



4th July 2022



Dear Sam

Following several comments made on social media, Cheshire Wildlife Trust would like to address a significant misconception emerging around the South Macclesfield Development Area.

On the 1st of March, we provided a document detailing an estimated figure for the greenhouse gas emissions of the SMDA. We note you are widely quoting the document to explain the current state of the site as an overall source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This is correct; however, this is only half of what that document shows.

We have also provided estimates of GHG emissions following the development of the site. As you will have noted, **we estimate GHG emissions will be significantly greater if the site is developed. This estimate does not even account for any emissions generated during the construction period** which (without evidence to suggest otherwise) we also anticipate to be significant. These facts have been omitted where you have cited the document.

Due to this omission, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is concerned that our evidence is being presented in a misleading format with the implication that developing the site will prevent or reduce the site's current rate of GHG emission. We wish to strongly emphasise that **our evidence shows the exact opposite and indicates that far more GHG emissions will arise from the site post-development.**

Developing the site in line with current proposals will not in any way reduce the current emissions associated with the site. Indeed, **if the Council were to do nothing (i.e. neither restore nor develop the site), a significant increase in GHG emissions would be avoided compared to current plans.**

Cheshire Wildlife Trust request that, where our evidence is cited, it is cited holistically. This is purely to ensure that any discussion around the site is fully informed and that misconceptions do not arise from omitted data.

If you would like further clarification on the estimates we provided or to discuss the site's restoration potential, we would be more than happy to arrange another meeting.

Kind regards,

James Melling

