

Tom Hawkes

From: Consultations
To: Giles Snelling
Subject: RE: the sheer magnitude of our local biodiversity & wildlife

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.....got cut off, run out of line space so could not add more or sign off - lucky you!
postcode is CT2 9LS - left the 9 off too - & as usual, all typo errors are mine.

giles - & yes kill the Policy C12 build attempts every time they also come back at you!
but 200 - 300 extra build around blean residential area & road - we can all live with that

On Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 00:29:03 BST, Giles Snelling [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Alex & Victoria et al.,
consultant across the globe

giles r a snelling - conservation & regeneration

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re; ongoing saga of Policy C12 - university lands potentially being re-submitted later despite deletion from local plan

The Blean Project team - as well as news outlets etc., note that we all have a last chance to comment some more before the 21st - tomorrow's final deadline. This i do here & by adding final say here + above exchanges, will save you from having to scroll back to find my 2nd submission which you say was too late to be added - plus 2 more short extra comments in our exchanges - but which you then say both this 2nd one, as well as my 1st submission of the 2nd june 24 which was added under your ref; WR1148 - have indeed been "read & digested"?. Anyway, you have both & if you need to peruse them all again with my final reply here below, then i know you can beam them up easily.

We all know of governments plans to build 1.5 million houses yet rolling out at an under target rate of only achieving some 200,000 due to labour shortages, rising costs & nimbyism etc., while high inflation has added extra pressure & thus the mantra around "houses 1st & wildlife etc. 2nd" & even more alarming, yesterday impatient builders are reported to have crossed into another rare & valuable SSSI - site of special scientific interest - after hearing gov. uk is getting even more desperate to get building done wherever the builders choose, so now we find builders are attempting just that!.

So, with all this in mind, what chance do we have to save this, our unique biodiversified site area - the full Chartham Hatch north city curve to Hoathe in its entirety & for posterity?
Kent University at the time was like some 200+ other universities, besotted with piling debt. At the time we hear kent as having one of the highest debt at some 69 million & if they failed, the loss of would be disaster for city, shops, council coffers & all the rest so the pressure was on - we must save the uni. and are thus pushed to consider the unthinkable. But now we see their debt down to 12 million, joined in an unpresidented university coupling with Greenwich University who report a healthy 360+ million profit & thus with their better housekeeping principal at the helm, can thus bail out kent as well as give better support of how to make education pay! so financial breaks off.

We listed here a record breaking 80+ land bird species including a record breaking 41+ being on endangered red & amber lists. Plus noting record high diversity levels with many other species too & last month the official kent /uk recorder of all uk's butterfly & moths noted to us that this Rough Common, Tyler Hill & the Blean holds & is so recorded as possessing over 1,200 of the entire 1,500 listing.

So it really does need knowing as to is here, upon & around policy C12, the most universally richly & diversified place in all kent or all uk even? & if so, then it must be so protected.

Perhaps we should thus consider making this area say not a SSSI site, but a USS-SSSI site - universal super site - site of special scientific interest etc. where its becoming starkly clear that 'here' seems to have the ability to be able to virtually accept & become a good home to almost all land life forms!!!. - yes, very unique!

But yes, by stopping the build & giving this north city curve special protection status it would not only keep any further build developments here to a bare frugal minimum, it also would end the earlier plans to build a ring road around this city too!

But the upside of saving the Blean will, by so providing a very rare to find place where pressurised city planners can pass plans 'at will' almost anywhere! knowing that any rare bird, mammal, amphibian, plant. insect etc.etc. they can all come here! & all will do well here too!. The Blean - here - really is a very unique, multi diversified unique & precious treasure and by thus saving it, it really will give somewhere where all living rarities can live & have a good & healthy existence & when the resevoir gets built, then all the water species can move in as well. Planners nightmare sorted.

university can get on with improving how to to education economically, planners can enjoy their work with less issues,

building can get done at many other sites while the rest of us know all the living things we care about can have a good life too!

