

Planning application comment was submitted on the **17 April 2024 14:00 PM**

The following is a comment on application **P240422/F** by **Avril Goodall**

Nature of feedback: Objecting to the application

Comment: We completely agree with and support the comments made by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust in their objection to the scheme, and also those of the RSPB, ATE (and others) that this development would have a detrimental effect on local nature and wildlife, and also impact negatively on a flood plain, local traffic would be increased, schools will be affected and local health facilities which are already overwhelmed, would be further stressed.

This is an incredibly important area bordering the Lugg & Hampton Meadows SSSI, which itself borders the River Lugg SSSI. The latter benefits from an additional level of protection in that it also forms part of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation. The development sites proximity to the latter seems especially relevant in light of recent revelations about the Wye needing to be protected from pollution that has occurred in the last decade or so from industrial scale chicken farming.

In May 2023, Natural England downgraded the Rivers Wye and Lugg from "unfavourable - recovering" to "unfavourable - declining." The only worse categories are now "partly destroyed condition" and "destroyed condition" Is this really what the Council is prepared to accept for this beautiful part of Herefordshire?

DEFRA's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Proposals will be considered by local authorities until March 2025 when plans will be put in place to implement the strategy locally. It would seem premature and almost wilfully ignorant to decide on such a devastating planning application before these strategies are finalised.

Although this development area has not been surveyed specifically, the adjoining SSSI has a large diversity of species which are almost undoubtedly using the proposed building site, thereby restricting the area available to them.

RSPB England comments 'It is our view that permitting this application would result in irreversible damage to the protected and nationally important biodiversity of Lugg and Hampton Meadows SSSI. As well as being designated for its botanical diversity, the site also supports one of Herefordshire's only remaining populations of breeding Curlew, which are highly sensitive to disturbance and could become locally extinct if this proposed development is permitted.' Again, it would seem nonsensical to ignore such dire warnings about the effects of the proposal on local wildlife.

On a 'human' perspective, this development will create potentially long-term impact on the local NHS Trust's ability to provide services as required. Local schools will be inundated with potentially 350 new families, whose children will need to be educated. Even though there is the promise of a school (as well as office spaces, a farm shop and café) in the proposals, as budgets are inevitably amended during the process, things of this nature tend to be omitted and may not come to fruition. Wherever the children are educated there will be increased traffic taking children to and from school each day across a site of SSSI.

The A438 is already a very busy road and the increase in traffic caused by this development will have an impact on journey times and pollution for many other people too.

Avril, Spencer, Morgan and Bryn Goodall

Attachment:

Their contact details are as follows:

First name: Avril

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Please select a region, state or province.

Infrastructure from section 106 to consider: N/A

Link ID: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=240422

Form reference: FS-Case-606734560