

From: Jack Taylor <JackTaylor@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 10 January 2019 10:53
To: Howell, Morgan P
Subject: RE: Woodland Trust comments on planning application 2016/01160/OUT

Dear Mr. Howell,

Many thanks for emailing the Trust with an update to this application. The Trust is disappointed to learn that the council's ecologist has removed their objection to an application that will clearly cause damage, loss and degradation of an irreplaceable habitat protected by national and local planning policy.

While the relocation of the proposed access to the site is a positive step and we understand that the developers do not intend to remove any trees, it is important to consider that the value of ancient woodland is not simply on account of its trees. Ancient woodland is a complex and diverse habitat that provides a home for many sensitive and threatened species. The relatively undisturbed nature of the ancient woodland soil has resulted in complex relationships forming between the soil, fungi and plants, which provides the foundation on which the rest of the woodland and its wildlife is able to thrive.

Where development is situated within ancient woodland the associated human activity disturbs and disrupts the relationship between plants, animals and soils. The development in question would greatly disturb this ancient woodland in a number of ways, which are as follows:

- The intensified human activity within the ancient woodland will inevitably result in trampling of ancient woodland vegetation, disturbance to woodland fauna, disruption to fungal communities and littering.
- The construction and operation of the proposed accommodation would lead to impacts of noise and light pollution, affecting the woodland wildlife. Furthermore, the presence of humans on site and construction of the tree tents will reduce the available habitat on site for the woodland wildlife.
- There would be a loss to local biodiversity as the sensitive woodland wildlife that uses the site will be displaced by the continuous habitation and use of the site by humans. Bats, otters and numerous bird species are intolerant of human presence and would not continue to breed within the ancient woodland as they are slow to react to change and are not able to adapt to the new enforced conditions. This can lead to more generalist species dominating the specialist woodland species. Bats in particular would be affected as their flight paths within the woodland would be disrupted by the installation of the tree tents within the canopy.

Considering these factors, it is clear that this development both national and local planning policy.

Planning Policy Wales (2018) states: "Ancient woodland and semi-natural woodlands and individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees and woodlands should be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection should prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss." The loss and damage to the ancient woodland of Ham Wood and resulting loss of local biodiversity in this case would clearly not be outweighed by the public benefits of a campsite.

Policy MD10 of Vale of Glamorgan Council's LDP states: "Where proposals have a negative impact on sites shown to be important for biodiversity, developers will need to demonstrate that the development could not be located elsewhere." Clearly, such development should and can be located outside of and away from designated ancient woodland. There is no justifiable reason as to why this development must be confined to ancient woodland.

In summary, the Trust **strongly objects** to this application. As an irreplaceable habitat, ancient woodland is a completely inappropriate location for such a development. The proposed development within Ham Wood will clearly result in irreversible and long-term deterioration of this ancient woodland habitat and would also contribute to a loss of local biodiversity.

Best regards,
Jack

Jack Taylor

Campaigner - Ancient Woodland

Telephone: 0343 770 5627
Email: JackTaylor@woodlandtrust.org.uk

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Stand up for trees

From: Howell, Morgan P [mailto:]
Sent: 09 January 2019 17:59
To: campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Subject: RE: Woodland Trust comments on planning application 2016/01160/OUT

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I write with respect to the above mentioned application for a proposed tree tent tourist development in Ham woods in Llantwit Major.

I wanted to make you aware that the Council have received amendments to the application, which have relocated the proposed access from from Mill lay lane to the South of the site through Ham Manor. The applicant has also submitted updated Ecology report and bat Surveys following requests from National Resource Wales and the Council's Ecologist.

From a consideration of your objections to the proposals (10th January 2018) it was with respect to the loss of the trees within the site and the potential impact upon an ancient woodland and the impact upon the ecology of the site. I just wanted to make sure that you understood that the access has been relocated and as a consequence no trees would have to be removed to form the access. In addition, although the submitted tree report does state that a number of the trees can/should be removed, the applicant has indicated that they do not wish to remove these trees to enable the development and they intend to only locally work on any trees close to the tent locations (if considered appropriate) with Tree Consultant and Ecology Consultant on site at time of installation.

The application is going to the next available planning committee on 31st January and I am currently drafting the report to be considered by members. My deadline for finishing the report is the end of the week and, as such, if you would like to amend your comments on the amended proposals then could you please email me to indicate your comments by Friday. If your comments are sent to the council following my deadline but before the planning committee date (31st) then they can be considered as a late representation to the report.

Kind regards

Morgan Howell
Senior Planner (Development Control) / Uwch Gynllunydd
Regeneration and Planning / Adfywio a Chynllunio
Vale of Glamorgan Council / Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
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Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh or English / Croesewir Gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg.

From: campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk [mailto:campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk]
Sent: 03 March 2017 12:50
To: Howell, Morgan P; Planning & Transportation (Customer Care)
Cc: campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Subject: Woodland Trust comments on planning application 2016/01160/OUT

Dear Mr Howell,

Apologies for the second email but you would disregard the letter provided in our original email and instead accept this copy as our representation; unfortunately the wrong letterhead was used.

Many thanks,
Jack

From: campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Sent: 03 March 2017 12:21
To: 'mphowell@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk'; 'developmentcontrol@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk'
Cc: campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Subject: Woodland Trust comments on planning application 2016/01160/OUT

Dear Mr Howell,

Please find attached the Woodland Trust's comments on planning application 2016/01160/OUT.

We hope you find our comments to be of use to you. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the Trust if you have any questions or concerns regarding the comments we have provided.

Best regards,
Jack

Jack Taylor
Campaigner - Ancient Woodland

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