

The Rt. Hon Steve Reed OBE M.P.
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs
Seacole Building,
2 Marsham Street
London,
SW1P 4DF

Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council

Bethia.Thomas@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422422
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

15 August 2025

Dear Mr Reed,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to HM Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill. We wish to make clear our opposition to the damaging changes contained within this measure – specifically part 3 – that will threaten existing environment protections and undermine efforts to aid nature recovery.

While the Vale recognises the pressing need to deliver homes and clean energy infrastructure to address the affordability and climate crises facing the country, the council does not believe that this should be achieved at the expense of our natural world. Moreover, we would strongly argue that the UK's current environmental protections are not a blocker to housing delivery and growth but instead are a necessary safeguard to ensure that we do not cause further irreparable damage to our existing ecosystems.

Vale of White Horse District Council is, therefore, calling upon HM Government to reconsider its current position and withdraw part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council