

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.

This proposal would have an extremely damaging effect on Dorchester's heritage and tourism. The northern boundary has been the same since Roman times and the area has a strong association with the writers Thomas Hardy and William Barnes and with the painter H.J.Moule. At present the scene is recognisably the same Casterbridge that Hardy described and visitors come from around the world to discover these landscapes.

Dorchester is described in the new Bradt's Guide to Dorset: "You may be tempted to assume that Dorchester, being Dorset's county town, is large, crowded and surrounded by new, soulless housing developments. That is not the case. Dorchester is full of old-world charm and with around 20,000 inhabitants is a very manageable size. The countryside and villages around it are alluring and it only takes a brief look at a road atlas to see that many of Dorset's archaeological and historical attractions are in this area, including the hillfort at Maiden Castle." This would no longer be true if 3,500 houses are built north of Dorchester and such a development has the potential to damage our tourist industry greatly.

Other comments:

Yours sincerely,