

15/09/2025



Cambridge Past, Present & Future  
Wandlebury Country Park  
Cambridge CB22 3AE

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**Response to 25/02888/FUL: Demolition of existing Synagogue and Jewish Community facility and erection of a new Synagogue and Jewish Community facility including parking spaces, new cycle storage, landscaping and associated infrastructure works at Jewish Synagogue 3 Thompsons Lane 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 Hinxton Watermill.

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Cambridge Past, Present and Future do not object to the proposed development but are concerned about the proposed material to the elevations.

This site lies within the Central Conservation Area. Adjoining the site is the Grade II listed Old Vicarage, opposite are buildings of local interest (BLI), and to the rear is Portugal Place comprising listed buildings and BLIs. Policy 61 ensures the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. The CAA identifies that the buildings in Thompsons Lane are generally "united through the common use of gault brick, although the red brick of the early C20 terraced houses stand out as something different."

Policy 61(c) requires development to be of an appropriate scale, form, height, massing, alignment and detailed design which will contribute to local distinctiveness, complement the built form and scale of heritage assets and respect the character, appearance and setting of the locality.

We consider that the application proposes a statement building, which is not trying to mirror or blend into exiting architecture of Thompsons Lane street but introduce a statement building with an Interesting shape and of individual architecture.

We are however, concerned about the proposed use of "muted green slate" on the facades. Since slate is typically dark, and the building's design uses it extensively across all six "strata," we believe this solid, dark material would make the building appear bulkier.

We request that consideration is given to the colour of the external material or the use of a different but compatible material for one of the strata, to introduce some variation and to help break up the bulk of the building.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Nicholas*

Principal Planning Officer