

**From:** [mary.lean](#)  
**To:** [Planning Policy](#)  
**Subject:** Building on Park Farm field, Marston  
**Date:** 10 March 2020 17:54:31

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Dear Planning Committee

I am writing to express my concern about the Council's plan to build on the home field at Park Farm, Marston: cf Local Plan 2036 and SP28 (Park Farm).

I live in Ferry Rd, and frequently pass the field when walking my dog. For much of the last months, the field has been partially under water - half of it is, as I am sure you are aware, part of the functional flood plain plan zone 3, which protects downstream sites from flooding. Surely it is a bad idea, after a winter where we have seen so much flooding around the country, to do anything which undermines Oxford's flood defences?

The water meadows of Marston are historic - with old field markings - and rich in biodiversity (a City Council study of 2002 said that they were of national and international ecological significance), as well as playing an important role in flood retention. They are also much loved by local walkers and naturalists. It would be a tragedy if they were to be lost to development, and I worry that building on Park Farm field might be a first step towards this, particularly as the loss of this field could undermine the farm's agricultural viability.

I am deeply aware of the need for affordable housing in Oxford, not least as a volunteer at the Oxford Winter Night Shelter. But I do not believe that Park Farm home field is a suitable site for building.

Yours sincerely

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