

Comment for planning application 22/01220/DISC

Application Number	22/01220/DISC
Location	OS Parcel 4300 North Of Shortlands And South Of High Rock Hook Norton Road Sibford Ferris OX15 5QW
Proposal	Discharge of Condition 9 (Landscape Ecological Management Plan) of 18/01894/OUT (APP/C3105/W/19/3229631)
Case Officer	Nathanael Stock
Organisation Name	Tim Huckvale
Address	2 Mannings Close,Sibford Ferris,Banbury,OX15 5RA
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I wish to comment on Gade Homes' Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) dated April 2022. It is good to see that they intend to incorporate nesting boxes for sparrows and swifts, but very disappointing that the number proposed (11 in total) is inadequate. Indeed, it is less than half the number recommended in Cherwell's own guidance as set out in "BIODIVERSITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, Good Practice Guide 1, Preservation of existing nesting sites and provision of artificial nesting sites, September 2019" (attachment 1). This recommends a minimum of one nest-box per residential unit, which in this case would be 25. Please ensure that they meet and preferably exceed this Council guidance. I would also like to see the developers reconsider their choice of nesting boxes. Rather than separate sparrow terraces and swift boxes, they would find it simpler to use just one type of nest box brick that is suitable for both species. I attach a document "Swift Bricks - the 'universal' nest brick" prepared by the Swifts Local Network that sets out the case for this (attachment 2). The Swifts Local Network was set up in December 2014 to help everyone working for swift conservation in the UK to keep in touch with each other: https://groups.google.com/g/swiftslocalnetwork An important point to remember when installing sparrow / swift boxes is that both species are "colonial" and like to nest in clusters. To support this, nest boxes should be installed in pairs or larger groups rather than singly per residential unit, but not too close together - Action for Swifts recommends about a metre between entrance holes in their "Facts about swift bricks" (attachment 3).</p>
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Attachments	