

Lynne Baldwin

From: George Smith
Sent: 09 June 2021 10:29
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: 21/00517/F - Wroxton Motocross Track
Attachments: BBOWT response Wroxton motocross.pdf

From: Kate Prudden <kateprudden@bbowt.org.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2021 09:58
To: George Smith <George.Smith@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Cc: Neil Rowntree <neilrowntree@bbowt.org.uk>; Nathanael Stock <Nathanael.Stock@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>; Charlotte Watkins <Charlotte.Watkins@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 21/00517/F - Wroxton Motocross Track

Hello George,
As promised, attached here and are some BBOWT comments regarding the Wroxton motocross retrospective planning application.
I'm sorry I couldn't get this to you sooner given the short notice and my existing commitments.
I hope it is still in time to be useful.

All the best,
Kate

Kate Prudden
Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project Officer
and Catchment Partnerships Officer (Windrush and Cherwell/Ray)
Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore,
Oxford, OX4 4XT
Mobile: 07712 898115
www.bbowt.org.uk

My working hours are normally 0800 – 1600. I work 0.5 FTE for each of my roles. (I am presently still working from home and also working flexi hours which may be out of normal office hours, but I do not expect a response to my email during those times).

From: George Smith <George.Smith@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 June 2021 08:30
To: Kate Prudden <kateprudden@bbowt.org.uk>
Cc: Neil Rowntree <neilrowntree@bbowt.org.uk>; Nathanael Stock <Nathanael.Stock@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 21/00517/F - Wroxton Motocross Track

Hi Kate

First of all just to say thank you for coming back to me so quickly, it is very much appreciated.

See my comments below in red, responding to your questions.

Kind Regards,
George

George Smith MSc
Senior Planning Officer
Development Management
Environment and Place Directorate
Cherwell District Council
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Instructions on how to use the Public Access service to **view, comment on and keep track of applications** can be found at cherwell.gov.uk/viewplanningapp

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From: Kate Prudden <kateprudden@bbowt.org.uk>
Sent: 02 June 2021 17:54
To: George Smith <George.Smith@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Cc: Neil Rowntree <neilrowntree@bbowt.org.uk>
Subject: FW: 21/00517/F - Wroxton Motocross Track
Importance: High

Hi George,

Thank you for your email yesterday and I'm sorry I couldn't reply sooner. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Thank you for seeking our inputs.

Having looked at his diary I believe that Neil Rowntree, our Senior Biodiversity and Planning Officer, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] further decreasing the chance he could comment on this short notice request.

But I aim to get some comments back to you myself by the end of the week for your deadline, adding to those that Charlotte has raised already (as you've attached here).

I've found the planning application through a search of Cherwell's planning site:

<https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/00517/F>

But I've not had a chance to look through in detail.

Neil – for quick reference the site is [here](#).

Is there an update on discussions with Nature Space regarding GCN mitigation and conditions?

With regard to NatureSpace, they are unable to grant a GCN license as the works are retrospective. As it happens the applicant's agent has sent over further ecological and separate GCN enhancement measures yesterday evening, with a separate email from the agent on other comments raised (also attached).

I see that you plan to make a recommendation at the June session, but to defer the ecological matters to officers post-committee. Could we potential add comments at that point?

It would be most useful to us to have something from BBOWT to be able to put in our committee report, advance of the agenda being published, which is finalised Monday/Tuesday next week. However, we were not expecting the applicant to submit this updated info this close to our report deadlines. As you say above, if you could get some comments back to me this week that would be fantastic. We can then liaise further on ecological matters with Neil if necessary next week and post-committee where needed.

Some quick headline points here are that:

* not only is the motocross site within the Northern Valleys CTA it is right next to a headwater of the Sor Brook, a key part of the Cherwell and Ray catchment partnership area. I am the officer for BBOWT's hosting of this partnership and headwaters such as this are generally particularly significant stretches of waterbody and should have careful protection from impacts – including sediment load, such as caused by extensive and sustained creation of bare ground on steep slopes such as this.

* The site is upstream of Horley Local Wildlife Site which includes sensitive fen and other wetland habitats liable to degradation from poor water quality including increased sediment load.

* Ideally there would be less exposed soil overall – and in particular not so close to the brook as presently. Also increased use of hedgerows along contours (even in between areas of the track loops where feasible) to better stabilise soils, compensate for all the surface compaction by aiding drainage, and to hold back sediment transport down the slope.

* Hornton Acid Pasture is a proposed Cherwell District Wildlife Site set a short distance across the valley. Not only are there likely impacts of sound and artificial lights on this site, but also the motocross site may have similar geology, meaning that it has/had potential for acid grassland habitat – of significance in this District and county.

* From a quick review I back all of the points that Charlotte has put forwards, adding emphasis to the wildlife disturbance and loss of landscape quality caused by artificial lighting.

All the best, Kate

Kate Prudden
Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project Officer
and Catchment Partnerships Officer (Windrush and Cherwell/Ray)
Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
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(Due to the current lockdown, I am working flexi hours which may be out of normal office hours, but I do not expect a response to my email during this time).

From: George Smith <George.Smith@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 June 2021 12:26
To: Kate Prudden <kateprudden@bbowt.org.uk>
Subject: 21/00517/F - Wroxton Motocross Track
Importance: High

Hi Kate

I have an application to regularise a motocross track at the above site, which has gradually expanded and is now being sought to be regularised after some enforcement complaints in the last couple of years.

Part of the site is within a CTA. Unfortunately as an oversight BBOWT were not consulted. Our Ecologist has raised some concerns about the app, but feels that an overall objection would not be reasonable given the track has been there for c.40 years. I have attached emails of concerns that Charlotte has raised. The agent has advised that GCNs have been found in the smaller of the two ponds to the north of the track and they are working on a mitigation strategy.

I am actually writing up my committee report this week to hopefully get it on the June agenda. At the moment our plan is to make a recommendation, but to defer the ecological matters to officers post-committee.

I am just wondering whether there is any possibility that BBOWT could make comment on the application this week? Please do not hesitate to give me a call if you wish to discuss this further.

Kind Regards,
George

George Smith MSc
Senior Planning Officer
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Cherwell District Council
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