

Comment

Consultee	Mr David Hastings (872880)
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Address	68 Lindsay Drive Abingdon OX14 2RT
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr David Hastings
Comment ID	LPPub1231
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 45: Green Infrastructure (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
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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 Plan states that 'A net loss of Green Infrastructure, including biodiversity, through development proposals will be resisted.'

However the loss of Green Belt habitat to the north and northwest of Abingdon will cause a reduction in biodiversity. One threatened species is the Skylark, which is a bird on the Red conservation list in the UK. There would also be an adverse impact on the neighbouring Blake's Wood Ancient Woodland which directly abuts the western site on its northern edge. This was not mentioned in the Plan, and the Vale Council and their consultants have been negligent in that they failed to identify it as ancient woodland.

A more modern piece of woodland bordering Blake's Oak has been proposed to be included in the area for development. This is not indicated on the plan, but can be seen on the ground and on Google Maps.

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.

Removing sites from the Green Belt will result in a loss of biodiversity.

The Inspector must strike from the Local Plan all site allocations in the Green Belt.

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