

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road  
Littlemore  
Oxford  
OX4 4XT

Alex Keen  
Cherwell District Council  
Bodicote House  
Bodicote

**By email only**

29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Dear Alex Keen,

**Re: 15/00148/DISC | Discharge of conditions 69, 71, 74 and 75 of  
11/01494/OUT | Sites B C D And E MOD Bicester Murcott Road Upper Arcott**

Thank you for consulting the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) on the above planning application. As a wildlife conservation charity, our comments relate specifically to the protection and enhancement of the local ecology on and around the application site.

**Protected Species Report**

I note that breeding bird and invertebrate surveys have yet to be submitted; these should be provided before the condition is discharged. These surveys should also be used to further inform the Habitat Creation and Management Plan.

Significant consideration will need to be given to mitigation measures for the large population of Great Crested Newts for which, as is recognised in the report, a Natural England EPS licence will be required. The newly created habitats mentioned will need to be established prior to any translocation work taking place, these habitats should be located to allow connectivity with future habitats created to mitigate GCN habitats lost from LTA2 to allow for a meta-population to re-establish.

**Habitat Creation and Management Plan**

A key area for habitat management is Graven Hill Wood LWS; I understand that a management plan for the wood will be submitted under the Section 106 agreement.

It is unfortunately not possible to distinguish on the plan provided for consultation between the various different types of grassland that are to be provided (species rich amenity grassland, tussocky grassland, species rich wet grassland and wildflower meadow); it is therefore hard to comment on factors such as habitat connectivity across the site. I note that figures are given for the amount of habitat lost and created, it would be useful to extend this exercise to apply DEFRA's Biodiversity

Metric (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-paper-the-metric-for-the-biodiversity-offsetting-pilot-in-england>) to help demonstrate biodiversity net gain.

There are several measures suggested in the Protected Species Report, that do not seem to have been incorporated in the Habitat Creation and Management Plan, including the provision of 'hop overs' for Barbastelle bats, wildlife friendly pavement curbs, and modified culverts for GCN.

I hope that these comments are useful; should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Micklem  
Senior Conservation Officer (Oxfordshire)

beccymicklem@bbowt.org.uk