



**Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part One:
Strategic Sites and Policies**
Publication Stage Representation Form

Ref:

(For official use only)

Name of the Local Plan to which this representation relates:

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031

Response form for the Vale of White Horse strategic planning policy document, the Local Plan Part one. Please return to Planning Policy, Vale of White Horse District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8ED or email planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk no later than Friday 19 December 2014 by 4.30 pm precisely.

This form has two parts –
Part A – Personal Details
Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

Part A

1. Personal Details*

**If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

Title

First Name

Last Name

Job Title
(where relevant)

Organisation
(where relevant)

Address Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Post Code

Telephone Number

E-mail Address
(where relevant)

Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation :

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph Policy Proposals Map

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is :

4.(1) Legally compliant	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.(2) Sound (Positively Prepared, Effective and Justified)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

The Vale's 'Green Belt' review and 'Local Plan 2031' relating to the contiguous area of North Abingdon fail to provide any evidence that the Green Belt (5.40) 'no longer meet the purposes of the Green Belt, could be released around these settlements'.

The Vale Green Belt review and 'Local Plan 2031' also fail to provide any evidence of 'exceptional circumstances' required to justify building on this Green Belt land. This area is mostly high quality arable grade '2' farmland. It is productively farmed unlike other large areas in the Vale of undeveloped poor quality land. The Green Belt in North Abingdon has not changed since it was first protected and has not become 'urbanised' beyond the Abingdon Local Plan adopted in 1983.

The plan to site 1000 new houses on North Abingdon Green belt would in itself cause 'urbanisation' and 'encroachment' of the Green Belt resulting in unrestricted urban sprawl toward Oxford and Radley.

North Abingdon Green Belt has not changed from its original purpose, it does, today and continues to, meet all of the 5 purposes of the Green Belt as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 paragraph 80.

The Vale Green Belt Review states on page 44, 'However, east of the A34 the settlement edge is heavily influenced by modern urban uses and contained by the elevated A34 thus having a much lesser contribution to the sense of separation.' It is certainly not the case from Abingdon north toward where the unspoilt open Green Belt view continues over the open land toward Sunningwell, Shippon and Boars Hill.

North Abingdon is a large well developed and landscaped residential area to the north of the historic

town centre. The high land that falls toward the town on either side of the A4183 at Lodge Hill provides a very pleasant, open and welcoming approach with views for miles across to the Oxfordshire Ridgeway. This area was well thought out to make it what it is today. Any future over-development would turn the whole area into a huge housing estate removing the vibrant local character and identity.

The Green Belt in the North Abingdon area is just as, if not more, important than it was when it was designated.

Countless people, passing by, enjoy the area every day and all year round, including motorists, pedestrians, dog walkers, ramblers, cyclists and horse riders. It is probably the most frequented and enjoyed area of Green Belt land in Oxfordshire.

The document 'Vale Green Belt Review Phase 2 February 2014' at 5.22 makes it clear that 'any possibility of unrestrained extension of the built up area towards Lodge Hill must also be resolutely avoided'

The North Abingdon Green Belt is the 'green lung' providing the much-needed break between residents and the very congested and noisy A34. It was designed to be so and so serves well this very much-needed purpose.

The Vale Green Belt review is seriously flawed in suggesting, without evidence, 'that this land no longer meets the purposes of the Green Belt'.

6. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified at 5 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

The Vale 'Local Plan 2031' to remove the proposed building of houses on the contiguous North Abingdon site until evidence is provided to prove how the Green Belt in North Abingdon fails to meet the 5 purposes of Green Belt and also to detail, and make public, what 'exceptional circumstances' exist in order to justify removing this land from Green Belt.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

7. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?

No, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination

Yes, I wish to participate at the oral examination

8. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

I wish to participate to challenge the Vale's Green Belt Review and soundness of the 'Local Plan 2031'.

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

Date:

15/12/2014