

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 November 2022 11:46

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Subject: Objection to the proposed development at Oakhurst Rise (22_00112_OUT)

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Dear Planning Committee

We are writing to object to the proposed development at Oakhurst Rise (22_00112_OUT)

Last month we moved into our house Coversdown on Birchley Road which adjoins the field which is the proposed site of the development. Since moving into the property we have been amazed by the variety and extent of the wildlife which has its home in the field. There are numerous woodland animals (a large number of badgers, foxes and different varieties of bats) and an incredible number of different birds including rare and endangered species such as song thrushes which nest in the hedge between our house and the field. There are also many beautiful deer which use the hedgerows between the field and Oakhurst Rise as their home and place to rest during the day. In addition to the wildlife, there are wonderful old trees and ancient hedgerows which together create a unique and unspoilt natural ecosystem.

We are incredibly saddened that this beautiful local wildlife site is at threat of destruction through the building of the proposed houses and the associated infrastructure. The catastrophic loss of native plant and animal populations could never be repaired. Further, we don't believe the developer's proposed mitigations come close to properly addressing these issues. We ask the committee members to please consider how it is essential to preserve natural sites such as this for our children and for future generations and to not compound the local climate emergency that is part of a global loss of our most precious habitats.

During the enquiries that we made when purchasing our property, the Trustees of the Battledown Estate made clear to us that there is no right of access over the Battledown Estate for anyone looking to access land that does not fall within the estate itself (which the field does not). There can therefore never be public access to the field via our property (the only right of access being for maintenance of the field by its owners). Accessing the field via Oakhurst Rise is clearly not suitable given the narrow roads/impact on the owners of properties on that cul de sac (as well as the destruction of the hedgerows mentioned above) and therefore the submitted development plan is fundamentally flawed.

Finally, we want to flag our concerns about the proposed location of a number of the houses in the proximity of our property. The proposed development includes the building of buildings which would look straight into our windows and block light and views. They also threaten the large oak tree adjacent to our drive which is subject to a TPO.

We do recognise the need for new properties in Gloucestershire, including those that are affordable. However, we must ensure that the sites that are chosen do not destroy our irreplaceable natural ecosystems or cause unreasonable loss of amenity to those living adjacent to the developments. We ask the committee to please take these concerns into account and to not allow this development.

Many thanks