On Monday 19 May 2025 at 09:56:06 BST, Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Giles,

My sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Thank you for your email regarding your submission to the Local Plan consultation. I understand you would like to add a detailed appendix about bird species to your original representation.

I regret to inform you that we cannot formally amend your published representation, as the consultation period had closed by the time we received your addendum.

However, I want to reassure you that your concerns about the rich biodiversity of the site have been well represented in the consultation. I checked and can see over 100 comments submitted mentioned specifically the diversity of bird species, including those that are protected and endangered in the area. The wildlife value of the site, including the Sarre Penn river course and various ecological niches you describe, have been thoroughly documented in the representations received.

While a detailed appendix cannot be formally added to your submission, the substance of your concerns about bird diversity were captured in the previous round of consultation. All of these representations will be considered as part of the evidence base as we move forward with the Local Plan process.

Thank you for your passion for protecting the local environment and wildlife.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Gunyon

From: Giles Snelling [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 December 2024 14:50
To: Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: the sheer magnitude of our local biodiversity & wildlife

--Email From External Account--

Hi Victoria,

Thanks for reply informing me of Alex's well deserved paternity break - lets hope cometh the new year rachael reeves back tracks on here desperate attempt to by pass planners to get their desperate plan to concrete uk at any cost!....

In short, my 1st submission doesn't need replacing but has many typo errors of spelling etc. which if you want to correct the grammar etc otherwise it needs to remain intact.

Apart from discussing the diversified geology, landscape, water seepage issues and the precious & unique importance of the sarre penn river course and it cross roads ancient tree lined defunct rail line plus all the other many unique eco niche land forms where "here" we have probably more wildlife forms than anywhere else in uk which is constantly being added to as other desperate to survive life forms also move in - there is so much here to protect that really there should be reports on all such of well over 1,000 pages which again heighlights that there is so much here that needs full protection status as a "must do" priority that no gov. override should ever be implemented.

the extra page or 2 now in front of you is thus not a replacement to its longer already included report, rather it is an annex appendix addition which is the detail of quote " - (half way 3/4 down page 4 of 5)

"of over 72 differing birds"

of which the appendix pages now before you - copy also with our parish chair - had me to detail the exact species & actual no. of such red, amber & other birds found & seen here of which you can read that totals well over 85 difering species of which a staggering 41+ are rare & endangered.

I cant think of anywhere in kent or across the entire uk which has so so many species at extinction threat! & thats just the birds! & further it really, really does need separate full impact reports on each - 41 separate reports before you on each as to just how many & which ones will be made extinct by any form of build here.

plus to add to this, i also doubt that across the entire uk there are very very few such remarkable & richly nature diverse sites or nature reserves that are adding rare life forms due to man's oppressive spread impositions - now at pace!

Thus it is for these 2 very important facts that the entire north city east west forested curve with all its fields, hedgerows, ponds & river forms that it must MUST be fully protected.

so in short my request here that as an example appendix concerning the potential/actual rare bird species loss that will inevitably unfold here if such a build project gets enacted - then the losses will be of the order of the worst max wildlife

destruction that could be possible due to the sheer magnitude of the rich & unique diversity we have so rightly kept intact - till now.

so if you can stitch it on to its main logged parent

On Monday 23 December 2024 at 13:18:05 GMT, Consultations <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr Snelling,

Alex is currently on paternity leave so I have picked your query up.

It sounds like you'd like your previous representation rectified. As the consultation is now closed, could you advise what you'd like changed?

Many thanks,
Victoria

From: Giles Snelling [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2024 5:00 PM
Cc: Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: the sheer magnitude of our local biodiversity & wildlife

--Email From External Account--

to; Alexander Gunyon - policy officer

as per my response to the blean forest c12 site up for planning potential sent you on 2nd june with your acknowledgement on the 7th june to that, - which you added to your customer representations list - my 4 pages on your list ref WR1148 - please can you add this 1 page bit to detail the 41+ red & amber listed birds of the 74+ so seen here as extra info to support & which adds more detailed clarification & pertinent points etc.

