



Longham Village Residents Association

Working to make Longham a safe, welcoming, and vibrant village for everyone

Objection Guidance for the 2025 Dorset Local Plan Consultation

How you can help (it only takes a few minutes)

1) **Open the consultation or Search: “Dorset Local Plan 2025” to respond to the consultation before 13th October 2025:**

<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/spatial-planning/dorset-council-local-plan-consultation-2025/consultation/intro/>

2) **Choose the section:**

- Opportunity sites and areas for housing, employment, Gypsies and Travellers, and renewable energy
- Then select “Housing opportunity sites.”

3) **Pick a site on the map** (Longham/Ferndown) and **add your comments** using the attached guide to choose reasons you feel strongly about.

4) **Repeat for other sites** you want to comment on (go back to the map and select another).

Tips for a strong objection

- Write in your own words, use the below bullets as a guide.
- Be specific: name places, dates and times (e.g., bats along Ham Lane at 21:10 on 12 Aug).
- Add short evidence if possible: flooding photos, queue times, wildlife sightings (bats, dormice, badgers).
- Explain how it affects you: safety walking/cycling, GP/school access, delays, light or noise at night.
- Keep it polite, factual and numbered. One or two lines per point is fine.

Pick objections from the categories below:

Green Belt and settlement pattern

- Allocations here would reduce Green Belt openness and risk merging settlements; this conflicts with Green Belt purposes.
- Exceptional circumstances to release Green Belt are not shown; the plan should consider brownfield and less constrained alternatives first.

Heathland and Habitats Regulations

- Exclude any land within 400 m of protected heathland at plan stage.

- Between 400 m and 5 km, the plan should secure a deliverable mitigation route (e.g., SANG/SAMM) for the whole housing number.
- More people and lighting next to heathland increase disturbance and fire risk; keep dark corridors.

Longham Lakes and water

- Longham Lakes are public water-supply reservoirs and sensitive wildlife habitat, not a general leisure park.
- More housing would increase pressure and affect water quality; protect the lakes' function and wildlife value.
- Evidence of water-supply headroom and drought resilience for the full plan period is needed.

Flood risk and drainage

- Some land and access routes are affected by River Stour flooding and surface water after heavy rain.
- At plan stage, steer allocations away from Flood Zones 2/3 unless robustly justified; detailed drainage comes later.

Transport and active travel

- Longham roundabouts and the A348 already suffer peak congestion and queuing.
- The plan should include a proportionate transport evidence base and a funded, time-bound improvement programme to show impacts will not be severe.
- Walking and cycling networks are incomplete; bus improvements are not secured.

Wildlife, trees and corridors

- Hedgerows, mature trees and dark routes support bats, dormice and badgers; lighting and fencing would break these routes.
- Loss of wildlife habitat and long-established hedgerows would reduce local biodiversity.
- Light at night also affects birds, especially during migration.

