



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

Draft South West RSS – Proposed Changes Comments Form

Office Use Only

Respondent No:

Comment No:

Date Received:

Acknowledged:

If you wish to comment on the Proposed Changes to the Draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy please:

- Complete all relevant details in Section A – this need only be done once irrespective of how many parts of the RSS you wish to comment on
- Complete a separate page 2 of the form for each part of the RSS you wish to comment on. Ensure you insert your organisation name (or surname if responding as an individual) on each page 2 and complete Sections B, C & D. You may make copies of this form.
- Type or print clearly in black ink
- Note that all comment forms will be made available for the public to read – they cannot be treated as confidential
- E-mail or post (please do not send duplicates) the completed forms to be received by the Government Office for the South West before **5.00pm on Friday 24th October 2008**.

Please send all responses to:

Regional Spatial Strategy Team
Government Office for the South West
2 Rivergate, Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

E-Mail: rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0117 900 1705

Fax: 0117 900 1914

Section A

Comments submitted by:		Agent (if applicable):	
Organisation	Swindon Parish Council	Organisation	
Surname	Holley	Surname	
Title/first name	Mr. Stephen	Title/first name	
Address Line 1	87 Curlew Road	Address Line 1	
Address Line 2	Abbeydale	Address Line 2	
Address Line 3	Gloucester	Address Line 3	
Postcode	GL4 4TF	Postcode	
E-Mail	parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk	E-Mail	
Tel. (day)	01285-623201	Tel. (day)	
Fax	No	Fax	

Signature.....(STEPHEN HOLLEY)..... **Date**.....24th October 2008.....

Comments from (organisation, or surname) ...SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CHELTENHAM BOROUGH).....

Section B

Support / Oppose / Comment (please specify)	OPPOSE
RSS Reference – Policy or Paragraph Number	General Comment
For comments on the Sustainability Appraisal – Paragraph Number	
For comments on the Habitats Regulation Assessment Report – Paragraph Number	

Section C

To help us process your response effectively please summarise why you support or oppose the Proposed Change:

The proposals to impose the extensive housing and industrial building on our Gloucestershire community will change forever the character of this unique part of rural England's landscape and heritage; will result in the loss of prime agricultural land and is not supported by proposals for new physical or social infrastructure.

As we have stated elsewhere in our response the underlying planning assumptions of economic and population growth in the SW of England are speculative and flawed nor representing the current economic situation and ignore the special nature of the open landscape and natural environment, especially of the Green Belt which enhance biodiversity in a precious, pollution-free, low-carbon area which is as important to the whole of England as the speculative construction of new houses (as has been advised to the SWRA and RSS by the developers with only a pecuniary interest in the land).

The Council wishes to express its deep disappointment that the Government, through this document, is rapidly backtracking from its long held support for the Green Belts: this is not seemly for a party that has not only championed the Green Belt but has enjoyed the privilege of 'owning' the concept. Surely it cannot be too late for the Government to lift its head high and maintain its support of the Green Belt. Here in Cheltenham we have the smallest Green Belt(s) in the country - or one of them - and yet it is to be sacrificed on the altar of urban sprawl unless change is made. (One of the Green Belt purposes is to protect the environment from Urban sprawl whereas the RSS calls for urban extension which is urban sprawl by another name.) Additions to the Green Belt in areas not likely to be affected by urban sprawl are no comfort to those people seeing the damage that may be about to happen.

Please ensure that you have written your name at the top of the page. Completed forms should be received in the Government Office for the South West by 5.00pm on Friday 24th October. Late responses will not be accepted.