

Cherwell Council Planning Application - 22/00385/SO

South Northamptonshire Planning Application - WNS/2022/0271/SCR

We believe that this proposal would have a major effect on the local environment and that a full Environmental Impact Assessment is needed to ascertain the extent of damage that any development would cause.

Protection of wildlife

This area has a massive range of wildlife, there are a real variety of different animals in this area, including (but not limited to): bats, deer, weasels, small birds (such as tits and sparrows), medium birds (such as lapwings and woodpeckers) and large birds (such as buzzards and pheasants)

In particular - protection of Lapwings

The Lapwing has a Red UK conservation status and is protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

We live in Nethercote, just south of the A422 and I have personally seen lapwings in the surrounding fields, I even managed to once get a photo!

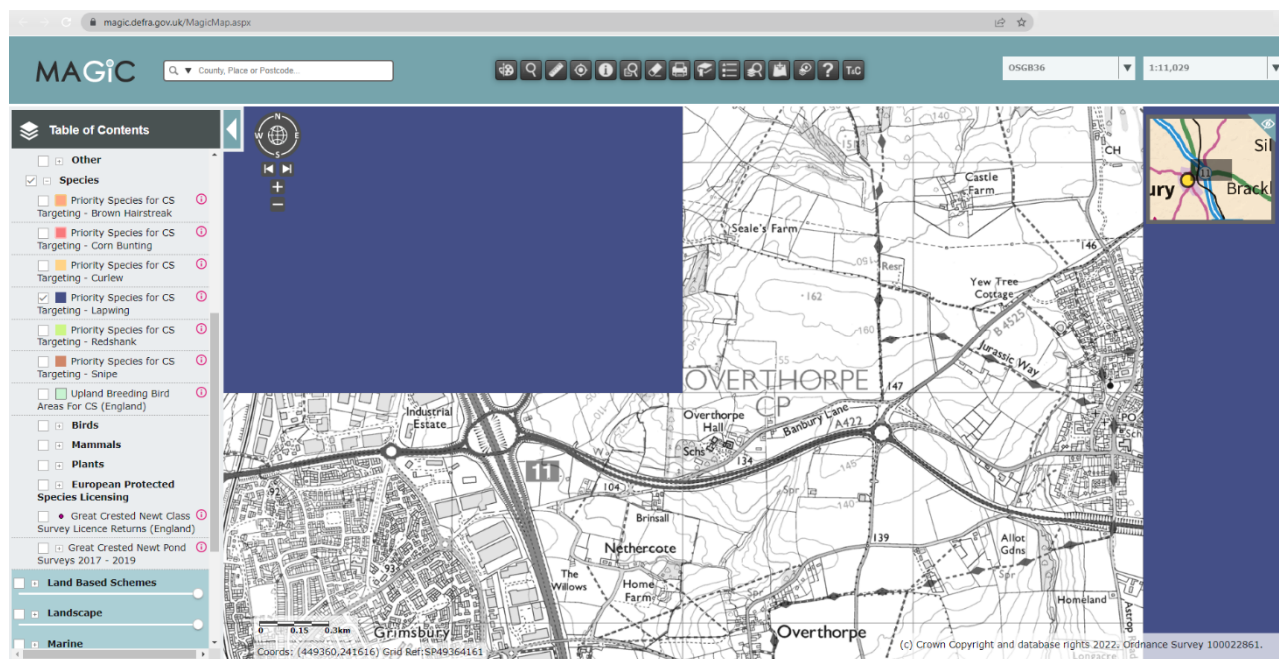
According to DEFRA, part site is in an area designated as a "Priority Species for CS Targeting – Lapwing habitat"



<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

The Northern lapwing is listed as one of four flagship species, in the **Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan**

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/documents/PDF%20Documents/Northamptonshire%20BAP%202015-2020.pdf>



The declines in lapwing population have been greatest in southern England and Wales, where the farming changes have been greatest and farmland is the only suitable habitat for the lapwing. Between 1987 and 1998 lapwing numbers dropped by 49 per cent in England and Wales. Since 1960 the numbers dropped by 80 per cent.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/lapwing/population-trends/>

Development is completely contrary to the Green Buffers Report

We believe that these buffers are also an important corridor for wildlife and nature, especially at sites like this where they lay in the main path of the valley. The development of this site could have a significant impact beyond its boundaries.

