



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

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	Mr	
First Name	Keith	
Last Name	Mintern	
Job Title (where relevant)		
Organisation (where relevant)		
Address Line 1	71 Crafts End	
Line 2	Chilton	
Line 3	Didcot	
Line 4	Oxon	
Post Code	OX11 0SB	
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	5.59	Policy	Core Policy 15: Spatial Strategy for the South East Vale	Proposals Map	
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4. Do you consider the Local Plan is :

4.(1) Legally compliant	Yes	X	No	
4.(2) Sound (Positively Prepared, Effective and Justified)	Yes		No	X
4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate	Yes	X	No	

Please mark as appropriate.

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.

Paragraph 5.59 states that the provision of new housing in this area will help to improve the self-sufficiency of the South East Vale and provide opportunities for living closer to places of work. The “How the South East Vale Sub-Area will change by 2031” statement, page 68, says “New housing at

the Harwell Oxford Campus will have provided an exemplar development and function as a thriving community, successfully integrated with the science campus and provide accommodation for many of the site's employees."

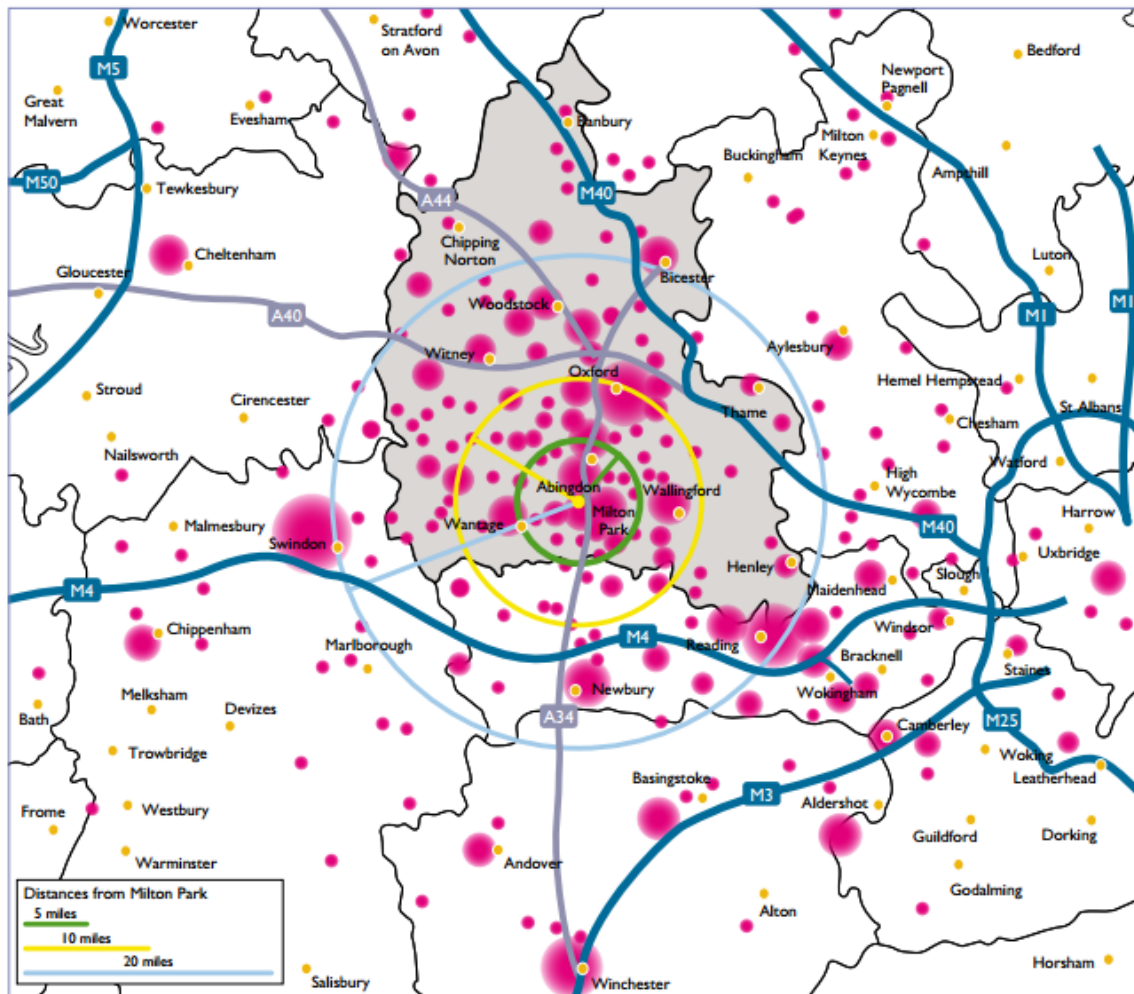
The current Chilton demographic indicates that only ~12% of Chilton residents actually work at the Harwell Oxford Campus (SOURCE: Petition against the Harwell East Development submitted to the VWHDC in Feb 2014).

