

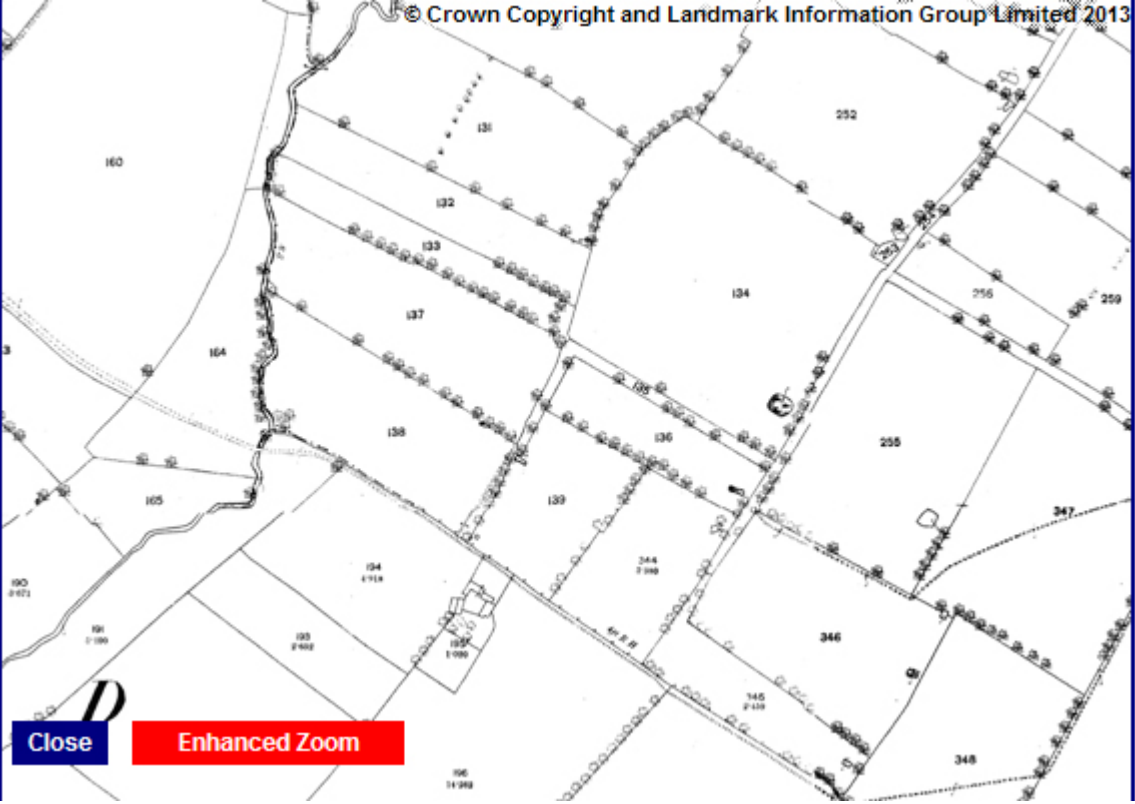
Comment for planning application 21/03558/OUT

Application Number	21/03558/OUT
Location	Land On The North East Side Of Gavray Drive Bicester
Proposal	OUTLINE - Residential development for up to 250 dwellings including affordable housing and ancillary uses including retained Local Wildlife Site, public open space, play areas, localised land remodelling, compensatory flood storage, structural planting and access.
Case Officer	Caroline Ford
Organisation Name	Patricia Clissold
Address	10 Woodpecker Close, Bicester, OX26 6WY
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I support this application because I think that it will benefit wildlife in the present circumstances existing in Bicester: This area of land has been part of the Cherwell Plan as Policy 13 ever since it was sold to developers in 2004. It was removed from the plan but was re-adopted in December 2016 by Cherwell District Council. See https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/83/local-plans/376/adopted-cherwell-local-plan-2011-2031-part-1 Gavray is a very small part of the huge development that has been proceeding in Bicester for the last ten years. Bicester is now split in two by railway lines, encircled by a ring road which carries a huge number of HGVs and an industrial estate sited next to houses that works all night. The Gavray site is small but critical to wildlife survival in Bicester. Langford Brook, a major water course, runs through the midst of Bicester 13, and is prone to pollution by upstream sites. We must look after whatever green fields are left. I believe that this is best achieved in the case of Bicester Policy 13 by allowing these latest plans through. The new developers have halved the number of houses (from 500 down to 250) and kept most of them to the west side of Langford Brook and all completely out of the LWS and CTA (Conservation Target Area). LandQ have consulted with our group (Save Gavray Meadows) regularly by Zoom meetings and have incorporated our suggestions such as retaining the impromptu permissive path round the edge of the main 15 ha site on the east side of the Langford Brook for people to walk round to observe wildlife. The hedges that have been there for generations and are essential for brown hairstreak butterflies, will be retained. The Ecology Company EDP have promised to rescue the two fields of devil's bit-scabious from bramble encroachment and to clear up the rubbish trapped in Langford Brook. The main footpath 129/4 will be accessible with its ancient oaks. The habitat requirement for lowland meadow wildlife are complex and need the expertise of an ecology company (like EDP) for correct conservation. For example birds of prey like kestrel need shorter grass (12 inches?) to see their prey. To preserve this area we cannot just let Nature get on with it. There must be a balance maintained between very vigorous plants and rarer species. We are aiming for the best outcome for a variety of wildlife. Think food and then nesting places and then connectivity. We are trying to get in place a permanent funding scheme, but LandQ are funding the initial conservation work which is desperately required NOW. If we veto this application, it will NOT help wildlife. There is another site, LPR-A-071, on the east side of the A4421 ring road which is still part of Gavray Meadows wildlife site 52W01, although now cut off by the road. This site is also up for development but it is the wildlife corridor for Gavray out to Blackthorn Hill Meadows (62A02). We must also remember that Gavray Meadows is itself the wildlife corridor for Langford Fields which in turn connects to the Bicester Wetland Reserve (52Q16) and Graven Hill open spaces. Muntjacs can travel for several miles, as do some migratory birds, between sites. We need to maintain connectivity between green spaces, if we are to have any wildlife left in Bicester. LandQ should be praised for their efforts to accommodate wildlife and reject building in the LWS and in the CTA.</p> <p>Appendix: 20 years ago, in 2002: http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/Data/Council/20020722/Agenda/\$CHAPTER%20%20%203%20HOUSING.doc.pdf See page 6 under the heading Phase 2, Bicester Land north of Gavray Drive 565 170 Greenfield land YES Original proposal for 565 houses plus a primary school.</p>

