

## Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Cumnor Parish Council ( Philip Hawtin)
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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.**

Cumnor specific comments Eight separate sites are scheduled for removal from the green belt. It has proved impossible, given the presumption of the permanence of the green belt to determine why these areas were selected for removal from the green belt. The only guidance was an oral response to a question suggesting that to the Vale these changes ?rounded out? the built up areas and left the green belt looking more like a green belt. This does not seem to be an acceptable reason for removing areas from the green belt.

? It is unnecessary to understand precisely where the following areas are located: they serve only to underscore the lack of any acceptable logic in the Vale's approach. ? Area 1 (west of Tilbury Lane Botley Map). The Cumnor portion of this area was not sold because it is located directly under Oxford's 132kV electricity

supply line and consequently is unsuitable for development. It is also located next to the A420 which is heavily trafficked and the source of both noise, gaseous and particulate pollution. ? Area 2 is a recreation ground and contains a football pitch. ? Areas 1 and 2 are joined by a small copse and together form a welcome green spear. Their removal from the green belt would clearly serve no useful purpose. ? Area 3: any future development will significantly change the view of the Green Belt when travelling west on the A420. ? Area 4: is a contiguous part of the current Green Belt and its open vista is a major contributor to the views available of the Cumnor Conservation Area. It could not be developed in any way without jeopardising the purpose for which both the Green Belt and the Conservation Area was set up. This was initially recognised by the Vale's officers who said that as this area could not be built on there was no reason to remove it from the green belt. No reason was ever given for the subsequent change of view. ? Area 5 is a green area that reaches into the heart of the village and contributes greatly to the village nature of old Cumnor, which is the essential feature that the Conservation Area is designed to protect. The ground to the west is a sports field and recreation area owned by Cumnor Parish Council. This area too was originally recognised by the Vale's officers as offering no reasons for removal from the green belt. The subsequent change of view on this area was never justified. ? Area 6 was the area originally identified as being suitable for inclusion in the Vale's proposed building programme. The idea was subsequently dropped though the Area is scheduled to be removed from the green belt; The land involved is high quality agricultural land which includes a field with a Saxon pattern of ridges and furrows bordered by an ancient hedgerow. This parcel of land is of considerable heritage interest, located as it is close to the centre of Cumnor. It would be wanton vandalism to destroy this as part of a housing development. ? Area 24 is at the very centre of the Village and largely consists of the existing cricket ground and the grounds of Cumnor Place. As such it is said to contain the remains of the largest unexcavated Elizabethan garden in England. The proposal to remove them from the Green Belt clearly arose because the proposal at Area 6, if approved, would have isolated this area of Green Belt. ? The eighth Area is in Farmoor and appears to have already been built up.

**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 sites in the Oxford Green Belt that have been identified for housing should be withdrawn from the Plan. All reference to the green belt review and its conclusions should be removed from the plan.