

Policy 29 – Cemetery Extensions:

ID	Organisation
Duty to Co-operate / Interest Groups	
68	Awworth Parish Council
6537	Awworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
6944	Brinsley Vision (Representing 70 Residents of Brinsley)
34	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Details

Agent	
Please provide your client's name	
Your Details	
Title	█
Name	██████
Organisation (If responding on behalf of an organisation)	Awsorth Parish Council
Address	████████████████████ ██████ ██████ ██████
Telephone Number	████████
Email Address	████████████████████
Would you like to be contacted regarding future planning policy consultations?	Yes
If you wish to comment on more than one issue you will need to submit a form for each representation.	

Policy relates to

Please specify what your comment relates to					
Policy number	Page number	Policy text/ Paragraph number	Policies Map	Sustainability Appraisal	Other (e.g. omission, evidence document etc.)
29: Cemetery Extensions	162				

Question 1: What does your comment relate to? Please specify exactly

Question 2

Question 2: What is the issue with the Local Plan?	
Do you consider this paragraph or policy of the Local Plan to be:	
2.1 Legally compliant	Yes
2.2 Compliant with the duty to co-operate	Yes
2.3 Sound	No

Question 3

Question 3: Why is the Local Plan unsound? Please only answer this question if you answered 'No' to 2.3 above	
If you think this paragraph or policy of the Plan is not sound, is this because:	
It is not justified	Yes
It is not effective	Yes
It is not positively prepared	No
It is not consistent with national policy	No

Additional details

<p>Please give details of why you consider this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant, is unsound or does not comply with the duty to co-operate. Alternatively, if you wish to support any of these aspects please provide details.</p>	<p>Page 162 - Policy 29 – Cemetery Extensions – Suggest possibly should add extension for Awsworth. St Peter’s Church land adjacent to churchyard to the immediate south is understood to be required in the relatively near future (probably within 5-10 years) to provide an extension to the existing burial ground. In which case, given that this will be within the plan period, consideration should be given to possible inclusion of this cemetery extension in plan policy.</p>
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Question 4

<p>Question 4: Modifications sought</p>	
<p>Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound.</p>	<p>Consider whether Policy 29 should include cemetery extension at St Peter’s Church, Awsworth.</p>

Question 5

<p>Question 5: Public Examination Attendance</p>	
<p>If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the public examination?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If you wish to participate at the public examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary</p>	

Details

Agent	
Please provide your client's name	
Your Details	
Title	█
Name	██████████
Organisation (If responding on behalf of an organisation)	Awsworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Address	██████████ ██████████ ██████████
Telephone Number	██████████
Email Address	██████████
Would you like to be contacted regarding future planning policy consultations?	Yes
If you wish to comment on more than one issue you will need to submit a form for each representation.	

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Question 1: What does your comment relate to? Please specify exactly

Document	Policy number	Page number	Policy text/ Paragraph number
Part 2 Local Plan	Policy 1: Flood Risk		
	Policy 2: Site Allocations		
	Policy 3: Main Built up Area Site Allocations		
	Policy 4: Awsworth Site Allocation		
	Policy 5: Brinsley Site Allocation		
	Policy 6: Eastwood Site Allocation		
	Policy 7: Kimberley Site Allocations		
	Policy 8: Development in the Green Belt		
	Policy 9: Retention of good quality existing employment sites		
	Policy 10: Town Centre and District Centre Uses		
	Policy 11: The Square, Beeston		
	Policy 12: Edge-of-Centre A1 Retail in Eastwood		
	Policy 13: Proposals for main town centre uses in edge-of-centre and out-of-centre locations		
	Policy 14: Centre of Neighbourhood Importance (Chilwell Road / High Road)		
	Policy 15: Housing size, mix and choice		
	Policy 16: Gypsies and Travellers		
	Policy 17: Place-making, design and amenity		
	Policy 18: Shopfronts, signage and security measures		
	Policy 19: Pollution, Hazardous Substances and Ground Conditions		
	Policy 20: Air Quality		
	Policy 21: Unstable land		
	Policy 22: Minerals		
	Policy 23: Proposals affecting designated and non-designated heritage assets		
	Policy 24: The health impacts of development		
	Policy 25: Culture, Tourism and Sport		
	Policy 26: Travel Plans		
	Policy 27: Local Green Space		
	Policy 28: Green Infrastructure Assets		
	Policy 29: Cemetery Extensions	162	29.1
	Policy 30: Landscape		
	Policy 31: Biodiversity Assets		
	Policy 32: Developer Contributions		
Policies Map			
Sustainability Appraisal			
Other (e.g. omission, evidence document etc.)			

