

Dear Carole,

Thank you for your email below.

In response to your email – and on behalf of Evolution 500 Limited – I can confirm that we do not wish to take part in the hearings and present our representations orally.

We will instead rely upon our previous written representations, made as part of consultation of the Final Draft stage of the Local Plan (12 August – 7 October 2024) – which in turn referred to the content of our representations to the First Draft stage of the Local Plan (in August 2023) – on the basis they will carry the same weight as representations that are made in person during the hearing sessions (as confirmed in your email below).

The only response we wish to provide to the Matters, Issues and Questions, relates to Matter 3 Green Belt, questions 3.9 and 3.10.

In relation to those questions, we wish to state that we consider the subject site in our previous representations comprises grey belt land. This is on the basis that the site does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b) or (d) in paragraph 143 of the NPPF.

Furthermore, we consider that a consequence of the grey belt status of the site (in our opinion), is that it lends itself to the redevelopment envisaged by our client even more so than at the time of our previous written representations. The grey belt status of the site is a further material consideration in favour of its proposed development for these purposes, which combined with the absence of proposed site allocations for such development and clear evidence of need for provision of additional EV charging infrastructure (locally and nationally) means its planning merits – both for allocation in the Local Plan for the purposes specified/promoted via our previous representations and the granting of planning permission in the context of the latest NPPF - have strengthened further still.

I trust these comments will be accepted and taken into account by the Inspector and please confirm safe receipt of this email/statement within the required timeframe.

I would be happy to respond to any queries relating to the content of this email and/or our previous representations to the Local Plan.

Kind regards,

Ben