



8 Merus Court
Meridian Business Park
Leicester
LE19 1RJ

T: 0116 289 2956
E: alison@gliding.co.uk
W: www.gliding.co.uk

Rebekah Morgan BSc (Hons), MSc, MA
Principal Planning Officer – Major Projects Planning Team
Place and Growth Directorate
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
Oxfordshire OX15 4AA

Sent by email: rebekah.morgan@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

10 June 2020

Dear Rebekah

Re: 19/02708/OUT Outline:- Provide new employment units comprising B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage) and D1 (Education) uses with ancillary offices, storage, display and sales, with all matters reserved except for access

As you will undoubtedly have recognised, the comments in my letter of the 8 June 2020 (dated 5 June 2020) were predicated on the belief that the preliminary report of Dr Eddowes required the input of aviation experts familiar with the aviation operation at Bicester before the exercise would be considered complete. To that end we offered the services of Peter Stratten, a former Bicester Chief Flying Instructor who has 30 years' experience of the airfield.

It now appears that you do not intend adopting what we consider to be the normal approach to preparing such a report, and as a result you intend determining the application based on incomplete information.

Were Dr Eddowes to speak to Pete Stratten he would learn the following key elements:

As far as Pete Stratten is aware (and that knowledge includes the latter years of its life as a RAF airfield) it has operated as a fully useable omnidirectional airfield with identified preferential take-off/landing directions. In this context runways are a misleading description, but it is appreciated why the term is used in the context of Dr Eddowes report.

Over the past thirty years, Pete Stratten has frequently used, and witnessed many others using, the northerly approach path that Dr Eddowes report appears to dismiss as being unnecessary based on the stereotypical, and incomplete, runway arrangement shown on the published documentation. From his extensive experience of the site, Pete Stratten believes that the current proposal would impact negatively on the undershoot possibilities of an aircraft on that approach.

As available approach paths to airfields are reduced, the options available to operators are similarly reduced. That inevitably compromises the utility of the airfield.

Furthermore, in this particular instance, the development proposal will inevitably restrict utilisation of the airfield from certain directions and thereby compromise the very feature for which Bicester Aerodrome is renowned, that being its omnidirectional operations. Consequently we must object to the proposal.

Yours sincerely

Alison Randle MSc

Development Officer

cc: Peter Harvey Chairman Bicester Gliding Centre
Dave Latimer Chair BGA Development Committee
Pete Stratten BGA Chief Executive
Richard Peats Historic England
Bob Sharples RIBA MRTPI Principal Planning Manager - South Team, Sport England