

[REDACTED]

4 December 2013

Dear Sir,

North Dorset Local Plan – 2011 to 2026 Part 1

I refer to your letter dated 27 November 2013 regarding the pre-submission consultation period for the Plan.

I have previously submitted comments on the new plan which related particularly to the area of land immediately west of Dorchester Hill (Ref. 2/03/0540) I enclose a copy of my letter dated 14 December 2012 containing those comments.

I stand by my comments and am concerned that the huge public reaction to the inclusion of the site to the west of Blandford Forum (Deer Park/Crown Meadows) has monopolised discussion on the new plan to the detriment of proper consideration of the merits or otherwise of the Dorchester Hill site. I have seen no reference to the Dorchester Hill site in minutes of Council meetings and doubt if members have seriously considered the concerns about the upper section of the site expressed in my letter.

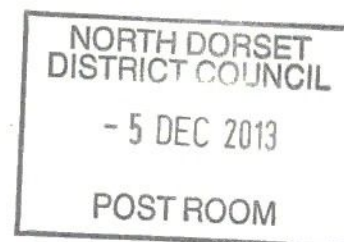
It seems that my only chance of having my concerns fully considered would be in front of the Planning Inspector and I hope that I have that opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Robert Jones

Trevor Warwick,
Planning Policy Manager,
North Dorset District Council,
Nordon, Salisbury Road,
Blandford Forum.



COPY

THE ROUND HOUSE,
4 DORCHESTER HILL,
BLANDFORD ST. MARY,
DORSET, DT11 9AB

14 December 2012

Dear Sir,

The New Plan for North Dorset – Ref. 2/03/0540

I wish to make some comments on the section of the new plan which proposes an additional 220 new homes on the site to the west of Blandford St. Mary.

My main concern relates to that part of the land which is located immediately west of Dorchester Hill. This site is in open countryside and rises steeply away from the township of Blandford. The lower part of the site is mainly paddocks and grazing and rises up to a natural boundary of mature trees and hedgerow. Beyond that natural boundary the site rises even more steeply to the south and is good arable land which is regularly cropped. Due to its steep elevation this section of the site is visible from a wide area to the north.

The Landscape Impact Assessment report dated 14 July 2010 concluded that development on this elevated part of the site would have a greater negative impact on the character and setting of the AONB and its landscape character. The mature trees and hedgerows which sub-divide the site form a distinctive and important landscape feature and have important wildlife value. Their removal would be detrimental to the landscape and natural amenity values.

I realise that at some time a decision will need to be made on the exact boundaries of the land to be allocated for future housing development. I would ask the Council to reach an early decision to exclude this upper section of the land (which forms the arable field) from any area allocated for housing development.

There are realistic Greenfield alternatives which would compensate for the reduction in the number of new homes that would result if this upper section was excluded from the plan. The land to the south of the A350 and A354 and the proposed housing development on the site of Hall and Woodhouse brewery would more than make up for any loss of new homes.

I fully support the proposed housing development on the site to the west of Blandford Forum (Deer Park/Crown Meadows) either for 150 or 200 homes subject to adequate road access and infrastructure provision.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments which I hope can be properly considered when further reports are made to the Council.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT JONES

