

Rachel Tibbetts

From: Judy Webb [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 September 2023 21:15
To: Planning
Subject: Comments on 23/02276/SCOP New Stadium

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Dear Sir or Madam

Please find below my comments on this Scoping Opinion document by Ridge for 23/02276/SCOP New Stadium

I'm an experienced Freelance Local Ecological Consultant and I have lived in Kidlington since 1984. I am very familiar with the ecology and habitats and road verges in the area south of Kidlington including Stratfield Brake District Wildlife Site, the Woodland Trust tree plantings and the constructed wetland complex by the canal.

I have nothing against football as a sport, but my ecological experience and detailed knowledge of the area leads me to the conclusion that the Triangle is completely the wrong situation for a new OUFU stadium, in a high biodiversity area in what should be protected greenbelt and immediately adjacent to protected priority habitat of ancient woodland.

I have read carefully the document posted on your website from BBOWT, '**Proposal: Scoping opinion - new stadium development**' and I have to say that I **completely agree with every word of it**, especially their comments on section 6.16, discussing ecological surveys and comments on habitats and species by the firm 'Ecology Solutions'.

Quote from the Ridge document:

'6.16. The majority of the habitats across the Site, such as the willow plantation, are considered to be of little intrinsic ecological value. The areas of semi-improved grassland and scrub is also considered to be of low ecological value in terms of its species content, comprising only common and widespread species.'

Their statement here cannot be informed by sufficient accurate and frequent surveying. This firm has downplayed the importance of wildlife on a site I know to be biodiverse. I find this deeply concerning. Decisions should never be made on inadequate ecological surveys.

In my opinion, developing this site will cause a huge biodiversity loss, at a time when we are in a **Biodiversity Emergency**.

I have one further comment on this Scoping Opinion document. In section 12 Flood Risk, there is a diagram 12.3 '**Surface water flood risk for the site**' which is incomplete/inaccurate, i.e. it does not show the extensive surface water flooding that I see along the east side ditch at the southern end of the Triangle as I travel regularly along Oxford Road. Water ponds in a temporary linear water body all along the hedge and at the base of the oak trees here in winter. Flooding on this side is equally as severe as is shown on this diagram for the west side of the site. This map needs to be revised and accuracy improved. Developing a site with considerable surface water flooding risk? Better to leave it to the wetland wildlife that lives there.

please acknowledge receipt of these comments,

regards

Judy Webb

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