Heritage and landscape

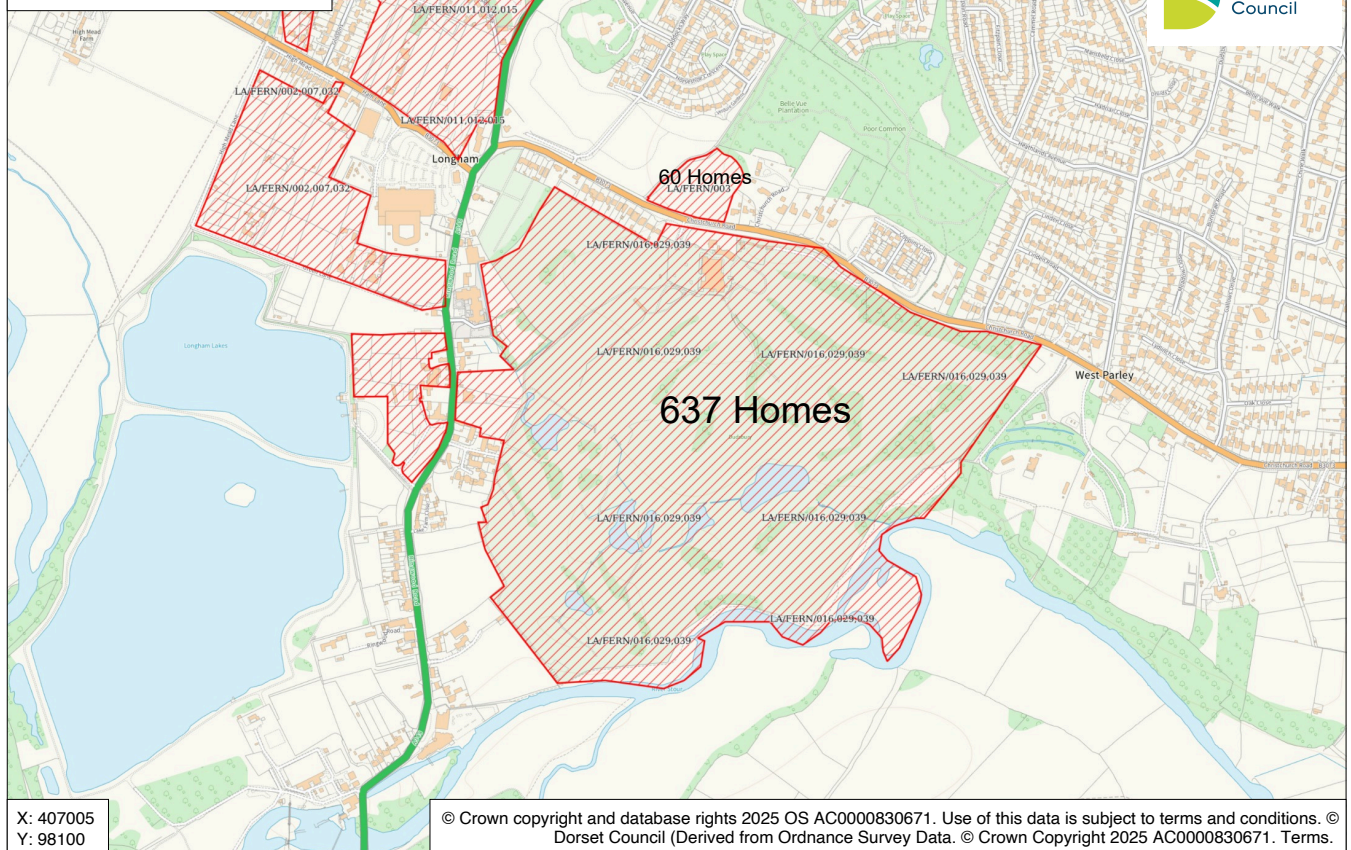
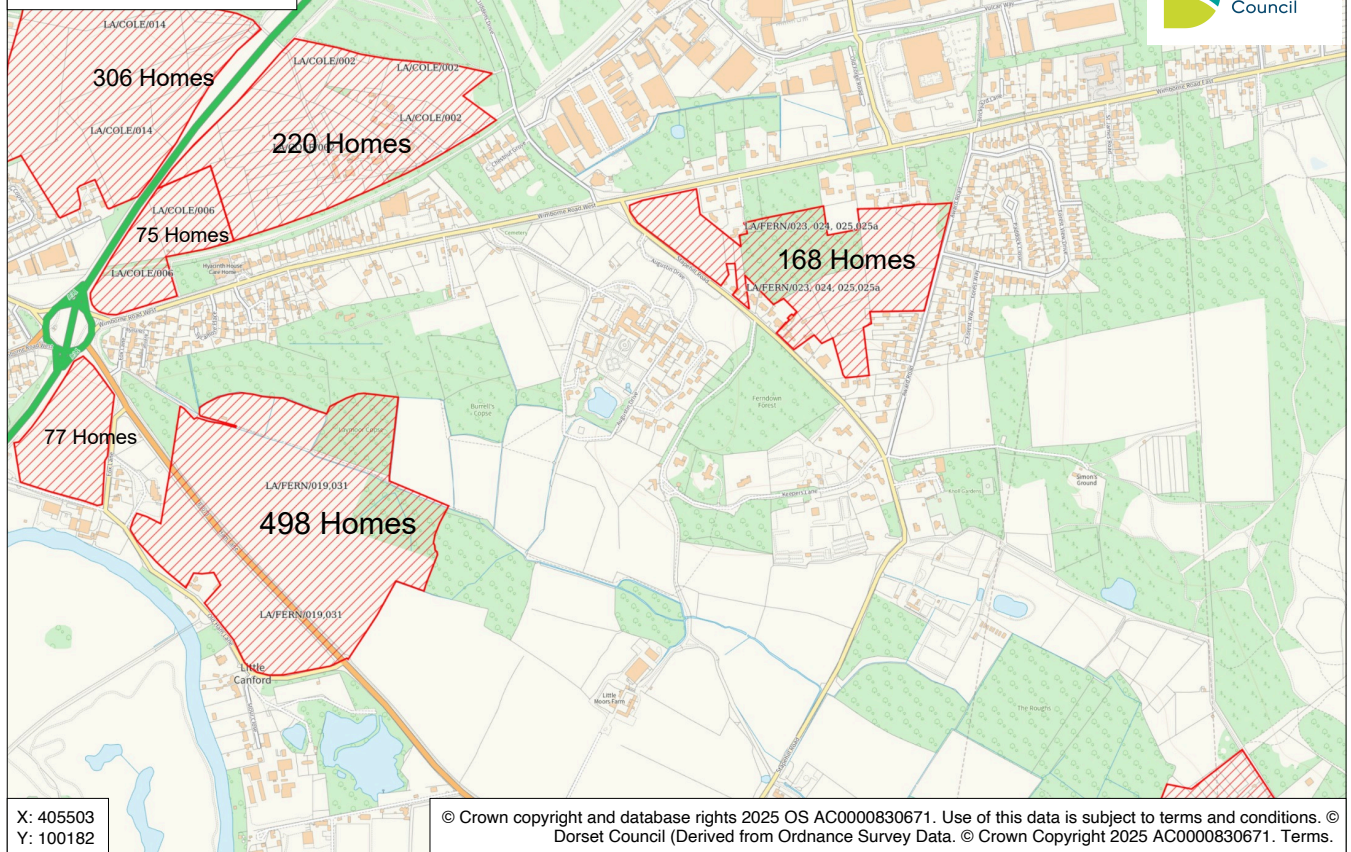
- Development would harm the setting of Dudsbury Camp (Scheduled Monument) and Longham House (Grade II).
- Large estates would erode the village character and key views; public benefits do not outweigh this harm.

Equestrian and rural economy

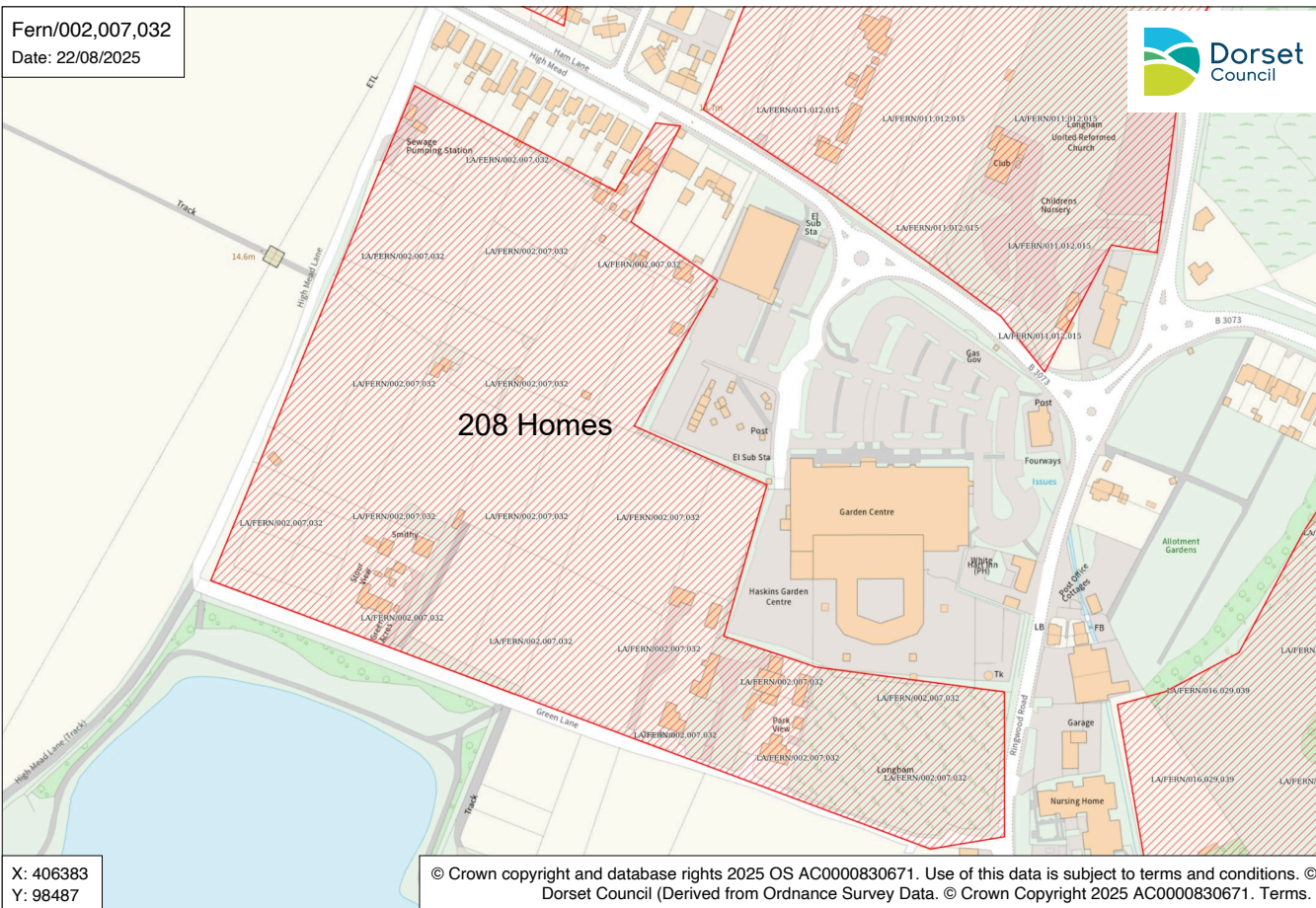
- Loss of equestrian facilities and grazing land removes valued local facilities and rural employment without replacement.

Planning logic and cumulative effects

- Some parcels labelled edge-of-town do not adjoin the built-up area; they are open countryside.
- Cross-boundary impacts with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are not resolved.
- A credible, funded route to nutrient neutrality for Poole Harbour is not clearly set out.
- Minerals safeguarding is not addressed at principle level (risk of sterilising sand and gravel).



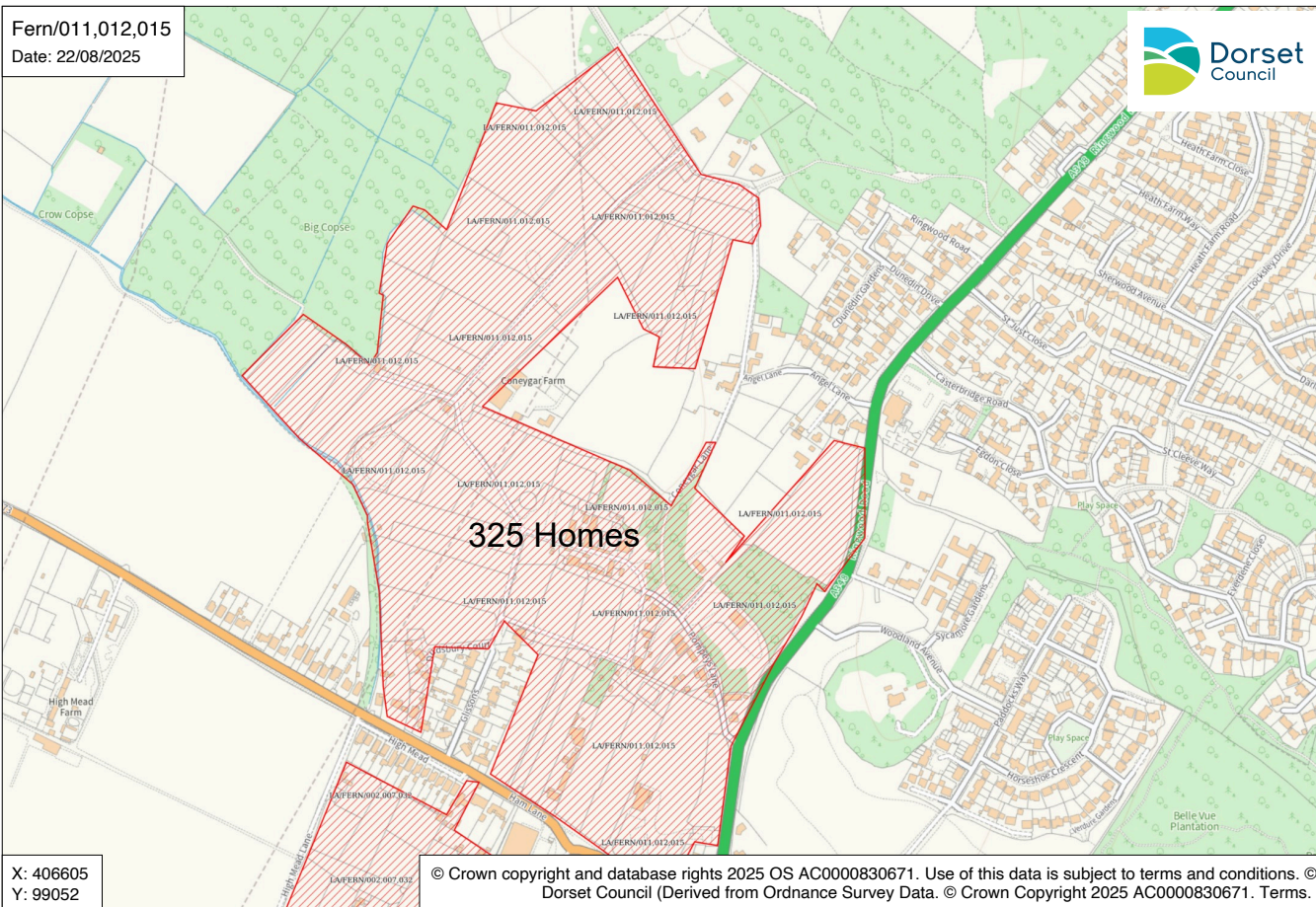
Fern/002,007,032
Date: 22/08/2025



X: 406383
Y: 98487

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 OS AC0000830671. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. © Dorset Council (Derived from Ordnance Survey Data. © Crown Copyright 2025 AC0000830671. Terms.

