Examination of Oxford Local Plan 2045

Historic England, Written Statement

November 2026

Historic England is the principal Government adviser on the historic environment, advising it on planning and listed building consent applications, appeals and other matters generally affecting the historic environment. Historic England is consulted on Local Development Plans and provides advice to ensure that legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework are thereby reflected in local planning policy and practice.

The tests of soundness require that Local Development Plans should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Historic England's representations on the Publication Draft Local Plan are made in the context of the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in relation to the historic environment as a component of sustainable development.

Historic England - Written Statement

Introduction

This statement addresses the Inspector's questions with regards to Matter 13 of the Local Plan Examination: Stage 2 Matters, Issues and Questions. This written statement should be read alongside Historic England's comments submitted at previous consultation stages of the Local Plan.

Matter 4: Site Selection Methodology

Issue 3 – Heritage Assets and Archaeology – Policies HD3, HD4 and HD5

Q1 Are the Plan's heritage policies consistent with the approach to conserving heritage assets in the Framework, having particular regard to the tests in paragraphs 213-216?

Yes. In our view, policies HD3, HD4 and HD5 are broadly consistent with the NPPF's (2024) approach to conserving heritage assets. The policy explicitly states that applications affecting designated heritage assets will need to be considered in line with the approach set out in the NPPF. There is also appropriate differentiation between designated and non-designated assets. Given the publication of the new NPPF, there may be some merit in referring in general terms to relevant national policy tests and removing explicit paragraph references to the NPPF (2024), which will not apply when the local plan is adopted in order to future-proof the policy and reduce confusion.