

**Archived:** 25 June 2019 10:50:40

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wed, 30 Jan 2019 22:14:41 +0000DKIM

**To:** Planning

**Subject:** Proposal to include land at the south end of the village of Tomintoul into the local development plan.

**Sensitivity:** Normal

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I object to the proposal to include the land at the south end of the village of Tomintoul into your local development plan, as follows.

My reasons are not in order of importance.

Only a few years ago there was a documented recognition that the wooded areas at either end of the village (north and south) should not be developed.

This area is home to red squirrels. It is home to bats. It was recently occupied by Pine-martins. Water voles were resident recently (within 8 meters of my back doorway) in the small stream that flows between my house and the proposed development site. Hedgehogs are regularly seen in the area and itâ€™s ideal wintering territory for them. The Roe deer have a track through this land which takes them from the hill and woodland to their feeding areas at night. The Woodpecker breeds regularly in a tree which lies very close to, and may even be within the said area.

This area is at present a popular area for children playing in the wooded area, and especially in the established play park. The popular village walk and all ability trails go through this area.

This area is part of a longstanding woodland, planted soon after the creation of the village for the benefit of shelter from the drifting snow from the hill land to the south. This area of trees, forms part of a continuous belt of trees between the Conglass and the Avon valleys and has been recognized for many years as a wildlife corridor. This area is part of the promised compensatory planting for the recent development which lies within this area. This kind of area is particularly important and precious to man and beast because there is so little of it near to the village.

I take a keen interest in the natural world and I am probably more knowledgeable than most about the wildlife of this area. Suffice to say that I have recently witnessed a serious decline of habitat for some iconic species, plus serious disruption to them caused by the recent development in this small wooded area .

Around Tomintoul we have in recent years, lost about 80% of our mature trees.

Finally I would request that prior to a decision being taken whether or not to include this area into your development plan, I would be grateful if I could have access to the reasons why this area of land IS favored for development.

EDWARD STUART

