

From: friends ofscp

Sent: 24 January 2019 11:00

To: Developmentmanagement; Dave Galliers; Ian Bushell; David Feather; Joan Jones; Horace Prickett; Sarah Marsh; Trish Marchant; Rasey, Alison

Subject: Application 18/10035/OUT - Church Lane Site, Trowbridge;

Dear Ms Medlin

The Friends of Southwick Country Park commented on RPS's outline plan for the site at Church Lane, Trowbridge (18/10035/OUT). We focussed on their very questionable Preliminary Ecological Assessment, which we found misleading, factually incorrect, and worryingly dismissive of both the park and of Lambrok Stream.

Our evidence seems to show that the Lambrok is an improving ecosystem that is drawing in species from surrounding habitat. We are not sure that our comment made this clear and would like to add to it, if we may.

A female kingfisher, [photographed last weekend by our in-house photographer](#), was seen hunting in the park's ponds and streams regularly last year. Kingfishers pair at this time of year so she is likely to be one of a breeding pair that will nest somewhere in her territory. At the foot of the Church Lane site, the Lambrok runs between high banks of clay and riverine deposits, ideal territory for nesting kingfishers. The RSPB says that kingfishers are particularly vulnerable to habitat degradation and watercourse pollution.

A rare dragonfly, the scarce chaser, has been identified in the park; W&SBRC has suggested that the species, which is known to breed in the Avon between Melksham and Bradford on Avon, uses the Lambrok as a maturation site but may also be in the process of expanding its breeding territory into the park. Next year we will be looking for evidence that the species is breeding in the Lambrok.

Otters visit from the Biss, raiding an established swan mussel colony; bats, including the very rare Bechstein bat from the roost at Green Lane Woods, come to feed on the flying insects that breed in and hatch from the Lambrok.

The park provides refuge, hunting and feeding grounds, breeding sites and safe passage to the wildlife of a much wider area. The Lambrok is its centre.

We have asked Trowbridge Area Board for the funding to pay for a professional survey of the ecosystem of the Lambrok where it runs at the bottom of the Church Lane site. We would like to survey the whole of the park's stream and its tributary but that is beyond our means. We feel that neither the WHSAP's allocation of the site, nor RPS's plan should go any further until the Lambrok's ecosystem has been properly surveyed and its *potential* properly assessed.

Thank you

Suzanne Humphries (Sec. FoSCP)