

## 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 ( <a href="#">View</a> )
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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 North Abingdon-on-Thames site should be released from the Green Belt. Abingdon-on-Thames is a Historic Market Town and has a strong claim to be the longest inhabited town in the country and archaeology indicates that people have been

living in central Abingdon since at least the early Iron Age. If the site is released from the Green Belt and housing is allowed, the urban sprawl on this prominent site could destroy Abingdon's unique character. The high open land to the north of the town currently forms an attractive gateway. The land provides a distinct gap between the village of Radley and Abingdon and its development for housing would erode the distinctive sense of place currently enjoyed by both residents of Abingdon and Radley. This is further detailed in the accompanying Topic Paper on Green Belt

**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.**

The site should remain in the Green Belt and not be proposed for Housing to help preserve the setting of Abingdon-on-Thames and retain the distinct characteristics of Radley village and Abingdon-on-Thames.. If the site is released from the Green Belt and Housing is proposed then specific measures must be included to protect Blake's Oak Ancient Woodland from loss or damage.

**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, Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the 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.