

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Joel Dothie
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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 Harwell Oxford Campus is repeatedly and consistently referred to as a 'Larger Village' throughout the Local Plan. This is misleading, as it is an employment site with only a small number of houses within its perimeter.

The Harwell Oxford Campus describes itself as follows: 'Harwell Oxford is a 710 acre science, innovation and business campus based in South Oxfordshire'. (Harwell-Oxford website: <http://www.harwelloxford.com/>)

The Campus is on private land with numerous signs posted around the perimeter of the campus stating that 'Private Land. This land is the private property of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and has not been designated as a Public Right of Way'.

The VWHDC Plan uses the basis of speculative potential employment opportunities at the Harwell Oxford Campus employment site as a justification to build 1400 of houses adjacent to the site and entirely within the North Wessex Downs AONB. This building would result in the creation of a new 'Larger Village' or 'Small Town'.

Paragraph 4.3 also fails to mention that a significant proportion of the South East Vale is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, including the Harwell Oxford Campus which lies entirely within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

As a result, the designation of the Harwell Oxford Campus as a 'larger village' is misleading, and therefore unsound.

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.

Summary: The designation of the Harwell Oxford Campus as a 'Larger Village' in the Local Plan is misleading and unsound as the Campus is primarily an employment site on private land. Redesignate the Harwell Oxford Campus as an employment site, not a larger village, and remove the strategic housing allocation to the legally protected landscape of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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