

1 April 2019

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protect and enhance a beautiful,
thriving countryside for everyone to
value and enjoy

RE: Schedule of Proposed Draft Main Modifications, Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 2 - CPRE Oxfordshire response, April 2019

1. Shippon should remain washed over by the Green Belt (MM4 &5, Core Policy 8b - Dalton Barracks)

It is not entirely clear from the Inspector's letter of 27 November 2018 whether the intention is to seek removal of Shippon from the Green Belt.

CPRE Oxfordshire supports the position of St Helen Without Parish Council in seeking the continued 'washing over' of Shippon village by the Green Belt as this is in line with the wishes of local residents as expressed in the Neighbourhood Plan, and indeed of Oxfordshire residents more generally who have indicated their support for the Green Belt remaining permanent and open.¹

CPRE Oxfordshire does not believe that the exceptional circumstances exist to justify this alteration to Green Belt boundaries. Evidence already submitted shows clearly that the 1,200 houses proposed at Dalton Barracks could be easily accommodated within the existing developed area of the site, and there is no requirement at all for Green Belt release.

However, even if the Inspector is minded to proceed with this site, the additional removal of Shippon from the Green Belt is not justified. The stated objective of the policy(2.62) is to 'respect the historic character of Shippon and its rural approach'. This would clearly be best achieved by retaining Shippon within the Green Belt.

2. Removal of site allocation at Harwell Campus is supported (MM8, Core Policy 15a)

CPRE Oxfordshire supports the removal of this site from the Plan, which is entirely appropriate in terms of giving great weight to the conservation and enhancement of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

¹ Oxford Green Belt Public Opinion Survey, Alpha Research, 2015 – see [CPRE Oxon website](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk).

3. Grove allocation needs clearer justification (MM10, Core Policy 15a)

We share the concerns of the Wantage & Grove Campaign Group that the North Grove Link Road has previously been committed to as part of the Grove Airfield development within the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011. The identification of the need for an additional site to support this road therefore needs clearer justification.

4. Site East of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor- Fyfield & Tubney Parish (MM28, Appendix A Site development templates - relating to Policies 4a and 8a)

CPRE Oxfordshire supports the concerns raised by Fyfield & Tubney Parish Council and FLAG (Fyfield Local Action Group).

We consider that there are outstanding issues around the level of increased traffic through Marcham village that have not been addressed and would have a negative impact on the Marcham Air Quality Management Area.

We believe the Additional Air Quality Evidence published by the Vale of White Horse District Council to be flawed as it is based on an unrealistically low estimate of the traffic that will be generated.

In light of the above, we believe that, as a minimum, the wording of the proposed modification should be amended as follows:

- The occupation of dwellings on the site will not begin prior to the completion of the upgrade to Frilford Junction ~~unless an alternative phasing plan is agreed with the County Council.~~

5. Heritage

To follow.