



Examination of Shropshire Local Plan - Stage 2. Particularly the Possible Development of Rewilded Site SHF029 (2.5 hectares or 6.18 acres).

[REDACTED]
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To Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@shropshire.gov.uk>

Kerry Trueman, Programme Officer@Shropshire.gov.uk.

14 August2024

Dear Kerry,

I thank you for sending me your letter of 24 July 2024 regarding the Examination of the Shropshire Local Plan.

As you may recall, I have written to yourself and your predecessor a number of times expressing my sadness and also concern at the possible destruction of the small wildlife haven of SHF029. The table of Site Allocations on p146 of the Draft Shropshire Local Plan published July 2024 shows 65 dwellings allocated for SHF015 & SHF029. As SHF015 is principally a large Georgian House, it seems the 65 dwellings are forecast for adjoining site SHF029.

The Council have made a point of highlighting the need for complimentary planting if any of the huge mature trees require "removal". The Local Plan also mentions Great Crested Newts but of course their presence is not enough to preserve the site.

Despite the fact that SHF029 (6.18acres) is used by 47 (now 48, Willow Warbler) species of birds, plus many countryside animals, amphibians, insects, snakes, plants, grasses, hedges, trees, etc., etc., and is clearly a wildlife haven and should be recognised as having a Material Planning Consideration under Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Issues (ten of the bird species are on the B.T.O. and R.S.P.B. red list) it

still has no official protection.

Incidentally, I believe one of the reasons SHF029 has rewilded is that it has no paths or roads through it or immediately round it and is therefore undisturbed by humans. It has not had crops or livestock on it for many years and is surrounded by ditches, hedges, muddy ponds, bushes, rashes, trees, etc.. I am of course upset that regardless of the unusual volume of wildlife on SHF029 it seems that the council may pass it for house building even though they distribute leaflets saying, "Look after the natural world-plant trees-let hedgerows grow-and encourage wildlife." Another of their leaflets which I hold says, "The rich biodiversity of the county is safeguarded for future generations through the protection and enhancement of existing high quality habitats, and more trees, hedgerows and planted woodlands." What can I add to that? Suffice to say SHF029 is an area where development should not proceed if biodiversity, habitat, bird life, flora and fauna are to be taken into consideration. At this time the UK has been recognised as one of the world's most nature - depleted countries and there are moves to encourage and hold rewilding areas.

In passing, perhaps I should mention the result of the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (i.e. GWCT) Annual Farmland Bird Count for last year (2023) which recorded 149 bird species. This is slightly more than 3 times the 48 species recorded on SHF029. However the GWCT count included 1700 farmers over 1.5. million acres while the SHF029 count covered 6.18 acres. The GWCT area was therefore 242,000 times larger than the SHF029 acreage.

I have noticed in more than one entry in the final draft plan that any written representations carry the same weight as those made orally at a hearing session. I would therefore be obliged if the Inspectors could give consideration to this paper.

I thank you and the Inspectors for your work in this regard over the past three years.

Yours sincerely

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