

Herefordshire Council
Planning Services
PO Box 4
Hereford
HR1 2ZB

The Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Queenswood Country Park
Dinmore Hill
Nr Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 OPY

T : 01432 356872
F : 01432 275489
E : enquiries@herefordshirewt.co.uk
W : www.herefordshirewt.org

Thursday 20th January 2022

Dear whom it may concern

Application Reference: P213836

Site: Land at Warmhill and Hengrove Woodland, Deepdean, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5SQ

Description: Change of use of existing forestry shed, lean-to and open hard standing area from forestry to business and light industrial.

Applicant: Mr Ian Newton

Expression of concern

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust would like to express its concern regarding the above planning application. The site proposed is both a designated ancient woodland site and a local wildlife site. The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 180(c))states that:

Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

It was unclear to us, from the application, how the change in use was going to be implemented. For example the application states that sewage will be stored in a septic tank but an existing septic tank was not noted on the plans. The work required to install a septic tank would need to be managed to limit the impacts on the surrounding woodland and we would like to see this set out in the plans before they are approved.

We note that an ecological impact assessment has been completed, however, as is noted in the report the surveys were not carried out at the ideal season for many species and therefore it may have underestimated the impact on protected species, in particular bats, who may use the access track and open areas for feeding. The design statement says that activities will be run between 8am and 6pm, which during the winter would I assume require lighting. Too much artificial lighting can affect the behaviour of both nocturnal and day light hunting animals. It is possible to minimise the impact of artificial lighting and we would like to see such mitigations considered in the application.

We are concerned that without additional mitigations the current application may be contrary to local planning policies SS6 (Environmental quality and local distinctiveness) and LD2 – Biodiversity and geodiversity.

Yours sincerely



Sarah King

Team Wilder Community Engagement officer

