

Mr and Mrs R Hilton  
Old Hall Farm  
Warrington Rd  
Bold Heath  
WA8 3XJ

15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

To whom it may concern.

I am writing this letter in addition to previous objections that we have made against the Omega planning application.

Myself and my family live and work on the farm that joins the proposed site on the south and west sides. We are the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of our family to work our farmland and have strived over the years to establish an environment that attracts and maintains areas for wildlife, is still in keeping with the history of the site as part of the Bold Estate and maintain a business.

We are gravely concerned that if this development is to go ahead a massive environmental impact for the worse will occur.

A major part of our farm is Booths Wood, a 20 acre plot of mature trees and habitat that can easily be found on the 1840s map and I have no doubt that it dates earlier than this. The warehouse that is the main part of this application comes right up to the boundary of this woodland. We are very much concerned what damage will be done to the wildlife that lives in this undisturbed woodland. As this is a privately owned area of land very few people actually go near it so it is a haven for wildlife.

We are privileged to be able to enjoy this site and the abundance of wildlife is immense. Woodpeckers, tawny, little and barn owls all use the woodland as do bats which you see if you go around at dusk. Buzzards, sparrow hawks, merlins & kestrels are all a common sight, using the wood & the surrounding farmland to hunt. Also the many brown hares that our farm is lucky to have use the woodland. We have an ever increasing brown hare population and it is great to see. This is due to the the undisturbed woodland area here I am sure.

The proposed development, although not physically removing Booths Wood, will destroy approximately 18 acres of mature woodland, hedgerows and ponds all of a similar age and therefore a natural linked habitat for the wildlife to live. I fear that the wildlife and environmental damage that the development will create will have a devastating consequences for many many years to come, and all add to the areas air pollution. Old woodland and hedgerows cannot be replaced.

I have the joy at the moment looking from my house and farm to see an area of unspoilt greenbelt. The present Omega site can be seen in the distance, especially more so in winter when the woodlands are bare. Over the greatest part of the year the proposed developments sites woodland screen most of it from view, apart from the glow of light pollution which is visible at night. If this development goes ahead I will have the light pollution from the site aiming straight into my house and the massive warehouse towering over a beautiful woodland.

The development goes against everything St Helens Council had planned for the area. The local plan (yet to be adopted) has a vast majority of the site to stay as greenbelt and proposed use of this land was originally a major part of the Bold Forest Park. All these ideas and aims will be lost.

Surely preserving historic green space is more important to encourage people out into the countryside. Especially given the last 12 months people have enjoyed open space and this has helped the country through the pandemic and peoples mental well being. I know we have enjoyed walking along the boundary of this site and the beauty of the surroundings does help.

Finally from a business view I have concerns that the development will alter the way in which water moves through the area. The main water course is a vital part of land drainage and at the moment can have periods where it is over faced. This does cause some of my land to flood and I do suffer loss of crops. If the area is concreted, tarmaced and warehouses built, the rapid water run off into the water course this will inevitably cause me further problems and I can seem more of my land becoming un-farmable.

I hope the inspector will take all views into account and realise that this area is a small patch of greenbelt in an ever increasing building site. This area has historic links with the Bold Estate, it provides a safe environment for many types of wildlife. The area has been untouched and saved for many hundreds of years and this is why the greenbelt should be saved so future generations are able to enjoy it.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison Hilton.