since your considerations on the many new potential development building proposals have been deffered for another year, I hope you can confirm by reply that you receive the above page plus can you confirm you can add it to my already logged WR1148 slot or, if i have to wait till 2025 point when your dept. has stated further consults & considerations will again be added for the later final .drafts & perusals etc...

you will note i had only sent this originally to our parish chairman but failed to send also to you back then. plus please excuse all my typo errors due to my haste to produce & quickly send you.

regards - & we sympathise with so so many replies sent by us many concerned citizens, but we are in times when finding suitable new developments in our tiny county has added to the economic & dire environmental concerns on top of running out of places to build. the compressions - we all feel them!!

giles

On Sunday 3 November 2024 at 14:34:27 GMT, Giles Snelling [REDACTED] wrote:

On Tue, Sep 10, 2024 at 3:31 PM Giles Snelling [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Ania,

Here are the lists of red & amber & other birds seen here on the river sections, fields & hedgerows & sky above etc., - over 40 yrs. - at the bottom of calais hill - as promised & asked for.

these lists are comprised of the internet 2021 & this last weeks upload of 2024

findings which someone clearly done in haste since both the woodcock & lesser spotted woodpecker have been wrongly listed twice! so we can only speculate as to what other 2 endangered birds have been left off.

red listed - 24

amber listed -17

full list of all seen = 74

(some dozen marked "+" - only seen a few times or even just once only)

but to have some 40+ - yes, 40 + !!!! - rare, highly vulnerable & direly un-adaptable/stubborn/fussy niche specific birds here, clearly shows us all just how valuable & unique this our E&W blean forrest linking corridor is! where curved from chartham hatch to hoath with its diverse multi niche habitats just a short space north of our city which also has much heritage & history that likewise needs both our special bit of rare countryside so protected as well as the city!

however, it should be noted that these lists are a tad murky due to 1. approx 2-4 birds offer interchange between both the red & amber list 2. some fall off both lists while others get added & 3. of those marked with a "+" - some dozen of those listed have only been seen a few times & a few sadly only the once.

for example the pretty & thus strikingly colorful golden oriel has only been seen just once - but that's enough to show it exists! whether it lives here or just hastily passing on, desperate to find somewhere, anywhere, suitable & safe. only ever seen 1 before & that was 1 i caught in elham primary school annex building some 60 yrs' ago and showed the whole class before releasing it - it's a rare bird!

red list:-

1.grey partridge 2.(+bewick/mute/whooper swan cygnet's+) 3.swift 4.cuckoo 5.lapwing 6.woodcock 7. herring gull & +common gull+ 8.lessor spotted woodpecker 9.skylark 10.(+wood warbler - ring ouzel -golden oriel+) 11.starling 12.mistle thrush 13. fieldfare 14. spotted flycatcher 15.nightingale 16. house sparrow 17. greenfinch 18. linnet 19.yellow hammer 20. corn bunting 21. song thrush 22. teal 23. firecrest 24. willow warbler/wren

amber list:-

1. mallard 2. (+bewick/mute/whooper swan cygnet's+) 3.wood pigeon 4.moorhen + black headed gull+ 5.tawny owl 6. + honey & rough legged buzzards+ 7. sparrow hawk 8. kestrel 9. rook 10. common whitethroat 11.wren 12. kingfisher 13. redwing 14. dunnock/hedge sparrow 15. bullfinch 16. grey wagtail 17. red kite + black kite+

full list:-

jay, magpie, carrion crow, jackdaw, rook, greenfinch, linnet, chaffinch, bullfinch, goldfinch,siskin, yellow hammer, corn bunting, house sparrow, starling, skylark, grey wagtail, nuthatch, tree creeper, firecrest, goldcrest, coal tit, gt. tit, blue tit, long tailed tit, chiffchaff, +wood warbler+ willow wren/warbler, blackcap, whitethroat, garden warbler, mistle thrush, song thrush, blackbird, fieldfare, redwing, robin, nightingale, hedge sparrow/dunnock, swallow, swift, spotted flycatcher, wren, green woodpecker, gt. spotted wood pecker, lesser spotted woodpecker, cuckoo, kingfisher, tawney owl, red kite +black kite+, common buzzard, sparrow hawk, kestrel, hobby! -(only ever seen here!), peregrine falcon, swans, mallard, pretty mandarin ducks, teal, heron, woodcock, lapwing, common gull, herring gull, black headed gull, moorhen, coot, wood pigeon, collard dove, grey partridge, pheasant, +honey & rough legged buzzards+ stonchat,nightjar - as in neighbour catherine's camera! (= 74 plus the +)

