

**Examination of Wyre Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036**

**Matter 6: Other Allocations for Housing and Mixed Uses; Reserved Housing Sites (Matter 6(i) Kidderminster (Section 30); Matter 6(ii) Stourport-on-Severn (Section 33)).**

Hearing statement on behalf of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (Mr Steven Bloomfield) (ID: 231691)

in relation to:

**Question 6.2 (i) Are the specific requirements for development of the sites justified, consistent with national planning policy, and likely to be effective? Do they make sound provisions for the number and types of dwellings, mixed uses and other needs, air quality, noise and flood protection, infrastructure requirements including green and blue infrastructure, and protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment?**

**Question 6.2 (iii) Are the policies clearly written and unambiguous?**

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1. We welcome the fact that many of the proposed site allocations make specific reference to the need for development to take into consideration the Kidderminster and Stourport Urban and Waterfront Strategic Development Corridor Green Infrastructure (GI) Concept Statement. This statement sets out a number of recommendations for delivery of meaningful GI enhancement across this network of sites and demonstrates how they should be considered as a group so as to achieve the most appropriate spread of GI benefits across the area covered.
2. Specific policy requirements are set out for biodiversity, and green and blue infrastructure enhancements that accord with the recommendations set out in the Kidderminster and Stourport Urban and Waterfront Strategic Development Corridor Green Infrastructure Concept Statement and we endorse these where they occur.
3. The wording of the policies allows for flexibility of approach on a site by site basis but the requirement to consider the GI Concept Statement, which provides more detailed guidance on priorities for GI in maps in its Appendix 1, should drive improvements in GI treatment across all relevant sites.

**Question 6.2 (iii) Are the policies clearly written and unambiguous?**

4. In connection with the comments above it may be helpful to strengthen the wording relating to the Kidderminster and Stourport Urban and Waterfront Strategic Development Corridor Green Infrastructure Concept Statement in relevant policies. Strengthening the policy requirements such that proposals must 'be guided by' rather than 'take into consideration' the Concept Statement would improve clarity and provide less ambiguous wording around policy expectations.

Steven Bloomfield – on behalf of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust  
December 2020