

SPEECH TO NWLDC- 3rd SEPTEMBER 2019

- The site is a National Character Area and a Special Area for Conservation. The brook adjacent to the site runs into the River Mease SSSI.
- Middlemarch Environmental who carried out the environmental appraisals concluded that the effects would be “Permanent, Major, Adverse”.
- Natural England states that the Scence/Mease valley is one of gently rolling landscape and the historic pattern should be conserved, including significant views. This development is at odds with the Local Plan. Salt Street, the prehistoric unmetalled track runs over the ridge from No Man’s Heath.
- Natural England flags up increasing sustainable food production. DEFRA, in a letter to Craig Tracey last year who asked about the possibility of extending the National Forest to Shuttington was told that it was needed for food security. This is even more important now with the HS2 taking substantial agricultural land This site is BEST GRADE VALUE soil.
- The development is inappropriate for location. There is no commercial development in this area at present.
- Habitat loss will be enormous. Mitigation is not acceptable. The Consultants reports were poor. Surveys were conducted over a very small timeframes- 4 days in total being average or less.
- Despite this 35 bird species were observed on the site in winter; 45 species breeding! Many of these birds are on the red list. Ninety skylarks in January! The Eurasian Hobby, protected by the Countryside and wildlife Act 1981 uses existing crows’ nests for breeding. Its principle food is the skylark. There are large penalties for disturbance and interference with breeding. You are ignoring this, as is your Conservation Officer!
- Eleven species of bat, 4 rare all onsite. Bat boxes will not mitigate. Bats will remain locked in their roosts if it is too light and will starve to death! You have a duty to protect them.
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- Surveys were poor and lacked depth. Too many species left out. No survey of barn owls, weasels or stoats which are on the red list or insects or butterflies.
- The Surveys are more than 2 years old now out of date!

- Hedgerows are HABITATS OF PRINCIPLE IMPORTANCE. Most have been in situ since Enclosure in the 1700's. You cannot replace the species rich environment overnight. 1780 metres will be lost! Animals and creatures that are dependent will die. Few will survive.
- As the Amazon Forests burn so does the Scence Valley!
- Replacing 20 field ponds with 3 new ones is unacceptable. The whole Eco structure is balanced at the moment. Tamper with it and it will be destroyed.
- TPO 472 is being ignored! Mature trees cannot be replaced in the medium to short term. They support millions of insects and small creatures. Bats are at the top of the food chain. One bat ingests 3,000 insects per night. They are a sign of a healthy environment. There are 11 species on site, 4 rare. None have the capacity to live with the light pollution or habitat destruction! Cracks and small holes in mature trees support bio diversity.
- You are adversely affecting our environment if you pass this development and putting at risk our health through climate change factors, air pollution, lighting, noise and possible water pollution. There is a giant aquafer under the site. Water is collected by South Staffs Water at Chilcote Pumping Station. The water is less than 40 foot down. If it rains on Hill Top Farm today, we will be drinking the water in 7 days. You cannot guarantee that you won't pollute this water supply!!
- When the hedgerows and trees burn will you be happy that you have destroyed the environment forever in the "Heart of Rural England"!

THIS IS OUR AMAZON RAIN FOREST!!