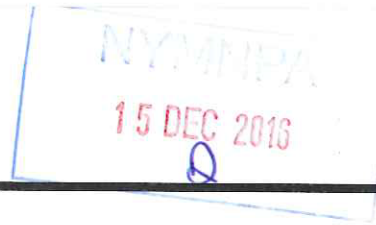


## Wendy Strangeway



Hs

**From:** Planning  
**Sent:** 15 December 2016 16:18  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Comments on NYM/2016/0817/FL - Case Officer Mrs H Saunders - Received from Mr John Walker at 6 Orchard Close, The Beeches, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9PF

I fully support this latest planning application made on behalf of Mr R Walker for an airstrip and flight planning / reporting office at South Moor Farm. For the avoidance of doubt, I am not related to Mr R Walker and my interest in the application stems from a life-long involvement in aviation as a member of the RAF; employment in aerodrome management and as a private pilot as well as being a Director of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

The current application is a further revised scheme to the previous applications (NYM/2014/0435/FL, NYM/2014/0819/FL and NYM/2015/0781/FL) all of which were refused by the Park Authority and then the subject of appeals (references APP/W9500/A/14/2212850, APP/W9500/W/15/3007950 and APP/W9500/W/16/3144478 respectively). All of the applications in question had two elements; the provision of an airstrip and the provision of related buildings. Although the appeals failed they did not do so in respect of the provision of the airstrip (the details of which had remained unchanged), only in respect of the proposed aircraft storage building and latterly, the lack of information on the presence and likely effect on protected species. Since all three of the Planning Inspectors in their independent capacity, with full knowledge of National and Local Planning Policies and with due regard for the submissions made to them, have concluded that the aviation aspects of the application are not in conflict with these Policies, the Park Authority has no grounds to refuse the current application from the aviation perspective.

The grounds for refusal for the third appeal were that, in the absence of any detailed habitat survey for the presence and likely effect on protected species in and around the application site, the Planning Inspector did not have sufficient information to conclude that the proposal would not cause harm to protected species of wildlife. In deference to this finding, the current application includes a Bird Assessment to address the protected species issue. The conclusions at paragraph 5 of this Assessment are particularly relevant to the Inspector's comments regarding Goshawks and Nightjars as there are no published reports on the effects of aircraft noise on these specific species and the survey found no evidence of Goshawks near the application site. Since Goshawks are very sensitive to noise, it appears unlikely that they would choose a habitat close to the application site which is adjacent to a road, footpaths / bridleways and is grazing land frequented by both sheep and cattle in preference to other, more remote parts of Dalby Forest.

The current application does not include the auxiliary runway, which was the subject of the three previous applications, but retains the flight planning office. The deletion of the auxiliary runway means that an existing overhead electricity line does not need to be buried underground which avoids the need to disturb a possible heritage site and reduces the overall area potentially impacted by aircraft using the airstrip. The flight planning office is similar to a garden shed that would ordinarily not require planning permission except that it is not intended for domestic use and is located in a National Park. The Inspector in the second appeal (APP/W9500/W/15/3007950) decision letter at paragraph 7 commented as follows on this building:

"7. Two buildings are proposed. The first is a small shed-like structure that would be used as a flight planning/reporting office. The Authority has raised no concerns regarding this aspect of the proposals and nor did the Inspector in respect to the previous appeal. Given the very limited scale of this proposed structure, I have found no reason to disagree."

In the light of this statement, the Park Authority has no grounds to refuse the current application in respect of the proposed building.

Comments made by Mr John Walker of 6 Orchard Close, The Beeches, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9PF  
Preferred Method of Contact is Email

Comment Type is Comment