

## **Matter 5 Site Specific Issues**

### **1. Southwell Area**

**1. 1 (19)** Development of the site So/Ho/3 would have a detrimental impact on Potwell Dyke Meadow (Local Wildlife Site 2/731), which is notified for its 'species rich grassland'. Nottinghamshire has lost 98% of its wild flower meadows since 1937 and therefore we consider this site inappropriate for development. We would like to see more emphasis placed on avoidance of damage to Local Wildlife Sites rather than measures to mitigate and/or compensate for any detrimental impact on environmental features. Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include Regionally Important Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets; contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the community; and in supporting research and education. Where damage or complete loss is permitted the aim should be to ensure that a net gain of biodiversity is achieved at a proportion of at least 2:1 to that land that is to be lost. Habitat creation schemes may take many years to attain the level of biodiversity of the area that is lost, if ever and therefore conserving and enhancing habitats in situ should always be the preferred strategy. The following is taken from the **Newark and Sherwood Core Strategy: Core Policy 12 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure** '*The District Council will seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological diversity of the District by working with partners to implement the aims and proposals of the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Nature Conservation Strategy. The District Council will therefore: Expect proposals to take into account the need for continued protection of the District's ecological, biological and geological assets. With particular regard to sites of international, national and **local significance**, Ancient Woodlands and species and habitats of principal importance identified in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*' and '*seek to secure development that maximises the opportunities to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and geological diversity and to increase provision of, and access to, green infrastructure within the District; Promote the appropriate management of features of major importance for wild flora and fauna*'.

Yours sincerely,

### **Original Document Signed**

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