

Response & Comment For Sections 3, 7 & 8

Theme - Save fields off of Trinity Way within Site STR2.

Why is the plan not legal and not sound in relation to site STR2, and specifically the proposal to build on fields / meadows and woodland adjacent to Trinity Way ?

Building roads and / or houses on these two fields / meadows and woodland (defined below at figures 1 and 2) contravenes the following policies within the plan;

Section 3

- Policy SO8. - Improving the quality of life of our communities.
- Policy SO9. - Connecting people to places.
- Policy SO10. - Protecting and enhancing our environment assets and working towards environmental net gain.
- Policy ID.13 - Green and Blue Infrastructure.
- Policy ID.14 - Open Space, Play, Recreation and Community Growing Spaces
- Policy ID.15 - Accessibility, Quality and Value of Open Space, Play, Recreation and Community Growing Spaces
- Policy ID.16 - Adoption, Ownership and Long-Term Stewardship and Delivery of Public Open Space
- Policy ID.17 - Sport, Recreation and Leisure Facilities
- Policy ID.18 - Community Facilities

Section 7

- Policy SO4.- Making Effective use of land and natural resources
- Policy SO6. - Creating Attractive places and spaces
- Policy SO8. - Improving the quality and life of our communities
- Policy SO10. - Protecting and enhancing our environment assets and working towards environmental net gain.
- Policy BN.1 - Protection of Sites, Habitats and Species
- Policy BN.2 - Local nature recovery strategies
- Policy BN.11 - Historic Landscapes ~ Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Village Greens

Section 8 (Site STR2)

Proposal states in the detail that it is policy for; *“Bridgetown **Woodland** and **Meadows** to be **protected** as a potentially allocated local nature reserve. Development should not result in the loss or deterioration of this site nor prevent its future designation”*

Reasons Why:

Figure 1 - Central Portion of STR2, South of Trinity Way, East of Banbury Rd. Identifying Area (within Red Polygon), That The Community Wishes To Fully Retain

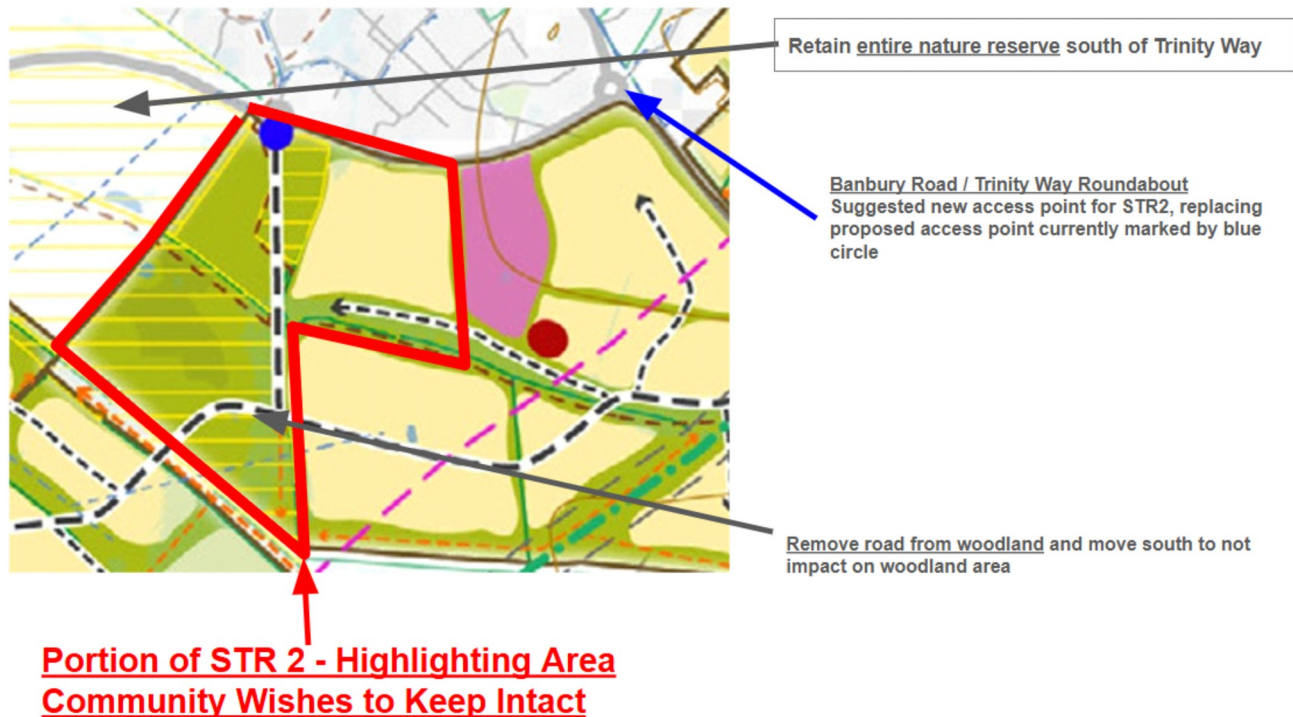


Figure 2 - Signs At Entrance To Fields & Woodland. In Place As At August 2026 .

