From:	
To:	DCAdmin
Cc:	campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Subject:	Great Lepton wood objection
Date:	20 July 2022 15:00:52

Dear Sirs

Planning application number for **HS3 which is 2022/91735**

Site: Land off, Hermitage Park, Lepton, Huddersfield, HD8 0JU

Meadowland / Farmland next to Ancient SSI woodland Great Lepton woods.

15.Conserving and enhancing the natural Environment

170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological
value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or
identified quality in the development plan);
b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider
benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic
and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees
and woodland;

c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public
access to it where appropriate;
d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by

establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and
future pressures;
e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at
unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of
soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should,
wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air
and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin
management plans; and
f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and
unstable land, where appropriate.
171. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and
locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity
value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework53; take a strategic
approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green
infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or
landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
172. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic
beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty,
which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The
conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important
considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks

53 Where significant development of agricultural land is

demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer
quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.
50
and the Broads54
. The scale and extent of development within these designated
areas should be limited. Planning permission should be refused for
major
development55 other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it
can be
demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.
Consideration of such
applications should include an assessment of:
a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national
considerations,
and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area,
or meeting
the need for it in some other way; and
c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and
recreational
opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.
173. Within areas defined as Heritage Coast (and that do not already
fall within one of
the designated areas mentioned in paragraph 172), planning policies
and decisions
should be consistent with the special character of the area and the
importance of its
conservation. Major development within a Heritage Coast is unlikely
to be
appropriate, unless it is compatible with its special character.
Habitats and biodiversity
**174. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans
should:**
a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich
habitats and wider
ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national
and locally
designated sites of importance for biodiversity56; wildlife corridors
and stepping
stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local

partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation57;
and
b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats,
ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and
identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for
biodiversity.

175. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the
following principles:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be
avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts),

54 English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2010 provides further
guidance and information about their statutory purposes, management and other matters.
55 For the purposes of paragraphs 172 and 173, whether a proposal is 'major development' is a matter for
the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant
adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined.
56 Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and
geological conservation and their impact within the planning system.
57 Where areas that are part of the Nature Recovery Network are identified in plans, it may be appropriate to
specify the types of development that may be suitable within them.

adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning
permission should be refused;

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and

which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in
combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The
only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location
proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that
make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national
network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such
as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless
there are wholly exceptional reasons58 and a suitable compensation strategy
exists; and
d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity
should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially
where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.
176. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:
a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites59; and
c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on
habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of
Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.
177. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where
development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a
habitats site is being planned or determined

Best Regards

20 Hermitage Park, Lepton, HD8 OJU