

## Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1

### Matter 1 Written Statement: Save Chilton AONB Action Group (871793)

I would like to submit the following statement with regards to the Matters Arising for Stage 1 of the Vale of White Horse's Local Plan to 2031 Examination in Public:

Matter 1.1: I believe that the Vale has failed in their Duty-to-Cooperate with South Oxfordshire in terms of bringing forward development at sites Didcot A and Culham in a bid to rejuvenate these areas, especially as they too are seen as important areas for job growth.

Matter 1.2: I believe that the Sustainability Appraisal fails to give "considerable weight" to protecting the AONB in its scoring criteria, but it does accurately address the environmental aspects relating to the North Wessex Downs AONB within the main body of the report, stating that *"The sites within the AONB do not perform particularly well environmentally as they would lead to negative effects on the landscape and would **lead to the loss of some of the Best and Most Versatile land in the district.** Sites 9 and 17 have low landscape capacity due to their impact on the AONB. Site 19 has a higher landscape capacity and thus the ability **to accommodate a small amount of development with a smaller site boundary** without harm to the landscape."*

However, the Vale's interpretation of these conclusions and proposing 1,400 houses in the AONB is unsound and not an accurate reflection of the SA. The URS internal assessment of the Harwell Oxford Sites suggests that a lower housing growth should be attributed to the Harwell Oxford Campus so that economic growth can also be encouraged across the Western Vale, and would be more beneficial in supporting the rural areas. The Vale has therefore failed to properly consider spatially distributing the additional housing need across the Western Vale as proposed by the SA.

Kind regards,

Dr P Dothie