



**Sheffield &  
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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Eleanor

## **Response on behalf of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust To Planning Application: 14/01079/OUT:**

*'Erection of a motorway service area including proposed facilities building, hotel, filling station, parking facilities for all vehicles, access and circulation internal roads, structured and natural landscaping with outside picnic space and dog walking area, associated infrastructure and earthworks (Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2011 Schedule 2 proposal) | Smithy Wood Cowley Hill (Adjoining Junction 35 Of M1 Motorway) Sheffield 35'.*

With regard to the additional information provided by the applicant, on behalf of SRWT I would like to add or re-iterate the following points made in our previous objection to the proposal:

### **1. National Importance of Designated Ancient Woodland**

The additional information does not alter our original comments in relation to this point.

Indeed we note that at 5.1.3 of the arboriculture report, despite the attempts throughout to categorise every tree and the individual loss that will or will not be made, the report concludes with:

*"The value of the site appears to be the overall habitat itself including the ground flora, (we would add the bats, badgers, birds, insects, butterflies, fungi, lichens, soil, entire ecosystem etc) and not in individual trees which are generally of moderate to low amenity value when assessed individually (though these last words are a view we do not hold). It should be noted though that their collective value is much higher." (our italics and emphasis)*

We would add that Greno Woods, also a semi-natural/plantation ancient woodland site, suffered a significant and damaging fire some 20-30 years ago. Greno is now managed by SRWT and enjoyed by many people for its fantastic wildlife and the recreation opportunities it provides.

## **2. Planning Policy Context**

This is an outline application and a key issue is the one of need for the MSA at this specific location. As previously stated, in the opinion of SRWT, the Council should reject the claimed strong need for the MSA, especially on such an ecological asset. Our previous comments are unaffected by the additional information.

## **3. Environmental Statement**

Our previous comments are unaffected by the additional information.

## **4. Proposed Compensation**

We note in the agent's letter that the City Council is in discussion with the developer over proposals for the future governance and funding for the proposed Chapeltown Community Woodland Trust. As mentioned in our first response, IF this application is to be approved, the developer must pay over the long-term for the compensation and mitigation proposed. Our previous comments are unaffected by the additional information.

This application is opportunistic. It is about significantly increasing the financial value of private land by significantly decreasing the environmental and amenity value of the site for wildlife and local people.

With proper management, Smithy Wood could be restored to biological health, to an amazing habitat and amenity space for the benefit of people and wildlife.

I encourage the Council to refuse this application.

If you require any further information on any of the points raised, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Ballard', with a long, sweeping underline.

Liz Ballard  
Chief Executive  
Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust