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17838/A3/SY/ef

BY EMAIL & POST: idxemp@icloud.com

6th January 2016

Dear Sir,

VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN 2031:
PART 1 – RESPONSE STAGE 2 OF THE EXAMINATION
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

We write on behalf of our client, the University of Oxford, in response to consultation of Stage 2 of the Examination which seeks the views of interested parties on the Council's emerging Local Plan 2031 – Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies. The University has land interests within the Vale of White Horse (VoWH) district and has engaged with the Council historically in relation to site promotion activity through previous Local Plan processes, most recently in respect of the site known as Land North of Hazel Road, Botley. Our reference of the Hearing Programme is 729199.

We submitted the response via email on 3rd December 2015, confirming that the University supports the policy to review the Green Belt and seeks to rely on written submissions rather than submitted a further hearing statement or participating in the stage 2 hearings.

Further to our last submission, we would like to draw to the Inspector's attention our support for the release of land from the Green Belt. Oxford Green Belt Study (October 2015) by LUC identifies land owned by the University north of Botley as 'B05' which is noted to have a low rating in respect of protection of open land from urban sprawl and the A420 performs well as a defensible boundary. It is considered by the report to make a low contribution to safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, plays no role in settlement separation, and is significantly affected by urban influences and only of medium significance to the setting and special character of Oxford. Therefore, this reinforces the Council's proposal for the removal of this land from the Green Belt and our previous representations supporting the removal of this land from the Green Belt.

We trust that the above representations are helpful to you and await confirmation of their receipt. In the meantime, should the Inspector have any queries or require any further clarification on the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,


NICK PATERSON-NEILD
Director

Cc. R. Horley - University of Oxford (by email)
G. Lloyd - University of Oxford (by email)



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