No Expressway Alliance

30th March 2019

Sarah Foxcroft

Chair of Horton cum Studley Parish Council
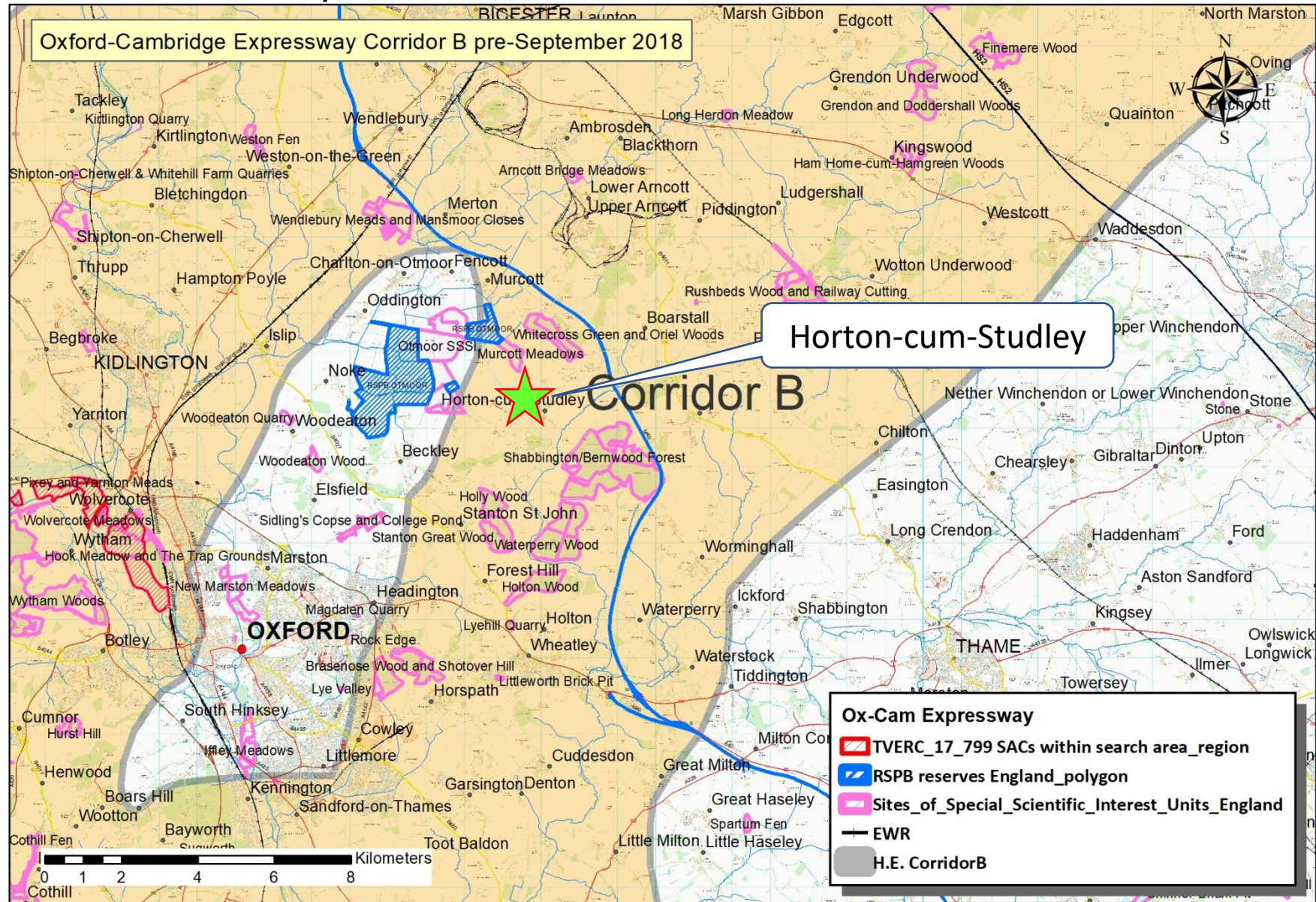*Member of NEA Steering Committee*
Member of No Expressway Group

