

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

UPLANDS AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 7th March 2022

Report of Additional Representations



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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| 21/02570/FUL | Construction of dwelling together with associated outbuildings and landscaping. Close existing and formation of new vehicular access in revised position (amended plans). |
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Report of Additional Representations

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| Application Number | 21/02570/FUL |
| Site Address | Land West Of Greenacres Churchill Road Kingham Oxfordshire |
| Date | 4th March 2022 |
| Officer | James Nelson |
| Officer Recommendations | Approve |
| Parish | Kingham Parish Council |
| Committee Date | 7th March 2022 |

Application Details: Construction of dwelling together with associated outbuildings and landscaping. Close existing and formation of new vehicular access in revised position (amended plans).

Additional Representations

One additional letter in opposition to the scheme has been received, it reads as follows:

"I wish to reiterate my objection of 18.8.21. Furthermore, I have to take issue with the preliminary ecological assessment 1.2.22.

My knowledge of wildlife, including plant life is better than average. I originally trained at the Weed Research Organization (part of the Agricultural Research Council). I have also contributed the wildlife notes for the village newsletter over several years. Prior to the wholesale wanton destruction of the permanent pasture by the current owner, the top paddock was a mass of cardamine pratensis flowers each spring. It was also possible to find good numbers of early purple and pyramidal orchid.

Before the grass was mown short, it was possible to find grass snakes; a regular badger track could be seen to cross the paddock approximately half way down. I should add that I have known the fields in question for thirty years. The old barn was a regular barn owl roost (I fitted the gable end boards (with an opening for owls) for the previous owners). Water voles were recorded in my newsletter notes of April 2019, and a nightjar was noted in the May 2019 newsletter. It was sighted & heard in the hedgerow that the applicant has since cut down, it was also heard by the owners of Greenacres. The suggestion that only four bird species are present on site is a cause for concern. Under the previous ownership, the old hedgerows provided winter refuge for redwings, fieldfares bramblings etc. They also provided good nest sites for a number of species, including whitethroats. I would suggest that the appraisal submitted is either ignored - or prompts further investigation as to the damage done on site already. Either way, the application should be refused, as the applicant has demonstrated a blatant disregard for the environment, even before building commences."