Question 2: What is the issue with the Local Plan?

Do you consider this paragraph or policy of the Local Plan to be: (please refer to the guidance note at for an explanation of these terms)		Yes	No
2.1	Legally compliant	X	
2.2	Compliant with the duty to co-operate	X	
2.3	Sound	X	

Question 3: Why is the Local Plan unsound? Please only answer this question if you answered 'No' to 2.3 above

If you think this paragraph or policy of the Plan is not sound, is this because:	
It is not justified	
It is not effective as it could be with the suggested modification	
It is not positively prepared	
It is not consistent with national policy	

Your comments

Please give details of why you consider this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant, is unsound or does not comply with the duty to co-operate. Alternatively, if you wish to support any of these aspects please provide details. Please be as precise as possible. Continue on an extra sheet if necessary.

We fully support this policy

Question 4: Modifications sought

Planning Policy
Broxtowe Borough Council
Council Offices
Foster Ave
Beeston
Notts NG9 1AB

3rd November 2017

Dear Sir/ Madam

Comments on Publication Version Part 2 Broxtowe Local Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Broxtowe Local Plan Part 2 (publication version).

Whilst recognising the need for housing provision and economic investment in Broxtowe, we have significant concerns about whether the scale of growth proposed during the plan period is necessary or sustainable.

We do not currently have resources to submit each comment on a separate form but to help with your collation of responses our comments are broadly set out by policy number, as requested on the response form (question 1). Where appropriate, we have also indicated if we query the 'soundness' of the plan, as per question 2 and 3. After putting forward our comments we have submitted suggested modifications, as per question 4 of the response form.

Our comments on individual policies are set out below:

Policy 3 Main built up area site allocations

For the reasons provided at 3.1 and 3.2 we generally support the Spatial Strategy approach. We do, however, have substantive concerns about the scale of some of the allocations. We do understand that allocation sites would not necessarily be built up in their entirety and land within the allocation boundary would potentially be set aside for Green Infrastructure (GI) provision and related requirements. However, we think that seeing sites with large red-line boundaries might be potentially confusing and of concern to many of the other consultees - certain local community groups and individuals have contacted us about their concerns about potential loss of greenfield and wildlife sites.

Policy: 3.1 Chetwynd Barracks: 500 homes (within the plan period)

If this site is to be allocated, we very much support the 'key development requirement' to "*Retain and enhance Green Infrastructure corridors around the eastern and northern areas of the site*".

Some parts of the site have developed significant habitat value. These include Hobgoblin Wood and the adjacent Chilwell Ordnance Depot Local Wildlife Site (LWS) which is located outside the redline boundary. Both areas should be protected during construction phase and be retained within GI with their management secured and paid for in perpetuity by the developer. Focusing new built development on the previously developed parts of the site whilst converting and reusing existing buildings, roads and infrastructure wherever possible would allow for a more sustainable form of development to be achieved.



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Modification sought

Include a clear statement confirming that Hobgoblin Wood, other woodland area, mature trees and grasslands will be retained and their long-term management will be secured in perpetuity.

Policy: 3.2 Toton (Strategic Location for Growth): 500 Homes

Toton sidings is at the very centre of the Erewash Valley Living Landscape area, where many partners including Broxtowe Borough Council are investing in extending and improving habitats and GI to achieve Broxtowe Borough Council's Biodiversity and GI targets.

