

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>LNRs, the new CTAs. (edited) This application needs to plan for the future and take note of Government guidance on Local Nature Recovery Strategies (March 2020, LNRs). LNRs will guide smooth and effective delivery of biodiversity net gain and other nature recovery measures by helping developers and planning authorities avoid the most valuable existing habitat and focus habitat creation or improvement where it will achieve the most. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/10-march-2020-nature-and-conservation-covenants-parts-6-and-7 In the Environment Bill, the government will introduce new duties to support better spatial planning for nature through the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRs). Our rivers and streams are corridors for wildlife, but according to https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB106039030160 Langford Brook upstream of the A41 (to its source) is only in a moderate state of health. The Ray CTA follows the catchment area of the Oxon Ray (Environment Agency). It is designed to encompass the alluvial floodplain of the Ray and to include LWSs, of which Gavray Meadows is one. Most of the LWSs in the Ray CTA are accessed by footpaths and small tracks/roads. Gavray Meadows is an outlier because it is situated at the Ray CTA's most western end on a narrow strip which just encompasses the Langford Brook. The Ray CTA is 2423 hectares in area. The 2018 Cherwell ESD11 states that "Development which would prevent the aims of a Conservation Target Area being achieved will not be permitted." However, this application encroaches on <0.1% of the CTA on its very edge and does not prevent the aims of the Ray CTA. The wildlife corridor into the LWS split off from Bic13 across the opposite side of the A4421 is still present. The A4421 is the obstacle, rather than the corner of the CTA removed by the present application for houses. I am more concerned to preserve the wildlife corridor formed by Langford Brook. This water course was described as major by the Environment Agency. Its health is documented at https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB106039030160 It is not beyond improvement from "moderate" to "good". It is far more important (than the area taken by this application) that Langford Brook is respected as a part of the Ray CTA delineating the Ray CTA's western boundary. The L. Brook can form a valid LNRs, but requires acknowledgement as such in this application.</p>
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Attachments	