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Local Plan 2031 Part1
VOWHDC Green Belt Review,
Phase 3: Pages 4 and 5;
Sub-Area Strategies (5); Abingdon–on-Thames and Oxford Fringe. Pages 62/63

I wish to object to the above section of the Local Plan. It appears illogical and therefore unsound on the following grounds:-

1) 20560 new homes for 23000 new jobs is almost 1 to 1. This is surely a mismatch in numbers, as even if 23000 new jobs materialise the number of new homes needed would be far fewer than 20560 because on average more than one person works from each home these days. I note that independent assessments of the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment found it to be "grossly overstated".

2) The National Planning Policy Framework makes it very clear that a Green Belt boundary may be altered only in exceptional circumstances and reiterates the importance and permanence of the Green Belt. And it is clear that the Green Belt policy should restrict development.
Nevertheless the VOWHDC propose to remove areas Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,8, and 24 from the Green Belt; **now all of Areas 2,3,4,5,6 and 24, part of Area 1 and most of Area 8 are all in Cumnor Parish, five of these being in the village alone.** This can hardly be due to "exceptional circumstances" and is quite contrary to the NPPF. It would create a land bank, and I note that Part 2 of the Local Plan is to develop smaller centres. Any such development would destroy the character and landscape around this historic village, the very countryside the Green Belt policy is intended to protect. In addition some of the areas contain outdoor recreational facilities built up by the local community over many years. The proposal to remove any or all of these areas from the Green Belt is therefore contrary to Government policy, illogical and therefore unsound. It may also be in breach of the European Landscape Convention, which has the status of law in the UK.

For all these reasons I object to these proposals as being unsound.

J A Grimshaw