

We object to this proposed development (19/01705/OUT).

The Developers Ecology Report (Page 14 para 3.2) states “No designated sites of national nature conservation importance are located within 2km of the survey site.”

And (para 4.3) states “The undesignated Slade Nature Reserve is located adjacent to the site boundary.”

The foregoing ignores the fact that **The Slade Nature Reserve does have a national designation**

Designated Sites View

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The Slade LNR

SUMMARY	
Designated site name:	The Slade LNR
LNR Type:	Rural
County:	OXFORDSHIRE
Other overlapping designations:	
Type:	Wetland
Natural England Area Team:	Thames Valley (LNR)

and has been managed as a Nature Reserve for 50 years.

Mont Hiron and Arthur Coles (the land owner) were key to the establishment of the Nature Reserve. Their primary aims were to protect this bio-diverse area and to ensure that future generations had an understanding of the benefits biodiversity delivered to society. They were keen to ensure such messages were cascaded via the state education system.



In the late 1980's the Slade Nature Reserve was leased to the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust (BBONT). BBONT was subsequently renamed BBOWT (**Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust**) and the Slade was featured in the Trust's Handbook, which noted the Nature Reserve is "popular with local school groups", and that over 170 higher plants have been recorded here and the site is also exceptionally rich in birds, butterflies and flora.

A local ornithologist Anthony Brownett, in his book: - "Birds of the Slade Nature Reserve Bloxham", published in 1992, confirmed 93 species of birds were resident in the Nature Reserve.

The land was purchased by Oxfordshire County Council's Education Department in 1969, and established as a Nature Reserve for the use of schools. The first warden of the Slade Nature Reserve was Mr JF Walton of Deddington School.

The Slade

An attractive local amenity, this small reserve offers wet meadow and woodland with streams and a stretch of disused railway line

Orange-tip

A small but varied north Oxfordshire nature reserve – popular with local school groups – with wet meadow and woodland, and a disused railway.

More than 170 plants have been recorded here and the site is also good for butterflies and birds. The lush wet meadow has abundant hard rush, meadowsweet, sedges and a colony of common spotted-orchid. The alder woodland also features wet-loving plants including great willowherb, marsh-marigold and wild angelica. Two streams meet here.

One feature of interest is a small mound, the ruin of a 'pest house' serving nearby Bloxham. A pest house was once a fairly common village feature – a cottage where those with contagious diseases could be isolated. Here, it was surrounded by a moat which healthy villagers dared not cross. Food was left on a special stone by the moat, to be taken in when the villagers had retreated. The pest house was in use into the early years of the last century.

MANAGEMENT

Deadwood
= Retaining standing deadwood favours insects, birds, bats and fungi. Log piles provide cover for small mammals

Best time to visit

WINTER	SPRING ✓	SUMMER ✓	AUTUMN
	PLANTS Goldfinch, lesser celandine, marsh-marigold INSECTS Blimstone and orange-tip butterflies ANIMALS Blackcap, bullfinch, yellowhammer	PLANTS Meadowsweet, wild angelica, great willowherb INSECTS Small spotted-orchid ANIMALS Small copper, ringlet and speckled wood butterflies, burnet moths, dragonflies and damselflies	

GETTING THERE

1/2 mile
B4035 and Lower Tadminton (114)
Chipping Norton (8)
Banbury (27.5)
Banbury + 1 mile (to Bloxham)
+ 1 mile

GETTING AROUND

size 2.5 ha (6 acres)
Flat; soft in winter and after rain; stile, boardwalks.

Following the expiry of the BBOWT lease, the Slade Nature Reserve was acquired by Bloxham Parish Council in 2015, and now has a team of volunteers who manage the Nature Reserve headed by a Warden with a direct line of reporting to the Parish Council.

We note that:-

CDC has a 3 year and 5 year housing land supply and a made BNDP.

This application, is contra to the CDC Local Plan Part 1, BNDP BL2 Built Limits, BL9 Traffic, BL12 open views, and is not on a strategic site:- **in consequence the application should be rejected.**

However, should CDC consider approving the application We would expect CDC to condition the creation of a substantially robust buffer between the development site and the Slade Nature Reserve boundary / public Right of way. **The buffer to be completed and signed off by CDC before any other development work is initiated on the site.**

David and Jenny Yates