Chell, Wayne

From: Simpkin, Rachael Sent: 15 August 2017 15:27 To: Planning (SMDC)

Subject: FW: SMD/2017/0298 Land Off Ashbourne Road, The Old Copperworks, Whiston

Categories: Blue Category

Hi for the website and R:drive pls. Thanks, Rachael

From: Kate Dewey [mailto:k.dewey@staffs-wildlife.org.uk]

Sent: 15 August 2017 14:26

To: Simpkin, Rachael

Cc: Preece, Mark; Swithenbank, Arne; David Cadman; AbsoluteEcology@hotmail.co.uk **Subject:** Re: SMD/2017/0298 Land Off Ashbourne Road, The Old Copperworks, Whiston

Dear Rachel,

Application No: SMD/2017/0298

Development: Residential development of 11no. Dwellings

Location: Land Off Ashbourne Road, The Old Copperworks, Whiston, Staffordshire, ST10 2HZ

Grid reference: SK040472

Area of site: 0.7 hectares

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) would like to comment on this application as we feel there are nature conservation interests.

We fully support the comments of Mark Preece, made earlier this month.

The application site itself is part of an 'historic' SBI,04/47/01 'Whiston Quarries', which was originally surveyed in the 80's without the current criteria that are applied to designate Local Wildlife Sites today. Therefore the site has no current status, until it may be re-assessed, but this old data can indicate where priority habitats may still exist. This information is not included by Staffordshire Ecological Record in standard data searches, unless specifically requested. Mark in his visit to the site this month recorded a number of species that were previously recorded at the site, indicating it is still of interest. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal dated June 2017 by Absolute Ecology did not pick up all flora on the site, as April is not an ideal time for botanical survey. The site should be considered a potential Local Wildlife Site, and be assessed against the criteria at an appropriate time of year- we suggest June- August, by an experienced botanist who is able to identify an accurate species list for the site.

There is insufficient information on protected and priority species, including a lack of further surveys recommended in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

The proposals would very likely result in an overall loss of biodiversity, as important habitats are not retained, and no space is provided for replacement habitats or off-site creation to mitigate impacts.

SWT object to the proposals, due to insufficient information on the potential value of habitats present and presence of protected and priority species, as well as likely net loss of biodiversity.

Regards,

Kate Dewey BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Planning and Conservation Officer Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

2 01889 880122

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