this lot represents virtually a full third of all uk's entire bird species of which the many others are sea/lake & marsh birds - ie of other coastal & water habitats etc., so one could say of the birds living on the land, our quta is indeed much greater & a good indication of just how "wildlife rich" blean forest / tyler hill area really is! & thus its kinda not right & mysteriously strange that to date, neither the rspb, natural england, kent wildlife trust & the woodland trusts et al have not listed this unique & nataure rich & special area!?

It can also be viewed & said that up to say the 1950's - 1960's - if and when any new species of wild life or birds moved into ones domain of land or water habitat , that it done so because its numbers are expanding & ones niche site is viewed as a good new place to live. but lately i take the view & belief that as idyll as that seems, the fact is increasingly more probable that when new to site life forms move in, fact is its more increasingly due to desparation of such having become homeless refugees, desperate to find somewhere, anywhere, that has not become overworked, adjusted, changed, polluted, crowded out by undesirble life threats, pesticides, mans incessant & overpowering spread, land grab and urbanisation with noise, concrete, bad air esp for the amphibians etc.. & this is even more so as to what man has done with, changed, churned & added chemicals to the even more precious underground where all is out of sight!

so its even more vital we protect in posterity multi diverse life rich areas like what we have here not simply just to protect what little remains & under dire rapid extinction of downward spiral, but also as being a place where so much varied life forms can also adapt to and thus alarmingly we will - in wildlife forms desparation - see much more move in simply because wherever they are eaking out now, will for sure not be viable at all as mans spread & adverse destructive impacts roll on and at worryingly unstoppable terminator pace!

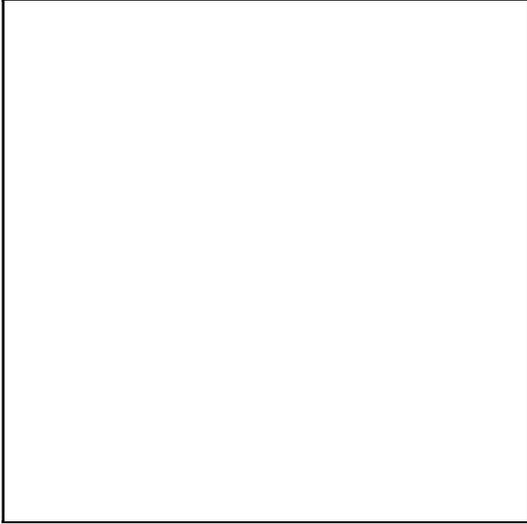
so the blean forrest area needs not only be here "as is" untouched in perpetuity forever for what it so far has managed to keep so much going, it is the case that for so so much else that has lost not just its habitat, but also existing much more vulnerable & fragmented by so also having lost much of its parentage, its elders & brothers to such an extent that increasingly of what is left is more and more of infantile, junior & thus clueless in nature caused by so much diruption on all fronts.

so for whatever other life forms will increasingly be comming our way, we need to keep such rare spaces rich in diverse niche choice which is in dire short supply, but we luckily have it here! - until now.

Additionally we have all the 3 shrew species, all the 3 newt species, the 3 vole species and so much more! but dont ask about the butterflies, moths & insect forms since they are so so sadly depleted everywhere as to be too sad to talk about, but i can say i enjoy the fact that we also hold at least 3-6 rare ones in each of these categories too!!.

in short & simple - blean forrest is too too unique & too too precious an area that
nimbyism is a mitigating factor that blean forrest area has far more & exists far beyond trhe norm &t hus must be
saved & "at all costs" too!

giles



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