



**British
Waterways**

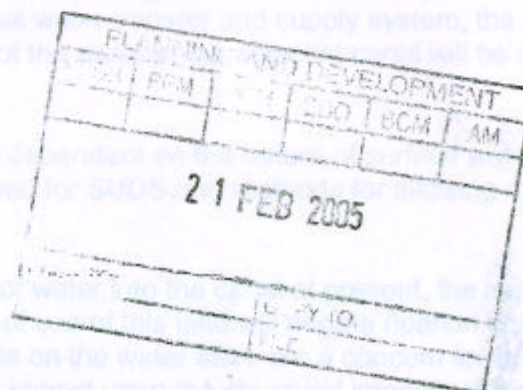


Your Ref: AW/PLI/24/1/10/2/1

Our Ref: SE/CHW/ESSR/01

Mr Tony Wilson
Principle Planning Officer
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
BANBURY
Oxfordshire OX15 4AA

16 February 2005



Dear Mr Wilson

Location: Bankside, Banbury

Proposal: Environmental Statement Scoping Report

Thank you for consulting British Waterways on the above scoping report. We have the following advice in respect of the scoping report:-

Landscape & Visual Resources

British Waterways has a statutory responsibility to protect the heritage value of the waterways and is expected to provide stewardship for ensuring landscape quality of the waterways corridors. The landscape character of inland waterways on most occasions extends beyond the immediate boundary of the waterways infrastructure. At this site this is of major relevance as the Oxford Canal follows the length of the Cherwell river valley.

British Waterways has modified and extensively used the landscape evaluation technique devised by the former National Rivers Authority to define the visual envelope, landscape character, and visual quality of our canals and river navigations. That is, the landscape elements and their contribution, the aesthetic characteristics, perceptual quality of the landscape and notable vistas and views from the water itself at boat level and the towing path as well as views from the land to water which need to be protected.

British Waterways has used the landscape evaluation technique to provide opportunities for landscape improvements such as boundary improvements, ecological enhancement and habitat creation opportunities, key links and connections including towing path and access improvements as well as opportunities to develop, water-related recreation and amenity use. We will expect the environmental statement to fully address this issue and include the Oxford Canal within all studies.

Ecology & Nature Conservation

The baseline archaeological survey must be relevant to the habitats provided by the adjacent canal. The waterscape and banks of the canals support a wide range of species and habitats. The impact of development adjacent to the canal at the site must be carefully

South East Waterways

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