

Matter 11

- 11.1 Heathland mitigation is unlikely to work. The wood put forward has all the indication of being an ancient woodland which has been widely coniferised (at present 10 plants “most strongly associated with ancient woodland” – Drs Hornby and Francis Rose). Walking a quarter of a mile under dark conifers is not likely to attract people who have previously chosen the more open aspects of heathland for their recreation and dog walking. Woodland species are particularly vulnerable to people pressure (as seen at Cole Wood in the Parish), with resulting loss of biodiversity. Animals and plants associated with woodland have been selected over time by stability and a refuge from man’s interference (noise, enrichment with fertilizers, deep ploughing, insecticides, tidy-up approach to scrub). Some cannot even colonise new areas, eg wood anemone – very low seed germination.