We therefore **object** to this site as a strategic location for growth. Not only would it lead to the loss of a substantial area of Green Belt, resulting in the merging of Chilwell and Stapleford, it would cause a well-defined wildlife corridor between the Erewash Valley and Wollaton Park (via Bramcote Village and Beeston Fields golf course) to be lost. This corridor is identified as primary corridor 1.2 and secondary corridors 2.12 and 2.23 in the Broxtowe Green Infrastructure Strategy and the land between the two secondary corridors will also, in effect, function as a single wide corridor.

We cannot see how transport issues can be addressed in a location already suffering from severe congestion and where other large-scale developments are planned for the current plan period, i.e. 500 homes in connection with the Chetwynd Barracks redevelopment.

We need to point out that part of this land, especially the northern and eastern part of the sidings, are within floodplain and are at high risk of flooding. Therefore, there should be a presumption against development of these parts of the site. Also, if substantive measures are not put in place (e.g. flood storage), development of such a large parcel of land could increase risk of both fluvial and surface water flooding in adjacent areas, especially within Toton and parts of Long Eaton.

Whilst we don't support the principle of development on Green Belt and the scale of the proposed development, we welcome inclusion of open space: *"Minimum of 16ha Open Space, to incorporate Green Infrastructure of sufficient width and quality to provide attractive and usable links between Hobgoblin Wood in the east and Toton Fields Local Wildlife Site in the west and the Erewash Canal, which will blend with a high quality built environment."*

However, we would expect to see the quantity of 'informal' open space (wildlife habitat) specified in the policy wording. In the absence of this, we are concerned that:

- a). the 16ha minimum could be taken up with 'formal' open spaces, such as sports pitches, play areas etc,
- b). the open spaces would be sited in areas subject to high levels of disturbance, such as along paths, road verges etc, which will never develop high wildlife value,
- c). areas of open spaces will be too narrow to usefully function as wildlife habitat (our comments on policy 27 and our recommendation for 50 metre wide buffer are relevant to this).

We are also concerned about the loss of such a large extent of brownfield land in the sidings, which has regenerated to woodland. New open space wildlife sites cannot be recreated easily and will take many years to develop a level of wildlife value equivalent to what will be lost from the sidings, if achievable at all.

Modification sought

Removal of the allocation. If Broxtowe Borough Council is minded to allocate then all LWS habitat should be removed from the allocation, as it might never be possible to recreate habitats of the same value. Clarification that the 16ha minimum will comprise a significant amount of informal open space (wildlife habitat), including a 50m wide habitat corridor.

Policy: 3.3 Bramcote (East of Coventry Lane): 300 Homes

If the entire site is to be developed, this allocation would result in the loss of a LWS – Bramcote Moor Grassland, which we would strongly **object** to.

LWSs are defined areas identified and selected locally for their substantive nature conservation value. Their selection takes into account the most important, distinctive and threatened species and habitats within the county. They therefore comprise many of our best remaining flower-rich meadows, ancient woodlands, ponds, swamps, fens and mires and provide a home to many of our native plant and animal species, including many rare, declining or protected species. These sites can be of SSSI quality or can be even more important than SSSIs for wildlife. We therefore consider protection of this network of sites to be of the utmost importance.

Should the LWS be lost, we would consider the policy unsound as it is not consistent with local (Policy 17 of ACS) and national policy (NPPF para 118).

Modification sought

Inclusion of a sentence stating that the LWS will not be developed or removal of LWS from the allocation boundary. If the LWS would be retained, it would also need to be adequately buffered and work would be required to make the site more robust, as it will be subject to greater footfall post any development. Future management of the LWS should also be secured.

Policy: 3.4 Stapleford (West of Coventry Lane): 240 Homes

The 'key development requirements' include *"provide enhanced Green Infrastructure corridors linking urban areas of Nottingham to the east with Bramcote and Stapleford Hills, Bramcote Park, Boundary Brook, Pit Lane Wildlife Site, Nottingham Canal and Erewash Valley Trail"*.

Whilst we **object** to this allocation because we consider it is encroaching significantly into the surrounding countryside and that local needs have been met by the adjacent Fields Farm site, achievement of a strong corridor is very important. We also agree with the last point of the 'key development requirements', that the cemetery and Stapleford Hills should be adequately buffered, forming a strong and robust habitat corridor linking to Bramcote Moor Grassland LWS.

