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working locally and nationally to
protect and enhance a beautiful,
thriving countryside for everyone to
value and enjoy

CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND - OXFORDSHIRE

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 1 STRATEGIC SITES AND POLICIES

EXAMINATION STAGE 1 - MATTERS AND QUESTIONS

REPRESENTATIONS OF CPRE OXFORDSHIRE

MATTER 3: Spatial Strategy and Housing Supply Ring Fence

1. CPRE has had difficulty in commenting on Matter 3, without mentioning the Green Belt and AONB to be discussed at Stage 2, as 14% of the housing which the Plan provides fall within these areas. We therefore hope that that there will be a thorough review of the conclusions of Stage 1 at the Stage 2 Examination, to give the opportunity to investigate fully whether the very special circumstances sufficient to override the general prohibition on development in the Green Belt and AONB are made out.
2. The proposed allocations in the Green Belt and the AONB are not soundly based because they are not justified by reference to NPPF 83, 115 and 116; nor are they justified by any objective assessment of housing or employment need 2011-2031 (See CPRE Hearing Statement - Matter 2, and Appendix 5). The distribution strategy that provides for development in these designated areas is, accordingly, unsound.

3. CPRE Oxfordshire acknowledges the great importance of the connection between employment and housing provision and hence supports CP5.
4. CPRE Oxfordshire considers that the overall 5 Year Housing Supply figure, arising from the SHMA, is so high as to be impossible to attain and will return the District to developer-led planning, leaving the District Council and citizens of the Vale little opportunity to place sensible controls on the size, type and place of development, as contained in the NPPF, the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. Strong support of ring-fencing by the Inspectorate when considering appeals seems the only hope for some protection otherwise.