

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION:

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2031 (Regulation 16
Submission Plan)

Annexes to the report contain officer advice.

Overall View of Oxfordshire County Council

Oxfordshire County Council continues to support the ambition of Brize Norton Parish Council to prepare a neighbourhood plan and welcomes the opportunity to comment further.

As set out in the officer responses below, the sentiment of the changes that have been made following our previous comments is supported but some changes to the new wording are needed to improve the accuracy and robustness of the text. New wording is suggested in the form of track changes.

As highlighted previously, OCC's Neighbourhood Planning Guide (updated March 2021) which is available [here](#) for reference.

Officer's Name: David Flavin
Officer's Title: Principal Planner
Date: 20th November 2024

ANNEX 1
OFFICER ADVICE

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2031 (Regulation 16 Submission Plan)

Team: Highway Records

Date: 20th November 2024

Highway Records Comments

It was previously raised that Policy CLH3 – Strategic Buffer Zones and Settlement Areas and Policy ENV1 – Local Green Spaces designates some areas that fall within highway land and that these designations should not be applied as they could fetter any future highways works required, use by public utilities, and public access. Rather than remove the designations, the latest version of the plan tries to address this issue within the policy wording. OCC request that the policy wording should be amended as set out below.

Policy CLH3 – Strategic Buffer Zones and Settlement Areas

x. **Highway land within the Strategic Buffer Zones is excluded from the requirements of Policy CLH3.** ~~The buffer zone designation in no way precludes the use of highway land by public utilities or for necessary highway works and improvements. No works on highway land can take place without the County Council's approval. The buffer zone designation will not hinder access by the public over highway land. Where there is overlap to the Strategic Buffer Zones outlined and Highway land, it is noted that OCC, as the relevant Highway Authority, have legal precedence over the rights of the sub-soil owner and no works can take place without their approval.~~

Policy ENV1 – Local Green Spaces

Highway land within the designated Local Green Spaces is excluded from the requirements of Policy ENV1. ~~The Local Green Spaces designation in no way precludes the use of highway land by public utilities or for necessary highway works and improvements. No works on highway land can take place without the County Council's approval. The LGS designation will not hinder access by the public over highway land. With regards to LGS2, it is noted that OCC Highways Land takes precedent when any future highways works are required. Therefore, whilst the boundary of LGS2 could be revised, it should be emphasised that LGS designation will not hinder access by the public over this area and that its status does not preclude use of highway land by public utilities.~~

As a minimum we would request the first sentence above in bold is used in each policy respectively.

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2031 (Regulation 16 Submission Plan)

Team: Minerals and Waste Policy

Officer's Name: Helen Gosnell-Whyman

Officer's Title: Planning Officer

Date: 13/11/2024

Minerals & Waste Comments

Following our previous comments on Policy CLH2 – Key Local Views and the overlap with minerals safeguarding areas, the changes made are supported but should include the track changes set out below for accuracy and robustness. We suggest direct reference to Minerals and Waste Local Plan Policy M10 is removed as we are in the process of preparing a new plan and in time this policy will be superseded.

Text from Policy CLH2 – Key Local Views Policy (submission plan page 45):

In the case of views E, F, and G F, G and H, these fall within the Minerals Safeguarding Area. These views offer long- distance views but in order not to hinder or prevent minerals being worked contrary to Policy M8 of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy, this Key Views policy will not provide the same level of protection to these two three views. As these views are over some distance, it should be feasible to mitigate any adverse impacts on views through screening and profiling and - in addition - once operations have ceased it will be expected that the views will be reinstated under a Restoration Plan in accordance with Minerals and Waste Local Plan Policy M10 to be agreed with the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. District Council in consultation with the Parish Council, which will focus on biodiversity and nature recovery.

In addition we would also like to seek **deletion** of the below sentence from the supporting text to Policy CLH3: Strategic Buffer Zones and Settlement Areas (pg 48)

“Where mineral extraction is proposed which impacts the areas in Brize Norton Parish, including these buffer zones, the Area of Sensitivity to Change and other green spaces, these proposals should guarantee that on completion they will be restored to an agreed Restoration Plan.”

Mineral extraction is a County Matter and should therefore be excluded from Neighbourhood Plans. The Minerals and Waste Plan includes policy on restoration and restoration would be required by any planning permission for extraction.

Finally, we request some minor changes to text on page 17 as per the below.

“The Minerals and Waste Local Plan Policies Map (South), safeguards mineral resources for future use through policy and a Mineral Safeguarding Area is identified identifies a mineral strategic resource area in the north of the parish of Brize Norton.

The new Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Part 1 was adopted in September 2017
.....”

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Consultation: Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2031 (Regulation 16 Submission Plan)

Team: Cherwell & West Infrastructure Locality Team

Date: 20th November 2024

Transport Strategy Comments

As raised previously, the Neighbourhood Plan would benefit from reference to OCC's [Local Transport and Connectivity Plan](#), perhaps at bullet point 5 of Policy SD1 (Sustainable Development).

District: West Oxfordshire

Consultation: Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2031 (Regulation 16 Submission Plan)

Team: Archaeology

Date: 20th November 2024

Archaeology Comments

Following our previous comments, the addition of Policy CLH5: Heritage Assets is very much supported.

As previously raised, Appendix 06 Document I only contains sparse information on pre-Norman heritage assets and would benefit from including details on the Iron Age and Roman settlements within the plan area as well as the two sites of deserted medieval villages. Details of which can be found on the online Heritage Search records held by Oxfordshire County Council.

[Heritage Search - Oxfordshire County Council](#)