Modification sought

Removal of allocation. Clarification as to the extent of the corridor, so the site isn't over developed. The adjacent Field Farm Development is mentioned in the location description but we think this policy needs to offer some guidance in terms of how GI linkages will be provided between the two sites.



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Policy: 3.5 Severn Trent (Lilac Grove): 150 Homes

The 'key development requirements' states that the 150 homes will be located towards the north of the site, which appears to be on the former Severn Trent works, and that access will only be from the north (Lilac Grove).

We are hopeful this means the land at the end of Cornwall Avenue will remain undeveloped. It also talks about 'soft landscaping' along the canal and the importance of "Green Infrastructure" corridors. The field at the end of Cornwall Avenue is an important buffer to the Beeston Canal, which itself is a Local Wildlife Site and this should form part of the "Green Infrastructure" and remain undeveloped and long-term management of GI needs to be secured.

Modification sought

Clarification of the extent of GI, confirmation that fields along the Beeston Canal will not be developed and that long-term management of GI will be secured.

Policy: 3.6 Beeston Maltings: 56 Homes

Transport corridors can provide essential wildlife habitat. For instance our sister Wildlife Trust in Yorkshire is promoting a project to maximise their value, which is supported by the Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area. Given the apparent lack of buffer on the south of the railway line, we would strongly recommend some form of green link be provided along the southern development boundary.

Modification sought

Provision of green infrastructure link along the railway line under the 'key development requirements'.

Policy: 3.7 Beeston Cement Depot: 21 Homes

Transport corridors can provide essential wildlife habitat. For instance our sister Wildlife Trust in Yorkshire is promoting a project to maximise their value. We would strongly recommend some form of green link be provided along the southern development boundary.

Modification sought

Provision of green infrastructure link along the railway line under the 'key development requirements'.

Policy 4 Awsworth Site Allocation

A substantial population of common toad (Local Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species and NERC Act species of principal importance in England) was known to be present in the vicinity of the allocated site. We are aware that toad tunnels, which we understand have not been maintained, were installed underneath the Awsworth Bypass, to allow toads to migrate between breeding habitat (Nottingham Canal) and fields on the opposite side of the new bypass. Potentially, the fields subject to this allocation still provide terrestrial habitat for common toad, should they still occur. We would recommend surveys for common toad and other wildlife, possible reinstatement of toad tunnels (if required). Due to it's greenfield nature and strong hedgerow network, we think the land could provide habitat for many other species.

Common Toad is considered a biodiversity asset under policy 31, as they are a species of concern in the Notts Biodiversity Action Plan.

Should this species be subject to further adverse impacts, we would consider the policy unsound as it is not consistent with local (Policy 17 of ACS) and national policy (NPPF para 118).



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Modification sought

We would wish to see removal of this allocation. If the allocation is to remain, provision of substantial green infrastructure, incorporation of existing hedges and retention of some meadows (quantity defined) and protection of common toads, should they still occur.

Policy 5 Brinsley Site Allocation

We would have preferred to have seen the alternative site included (option 2) rather than this one (option 1) for the reasons provided in our response to the Brinsley Alternative Site Consultation February 2017:

“Option 1 is located immediately adjacent to Brinsley Headstocks Local Nature Reserve and associated Local Wildlife Sites, Brinsley Brook Grassland LWS (5/2302) and Brinsley Headstocks LWS (5/3405), which are identified for their botanical interest. The wildlife value of Brinsley Headstocks, which has been well recorded, may be harmed by any substantial increases in recreational use, which would be inevitable if Option 1 is taken forward.

The LNR and adjacent land is considered locally by members of the Friends Group and others who carry out regular birdwatching locally, as being more valuable for birds. This is certainly likely because the LNR itself supports more structural diversity in its habitats, with areas of woodland, plantation, hedges alongside meadows and the Brinsley Brook. These features are largely lacking from land within Option 2, which is predominantly arable. The LNR currently has good, strong habitat connectivity along the brook and to Saints Coppice to the north, which could be adversely affected by built development if Option 1 is taken forward.

