

19/03478/FUL (Full Application) & 19/03479/LBC (Listed Building Consent)

My name is Debbie Dance and I am the Director of Oxford Preservation Trust. We are a well-established heritage charity who, a little like the National Trust without the country houses, own buildings and land to protect and enhance Oxford's green setting and historic environment and which land we have kept open throughout, as a matter of interest.

We have had interests in Eynsham and its surrounds for nearly 40 years through our Swinford Water Meadows and Lord's Farmhouse and Barn. We are a small independent charity with no government funding so that we have to raise all the funds for our projects. We restored the Farmhouse in 2016, and at the time began to think about the Barn and associated building. Unused, we wanted to bring these into beneficial use, able to be repaired and kept in good repair, making best use of our assets. We are also acutely aware of the need for housing and wanted to make our contribution, albeit in only a small way.

If permission is granted, we will convert this stone barn into a two bedroom dwelling with a discrete link at the rear to the Stable building carefully designed so that that the character of both are retained and the previous use of the buildings can still be understood.

We have worked with the officers throughout to ensure that our proposals accord with the West Oxfordshire Local Plan Spatial Strategy and policies on new housing provision. It is close to the amenities of Eynsham, and we are pleased that the Officers are satisfied that the proposals are acceptable for highway safety and parking; residential amenity; and biodiversity, and that appropriate conditions will be attached to a consent, if Members are minded to approve the application.

Our well-earned professional reputation in heritage is important to us so that the proposed works have been carefully thought out. The original character and appearance of the Grade II listed building will remain largely unchanged with minimum intervention to the front elevation as it sits so well within the street scene, and we want to ensure that it continues to make a positive contribution to the overall character and appearance of the surrounding Conservation Area. It has been guided throughout by the full Heritage Impact Assessment which has been provided with the listed building application and which confirms that there will be no detrimental harm to heritage assets.

I hope that the members will agree to these proposals which will allow us to bring the Barn back into a viable use and so ensuring its long-term protection.