

Comment for planning application 21/00922/OUT

Application Number	21/00922/OUT
Location	Land West Of Foxden Way Great Bourton OX17 1QY
Proposal	OUTLINE Planning Application for up to 9 entry-level affordable houses - all matters reserved save for access
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation Name	John Melrose
Address	Church Close House,Church Close,Great Bourton
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>This is an Objection (drop down menu not working well) I most strongly object to this proposal. On the following grounds. The development is outside the current village envelope and is on open countryside. It does not fit my ideas of conservation or current Cherwell strategy. It would severely impact the visual amenity on that side of the village and in particular the beautiful vista from this prominent ridgeline across open fields down to the Historic Cherwell valley and battlefield sites. This is an important attraction for visitors to the village and residents. A high degree of change is proposed. The application seems to fail in its knowledge of the historic Cropredy battle, this included skirmishes at the crossing of the Cherwell ca. current Peewit farm below Foxden way. Foxden way itself provides a good vista from which to review the progress of this historic battle. The parliamentarian army attacked the Kings column down from Great Bourton. Furthermore I note that point 4.3.3 of the application in the visual impact section says: " There are no footways along School Lane, Crow Lane or Foxden Way, as such, any pedestrians will be concentrating on potential oncoming traffic and will also be less sensitive than those on the wider public right of way network." This seems to suggest that walkers on Foxden way will be so concerned about traffic that they will not be sensitive to the impact on the visual amenity - indeed I agree. This admission by the application itself, leads to the next point. Highway safety, Foxden way (and Spring lane at the Little Bourton end) cannot safely take any more traffic (in fact I would argue the current traffic levels should be reduced not increased). For car travel, the road access through the village from the proposed site is very poor; there is no public transport serving Great Bourton. The occupants of the development would drive to the Southam road, Banbury and M40 by use of Foxden Way and little Bourton - it would be the shortest route and simply that's what people would take. Note it's not just morning and evening traffic, nowadays delivery vans are a continued presence throughout the day. Foxden way and adjoining roads are single track roads with no separate walkway, but they are extensively used on a daily basis by many Bourtons' residents for walking exercise, including disabled persons in wheelchairs and mobility scooters, parents with young children (often cycling), horse riders and dog walkers. In winter, when other paths are unusable, this is the only walk used. The significant increase in traffic would, therefore, put current residents at great risk and/or curtail their use of this important walkway - thus impacting resident and visitor health and wellness. Should this be granted, any future accident and injury to these pedestrians, riders etc , would, I feel, be the responsibility of those granting this application. On a lighter note, I am surprised the applicants did not ask for 9.5 houses, still under the 10 limit, but they could build a house on the boundary of the adjacent field then apply for 9.5 houses in the adjacent field, complete the second in this field and gain an extra house! Perhaps I should not give advice on how to circumvent planning limits by stealth, step by step. Development plans should be considered as a whole, not in parts.</p>
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Attachments	