

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Dijkman Planning LLP (Mr Ken Dijkman)
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 14: Upper Thames Reservoir (View)
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Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?	No
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

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.

Upper Thames Reservoir & Flooding This Core Policy 14 seeks to safeguard a site for a massive scheme for which there are no concrete proposals or financial commitments, but simply an expressed desire from a major utilities business to keep its options open. This is not a sound justification for placing planning blight on an area for the next 15 years. If a smaller reservoir was genuinely required this could be accommodated within a new settlement plan. The area of the proposed for the Upper Thames reservoir has been forensically examined in environmental terms whilst Thames water considered its options previously. It is therefore unusually well understood for such a significant area of undeveloped arable land. The fact that this site, (which is over 2000 ha in area), is fundamentally

unconstrained has in the past brought it to the attention to promoters of potential major schemes. If it was identified as a site for a potential airport prior to the suggested reservoir. It is also clear that water management will be a requirement of any major scheme but one that can be used to advantage within a new garden city. The site is vast, new waterways and canals offer potential for environmental enhancement and place making.