NO**EXPRESSWAY**GROUP

Who am I

- Chair of Parish Council for Horton-cum-Studley
  (1 of the 7 Villages of Otmoor)

- Otmoor is an area between Oxford and Bicester

- Potentially impacted by routes in both corridors B&C

- Previously under threat in the 1980s from the M40 extension

Initial Corridor map

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- Held meetings including all Villages around Otmoor to raise awareness
- Wrote to and met with Councillors, MP, MEP
- Submitted Evidence to Highways England which they accepted
  even though the Parish Council was not a stakeholder ☺
- I set up the HcS Expressway Action Group (now know as NEG)

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The NEG

- Raised money to buy: road signs, t shirts, support our events
- Created a travelling pagoda, used at our own Village Fete and at surrounding Villages' events
- Leafleted the whole of the area
- Held events
  - Walk Otmoor
  - Otmoor Riots in Bonn Square
- Raised a Legal Challenge to Highways England - ***Our David & Goliath moment!***

NEG Communications

- Signs / banners
- Flyers
- Website
- Twitter
- Facebook / Next Door
- Fortnightly updates
- Parish Newsletters
- 27 Parish Council updates
- Village meetings
- Press releases
- Working with other groups

NEG Media

The Oxford Times — Thursday, September 6, 2018

The Oxford Times — Residents' views 'ignored' over expressway proposal

Green MEP visits Oxfordshire today over Cambridge Expressway

18th July

'Do we even need a new expressway to Cambridge?'

'Do we even need a new expressway to Cambridge?' asks MEP

The Guardian

Opinion
Infrastructure

This disastrous new project will change the face of Britain, yet no debate is allowed

George Monbiot

Decisions about the Oxford-Cambridge expressway, and the vast conurbation it will create, are made behind closed doors

Where democracy counts most, it is nowhere to be seen. The decisions that shape the life of a nation are taken behind our

NEG Bonn Square – Inspired by Otmoor Riots (St Giles Fair)

A CALL TO ARMS

Resist the Destruction of Oxfordshire's Countryside!

IN 1830 THEY TOOK OUR LAND
IN 2018 THEY'RE TRYING TO DO IT AGAIN

Embrace the spirit of the 1830 Otmoor Riots, when residents broke down and burned the enclosure fences. Protest against the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and reaffirm everyone's right to enjoy the landscapes, wildlife, and villages and towns of Oxfordshire.

DEMAND THE RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Legal Challenge

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- Concluded that an **SEA** should have been under taken prior to the choice of Corridor, I have no legal background

- Approached **BBOWT** who agreed with my assessment

- Wrote to **Highways England** explaining what we thought the legal requirement was an asking why an SEA had not been under taken

- **Highways England** wrote back and told me I was wrong

- Tim Dixon a member of the NEG with a back ground in environmental law engaged the **Environmental Law Foundation (ELF)**

- **Barrister Merrow Golden** agreed to work *pro bono*
  - ELF wrote to Highways England on three points of law (Supported by RSPB, BBOWT, BCNWT)
  - Highways England refuted one of the points
  - ELF wrote again, reaffirming our position

- **BBOWT** are now using Merrow's work to take Highways England to court, BBOWT credited the group in their initial press release

