

Greater Cambridge Share Planning Service



By Online Planning Register

14/08/2024

Dear Melissa

Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Wandlebury Country Park
Cambridge CB22 3AE
Phone 01223 - 243830
www.cambridgeppf.org

Response to 24/02702/FUL: Intensification of the existing Class B8 storage through installation of double stacked storage containers at Land At Barnwell Junction Swann Road Cambridge

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is Cambridge's largest civic society. We are a charity run by local people who are passionate about where they live. We operate in the greater Cambridge area and working with our members, supporters and volunteers we:

- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the Cambridge area.
- Own and care for green spaces and historic buildings in and around the city for people and nature, including Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel & Barnwell Meadows, Bourn Windmill and Hinxtton Watermill.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future are concerned about the impact of this development on Barnwell Junction Pasture (also known as Barnwell Meadows). We object to the lack of ecological survey and landscape assessment which means we cannot assess the impact of the development on the Meadows.

The Meadows are owned and managed by Cambridge PPF for the benefit of people and wildlife. They are designated as Protected Open Space (Policy 67) and are a city Wildlife Site (Policy 69). The meadows are an integral part of Cambridge Nature Network (cambridgeppf.org/Cambridge-nature-network) which along with adjoining meadows makes up the core of the network system. The meadows are also in the Conservation Area and Green Belt.

Policy 67 (Protection of open space) prevents development which would harm the character of open space of environmental and/or recreational importance.

Policy 69 (Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance) protects sites from developments which would have an adverse impact on them.

Policy 61 (Conservation and enhancement on Cambridge's historic environment) requires development to preserve or enhance the significance of the conservation area, its setting and wider townscape, including views into, within and out of the conservation area.

It is unclear from the application documents what the impact of the height of the double stacked containers and the proposed lighting will be on the ecology of the Meadows and views across the Meadow from the Chisholm Trail. We cannot therefore determine the impact of the development on the above policies.

It is unclear what the existing lighting consists of, however the proposed lighting involves 30 lighting columns on top of the containers. We request that an ecological assessment is undertaken to understand the wildlife of the meadows and the impact the lighting will have, specifically on bats.

It is likely to be the northern end of the site, which is most visible from the Chisholm Trail, where it runs to the north-east and east of the site. We therefore request that visualisations of the proposal are prepared, showing the proposed development in the daytime and night time.

Please note that there are plans to development Mercers Row to the rear of the site (<https://mercrows.consultationonline.co.uk/>) which will mean the buildings to the west of the site are likely to change and the backdrop to the development will not be as currently.

We ask that this application is not determined until this additional information is supplied and consulted upon. As well as consulting the Wildlife Trust we ask that you consult the Council's ecologists.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Nicholas

Principal Planning Officer