

Comment

Consultee	Mr Sylfest Muldal (872815)
Email Address	<div></div>
Address	105 The Avenue Kennington Oxford OX1 5QZ
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Sylfest Muldal
Comment ID	LPPub1222
Response Date	19/12/14 16:26
Consultation Point	Foreword (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1
Files	Satellite map of Bagley Wood crossing

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.

It doesn't take into account specific wildlife conservation concerns around the old Abingdon/Oxford Rd as it goes through Bagley Wood near Kennington. This is a traditional migration crossing for toads from Bagley Wood as they move in their uhundreds or thousands to their breeding ponds, on mild evenings in early spring. For around 25 years volunteers have helped to prevent roadkills during this migration, but there is carnage every year, and the problem gets worse as the traffic increases. Migrating toads have no way of coping with motor traffic.

I have undertaken a voluntary survey in a year when the road was closed due to subsidence. The attached satellite image shows the location of the crossing, with individual animal crossings mapped on outward and return journeys. I have also done a small survey of the amount of traffic in the crossing area at dusk during migration time, showing over 400 vehicles per hour. It's quite a rat run.

The various proposed housing developments in the area will add to the traffic on this road, creating a greater threat to the population of toads. Other species that will be threatened by an increase in traffic include migrating newts, as well as mice, deer, foxes and badgers.

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.

It may be possible to mitigate the effects of the heavier traffic caused by additional housing development. Options that should be investigated include barriers, fences and underpasses designed for toads, and better and more informative signage to slow drivers down. This isn't a simple matter, and it's important to draw on the experience and expertise of herpetologists as appropriate.

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? No - I do not 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'm not really an expert. Of course I'm happy to share what information I have.

Please upload any supporting information

Satellite map of Bagley Wood crossing
Satellite map of Bagley Wood crossing
Individual animals mapped onto a satellite image, from a personal survey (spring 2013).