BBOWT Press Release

In response to the High Court decision, Matthew Stanton, Head of Planning, Policy and Advocacy, at Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, said:
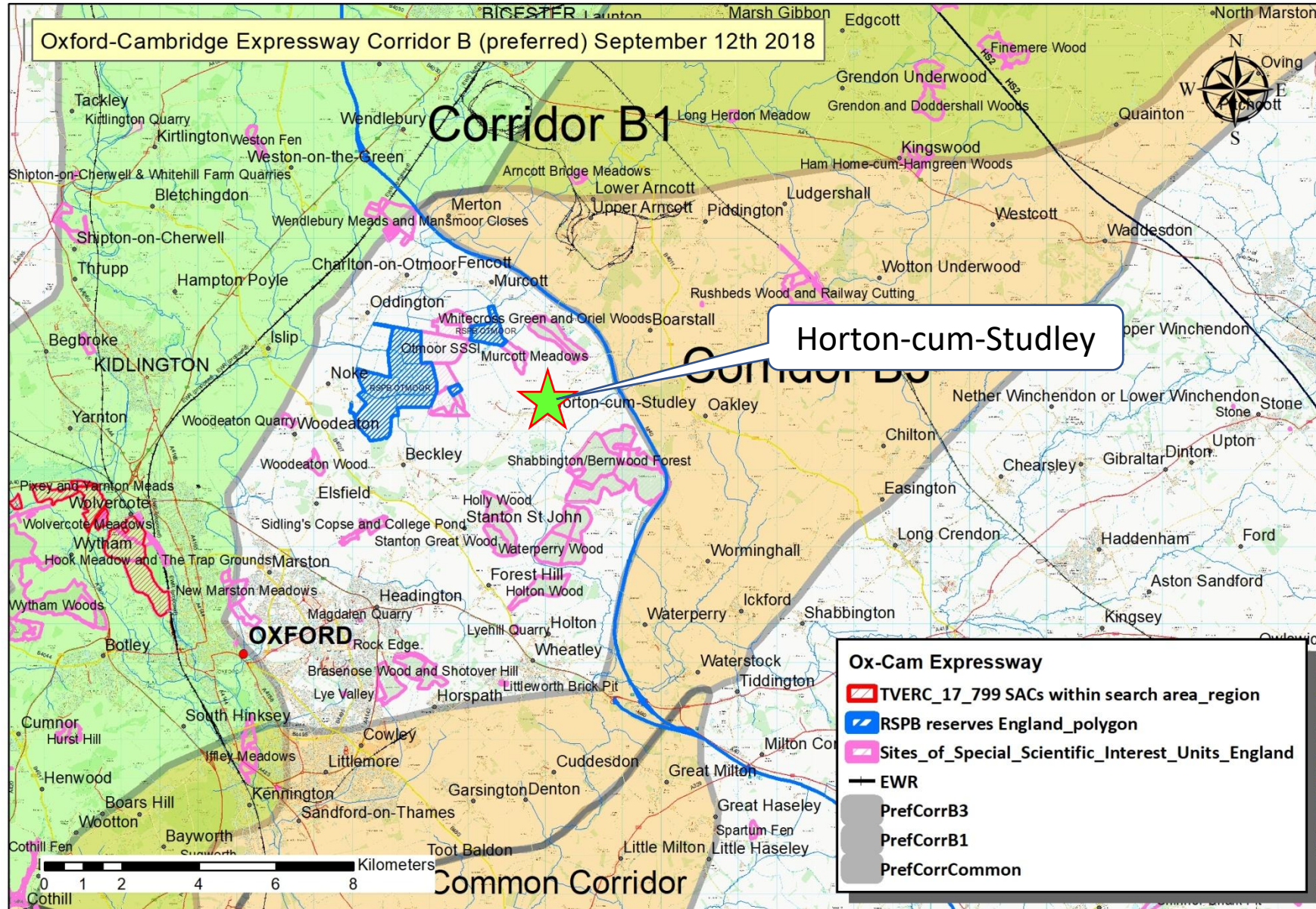
 "We are so pleased with today's decision surrounding the government's proposed corridor for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. We were forced to bring legal proceedings because the government has completely ignored European law, which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment for schemes that impact on the environment such as this.

"Today shows us that the government has a case to answer and we look forward to fighting for wildlife at the full hearing.

 "We will continue to scrutinise the government's future consultations, defend wildlife in the planning process, and make sure that the potential impact of this concrete corridor is fully assessed and made public.

 "The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway could be a disaster for wildlife, and future generations may not forgive us."

Published Corridor MAP

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Corridor B (preferred) September 12th 2018

What can you do?

- We are *all* stakeholders
  - We can all individually submit evidence to Highways England
  - OxfordtoCambridgeExpressway@highwaysengland.co.uk
  - https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/

- Use your voice *and be heard*

- Create as much noise as possible

- Create you own awareness Campaign *NEG group has signs that we can sell to other groups*

- Create your own events, use your imagination, picnics, walks, cycles, cake sales

- Members of NEA, NEG, NONE are happy to help give presentations to groups
  - NEG has a travelling Pagoda we are willing to come to Village Fetes/events

- Make some *more* noise!