Option 1 contains areas of permanent grassland whereas the majority of land within option 2 is mainly arable, which contains no known botanical interest is less valuable in wildlife terms, apart from hedges which we would like to see sensitively retained within any development”.

Local residents have reported that the fields in the vicinity of the Brinsley allocation included in the current consultation support a number of wintering farmland bird species. We are also concerned about possible hydrological impacts on the Brinsley Brook. As this allocation is within the catchment for the watercourse there is the potential for adverse impacts on the ecology of the brook due to increased runoff rates, contamination (directly or indirectly, via any new drains) etc.

Modification sought

Replace this site allocation with ‘option 2’.

Policy 6 Eastwood Site Allocation

Walker Street Eastwood is an important Green Space in the centre of Eastwood. Whilst we welcome retention of ‘Canyons’ as open space, we would wish to see Green Infrastructure/ habitat corridors enhanced throughout the site.

Modification sought

Include a commitment to provide GI links across the wider site.

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Policy 7.1 Land south of Kimberley Depot

We find proposals to develop the existing built up part of the site acceptable but are concerned about the impact on wildlife arising from loss of surrounding farmland and plantation woodland. Kimberley Disused Railway, on the southern boundary, is a LWS and important wildlife corridors, which should be adequately buffered from any development.

Modification sought

If this allocation is to remain, we would like to see a statement about extent of developable area, ideally limiting it to the existing built up part of the site. It is important that the allocation is sensitive to, and secures future positive management of the LWS.

Policy 7.2 Land south of Eastwood Road Kimberley

We consider this is an important area of remnant fields on the edge of urban area which, when considered with the adjacent woodland, is an important wildlife corridor. We would be concerned about inclusion of the site as an allocation.

Modification sought

Site to be excluded.

Policy 17 Place-making, Design and Amenity

We **support** the inclusion of 1(n – p):

- “n). Incorporates ecologically sensitive design, with a high standard of planting and features for biodiversity; and*
- o). Uses native species of trees, shrubs and wild-flower seeds in landscaping proposals; and*
- p). Integrates bat and/or bird boxes into the fabric of new buildings”.*

Modification sought

Under n) adding reference to following:

- green walls,
- brown and green roofs,
- ecologically designed / focused suds schemes,
- features to assist permeability for wildlife through the built environment (e.g. gaps under fences for hedgehogs).

Under p) adding a reference to insect houses.

The policy should raise future responsibilities and funding mechanisms for management of habitats / informal open spaces. The developer should cover the costs for management of habitats in perpetuity, so that it does not fall to Broxtowe Borough Council to pay for this.

Policy 19 Pollution, Hazardous Substances and Ground Conditions

Sub section 1b). *“Lighting schemes unless they are designed to use the minimum amount of lighting necessary to achieve their purposes and to minimise any adverse effects beyond the site, including effects on the amenity of local residents, the darkness of the local area and nature conservation (especially bats and invertebrates)”.*

We **support** inclusion of point in relation to darkness and nature conservation.

Policy 27 Local Green Space

We strongly **support** this policy and welcome inclusion of the sites listed. Protection of the sites around Bramcote Hills Park and wood, Stapleford Wood and the Bramcote Schools (section 3 relating to land east and west of Coventry Lane) is welcome, as these are very important wildlife sites with historic / cultural interest.

In terms of policy wording, we are concerned about inclusion of 'exceptional circumstances' clause, as this will undermine the policy protection.

Paragraph 28.2 states, "*The greatest opportunities for enhancing the corridors will come through development, and the Council intends to work with developers to create and maintain new spaces and to improve connectivity. The details of these opportunities for enhancement will depend on the characteristics of the corridors concerned*".

Development certainly creates opportunities for enhancing corridors but we would question whether it creates the 'greatest opportunities'. Many of the corridors are in the rural landscape, not through areas allocated for potential development and significant opportunities exist through working with existing landowners and farmers, in relation to improving existing Rights of Way or strengthening important landscape features and wildlife habitats, such as hedgerows, woodlands and field margins.

