

Comment

Consultee	Mrs Julia Evans (730292)
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Company / Organisation	West Hendred Parish Council
Address	Moorcroft The Greenway Wantage OX12 8RG
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	West Hendred Parish Council (Mrs Julia Evans)
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Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant? Yes

Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified) No

If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list. N/A

If you think your comment relates to the DtC, this is about how we have worked with the Duty to Cooperate bodies (such as neighbouring planning authorities)

Q3 Do you consider the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Co-operate? No

Q4 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.

Reason for plan to be considered unsound: The NPPF, paragraph 115, places AONBs in the highest category of landscape protection. Paragraph 116 states that planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas, with certain exceptions that we consider do not apply in the areas identified for development in the Plan. Core policy 3 includes large developments on greenfield sites in the North Wessex Downs AONB: 850 houses East of Harwell Campus. Part of the 550 houses North of Harwell Campus on a greenfield site (part is on brownfield site within the Harwell Campus boundary). Apart from the direct loss of AONB land, these developments would set a precedent that would lead to further building in the AONB, resulting in serious denigration of the local environment. Remove all development within the AONB outside the Harwell Campus from the plan. A reduction in the numbers of houses required that would result from a re-evaluation of the housing requirement would mean that approximately 1000 houses are not required.

Q5 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 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.

Modifications to make the plan sound: Remove all development within the AONB outside the Harwell Campus from the plan. The loss of approximately 1000 houses can be met by reducing the overall target for new housing (see above comment on CP4)