

Our Ref : WA/2004/010343-1/1
Your Ref : BC/cjb/1644



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

Date : 15 December 2004

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RECEIVED	24 DEC 2004
FILE No.	1644.
ACTION BY	PE/E/be
NOTED	B 35

Dear Sir/Madam

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
COLLEGE FIELDS, LAND OFF BANKSIDE, BANBURY**

FILE REF:SP34NE/17/2

Thank you for recent consultation with us, received on the 25 November 2004.

The Environment Agency's remit covers issues such as ecology and fisheries, recreation and access to rivers, flooding, water quality and water resources. We would not be able to comment on issues related to landscape and the countryside. With regard to those issues the Agency is concerned with however, we wish to make the following comments.

ECOLOGY

Conservation: contact Leslie Sproat on 01491 828353

The proposal site does not lie within a Special Area of Conservation (European Designated Habitats Directive), Special Protection Area (European Designated Birds Directive), SSSI or a County Wildlife Site. However, due to the proximity of this site to the Oxford Canal we would expect an ecological survey, including protected species, to be carried out on the land within the site, including any ditches etc and on the Oxford Canal in the vicinity of the site. The various surveys should be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced field ecologists within the correct season for the species/fields of interest.

With regard to the proposed development, we would expect to see an undeveloped buffer strip along the canal and any watercourses/water features on the site. Additionally, we would request the retention of any features such as hedges and copses, which could act as green corridors/stepping stones through the development. These features should be managed/enhanced to maximise their ecological value, in line with PPS9: Nature Conservation.