

Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1)
Policy Bicester 13 – Modified Policy For Adoption

Modification: Deleted text shown in tracked changes. There are no other modifications.

Reason: To comply with Order of the High Court of Justice, Case No. CO/4622/2015, 19 February 2016, and Inspector's Addendum Report on the Examination of the Cherwell Local Plan, 18 May 2016

Modified Policy:

**Strategic Development: Bicester
13 – Gavray Drive**

C.104 The majority of the site is part of the River Ray Conservation Target Area. Part of the site is a Local Wildlife Site and is situated to the east of Bicester town centre. It is bounded by railway lines to the north and west. The site comprises individual trees, tree and hedgerow groups, and

scrubland/vegetation. The Langford Brook water course flows through the middle of the site.

C.105 The central and eastern section of the site contains lowland meadow, a BAP priority habitat. There are a number of protected species located towards the eastern part of the site. There are several ponds and a small stream, known as the Langford Brook, which runs from north to south through the middle of the site. A

range of wildlife has been recorded including butterflies, great crested newts and other amphibians, reptiles, bats and birds.

C.106 There are risks of flooding on some parts of the site therefore mitigation measures must be considered. There is also a risk of harming the large number of recorded protected species towards the eastern part of the site. Impacts need to be

minimised by any proposal. Approximately

a quarter of the site is within Flood Zones 2 and 3 therefore any development would need to be directed away from this area.

C.107 Although there are a number of known constraints such as Flood Zone 3, River Ray Conservation Target Area and protected species, this could be addressed with appropriate mitigation measures by any proposal.

Policy Bicester 13: Gavray Drive

Development Area: 23 hectares

Development Description: a housing site to the east of Bicester town centre. It is bounded by railway lines to the north and west and the A4421 to the east

Housing

- **Number of homes - 300 dwellings**
- **Affordable Housing - 30%.**

Infrastructure Needs

- **Education – Contributions sought towards provision of primary and secondary school places**
- **Open Space – to include general greenspace, play space, allotments and sports provision as outlined in Policy BSC11: Local Standards of Provision**
– **Outdoor Recreation. A contribution to off-site formal sports provision will be required.**
- **Community – contributions towards community facilities**
- **Access and movement – from Gavray Drive.**

Key site specific design and place shaping principles

- **Proposals should comply with Policy ESD15.**
- **A high quality development that is locally distinctive in its form, materials and architecture. A well designed approach to the urban edge which relates to the road and rail corridors.**
- **~~That part of the site within the Conservation Target Area should be kept free from built development.~~ Development must avoid**

adversely impacting on the Conservation Target Area and comply with the requirements of Policy ESD11 to secure a net biodiversity gain.

- Protection of the Local Wildlife Site and consideration of its relationship and interface with residential and other built development.
- Detailed consideration of ecological impacts, wildlife mitigation and the creation, restoration and enhancement of wildlife corridors to protect and enhance biodiversity. The preparation and implementation of an Ecological Management Plan to ensure the long-term conservation of habitats and species within the site.
- Development proposals to be accompanied and influenced by landscape/visual and heritage impact assessments.
- The preparation of a structural landscaping scheme, which incorporates and enhances existing natural features and vegetation. The structural landscaping scheme should inform the design principles for the site.

Development should retain and enhance significant landscape features (e.g. hedgerows) which are or have the potential to be of ecological value.

A central area of open space either side of Langford Brook, incorporating part of the Local Wildlife Site and with access appropriately managed to protect ecological value. No formal recreation within the Local Wildlife Site.

- Provision of public open space to form a well connected network of green areas within the site, suitable for formal and informal recreation.
- Provision of Green Infrastructure links beyond the development site to the wider town and open countryside.
- Retention of Public Rights of Way and a layout that affords good access to the countryside.
- New footpaths and cycleways should be provided that link with existing networks, the wider urban area and schools and community facilities.
Access should be provided over the railway to the town centre.
- A linked network of footways which cross the central open space, and connect Langford Village, Stream Walk and Bicester Distribution Park.
- Ensure that there are no detrimental impacts on downstream Sites of Special Scientific Interest through hydrological, hydro chemical or sedimentation impacts.
- A layout that maximises the potential for walkable neighbourhoods and enables a high degree of integration and connectivity between new and existing communities.

- **A legible hierarchy of routes to encourage sustainable modes of travel.
Good accessibility to public transport services with local bus stops provided. Provision of a transport assessment and Travel Plan.**
- **Additional bus stops on the A4421 Charbridge Lane will be provided, with connecting footpaths from the development. The developers will contribute to the cost of improving local bus services.**
- **Provision of appropriate lighting and the minimisation of light pollution based on appropriate technical assessment.**
- **Provision of public art to enhance the quality of the place, legibility and identity.**
- **Demonstration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures including exemplary demonstration of compliance with the requirements of policies ESD 1 – 5.**
- **Take account of the Council's SFRA for the site.**
- **Consideration of flood risk from Langford Brook in a Flood Risk Assessment and provision of an appropriate buffer. Use of attenuation SuDS techniques (and infiltration techniques in the south eastern area of the site) in accordance with Policy ESD 7: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and taking account of the Council's SFRA.**
- **Housing must be located outside Flood Zone 3 and the principles set out in Policy ESD 6 will be followed.**
- **The provision of extra-care housing and the opportunity for community self-build affordable housing.**
- **An archaeological field evaluation to assess the impact of the development on archaeological features.**
- **A detailed survey of the agricultural land quality identifying the best and most versatile agricultural land and a soil management plan.**