



## Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust  
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Registered charity number: 232580  
Registered in England number: 708575

**July 21st 2023**

### **P22/01300/O Erection of upto 180 Dwellings a local shop and associated infrastructure**

Dear, Ms Walker

Thank you for consulting us on the amendments to the outline application P22/01300/O

The developers environmental consultants EDP have clearly looked at the ecological concerns expressed by GWT, Natural England and others, and, within the confines of the application site have tried to address them. What they have suggested in terms POS and its management is appreciated, and a move in the right direction.

Notwithstanding this, no matter how attractive the application site is made to residents, there will still be a desire to seek out more visually and ecologically interesting landscapes in the immediate locality. EDP make much of the immediate connections the site provides to the wider PROW network, and whilst we accept this is available, the land to the west of application site is generally flat, open, arable and ecologically and visually uninteresting. This is in stark contrast to the land to the immediate west of Wickwar (including Lower woods) which is undulating, intimate, wooded and ecologically very diverse. This will inevitably draw people to the site with the resulting degradation of the habitat.

As a Trust we understand that people have a desire and a right to visit and experience wild spaces, indeed our strategy is all about re-connecting people with wildlife, however, that has to be managed in a manner that does not destroy the very asset people want to visit.



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There are mitigating works and processes that could be bought to play 'off site' that could do much to allow the development to go ahead without compromising the integrity and ecological value of lower woods. Mitigation works both soft (education) and hard (infrastructure improvements) do of course do come at cost and it does seem reasonable that the development rather than GWT - the owner of Lower Woods bears the substantial burden of this. We maintain our objection therefore unless the developer commits to fund agreed mitigating measures to manage the burden on Lower Woods of their development through a Unilateral undertaking or by whatever means can be agreed.

If minded to consent then this should be conditioned such that the ecological management plan is implemented in full, and if the above cannot be achieved that the developers at least enter into negotiations with GWT on how best to manage increased visitor pressure on Lower Woods.

Meyrick Brentnall

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