



Small copper by Matt Berry



People taking action for wildlife

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Planning Department

Wrexham County Borough Council

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Dear Sir/Madam,

29th March 2018

Application P/2017/0799 Land at Mulsford Farm, Sarn

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust would like to respond to the application to construct a poultry farm on land at Mulsford Farm, Sarn.

We are particularly concerned because the Environmental Statement has failed to identify 8 Cheshire Local Wildlife Sites within 2 km of the proposals and in doing so has failed to assess any likely impacts to these sites. **This is an unacceptable error and the Environmental Statement will require amendments incorporating new impact assessments relating to gaseous ammonia and surface/ground water pollution of adjacent land.**

Two of the Local Wildlife Sites lie within 1km of the scheme - Mill Lane, Green Lane and Pasture and Greaves Woods. Greaves Wood LWS is an area of ancient woodland that lies on the banks of the Wych Brook. It has a rich flora and is contiguous with Well Rough and Long Plantation SSSI, lying between the SSSI and the proposed development site (approximately 850 m to the South East).

Mill Lane, Green Lane and Pasture is woodland and species-rich neutral pasture which lies 580 m to the north east of the site. It lies on a tributary of Wych Brook.

Section 12.9 of the ES states that 'Both the development and operation of a poultry development on this site have the potential to negatively impact on the hydrology and hydrogeology of the area through the contamination of surface water and groundwater'

Not only does the ES fail to address the potential impacts to the Local Wildlife Sites but there is also a failure to assess the aquatic flora and fauna of the Wych Brook or its tributaries and associated ditches.

Working for wildlife across **Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Halton, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Warrington & Wirral.**

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Furthermore there is no EIA (agriculture) screening of the land where the slurry is likely to be spread i.e. no assessment of its current ecological status. We are concerned that the area for waste spreading may include that adjacent to pond 2, a priority habitat which supports priority species including nationally rare Cowbane and great crested newt, a European Protected Species. Both of these species are sensitive to pollution.

We urge the council not to determine the application in the absence of the above information.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel Giles

Rachel Giles Ph.D.

Evidence and Planning Manager

Cheshire Wildlife Trust