

DCC Speech Bathampton.

In 2004, a study entitled “The Bristol Bath to South Coast Study was jointly commissioned by GOSW and BANES Council. The conclusions of whether Bathampton Meadows was a suitable site for a Park and Ride. were

- *A large adverse impact on the landscape can be expected. At this location, the site would be very visually prominent and would require extensive mitigation measures that are likely to affect the character of the local area.*
- *The results for the traffic reductions indicate that this Park and Ride site can be rejected on grounds of impact on the local environment and only marginal incremental benefits for traffic reduction.*
- *By the very nature of the size of such a site, its visual intrusiveness into the natural valley landscape is unlikely to be accepted by the local community. It is therefore recommended that it should not be progressed.*

Both the Council’s own conservation and landscape officers reports attest to the impact on the setting and listed buildings as being far from negligible.

The Joint Structure Plan GOSW (adopted by B&NES) states:

*“... A Green Belt shall continue to surround and separate Bristol and Bath, and will be kept open in order to check the unrestricted the surrounding countryside from encroachment; prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another; preserve the setting and special character of villages, towns and historic cities ...”*

The application is a departure from the Local Plan and if approved would warrant a Public Inquiry.