

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** West Berkshire LPR Main Modifications: Historic England response  
**Date:** 31 January 2025 13:15:08  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Planning Policy team

Thank you for consulting Historic England on your proposed main modifications. I hereby attach our response and would appreciate acknowledgement of its safe receipt.

Best wishes for next steps

Guy

Guy Robinson, BSc, MRTPI  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser  
Development Advice – London and South East Region (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight & Oxfordshire), Historic England



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**From:** PlanningPolicy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 December 2024 10:16  
**Subject:** Consultation on the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 Proposed Main Modifications

**-- WARNING: This is an external message. Please use caution when replying, opening attachments or clicking on any links in this e-mail.--**

The West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 (LPR) is currently being independently examined by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The Inspector's role is to assess whether the LPR has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements and whether it is sound (positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy). If the Inspector concludes that the LPR is sound and meets the necessary tests, it can then be adopted by the Council and will form the Local Plan for the District.

The Inspector issued his preliminary findings on 31 July 2024, and a note on the Main Modifications consultation on 24 October 2024. The findings are without prejudice to his final report but set out the Main Modifications he considers are required in order to make the LPR sound. These proposed Main Modifications are now subject to an 8-week public consultation from Friday 6 December 2024 to 31 January 2025.

It is important that any proposed Main Modifications do not undermine the sustainability process that has informed the preparation of the LPR. The Council has therefore updated the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA), and produced an addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), both of which accompany the LPR.

We are therefore now inviting representations on the following documents between **Friday 6 December 2024 and 11:59pm on Friday 31 January 2025**:

- Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 (November 2024)
- Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Policies Map (November 2024)
- Updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Report – Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024)
- Addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Proposed Main Modifications (November 2024).

All documents relating to the Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications can be viewed electronically on the Council's website at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lpr-proposed-main-modifications>.

**Please note that representations may only be made in relation to the documents as set out above.** If you previously submitted representations to the earlier consultations on the LPR the Inspector has already considered these during the examination and there is no need to make them again.

**Representations must be received no later than 11:59pm on Friday 31 January 2025.** Late representations cannot be taken into consideration by the Inspector. The Statement of Representations Procedure attached explains where the relevant documents are available for inspection and how your comments should be submitted. I hope this is helpful, but if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning Policy Team on the contact details below:

[REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

Clare Lawrence  
Executive Director for Place

[REDACTED]



To: Planning Policy team  
West Berkshire Council

By email only:



31 January 2025

Dear Planning Policy team

**West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 (LPR)  
Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to comment on your proposed main modifications. We support and do not raise any soundness or legal compliance concerns regarding the following main modifications:

- MM13
- MM14
- MM25
- MM38
- MM42
- MM43
- MM45
- MM49
- MM57
- MM59
- MM63
- MM64
- MM70
- MM80
- MM81
- MM82



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MM26: having noted MM25 includes some but not all the text agreed with the Council via a Statement of Common Ground (EXAM 13) relating to a Historic Environment Strategy to inform development in North East Thatcham, we encourage the plan to integrate the outstanding wording agreed in EXAM 13 as supporting text to policy SP17, potentially as a new paragraph, which would relay key guidance on what is expected from a Historic Environment Strategy i.e.

*“The required Historic Environment Strategy should be informed by proportionate heritage impact assessment, desk-based archaeological assessment and, if needed, evaluation. It should articulate how the proposed scheme would support an appropriate future use of the Listed Buildings in the area and minimise harm to their significance (including demonstrating how the impact of the development on their settings has been considered).”*

We do not consider the above to be a matter of soundness but would represent helpful guidance to inform next steps on this important development.

### **Additional modifications**

We support the additional modifications pertaining to the historic environment, especially AM5.1 and those that seek to take more consistent the plan’s requirements for archaeological assessment.

I hope that this feedback is helpful. If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Guy Robinson, [REDACTED]  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser

[REDACTED]

