

<b>Participant</b>	Mr Robert Jones	<b>Rep ID</b>	2704
		<b>Date response received</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<b>Representing</b>	Himself	<b>Response reference number</b>	MHD020
<b>MHD / Change reference commented on</b>	MHD011		
<b>Summary of comment</b>	<p>North Dorset District Council says it attaches considerable importance to the potential impact of development on the AONBs and their immediate hinterlands. The Council also states that site selection in Blandford was carried out on the basis of consideration of a number of factors including the potential impact on the AONBs.</p> <p>Despite that the Council has dismissed the importance of the Landscape Impact Assessment which states that “any development on the elevated part of the site would have a greater negative impact on the character and setting of the AONB and its landscape character”. The LIA also recognises that development on this site (Land west of Dorchester Hill) would affect a series of undeveloped paddocks and farmland and potentially impact on the important trees, hedgerows and copses within and around the site.</p>		
<b>Council’s response</b>	<p>The weight the Council has attached to the need to protect land within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with particular reference to sites at Blandford and Shaftesbury, is set out in MHD011.</p> <p>To accommodate growth required to meet strategic the needs of Blandford, the Council sought to focus housing in accessible locations having regard to relevant constraints, including the impacts on landscape character and the AONB.</p> <p>A landscape impact assessment of potential housing sites, as put forward through the SHLAA, was undertaken (ECC020) to examine the constraints and provide guidance where mitigation was an option.</p> <p>In relation to the land west of Blandford St Mary the landscape impact assessment, among other things, already explains the impacts on landscape character and the AONB would be minimised if development were to be located away from the more elevated and exposed parts of the site (within the southern arable field) and ensured the retention, protection and management of the key mature hedgerows crossing the site and those which border it.</p> <p>Further, MHD012 recommends that the site West of Blandford St Mary, Dorchester Hill, be excluded from designation for residential</p>		

	development until appropriate evidence and a mitigation package is agreed to the satisfaction of Natural England.
<b>Conclusions</b>	The comments by Mr Jones raise no new issues in relation to this issue. No further action required