



Chairman: Mr J R Cousin, 26 High Tree Drive, Henbury, Macclesfield, SK11 9PD

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Cheshire East Council,
Spatial Planning,
Westfields, C/O Municipal Buildings,
Earle Street,
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03 March 2017

Dear Sirs,

Submission to the Consultation on the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy – Proposed Changes (March 2016 Version) by The Henbury Society.

The Henbury Society continues to hold the protection of the green belt between our parish and Macclesfield as a top priority and makes the following comments on the Main Modifications:

(A) Proposed Modification of the CS32 northern Boundary and its Effect on Cock Wood SBI

Whilst we welcome the reduction of CS 32 by some 8.7 hectares we wish to draw attention to the following three points:

1. In his *Views on Further Modifications Needed* (RH D009) the Inspector pointed out the need to secure the long-term future of the Cock Wood area of Ancient Woodland and designated Local Wildlife Site by retaining it in the Green Belt.

The Modification Proposal secures only a part of the SBI as shown in the maps appended to this letter.

2. The *Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy – Proposed Changes (March 2016 Version) (MM 001)* contains the following wording within Policy SE3 (sec MM20 p31):

"Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse impact on a site with one or more of the following local or regional designations, habitats or species will not be permitted except where the reasons for or benefits of the proposed development clearly outweigh the value of the ecological feature adversely affected and there are no appropriate alternatives impact of the development:

- i. Local Nature Reserves*
- ii. Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) or Local Wildlife Sites"*

An analysis of the CS32/CS40 proposals on the ecological value of the SBI has not been provided, and therefore the Modification Proposal is currently contrary to Policy SE3.

3. The *Cheshire East Council Local Plan Strategy: Proposed Changes to Sites & Strategic Locations Sustainability (Integrated) Appraisal Addendum Report Volume 2 July 2016 (PC B030)* at 3.116 (Page 73/118) states :

"The SA found that there is the potential for residual minor negative effects on biodiversity as a result of development at site options PSS204, PSS207, PSS208, PSS216, PSS217 and PSS219 as they either contain locally important designated sites or are in close proximity to a nationally designated site. It will be important for development at any of the potential site options to avoid designated or sensitive areas and seek to retain and enhance habitat connectivity wherever possible".

The eastern part of the Cock Wood SBI lies within Site PSS 219 therefore the Modification Proposal is contrary to the above mentioned Sustainability Appraisal. .

We share the concern raised with you by Henbury Parish Council for the impact of building on the SBI, and we urge that:

- (i) Both CS32 and CS40 should be reduced to avoid interference with the SBI.**
- (ii) CS32 should also be modified to allow a substantial gap between the ancient woodland and the potential development. This would not only mitigate the ecological impact on the SBI, but it could also improve the visual impact of the Wood on housing developments.**

(B) Brownfield Land.

We note that the Inspector requires CE to minimise the extent of Green Belt land designated for development, by reviewing the availability of brownfield sites in Macclesfield.

There is no evidence that such a review has been done, and the allocations remain unchanged.

Yours faithfully

J R Cousin, Chairman

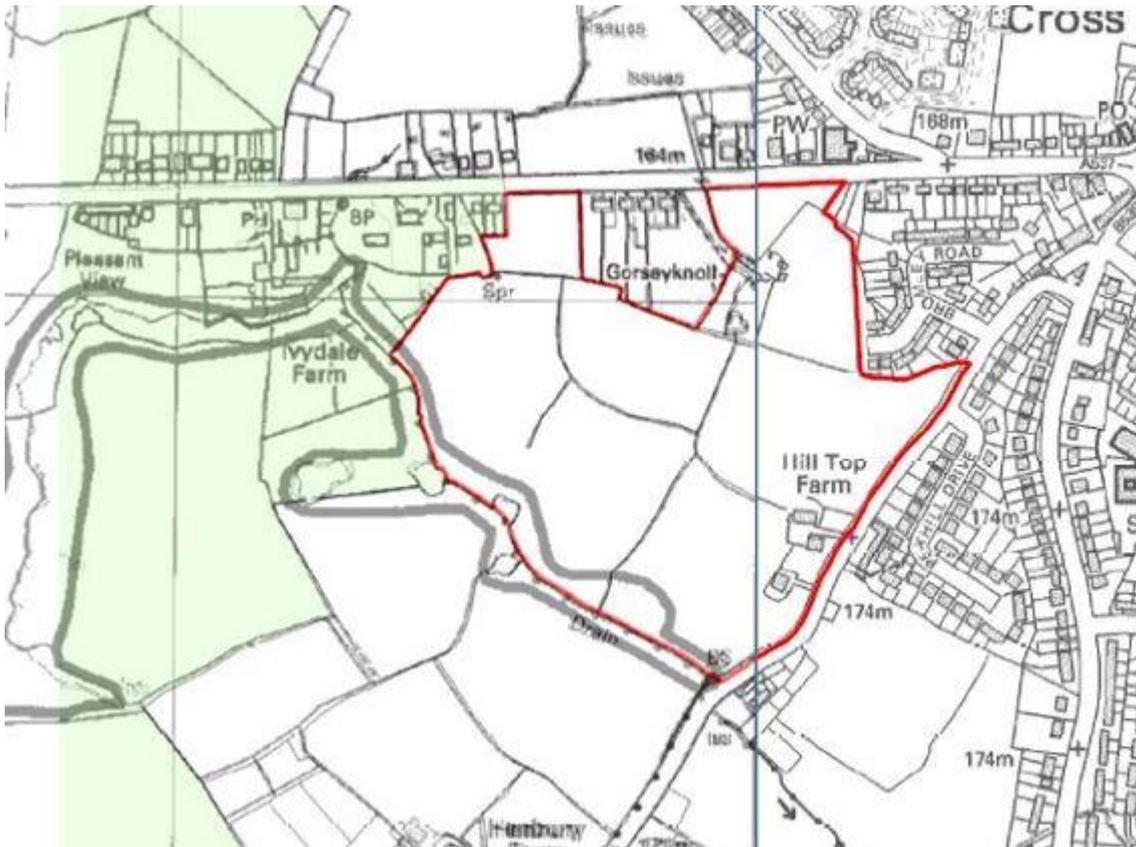
The Henbury Society

Appendix 1



CS32 boundary with overlay of Cock Wood SBI (dark thick line)

Appendix 2



CS40 boundary with overlay of Cock Wood SBI (dark thick line)