

13th July 2016

Local Plan Team
Vale of White Horse District
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
OX14 4SB

Dear Sir / Madam,

Statement to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Schedule of Proposed Modifications

Following the hearings into the Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1, the Planning Inspector has identified a series of necessary Main Modifications in order to ensure the plan is sound. From an HRA point of view these changes are not significant and do not merit a further iteration of the full HRA report. Rather, this statement discusses the relevant changes to policy. Note that we have not listed modifications below to wording other than policy text, except where it may have an HRA relevance. In summary, none of the changes made to the plan since the previous HRA result in changes to the conclusions of that HRA.

Yours faithfully
for **AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited**



Dr James Riley
Associate Director

APPENDIX – HRA ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

CHAPTER 1

Main Mod No.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
MM3	Policy wording	CP2	1.24 – 1.28	Local Plan 19 - 24	To reflect the request from the Inspector to the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council to consider the timing in which the Council would be able to prepare a plan, whether or not the reference to completion refers to submission or adoption and the implications if a plan was not prepared by the given timeframe.	No, an issue of timing rather than outcome. However it should be noted that any additional housing requirement in Local Plan Part 2 will need to be evaluated in that HRA. Equally, if Local Plan Part 2 fails to be adopted in time then the increase in housing amount will need to be covered through an update to the Local Plan Part 1 HRA.

CHAPTER 4

Main ModNo.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
MM4	Policy Wording	Core Policy 3	N/A	Local Plan 48-49	To provide clarity and consistency.	No, change for clarity and has no effect on outcome.
MM5	Policy Wording – Table	Core Policy 4	N/A	Local Plan 51 - 52	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – deletion of development sites from a plan cannot have a likely significant effect on European sites
MM5	CP4 – Meeting our housing needs	CP4	Para 3	Local Plan 53	To provide clarity.	No, point of clarity
MM5	CP4 – Meeting our housing	CP4	New paragraph	Local Plan 53	To provide clarity in relation to the role of the Open Countryside.	No, point of clarity

Main ModNo.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
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MM6	Policy wording	CP5	4.21 & 4.22	Local Plan 55 - 56	To provide flexibility and clarity over how the ring-fence will be implemented.	No – Ring fencing of Science Vale is not relevant to impacts on European sites
MM9	Policy Wording	CP6	N/A	Local Plan 60	To provide clarity.	No, a point of clarity.
MM11	CP7 – Policy Wording	CP7	N/A	Local Plan 66	To provide clarity.	No – clarification over how infrastructure will be delivered
MM11	CP7 – Policy Wording	CP7	N/A	Local Plan 66	To provide clarity.	No, clarification rather than anything that would affect the outcome.

CHAPTER 5

Main Mod No.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
MM12	Policy Wording – CP8	CP8	N/A	76	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – deletion of development sites from a plan cannot have a likely significant effect on European sites
MM13	Policy Wording – CP9	CP9	N/A	Local Plan 78 – 79	To provide clarity.	No, no effect on outcome as a procedural issue
MM14	Core Policy 11: Botley Central Area	CP11	N/A	Local Plan 82 – 83	To provide clarity.	No
MM15	Policy Wording	CP12	N/A	Local Plan 85	To provide consistency with the publishing of map E16 in Appendix E.	No, no effect on policy outcome
MM16	The Oxford Green Belt	N/A	5.41-5.42	Local Plan 86 – 88	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – formal definition of green belt does not influence impacts on European sites.
MM17	Abingdon and Oxford Fringe Sub Area supporting text	N/A	5.45 – 5.52	Local Plan 88 – 91	To reflect discussion with Thames Water.	No. A safeguarding policy does not promote development, merely ensures that the land is not sterilized by incompatible alternative development.

Main Mod No.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
MM18	Spatial Strategy for South East Vale Sub – Area	Core Policy 15	N/A	Local Plan 100	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – deletion of development sites from a plan cannot have a likely significant effect on European sites
MM19	Didcot A Power Station	Core Policy 16	N/A	Local Plan 104 – 105		No, development of Didcot A is not new and this wording doesn't change potential impacts on European sites

CHAPTER 6

MainModNo.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
MM20	Affordable Housing	CP24	N/A	Local Plan 135	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – affordable housing is not relevant to impacts on European sites
MM21	Policy Wording – CP25: Rural Exception Sites	CP25	N/A	Local Plan 136 – 137	To provide clarity.	No – limited clarifications
MM22	Accommodating current and future needs of the ageing population	CP26		Local Plan 138 – 139	To ensure the Policy is in accordance with the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG, section 56).	No – not relevant to impacts on European sites
MM23	Policy Wording CP28: New Employment Development on Unallocated Sites	CP28	N/A	Local Plan 143	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – a small number of clarifications of wording from a European site point of view
MM24	Policy Wording – CP29	CP29	N/A	Local Plan 145 - 146	To enhance the effectiveness of the policy.	No – concerned with the types of development that would be most acceptable on some sites – not relevant to impacts on European sites in this case
MM25	Policy Wording	CP31	N/A	Local Plan 148	To provide clarity.	No – clarification and heritage not relevant to impacts on European sites
MM26	Policy Wording – CP32	CP32	N/A	Local Plan 150 – 151	To provide greater compatibility between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood plans.	Not relevant to impacts on European sites
MM27	Policy Wording	CP33	N/A	Local Plan 154	To provide clarity.	No – associated with clarity so no scope for effects on European sites

MainModNo.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change	HRA implications?
MM28	Policy Wording	CP37	N/A	Local Plan 163	To ensure consistency with the NPPF (paragraphs 126 and 157).	No – associated with clarity so no scope for effects on European sites
MM29	Policy Wording	CP38	N/A	Local Plan 164	To improve how the policy addresses equality matters.	No – associated with clarity so no scope for effects on European sites
MM30	Policy Wording – CP39	CP39	N/A	Local Plan 166 – 167	To provide clarity.	No – associated with clarity so no scope for effects on European sites
MM31	Responding to Climate Change – CP40	CP40		Local Plan 169	To reflect the Inspector's Interim Findings	No – limited wording changes in HRA terms and responding to climate change policy not relevant to impacts on European sites
MM32	Policy Wording – CP41	CP41	N/A	Local Plan 170	To reflect the House of Commons Written Statement (HCWS42) 18 June 2015.	No – exclusion of wind energy from this policy will not affect European sites
MM33	CP43: Natural Resources	CP43	N/A	Local Plan 173	To reflect the Inspectors interim findings	No – associated with clarity so no scope for effects on European sites. Also, there are no AQMAs covering European sites in the district

CHAPTER 7

Main ModNo.	Category	Core Policy No.	Para No.	Page No. of Strike-through Plan	Reason for Change
MM34	CP47: Monitoring Framework and supporting text	CP47	7.1 – 7.7	Local Plan 185	No – these changes to the monitoring framework are for clarification