

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Oxford Preservation Trust (Mrs Debbie Dance)
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Response Date	07/01/15 13:06
Consultation Point	Core Policy 44: Landscape (View)
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Submission Type	Letter
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Files	Local Plan 2031 Part One letter as sent.pdf
Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?	No
Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified)	No
If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list.	N/A

Q4 Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Oxford Preservation Trust has just completed the Oxford Views Study in partnership with Oxford City Council, funded by English Heritage which aims to provide a robust methodology for understanding the character and assessing the significance of Oxford protected views. In addition the study has established the kinetic nature of the views, the importance of views out and across the city and their important relationship to the setting of many of Oxford's heritage assets of exceptional significance.

We are concerned that the draft VOWH Local Plan 2031 has omitted any specific reference to Oxford and the importance of its views and landscape setting which was previously included as saved Policy NE8 of the VOWH Local Plan 2011.

Policy NE8 ? *The landscape setting of Oxford* states:

The Conservation of Oxford ?s landscape setting will take priority in considering proposals for development in areas within view of the city. Development will not be permitted if it would:

- 1) *Harm the landscape setting of Oxford*
- 2) *Obscure or detract from an important view of the skyline of collegiate Oxford , particularly within the view cones as defined on the proposals map.*

This is replaced by proposed Policy 44 which refers to protecting and enhancing key features that contribute to the nature and quality of the Vale of White Horse District?s landscape including the important landscape settings of settlements and very important views and visually sensitive skylines, but with no specific mention of Oxford.

We note that high priority will continue to be given to conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs AONB and planning decisions will have regard to its setting. We would like the same consideration to be given to Oxford?s important skyline and setting and to see this is set out in the Plan with a specific reference to the city.