The ENV04 Banbury Green Buffers Report clearly states the benefits and reasons that surrounding land around Banbury, such as this site, should not be developed. These include:

- maintain Banbury's distinctive identity and setting,
- protect the separate identity and setting of neighbouring settlements which surround the two towns,
- prevent coalescence and protect the gaps between the existing/planned edge of the towns and surrounding settlements,
- protect the identity and setting of landscape and historic features of value that are important to the identity and setting of the town,
- protect important views.

“The Green Buffers are key to shaping the town and to allow its character as a compact historic market town to be retained”.

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/4183/env04-banbury-green-buffers>

Plans are not coincident with that of the neighbouring Local Gap policy.

The ENV04 Banbury Green Buffers Report, dated September 2013 clearly states, “Extending the Buffer to the District boundary in the east not only protects the settlement of Nethercote, but also provides a policy boundary that is coincident with that of the Local Gap policy in the adjacent District of South Northamptonshire.”

Impact on air quality and noise

Junction 11 of the M40 often cannot cope with the amount of traffic using it and when there is an incident or roadworks in the vicinity, this whole area frequently grinds to a crawl. The A361 and the A422 are not fit to handle the additional traffic that any development would create.

There is virtually no infrastructure in the area to provide a development with any other form of access, other than vehicular. There is no pavement for pedestrians or safe cycling route along the A361, more importantly there is no safe means for pedestrians or cyclists to cross the M40 junction.

Of the two bus routes that currently go past the site, Stagecoach recently announced that it was completely scrapping the 200 bus service in April, due to lack of demand. Some of the buses on the 500 service do go past to Chacombe, but not evenings or Sundays, so are not a practical method for accessing the proposed site.

Therefore, any development will have an impact on the air pollution in the area, which has been shown to have an adverse effect on wildlife!

Air pollution is a major environmental pressure that is felt at a range of scales, from local, to regional, to global. Air pollutants can affect biodiversity and ecosystem services, harm human health and contribute to climate change. Air pollution has caused widespread changes to sensitive ecosystems in the UK.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/air-pollution/>