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Attachments The following files have been uploaded:

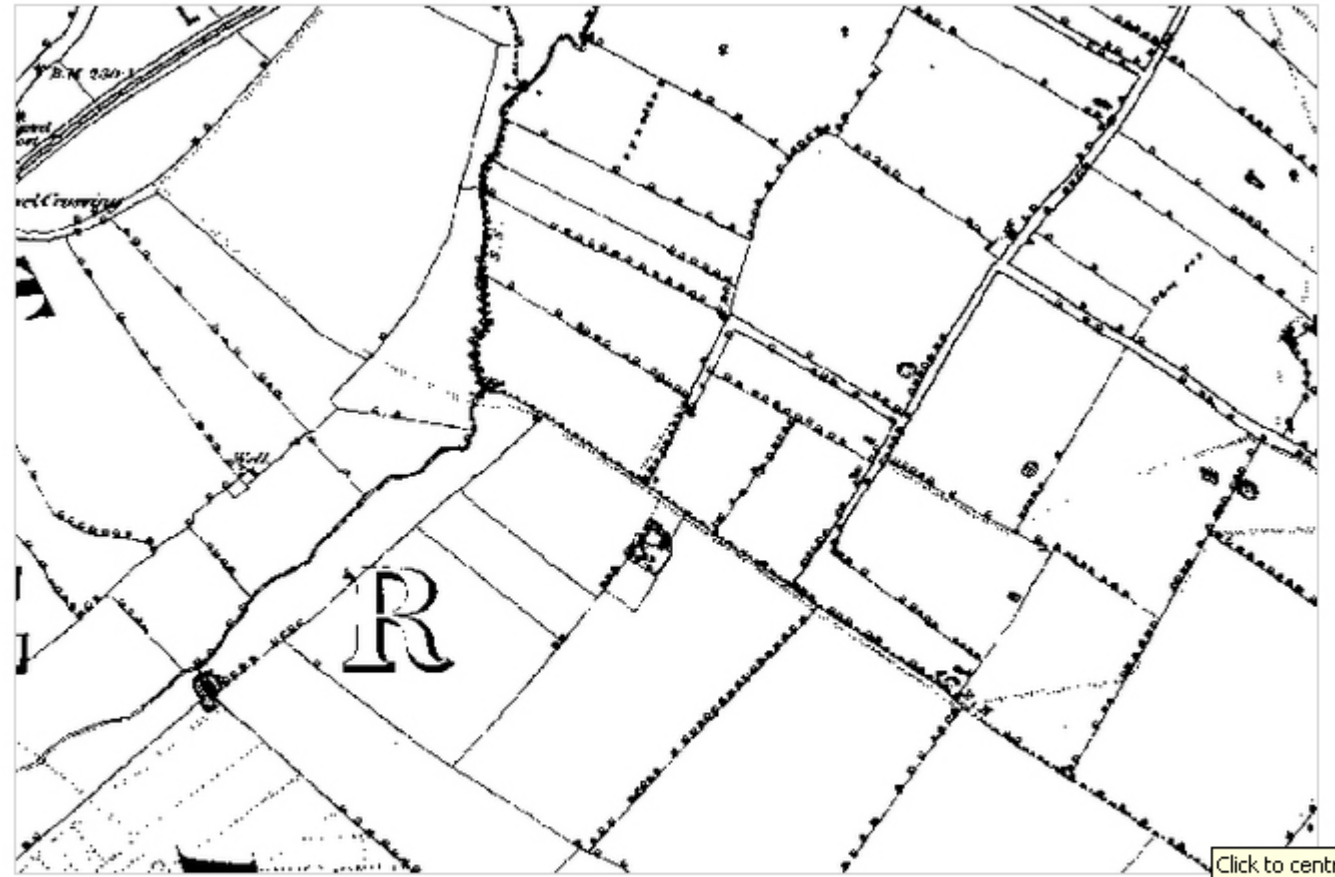
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Publication date

1885

Citation

'England - Oxfordshire: 023', *Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 - Epoch 1* (1885). URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/mapsheet.aspx?>