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**To:** [Planning Policy](#)  
**Subject:** Oxford Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation  
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Hello,

I would like to make some comments on the Local Plan, specifically in relation to my opposition of SP28 (Park Farm) for housing development.

Much of this land is functional floodplain (flood zone 3). It is crucial for active flood retention of the River Cherwell and holds back water at times of inundation to protect downstream sites including central Oxford. I have been monitoring the fields this winter and they have been under water for most of it. We are in a climate emergency, seeing river levels this winter higher than they have ever been recorded before. Functional floodplain is going to be even more crucial in avoiding more extreme flooding of Oxford. The CEO of the Environment Agency has cautioned against building houses on floodplain and we have seen the devastating consequences of ignoring this advice with the recent 2020 floods.

The fields alongside the river in New (and Old) Marston are of high ecological and landscape value. A 2002 City Council study stated that New Marston Meadows are of national and international importance for biodiversity. The report also said that the area is of very high landscape value for Oxford city. Although not the core of the SSSI protected area, it is an important buffer. Parts of this green belt have already been lost, e.g. Swan School development. It is all the more important to retain what remains.

Kind regards

Kay Lidgard  


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