

Name & address:

Local Plan Consultation,  
South Walks House,  
South Walks Road,  
Dorchester DT1 1UZ

Date:

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Dorset Council Draft Local Plan (Preferred Options) Public Consultation – January 2021**

I wish to object to the inclusion of land to the North of Dorchester as a preferred option for housing development under policy DOR13 in the Local Plan consultation.

Building 4000+ houses here would have a negative impact on the environment. This is a much-loved stretch of countryside with a rich biodiversity. 117 species of bird have been seen here, there are veteran trees and there are records of otters and water voles. It is an important area for bats. Downstream is the River Frome Site of Special Scientific Interest and the internationally-important wetlands of Poole Harbour.

At present this area is open countryside. Although there are proposals to establish a nature reserve in the floodplain, the water meadows would in effect become an urban park. The area would be unlikely to sustain the same number of wild species.

Such a large development would also have an effect on water run-off. This could lead to additional flooding or changes in the water table which would impact on the SSSI downstream. A full environmental impact study and an independent hydrological study is required for this site.

Other comments:

Yours sincerely,