OXFORD LOCAL PLAN 2045 EXAMINATION

MATTER 4, ISSUE 1, SITE SELECTION METHODOLOGY

HEARING STATEMENT
On behalf of
THE FRIENDS OF OLD HEADINGTON

Reg.19 representations at 008 REP.3 100

A. INTRODUCTION

1. This Hearing Statement is submitted on behalf of the Friends of Old Headington ("**FOH**") in relation to Matter 4, Issue 1, Site Selection Methodology. FOH is a registered charity formed in 1959 to protect, preserve, and celebrate the distinct, rural village character of the Old Headington Conservation Area ("**OHCA**").

2. This statement is a response to Q8 of the MIQs for Matter 4, Issue 1 – Site Selection Methodology.

3. The representations below should be read alongside FOH's Reg.19 representations ("**FOH Reg.19**").[1]

B. RESPONSE TO MIQS

Q8 How did the Council consider the suitability of sites already allocated for development in the Oxford Local Plan 2036?

4. In its Reg.19 representations[2] [008 REP.3 156], the Site's promoter, Ruskin College ("the College"), objects to the lack of allocation of "the land immediate north of and within the curtilage of the existing College Campus and which is allocated as a site for development in the Oxford Local Plan 2036 as Site SP56" for "reasons which are not understood (and have not been explained in the evidence base)" on the grounds that "unexplained de-allocation of the land is not justified and not an appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives."

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[1] 008 REP.3 100.
[2] 008 REP.3 156, pp. 10-11.

5. FOH submits that SP56 is not within the curtilage of the existing College Campus. It is a separate field with substantial woodland and foliage with a wholly rural character.

6. Trustees from FOH were invited by Ruskin College to a Community Liaison Group meeting on 12 January 2026 "to hear about the upcoming plans to secure the future of the College and to ask any questions you may have about the institution and our plans." At the meeting, we were shown plans for housing development on the site SPE14 with the site SP56 shown as a green field. This is consistent with the Officer Response to the Regulation 19 consultation responses (Appendix 7 - Reg. 19 Summary of Responses, p. 3232)[3] that "No question was asked about where the draft policy was for site SP56" when drafts of the site allocation policy SPE14 and Ruskin Campus draft policy SPE13 were shared with the landowner's consultants in November 2025.

10 November 2026

[3] https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/s91287/Appendix%207%20-%20Reg.%2019%20Summary%20of%20Responses.pdf