



THE FRIENDS OF LYDIARD PARK

Registered Charity No: 1107635

Lydiard House, Lydiard Park, Swindon SN5 3PA

Wiltshire Council
Economic Development & Planning
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

FAO Lee Burman

Dear Sirs,

**Application ref: 19/04598/OUT Land South of Hook Street Lydiard Tregoze
Wiltshire Outline permission for up to 9 dwellings together with parking
and amenity space (All matters reserved)**

Trustees

Mike Bowden
Sarah Finch Crisp
Michael Gray
Robert Hook
Alastair Stevenson
Per-Axel Warensjo
Frances Bevan
Julie Holland

Chairperson:
Sarah Finch Crisp

Treasurer and Secretary:
Julie Holland
Julie@lydiardparkfriends.org.uk

I am instructed to write on behalf of the Friends of Lydiard Park to register our strong objection to the application for nine executive houses on land South of Hook Street and an exceptionally concerning proposal to change the agricultural use of the Park Farm estate into employment and residential uses. Our objection is based on the irreversible damage that these proposals would have on Lydiard Park and the wider historic landscape environment and rural setting.

Lydiard House, and St Mary's Church have been recognized as being of national importance and have been listed as grade I Listed buildings of exceptional interest. The park and gardens are also recognized as being of national importance and have been listed as grade II, being of special interest. The house, church, monuments, park and gardens have been acknowledged as having important heritage value as a group. This group known as Lydiard Tregoze along with Park Farm, and the villages of Hook and Lydiard Millicent have important historical associations dating back to King Alfred the Great 871-886 which these proposals seek to destroy.

The essential setting of the historic park and gardens was agreed in 2004 after a detailed assessment as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Lydiard Park Restoration Plan. The definition formed the basis of an extension to the park listing on the North side by Historic England in 2013.

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An application to Swindon Borough Council for housing on the South side of Hook Street was refused planning permission on appeal in 2010 for being inside the essential setting, but approved on appeal in 2012 outside the essential setting. An application by Taylor Wimpey for housing on the North side of the park was withdrawn in anticipation of refusal in 2016 because it was inside the essential setting. Since 2004 no development has been approved or granted on appeal that is within the essential setting.

This submission has deliberately included the nine executive houses inside the essential setting in an attempt to undermine the established precedent which protects these historical sites most beloved of the wider public. The development would obliterate the historic viewpoint of the windmill folly, closing down important historic views from Lydiard Tregoze to Windmill Hill (at 115-120m OD). The executive homes have been so aligned in a single compact form to cause maximum harm to the hilltop in what appears to be an attempt to diminish the wider landscape to achieve bigger development aims.

The substantial harm that the executive houses would cause is compounded by the proposed wider development of Park Farm as it also involves development within the essential setting along Hook Street for over 1200 metres. The accumulation of these proposed developments would seriously damage not only the essential setting of the historic park, but disfigure and maim the setting of the historic village of Hook and blight much of the surrounding rural landscape.

This application shows a complete lack of consideration of local heritage and historic landscape which are of national importance. The submission documents for both the executive houses and the farm development are seriously lacking for an outline application, and do not address the damage that these schemes will inevitably cause. It is saddening that our neighbour, has chosen to take this approach without consultation or communication with the local community.

For the reasons stated above we therefore urge Wiltshire Council to refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gray
On behalf of the Friends of Lydiard Park