

Emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

Part A - contact details

Q1. Are you responding as an:

Business / Organisation

Business / organisation contact details

Q4. Due to statutory planning regulations, a name and means of contact is required for your comments to be considered:

Business / Organisation name	Chiltern Society
Contact name	Colin Blundel
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Part B - your comments

Q5. You can provide your comments on the Emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications in this section. The list of documents you can comment on are: Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications as amended by Erratum Schedule of Policies Map Changes Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum If you wish to provide comments on more than one proposed main modification or document, you will be given the option once you have completed this section. Please select the document you wish to comment on using the drop-down menu below:

Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications

Q6. Which Main Modification number or consultation document are you commenting on? If you are commenting on the Main Modification document, please provide the main modification number (for example MM1) in the box below. If you are unsure of the 'modification number', please click here to view the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications. If you are commenting on any of the other consultation documents (for example the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum), please provide the relevant section, paragraph or page number in the box

Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications

Q7. Please provide your comments in the box below. If your comments are over 500 words it would be really helpful if you could also provide a summary of your comments using the text box in the next question. You will also be able to upload any supporting documents using the button below.

The Chiltern Society is an environmental charity with 7000 members, which seeks to protect the landscape and biodiversity of the Chiltern Hills, including the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and part of the London Green Belt. Part of the Society's remit is to input to the planning system in relation to planning policy and local planning applications.

Our comments on the Main Modifications are as follows -

MM8 – We welcome the amendments proposed as they introduce more flexibility in terms of densities. We are particularly pleased that the impacts on the AONB are to be recognised in the policy rather than the supporting text. Higher density will often be appropriate in urban areas with good transport links, and this can help to reduce the need to develop in more sensitive rural areas to meet the housing targets. It is also good that high quality design appropriate to local character is included in the policy.

MM10 – We welcome the inclusion of the new criterion (x) to embed biodiversity net gain into the Chalgrove Development. The paragraph could be expanded to include the planting of native tree belts around the site to reduce impacts on views to and from the Chilterns AONB.

MM28 – We agree with the inclusion of criterion 3 (iv) to exclude entry-level housing schemes from sites in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

MM50 – We welcome the removal of references to the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and the implied increase in reliance on improved rail infrastructure and associated connections. Removing the reference to the Expressway will make the Local Plan more consistent with the emerging Transport Strategy being prepared by England's Economic Heartland.

MM53 – We support this change in the trees and hedgerows policy. More ambitious proposals are required to contribute to nature recovery across the Chilterns.

MM63 – We support the addition of more detailed criteria in order to encourage high quality design in the built environment. However, the previous wording, 'visually enhances and compliments the surroundings' appear to have been lost. An additional bullet should be added eg

"enhances and compliments the visual appearance of its surroundings and does not harm significant views to and from the site.'

A distinction needs to be made between landscape character and visual appearance.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Colin Blundel MRTPI
Planning Officer
Chiltern Society
29 October 2020

Q8. If your comments are more than 500 words long, please use the space below to provide a summary. You are not required to summarise your comments, but a summary would help us in our reporting.

No Response

Q9. Please upload any supporting documents below:

No Response

Comment again, or finish?

Would you like to comment on another main modification or supporting document?

No, I'm ready to submit my comments now and finish the survey