

Dear Mr Smith

Wroxton MX - 21/00517/F

**Ecology harm: "It is difficult, however, from an ecological point of view, to support an application for the recreational use of fossil fuels with the noise and emissions that it entails"**

Many of us, who live near Wroxton MX track, have studied the Environmental Protection and Ecology reports. They were loaded onto the Planning portal, rather concerningly, the day after the extended consultation period ended but, being crucial, require consultation and public feedback in our now further-extended process period. (The alarmingly brief and partial Environmental Protection response was loaded at the same time and we have reserved comments on that for separate communications.)

The Ecology response seems reasonable. It expresses doubt about the potential effectiveness of flood controls and siltation and the likely inadequacy of a proposed planted hedgerow as a means of biodiversity compensation. It also covers the impact of noise on the nesting birds of the woodland community opposite the track and the unavoidable light pollution; in fact, the latter is caused by both vehicles camping at the site during long event weekends and by tractors and track maintenance vehicles working through the night, before and after races.

In fact, the CDC ecology officer echoes and endorses most of the ecology points raised in the 200 or so response objections already on the portal. She is both acknowledging and validating these important factors, arguing against these aspects of this application. Although she says that some control measures might mitigate the impacts, there is clear hesitancy about their effectiveness and compensatory value in terms of harms inflicted. She withholds final opinion until results of the all-important Great Crested Newt (GCN) survey are available.

She ends, however, with this unequivocal overview statement: "It is difficult, however, from an ecological point of view, to support an application for the recreational use of fossil fuels with the noise and emissions that it entails".

Indeed so: hundreds of giant SUVs and campervans travelling, from all over the UK, to race polluting noisy 4-stroke MX bikes around an area of tranquility, designated by CDC for rural protection, flies in the face of local (CDC), regional (Oxon CC) and national policy.

Thanks to the Ecologist for making this fundamental point that the Environmental Protection response, so far, has conspicuously failed to state.

Chris Brayshay

On behalf of dozens of residents of Hornton, Wroxton and nearby villages