

Comment for planning application 20/02469/SCOP

Application Number	20/02469/SCOP
Location	Land On The North East Side Of Gavray Drive Bicester
Proposal	Scoping Opinion - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the allocated Gavray Drive site in Bicester
Case Officer	Bernadette Owens
Organisation Name	Patricia Clissold
Address	10 Woodpecker Close, Bicester, OX26 6WY
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Comment on 20/02469/SCOP At this stage I am making comments only on the scoping proposal. The site which comprises Bicester 13 also includes a Local Wildlife Site of 15 hectares, which was designated by the Thames Valley Record Centre in 2002. The last survey of species by TVERC took place in 2014. It has not received ANY conservation work since about 2004 when Gallagher Estates bought it. Land Q, successors to Gallagher, have now offered a plan for its conservation by an Ecology Company which they will pay for. Lack of conservation work means that the whole area eventually becomes impenetrable, thorny scrub. This has happened already in the SE corner and in the NE corner outside the LWS. There were wild orchids in the SE corner and many butterflies in the summer that have now all gone because of the dense scrub. This scenario is now happening in the LWS. and it will eventually lose the valued habitat of lowland meadow. TVERC is obliged by the government to regularly check every 5 years all LWS for their environmental value to wildlife. Gavray's last check was in 2014, six years ago. Gavray Meadows is now "on hold" awaiting the outcome of planning applications. After 16 years of Cherwell Planning applications, there is still NO decision. How long must we wait? In order to get this present application through Cherwell Planning, the present owners have moved considerably in the direction of helping wildlife. L and Q have agreed with Cherwell DC to lower the number of houses from the initial 300 in the 2004 plan to only 202 houses in 2020. Originally, in 2004 no wildlife corridors were left. Now there is considerable scope for wildlife to travel along hedges, etc to the east of the ring road, the A4421. The ring road constitutes a major hazard to terrestrial life trying to cross over to the remnants of the wildlife site 52W01 and would benefit from a 40mph speed limit. Such a measure would attenuate traffic noise (from tyres) in the Gavray Meadows. They have left all the oak trees with TPOs, a very important point for wildlife and we hope also the old willows along the Langford Brook. The health of Langford Brook also has to be considered. They have agreed to pay for and put in place a Conservation Plan for a limited period of time (one year?). This agreement should be sufficient to restore the "bare bones" of the layout of the pre-war farms with hedgerows and places of shelter for draught horses (where the devil's-bit scabious grows). This agreement comes at a monetary cost to L and Q, AND a cost to us of losing land to houses to the east of the LWS. This is the BALD CHOICE, houses with conservation of the LWS, or NO conservation put in place. House building always makes a huge noise, results in light pollution, alteration of water table levels, etc. I reserve my right to support or oppose this policy until it progresses further.</p>
Received Date	23/09/2020 13:18:21
Attachments	The following files have been uploaded: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1922old-map.pdf• 1881enl.pdf