

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034

Page 3: Part A - contact details

Q1. Are you responding as an:

Individual

Page 4: Individual contact details

Q2. Due to the plan-making process including an independent examination, a name and means of contact is required for your comments to be considered:

Title	Ms
Full name	Katie Davis
Business / Organisation name (if relevant)	-
Job title (if relevant)	-
Address line 1	██████████
Address line 2	██████████
Address line 3	-
Postal town	██████████
Postcode	██████████
Telephone number	██████████
Email address	████████████████████

Page 7: Part B - your comments

Q5. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies here. If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

Document / Policy / Paragraph: STRAT 9

Q6. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY)
are legally compliant?		X		
are sound?		X		
comply with the Duty to Co-operate?		X		

Q7. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

Building on the green belt is against national policy (National Planning Policy Framework 2018). Central Government has consistently confirmed strong support for the protection of the green belt. This protection is also set out in your own local plan, making the policies within it inconsistent and so the plan unsound.

You propose altering green belt boundaries for 6 out of 7 'strategic sites', a total of 11,400 houses in Green Belt. The proposed site in Culham (STRAT 9) is currently in Green Belt and it would be the largest development in the whole of South Oxfordshire, a new settlement town of 3,500 houses (c.8000 people). There are currently around 400 people in the village. This scale of development is completely out of proportion.

There are no 'exceptional circumstances' to warrant removing this land (STRAT 9) from the green belt. The circumstances you list are not exceptional, are not a last resort, and labelling them as such does not make it so. The 'needs' and 'justifications' you cite are circular and contradictory. Houses 'justified' to fund a river crossing to resolve traffic issues, but they will bring more traffic. House building 'justifying' demand for a proposed quarry nearby (another application which this plan does not recognise), which itself is inconsistent with the proposed river crossing. Further development of Culham Science Centre is used to 'justify' this housing, and vice versa. It does not add up and a robust reason for this policy is not given. We know that development drives development and that may be acceptable in some places, but not on the green belt, the very purpose of which is to protect from sprawling, uncontrolled building. This policy is not wanted or needed.

The council has not underpinned its proposal with adequate assessment of evidence, the 'evidence' presented is not robust or credible. The duty to cooperate (building houses for oxford city?) does not trump the need to protect the green belt. The duty to cooperate has not been met, there has been inadequate consultation with Culham Parish Council and Abingdon Town Council.

The plan was rushed through by councillors in the space of one week immediately before Christmas with key documents not made freely available.

Q8. Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

STRAT 9 should be removed in its entirety from the plan. Building on Green Belt without exceptional circumstances is unsound, and this policy cannot be modified to be made sound, it must be removed.

Q10. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

No

Q11. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

No