Nationally, the average commuting distance was 15km in 2011 (2011 census). Furthermore, the 2001 census for the Harwell Ward indicated that 95% of employees in Harwell did not live in Chilton or Harwell villages.

Figure 6.1 in The Milton Park Travel Survey 2012 demonstrates that employees at Milton Park travel vast distances, with significant numbers of employees travelling from Winchester, Swindon, Reading, Abingdon, Oxford, Bicester and Witney.

Given that people choose to live in a specific area for a multitude of different reasons, it seems presumptuous for the VWHDC to assume that "many of the Harwell Oxford's employees" will choose to live on the campus. Indeed, current and historical records and current Chilton demographic demonstrate that this is not the case and therefore is poor justification for an unprecedented level of housing within the AONB.

FIGURE 6-1: Milton Park – daily travel to work pattern 2012



Source: Milton Park Travel Survey, MEPC (Based on response from 134 companies on site in Winter, 2012.)

The average commuting distance within the Vale of White Horse, as at the 2011 census, is 15.9km, with the corresponding figure for South Oxfordshire being 17.2km. It is therefore reasonable to expect that people will continue to commute to the Harwell Oxford Campus from Reading, Abingdon, Newbury and Reading.

(continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

In addition, up to a 20% a price premium is applied to housing within the North Wessex Downs AONB compared to the same style of house by the same house builder at Great Western Park in Didcot. A summary of the price premium applied by David Wilson Homes for living in Chilton compared to Didcot is provided below:

- The “Chelworth”: £530,000 at Chilton, £439,995 at Didcot
- The “Holden”: £485,000 at Chilton, £425,000 at Didcot
- The “Cornell”: £415,000 at Chilton, £390,000 at Didcot

Further to this, the URS Strategic Analysis of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan to 2031 Part 1 states:

” There is a likelihood that residents in new housing areas at Harwell Oxford Campus would access employment opportunities further afield. This has the potential to increase traffic on the A34 which is already known to be congested and operating over its designed capacity in peak periods.”

(continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

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.

In order to make the Local Plan sound and legally compliant, the following modifications are necessary:

- Remove the entire allocation of 850 homes from the Harwell East Campus.
- Remove the additional allocation of 150 homes from the North West Harwell Campus (eg reduce the number of houses from 550 to 400 (including the 125 already given outline permission)).
- Include provision of up to 400 new homes at the North West Harwell Campus(including the 125 already given outline permission), provided that all development is contained within the perimeter of the Harwell Oxford Campus and is controlled by the Harwell Oxford Campus.
- Reallocate the 850 homes from the Harwell East Campus and the additional 150 houses from the North West Harwell Campus (1,000 houses in total) to other sites already identified by the Vale of White Horse, for example:
 - (a) Valley Park (which has already been assessed as having additional capacity for up to a further 1,200 homes)
 - (b) Didcot A (capacity for 425 houses), or
 - (d) Land West of Steventon (capacity for 350 houses), or
 - (e) Distributed throughout the West Vale in order to encourage and support economic growth and prosperity more equally across the district.
- Or reduce the total SHMA allocation for the District by 1000
- Remove the North Wessex Downs AONB entirely from the Science Vale “Ringfence” in order to protect it from future speculative development should the Science Vale fall behind in delivery of its housing targets.

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.

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:

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:

Date:

11/12/14