**From:** Charlotte Watkins
**Sent:** 24 May 2016 11:00
**To:** Matthew Coyne
**Subject:** 16/00844/F Land abutting Bicester Village Car Park Pingle Drive Bicester

Matthew

The proposals appear to directly affect a watercourse. Currently no ecological information has been submitted. There are records of Otters using this particular stretch of the watercourse next to the road bridge. Otters are a European Protected Species receiving a high level of protection of individuals, resting places and habitats and the potential impacts upon them both during construction and operation need to be known before any work begins. Where Otters are present a licence may be needed.

For example are they still present on his watercourse, how will their access be affected if so, are there any holts in this area, what lighting is proposed (Otters are particular sensitive to this), will there be increased disturbance of the bankside, will any trees be lost etc.. Otters often favour use of areas under structures such as road bridges. In addition Otters are a Priority species and therefore we should have regard to their conservation. Measures should be included within the landscaping plans to enhance the site for Otters where possible.

In short, we need as a minimum a walkover survey assessing the impacts on the ecology of the site and on the watercourse (to include Otters). Whilst they have made suggestions for landscaping there is nothing on the potential impacts on the current ecology of this area or how the construction phase will avoid pollution of the watercourse or disturbance of the banks and existing trees. Even though light pollution at this point is likely to already be moderately high we also need to know if additional lighting is proposed.

Regards

Charlotte

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