



Small copper by Matt Berry



Cheshire

People taking action for wildlife

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FAO. Robert Law,

Case Officer

Cheshire East Council

27th April 2020

Dear Mr Law,

Re: Land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road, Macclesfield. Planning Application number 19/3097M

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the region's leading wildlife charity with over 13,000 local members whose views we seek to represent. On the 19th February 2020 we submitted a response objecting to this application on the grounds of considerable losses of biodiversity at this site (-71%) including habitat that would meet the criteria for selection as a Local Wildlife Site. The revised plans show that even less of the important habitats at this site will be retained meaning that the losses of biodiversity are greater than 71%. This development is therefore contrary to the central policies of the NPPF (paragraphs 170d, 174b and 175d) and Local Plan policy SE3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity, paragraph 5.

5. All development (including conversions and that on brownfield and greenfield sites) must aim to positively contribute to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity and should not negatively affect these interests.

We therefore reiterate our objection to this development unless a voluntary contribution towards Biodiversity Net Gain is secured or a condition is applied, for example:

Condition

"No development shall take place until the residual impacts to biodiversity, as measured in biodiversity units, are addressed. This will require offsite measures to compensate for the shortfall and to secure a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain."

We would remind the council that they have a duty under the NERC Act 2006 "to conserve biodiversity in exercising its functions which includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat". Securing a net gain for biodiversity is particularly important for this development given the cumulative knock-on impacts that are likely to occur to local species as a result of multiple developments in a localised area within a short time-frame.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Giles

Evidence and Planning Manager

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Working for wildlife across Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester,
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