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Prof Dr Lawrence Lewis
275 New North Rd, Ste 1028
Islington London
N1 7AA

Attn: David Kenyon, Case Officer
Planning Department
South Somerset District Council
Brympton Way
Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT

January 2020


Dear Mr Kenyon and South Somerset District Council colleagues,


As a professional academician and chronicler of heraldic arms (Lewis) and a professional historic preservation specialist (Gilmore) with both business and familial ties to the area, we write to express our deep concern regarding and strong objection to the proposed demolition and development scheme for Manor Farm, Combe Hill, Templecombe. This scheme will most surely and irredeemably spoil an area of great natural beauty and archeological value that is home to an historically significant priory site of the medieval knights Templar and Hospitaller that yet requires extensive exploration and documentation by qualified professionals.

Our families have documented Somerset connections that date to the Norman-era stewardship of ancestors who include Robert de Mortain, Earl of Cornwall (1031-95), St Osmond of Salisbury, Earl of Dorset & sometime Lord Chancellor (d. 1099), and many others including Saxon forebears who pre-date the Conquest. We spend significant time in South Somerset annually and support local business, charities, and cultural events because of the profound historic and personal appeal that sites such as Templecombe offer us and countless others.

We strongly urge the Council to take protective action that preserves the historic and archeological integrity of Templecombe's Manor Farm for future scholars of English history and for the many visitors who regularly come from across the UK and from around the world to celebrate the area's unique heritage and charm.

Respectfully,


Lawrence Lewis, PhD, KStG, CPsychol, AFBPsS, FRSA
Chronicler of Arms, TransAtlantic Heraldry Ltd
Professor Emeritus, Loyola University New Orleans, Louisiana
Grand Archivist, The International Order of St George
Lord of the Manor of Over Stratton, South Somerset
Co-President, Robert de Mortain Legacy & Manorial Society of South Somerset


Philip Gilmore, MSUS
Historic Preservation Specialist, City of New Orleans, Louisiana
Lord of the Manor of Montacute, South Somerset
Co-President, Robert de Mortain Legacy & Manorial Society of South Somerset