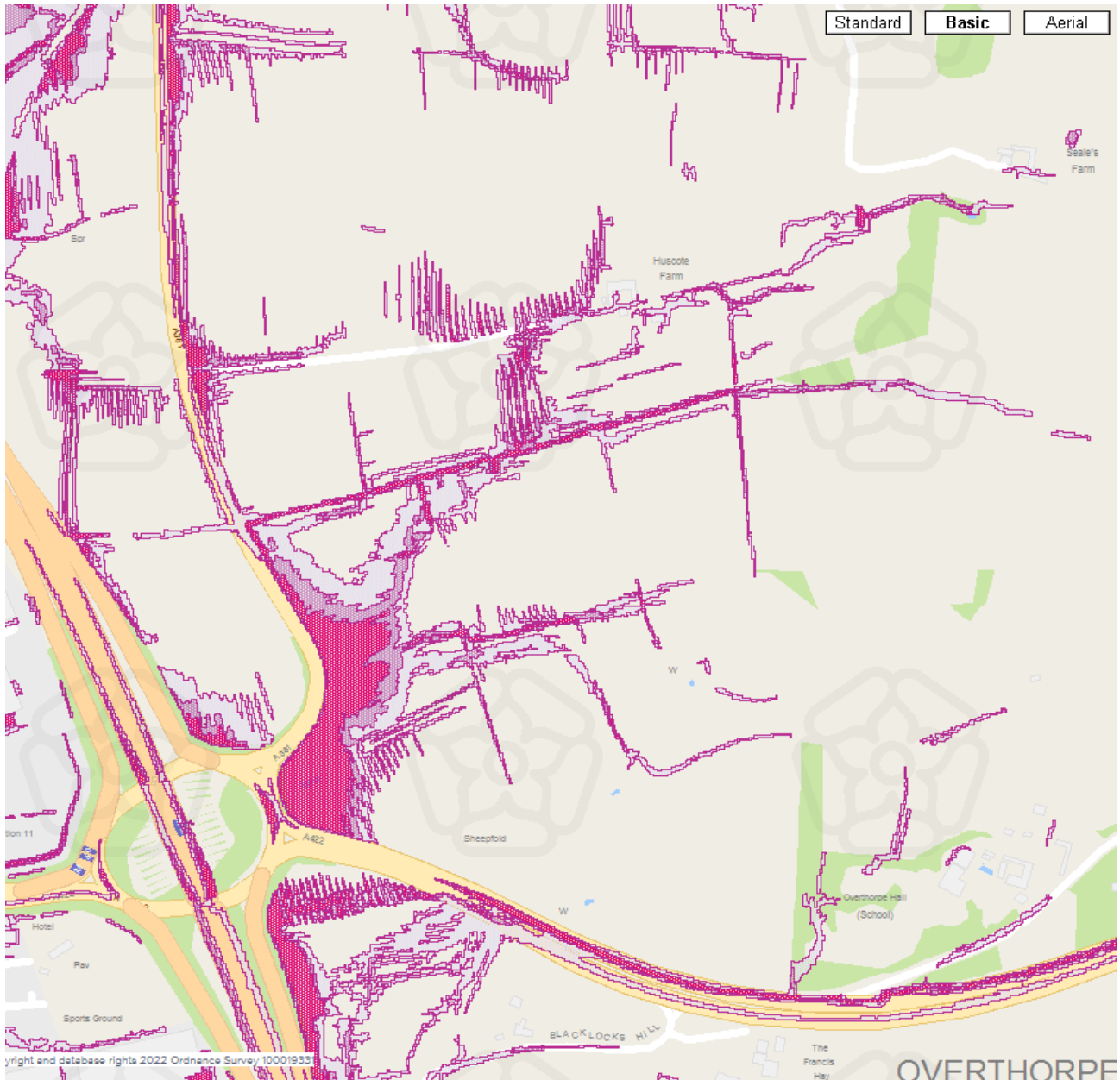
We are also concerned that Carrdus School is on the south-east corner of the site and poor area quality has been shown to have a disproportionate damaging effect on children's lungs.

Any increase in noise pollution will have a negative effect on the residents of Chacombe, Banbury Lane and Nethercote. Noise pollution also affects wildlife and this would need to be investigated.

Impact on flooding management

The Northamptonshire Flood Toolkit and the Oxfordshire Treescapes Project maps (among others) clearly show how the area is at a high risk of flooding from surface water, and therefore is an important natural flood management area.

Consideration and investigation is needed to ascertain where this water will go if the site built on and if those areas can cope with the additional water, especially areas with residential properties (for example, Chacombe and Nethercote).



<https://www.floodtoolkit.com/risk/>

<https://oxfordshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eb12c27850c7497790c1f0a05f38c2a9>

Light pollution

Banbury already causes a massive amount of light pollution in this area. The current green buffer gives wildlife some safety from harm, it also provides an important buffer to the surrounding residents. The sheer number of industrial units on the east side of Banbury, and the high levels of light pollution they emit must not be allowed to increase!

The problem of the additional light pollution needs to be considered, as per the Government's guidance on light pollution www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution

“Artificial light can wreak havoc on natural body rhythms in both humans and animals. Nocturnal light interrupts sleep and confuses the circadian rhythm—the internal, twenty-four-hour clock that guides day and night activities and affects physiological processes in nearly all living organisms.”

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/light-pollution>



Environmental vandalism!

This site is visible for miles due to its location in the valley, it is environmental vandalism to build over such a large area of healthy green land!