

We are residents of the Parish of Stratton Audley which is situated within a conservation area, and lived here for twenty six years, Stratton Audley consists of many listed buildings a church and a historical site.

We have concerns as follows regarding the application submitted by Bicester Motion 21/01224/OUT

The Quarry

I refer to extracts from the TVERC 2018 Survey Report produced for Oxfordshire County Council

- The site includes the habitats of principal importance – open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, ponds and lowland fen. It also includes areas of unimproved calcareous grassland that has elements of Lowland Calcareous grassland. These habitats are a priority for conservation and should be retained through sensitive management. The areas of lowland fen vary in their botanical species-richness and support a good population of southern marsh-orchids. The diversity of habitat on the site should be retained including scattered and denser scrub and variation from dry to waterlogged ground.

- The site has records for a range of rare, scarce and declining species. It is desirable to maintain populations of these species on the site and where the habitat requirements of these species are known, they should be incorporated into management plans. PN7

- The site is of county importance for its habitat and species interest. The site is potentially an important site for invertebrates and likely to have interest for a number of different species groups but additional surveys are required to assess this.

- The site provides valuable habitat for invertebrates and additional surveys are recommended including freshwater invertebrates and soldier flies.

- The site is likely to support a range of legally protected species with existing records for breeding birds, grass snake, great crested newt, badger and bat species. When the details of proposed management options are known, the potential impacts on these species will need to be assessed and appropriate precautions taken to avoid negative impacts.

Any disturbance to the site which has remained untouched for many years will change the structure and have an environmental impact to the mentioned area.

Traffic

Bicester Motion have quoted around 400,000 people will visit the Experience Quarter and have stated an average of two persons per car will visit, taking into account the facility will be open 365 days per year but not public holidays which relates to 359 days per year, my estimate is 1114 visitors per day with transportation of between 557 – 1114 vehicles entering the site, or 1114 – 2228 entering and leaving the site per day, the actual figure per day will fluctuate and exact calculations cannot be given.

Vehicles passing through Stratton Audley are on the increase with many vintage sports cars passing through the village believed to be from Bicester Motion, for what reason is unknown whether on route, or road testing, the engine noise emitted from these particular vehicles is above the normal road vehicle.

Careful consideration should be given to divert vehicles visiting Bicester Motion away from the village, any planned entrance, or exit to the site within Bicester Road will only increase traffic within the village.

Noise

The noise assessment submitted by SPL Track which was carried out on March 24th 2021 using a selection of vehicles was heard and noted within the Bicester Road, Stratton Audley area. The North Eastern part of the perimeter track is situated only 942 metres from the Stratton Audley Conservation Area boundary.

The noise assessment used three monitors one 20metres from the centre of the track and two on the western boundary near to Caversfield, mainly to test the noise level for Caversfield, a very light South Westerly wind was blowing on the day, as the site is a vast open area the wind will carry sound to neighbouring villages Stratton Audley and Launton for which no consideration has been shown.

My opinion on the results are questionable they do not show the true decibel rates for the Caversfield area due to wind direction but even with a light wind the sound travelled to Stratton Audley, the South Westerly wind direction is the most common for Bicester and surrounding areas which the testing fails to show, taking into consideration the SPK comment (2.5) there will be higher noise levels through non standard track events, it remains to be seen how many of these events are planned together with the duration. There are also three care homes surrounding the airfield which careful consideration should be given regarding noise levels.

I would like to see extra tests performed with the range of vehicles planned for the new tracks to establish noise levels for the surrounding areas with varying wind directions taken into account, this will hand the opportunity to local residents and the LPA to judge the noise levels, also to have the ability to view the testing through a live webcam, Bicester Motion to notify Parish Councils, LPA and residents of the test timetable.

Aircraft

We have experienced issues in the past with aircraft stationed at Bicester Motion flying over Stratton Audley performing illegal manoeuvres above the village, complaints were made to Mr Geoghegan and passed onto Charlie Morgan of Bicester Aerodrome Company, I give Mr Morgan his due most aircraft flying above Stratton Audley has ceased, unfortunately we recently had an aircraft when leaving the airfield flew above Stratton Audley performing a victory roll, local pilots are aware of the no fly zone above the village but some visiting pilots ignore the rule.

The issue I have is with the amount of visitors quoted around 400000 per year air flights operating from the airfield will increase considerably, stationed at the airfield are two Tiger Moths together with a Avions Mudry CAP10B performance aircraft, all are noisy especially the latter which can be clearly heard even when not flying above Stratton Audley.

With the visitor numbers quoted it is obvious that flying companies within the airfield will benefit encouraging more flights to the area.

Artificial Lighting at Night ALAN

Bicester Motion has not submitted any plans or reports for artificial lighting at night.

This is a very important area of concern, Stratton Audley is a village without any street lighting, the sky above offers good vision at night without any light pollution, there are nesting bats within the area together with nesting boxes provided by Stratton Audley residents under the guidance of the LPA, the quarry with the plantation and water offers a good source of food for the mixed variety of bats species, any artificial exterior lighting to

be installed within the site will create pollution to our skies together with possible loss of bats to the area.

Conclusion

The majority of objections relate to noise which is the main issue against the application, further noise testing around the boundary is certainly required.

Traffic is another consideration as the site will be operating 365 days a year with only estimated vehicle movements calculated pollution levels could increase within the area.

The omission of any artificial lighting report is a concern as mentioned which if installed would have a dramatic environmental consequence within the quarry site and the skies of Stratton Audley.

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