planning policies and decisions should recognise and support development required for operational defence and security purposes.

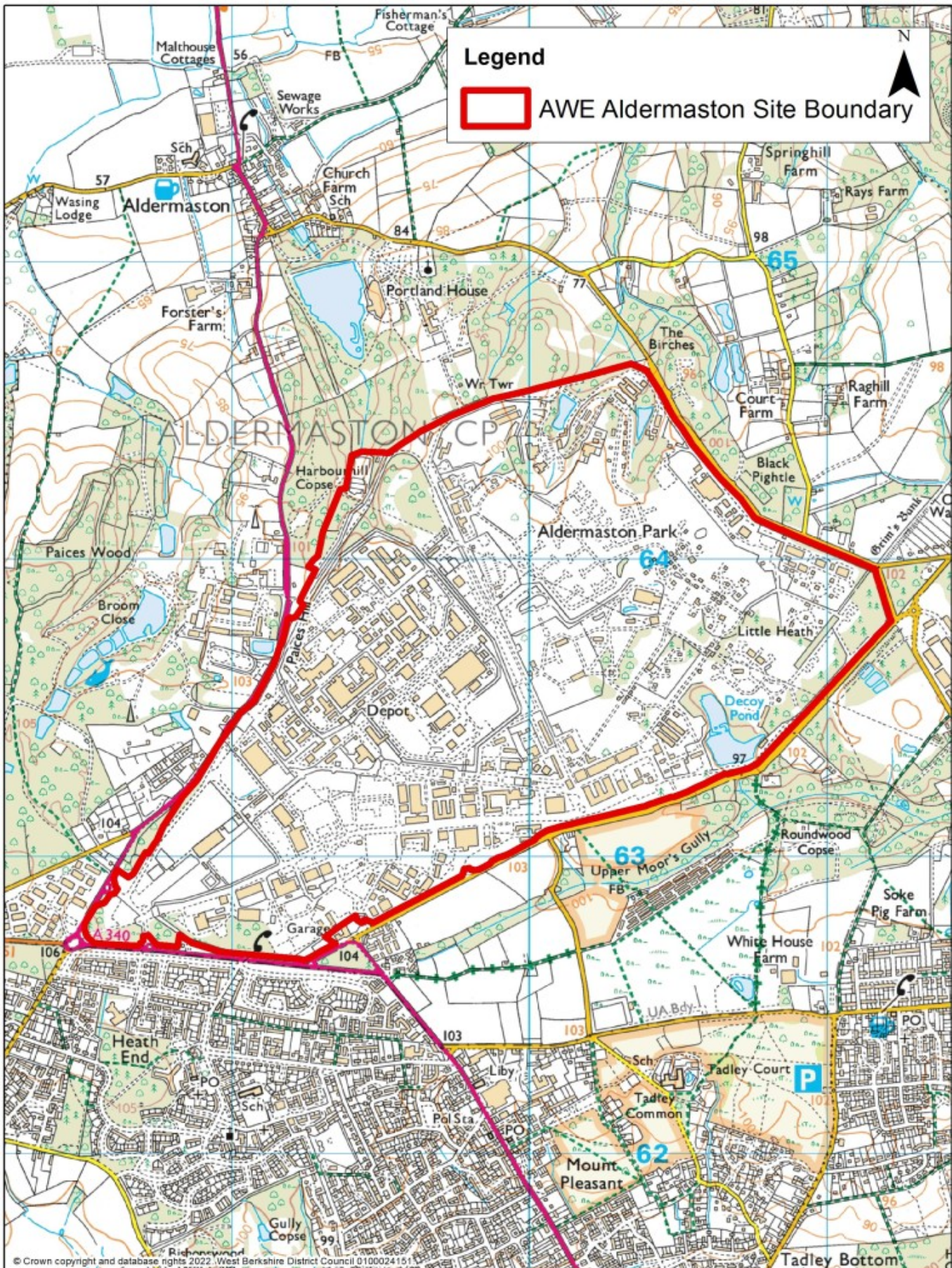
12.12 The Employment Land Review (ELR) and the West Berkshire Economic Development Strategy (2020)⁽¹³⁵⁾ comment that the AWE sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield are large employers, drawing in employees from local areas and indirectly supporting businesses in nearby business and industrial parks. The uses at the sites relate to defence services, owned by the Secretary of State for Defence, delivering the warhead contribution to the national and international UK nuclear deterrent. The specialist nature of the activity within the sites means that development on the sites are not covered by policies SP17 and DM35, and are not Designated Employment Areas.

12.13 Development covered under this policy would relate to new building, extensions, redevelopment, conversion and the change of use of buildings, and where planning permission is required the refurbishment of buildings. Uses would cover offices, uses in connection with science, research and development, manufacturing, storage, energy and infrastructure. Planning permissions should also positively consider the temporary use of land needed in connection with site optimisation and phased delivery of development.

135 West Berkshire Economic Development Strategy (2020): <https://westberks.gov.uk/economic-development-strategy>

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AWE Aldermaston



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AWE Burghfield