Fern/011,012,015
Date: 22/08/2025

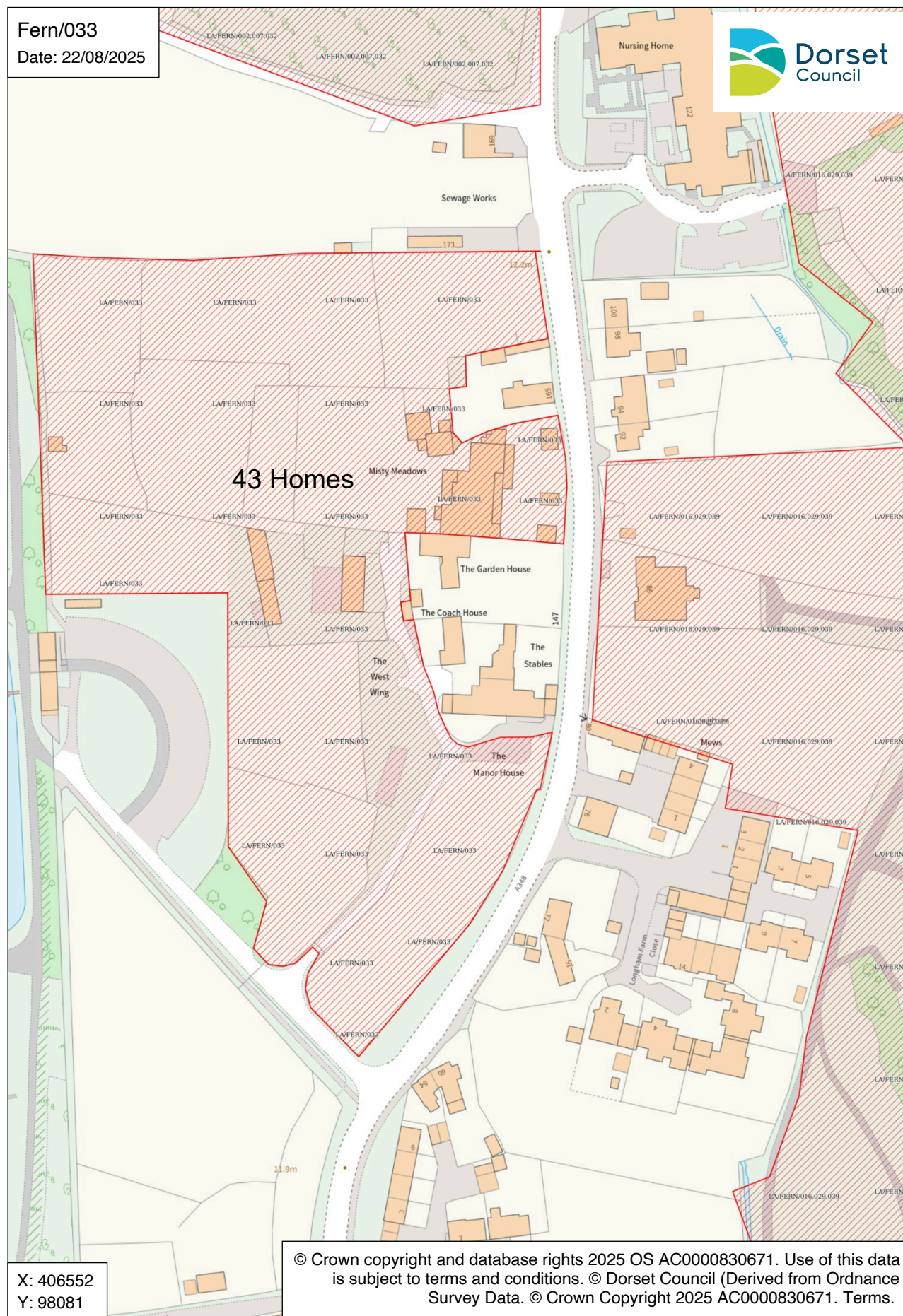


X: 406605
Y: 99052

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 OS AC0000830671. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. © Dorset Council (Derived from Ordnance Survey Data. © Crown Copyright 2025 AC0000830671. Terms.

Fern/033

Date: 22/08/2025



X: 406552
Y: 98081

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 OS AC0000830671. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. © Dorset Council (Derived from Ordnance Survey Data). © Crown Copyright 2025 AC0000830671. Terms.



Longham Village Residents Association

Working to make Longham a safe, welcoming, and vibrant village for everyone

🌳 Keeping Longham safe, vibrant and connected

🏠 Representing residents voices

🤝 Organising events and projects for everyone

Email



secretary@lvra.uk

Facebook



Search:

'Longham Village Residents'



