

Application Ref : 25/01346/OUT- I write to OBJECT to the proposal to build 340 Houses at Land North of The Moors, Kidlington.

The reasons I object are explained below

1. **Green Belt**- This is Green Belt land. It is not Grey Belt as described by the applicant. This area is still being used for agriculture as it has been for hundreds of years. Small fields and floodplain meadows lead down to the River Cherwell towards the hamlets of Thrupp and Hampton Poyle. Green Belt as described by the government- it has a "characteristics of openness and permanence.
2. **Excessive building**- The government states that Green Belt can only be used in exceptional circumstances. So much of it has already been committed to housing (4,400 houses), by Cherwell District Council, they have previously stated they would not take any more. It has already come to light that Oxfordshire has radically overestimated the housing need.
3. **Health and Recreation**-This land provides one of the last remaining areas of open countryside used by locals, and others, for recreation and health (both mental and physical). There are 2 rights of way, and many other informal paths, that have been used for decades giving easy, much needed, access to tranquillity and open spaces.
4. **Nature Conservation**-This area is adjacent to an important Thames Valley Conservation Target Area, providing a corridor for nature and wildlife. Part of this corridor includes St Mary's Fields Nature Reserve which is very close by. The development will bring a much-increased footfall, light, air quality and urbanisation to the area, as well as light pollution and a catastrophic change to the habitats. The extensive hedgerows and grass land provide breeding sites for endangered skylarks, tawny owls, barn owls, bats, slow worms, grass snakes and brown and black hairstreak butterflies, to name but a few. A local Green Space was proposed in 2021 with a Green Ring being created around Kidlington. CDC have not reported back on this yet.
5. **Sport facilities / open spaces** – this area floods on a regular basis and is not suitable for a sports facility. The nature of the maintenance of a sports ground is not conducive to wildlife. An orchard /allotment, would bring a different regime of maintenance and habitat, including insecticides, into the area- counter intuitive to the TVERC CTA (conservation target area). The facilities are large and may be used for other functions further exacerbating the traffic and pollution issues. There is no mention of who would manage/ be responsible for these areas.
6. **Traffic** – The access to the development is via a relatively narrow residential road, which already has calming measures installed. The proposal is to site a small roundabout at the end of Benmead Road. This is a busy area the road leads to North Kidlington Primary School plus it is right next door to 2 elderly and disabled facilities, Homewell House and Moorside place. Already carers visiting these residents have to park on the road making visibility very poor and unsafe. Access to this site does not exit to a main artery. With this number of houses traffic would also increase dramatically on the High Street and Mill Street local residential roads.
7. **Public Transport** – It must be noted that buses **do not** travel along The Moors as indicated by the proposed developers.
8. **Flooding** – the water table here is high. Flooding happens regularly and for more prolonged periods in the surrounding area. In addition, sewage and drainage is of great concern. These issues are not taken into account.

Finally, there has been a very short notice period in which to consider and comment on the impact on the village and its infrastructure (schools, transport, GPs etc). The planning committee need to secure more information before moving forward.

