

Comment

Consultee	T Lever (874119)
Address	62 Alexander Close Abingdon OX14 1XB
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	T Lever
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
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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? Yes

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.

The North Abingdon Local Plan Group does not believe that the Abingdon-on-Thames site should be removed from the Oxford Green Belt. Abingdon-on-Thames is a historic Market town and the landscape to the north of the town provides a natural rim to the town. This is acknowledged by a previous Local

Plan Inspector as documented in the accompanying Topic paper. The site forms part of this important landscape which rises to the north towards Lodge Hill and if developed for housing, it will result in substantial visual intrusion in this open countryside, made more significant by the slope of the land. To the immediate west of the site is Tilsley Park, a recreational facility which has high floodlights which are regularly used to give light to the outside pitches and running track. These are already highly visible due to their height and the brilliance of the lights, and would be very intrusive to any new housing development on the site. They are highly visible from long distances in North Abingdon but for housing situated close to them on the proposed site, they would be highly intrusive contrary to Core Policy 44. More information is contained in the accompanying Topic Paper by NALPG. Since the Council has failed to identify Blake's Oak Ancient Woodland there are no proposals to demonstrate how this aspect of the landscape character has been included in the text accompanying the Council's plan for this site.

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.

We consider that the site makes an important contribution to the landscape to the north of Abingdon and should not be developed. The Council consultants have not undertaken a full landscape assessment of this prominent site. This should have been undertaken before recommending the site be released from the Green Belt and proposed for Housing. The Council have failed to recognise Blake's Oak Ancient Woodland These issues are considered in the accompanying Topic Paper on Green Belt which also forms part of this submission.

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

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.

Q6 If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination

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.

Q7 If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

I am a member of the North Abingdon Local Plan Group and have researched the details of this proposed site and written the paper on the Green Belt implications. We have consulted widely in North Abingdon, including delivering 3000 leaflets and publicised the proposal since many residents have been unaware of the inclusion of this site. We have also held drop in sessions to offer informal advice in helping people submit their representations. I have lived in North Abingdon for thirty years and know the site well. Following on from my research and contacting relevant agencies, in addition to talking to residents, and speaking at a public meeting, I consider that I could best represent the views of the North Abingdon Local Plan Group concerning the planning implications of releasing the land from the Green Belt.