

Ardington and Lockinge Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Examiner's Clarification Note

This Note sets out my initial comments on the submitted Plan. It also sets out areas where it would be helpful to have some further clarification. For the avoidance of any doubt matters of clarification are entirely normal at this early stage of the examination process.

Initial Comments

The Plan addresses a series of bespoke issues. The relationship between the Vision, the Aim and objectives is clear and provides a robust structure for the Plan. This is best practice. In addition, the policies are very distinctive to the neighbourhood area.

The information at the end of each policy setting out the objectives to which it relates, relevant national and local planning policies, and its justification from the Evidence Base provides assurance to all concerned that the Plan has been properly prepared. The Plan is helpfully underpinned by the Evidence Base and the Design Code.

Points for Clarification

I have read the submitted documents and the representations made to the Plan. I have also visited the neighbourhood area. I am now able to raise issues for clarification with the Parish Council and the District Council.

The comments made on the points in this Note will be used to assist in the preparation of my report and in recommending any modifications that may be necessary to the Plan to ensure that it meets the basic conditions.

Questions for the Parish Council

I set out specific policy clarification points below in the order in which they appear in the submitted Plan:

Policy AL1

I saw the distinctive separate identities and physical separation between settlement areas during the visit. The policy takes a non-prescriptive approach to this important matter.

Policy AL6

I looked at a selection of the views during the visit. They capture the relationship between the settlements and the surrounding countryside. The policy takes a positive and non-prescriptive to this matter and is underpinned by the information in the Evidence Base.

Policy AL7

I noticed the importance of the identified community facilities during the visit.

Policy AL8

This is an interesting and well-researched policy. In the opening element of the policy what is meant by 'management plans'?

Policies AL9/AL10

I have noted the District Council's suggestion that the policies are combined, and can see that such an approach would have considerable merit. Does the Parish Council have any comments on this proposition in general and the District Council's suggested revised policy?

Policy AL12

I have noted District Council's suggestion that elements of the policy are modified. Does the Parish Council have any comments on this proposition in general and the District Council's suggested revised policy?

Monitoring and Review

Section 10 addresses these issues in a very positive way.

Question for the District Council

I note that the Joint Local Plan is currently being examined. Does the timetable for the completion of the examination and the eventual adoption of the Local Plan continue to follow that in the Local Development Scheme (June 2026)?

Representations

Does the Parish Council wish to comment on any of the representations made to the Plan?

It would be helpful if the Parish Council responded to the representations from Thames Water and Oxfordshire County Council.

The District Council makes a series of helpful comments on various policies and the supporting text. The Parish Council's responses to these comments would be appreciated.

Protocol for responses

I would be grateful for responses to these questions by 19 August 2026. Please let me know if this timetable may be challenging to achieve. It is intended to maintain the momentum of the examination.

If certain responses are available before others, I am happy to receive the information on a piecemeal basis. Irrespective of how the information is assembled please could it come to me directly from the District Council. In addition, please can all responses make direct reference to the policy or the matter concerned.

Andrew Ashcroft

Independent Examiner

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29 July 2026