Green infrastructure corridors need to be of a reasonable, specified width to be viable; otherwise they will fail to function in ecological terms. Without specified widths there is the danger the corridors will be narrow as developers will naturally seek to maximise the size of the new built development. We have carried out some research on what is considered viable widths of green corridors. In summary:

- "Corridors should be preserved, enhanced and provided, [...], as they permit certain species to thrive where they otherwise would not. Corridors should be as wide and continuous as possible" (Dawson, 1994).
- 50m buffers [are] recommended for developments in the Local Plans of both Wakefield & Darlington Councils to protect local wildlife sites and / or river corridors.
- A 50m width allows corridors to function as a 'multi-purpose network', as defined in NECR 180, so that it includes attributes that are valuable to people, i.e. biodiversity alongside amenity, footpaths, cycleways, sustainable drainage, microclimate improvement, heritage [etc.]
- Quadrat Scotland 2002 (Appendix 1). For connectedness, to be defined as 'high' (on scale high, medium, low), the corridor needs to be at least 50m wide for more than 50% of the corridor

References

- Dawson, D. 1994. Are Habitat Corridors Conduits for Animals and Plants in a Fragmented Landscape? A Review of the Scientific Evidence. English Nature Research Reports
- Wakefield Consultation on spatial strategy: Wakefield Council Spatial Policy Areas
- Darlington consultation on draft housing allocations: Darlington Council Housing Allocations report
- Natural England Commissioned Report NECR180 (2015). Econets, landscape & people: Integrating people's values and cultural ecosystem services.



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- Quadrat Scotland (2002) The network of wildlife corridors and stepping stones of importance to the biodiversity of East Dunbartonshire. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report

Modification sought

Removal of “*except in very special circumstances*” from the final sentence of the policy wording.

State that development provides opportunities for enhancing corridors, but remove (development) ‘provides *the greatest*’.

State that corridors must be at least 50 metres wide to be considered beneficial and viable for wildlife.

Policy 28 Green Infrastructure Assets

We strongly **support** this policy and welcome that “*Development proposals which are likely to lead to increased use of any of the Green Infrastructure Assets listed below, as shown on the Policies Map, will be required to take reasonable opportunities to enhance the Green Infrastructure Asset(s)*”.

Policy 29: Cemetery extensions

We **support** this policy and welcome that the potential biodiversity value of new proposed cemeteries has been recognised in the supporting text.

Policy 31: Biodiversity Assets

In terms of defining biodiversity assets, 1b “*Priority habitats and priority species (as identified in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and section 4.5 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy)*”, whilst we welcome inclusion of the reference to Nottinghamshire LBAP, we consider that the definition of biodiversity assets is missing the following:

1. Any reference to UK priority species and habitats (formerly called UK BAP priority species and habitats). Section 41 of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 identifies these and they may be found both within or outside designated sites. Priority species correspond to those identified under Section 41 of the NERC Act as species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and have to be considered under planning policy.

2. Any reference to protected species. This is different from priority species list (although some priority species may also be protected).

Due to lack of reference to S41 species and habitat NERC Act and Biodiversity Duty, Legally protected species we consider the policy is not sound as it is not consistent with local (Policy 17 of ACS) and national policy (Biodiversity paras).

Modification sought

Inclusion of a reference to NERC Act (species and habitats of principal importance) and legally protected species.

We also consider there is a requirement for a Biodiversity SPD to help protect Broxtowe’s important nature sites, habitat and species and would like to see a commitment to produce one made in the LPP2 main document. A Biodiversity SPD would also help the council to secure its aspirations set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Conservation Strategy.

Policy 32: Developer Contributions

We welcome that financial contributions may be sought for biodiversity for applications of 10 or more houses and therefore **support** the policy in this respect.

In terms of question 5 on the response form (participation at public inquiry), if we have resources available at the time of the hearings, we would be happy to attend public examination sessions. In any case, we are happy to be contacted by the Planning Policy Team regarding future consultations and would welcome email correspondence in connection with this and future consultations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

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██
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust



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Website
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