

Examination of the Oxford Local Plan 2045 - Stage 1

Hearing Statement, Friends of the Fields, Iffley

Day 1 Matter 1 – Legal Compliance

Issue 1 – Legal Challenge

Friends of the Fields, Iffley (FOFI) refers to the Judicial Review proceedings brought on its behalf by Richard Buxton solicitors against Oxford City Council.

FOFI identified several errors in Oxford City Council's procedures pertaining to the lack of availability of the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation results for Council decision-making at its Full Council meeting on 26 January 2026. We believed that the errors impacted significantly on the soundness of the draft Local Plan 2045.

What the High Court said

Mr Justice Mould in his decision on permission of 22 May 2026 observed:

“(2) The claim is arguable and raises a serious question to be tried.”

The Council brought the Local Plan back to Full Council, on 13 July 2026. At that meeting, Oxford City Council took the actions that FOFI had requested, including placing before members at least a summary of the consultation responses received at both regulation 18 and 19 stages

Latest position

Friends of the Fields, Iffley (Claimant) and Oxford City Council (Defendant) filed a consent order at the High Court on 28 August 2026. Under the consent order:

1. *Permission to discontinue the claim is granted.*
2. *The claim is discontinued.*
3. *The injunction dated 22 May 2026 is discharged.*

FOFI has recouped full costs up to the agreed cap. The High Court's sealed consent order was received on 8 October 2026.

Martin Reed

Friends of the Fields, Iffley

8th October 2026