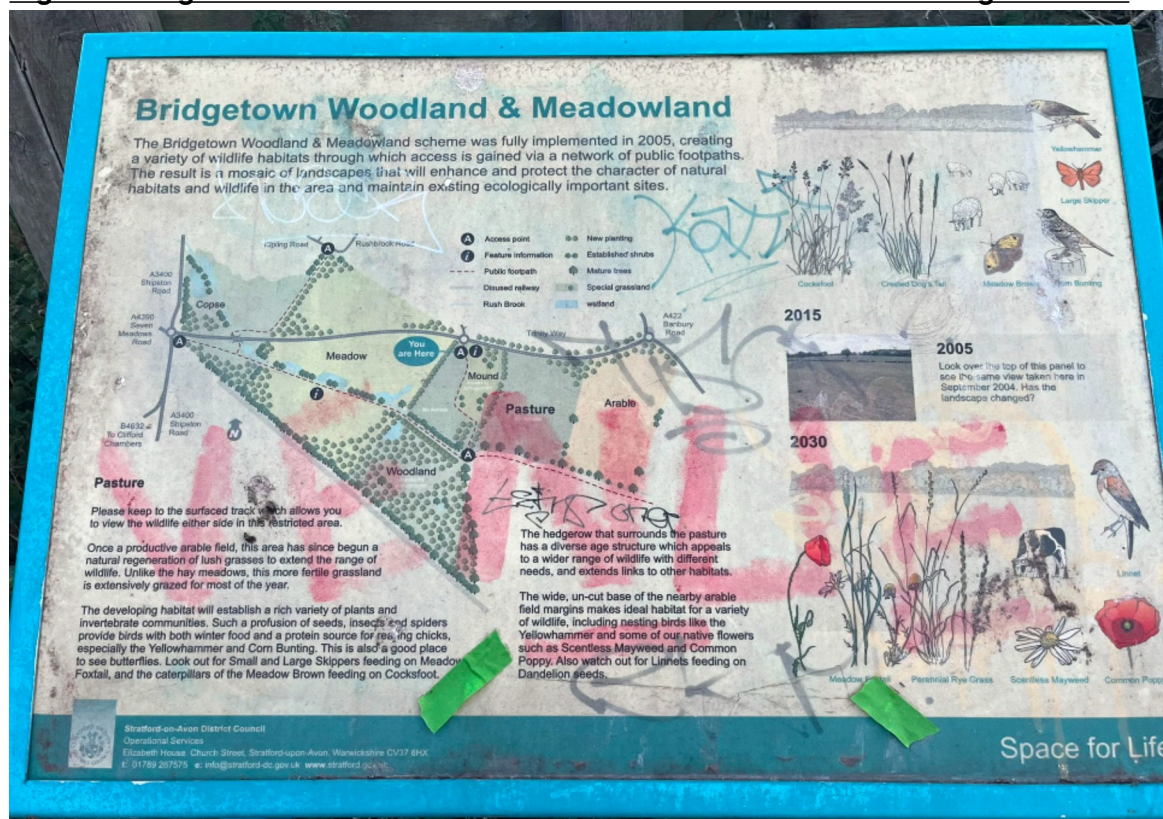




Figure 3 - Evidence of Community Support - Photo Taken by Stratford Herald in August 2026 Showing Community Members Supporting Retention of the Fields



Detail

The fields (meadowland) and woodland to the South of Trinity Way, locally known as the “Dog

Walking Fields" are a highly used, much loved and valuable community asset. They have been so for at least 20 years. Some residents can recall them being used as common land as far back as 50 years ago. One resident who occupies an historic building in the area has stated they have land title deeds for their property which show the fields / meadows as common land as long as 100 years ago.

The fields are mainly used by residents from Trinity Mead and Bridgetown, however some residents from the wider Stratford also drive here to walk their dogs.

Without the fields many residents of the area would be forced to drive to other locations around Stratford in order to walk their dogs.

Admittedly, there is the large nature reserve woodland area to the west of the fields that can be, and is by some, used. However many dog walkers find these unsuitable for their needs. They are not comfortable letting their dogs off the lead in the woodland for fear they will lose them and some people, in particular female residents, are not comfortable walking through the woodland on their own in the early morning or evening.

Residents who live on their own, and meet friends and neighbours to walk their dogs around the fields say they are a social life line for them which significantly supports their mental health.

The fields, and adjoining woodland in particular, are teeming with nature. Residents frequently see bats flying around the fields on an evening and deer have been seen in the woodland on several occasions.

The community was shocked when the SWLP was released with a proposal to turn the fields / meadows into roads and housing. Many believed they were protected as part of the Bridgetown Woodland And Meadowland. Why did they think this ?

The sign, placed by Stratford District Council, at the entrance to the fields suggests exactly that. It says *"The Bridgetown Woodland and Meadowland scheme was fully implemented in 2005, creating a variety of wildlife habitats through which access is gained via a network of public footpaths. The result is a mosaic of landscape that will enhance and protect the character of natural habitats and wildlife in the area and maintain existing important ecological sites"*.

In the rush to include STR2 in the SWLP, it feels as if Stratford District Council failed to; assess the usage and value of the area to the residents, conduct any wildlife surveys, or potentially even visit the site and see their own sign that has been present there for 21 years !

I ask that development of these fields / meadows and woodland be removed from the plan and that they be incorporated into the green space that is part of any new development that takes place at STR2. The proposed access route into this overall parcel of land from the roundabout by Co-Op, can easily be moved to be part of the roundabout at the Banbury Road / Trinity Way junction to the north east. The proposed road through the middle of the woodland can easily be moved further south so as to not impact on the woodland.

Retaining the fields / meadows and woodland as part of any new development will mean they continue to be a tremendous asset for the existing community in the area, and also be a tremendous asset for residents of any new developments in STR2. STR2 as a whole contains plenty of other parcels of land that it is proposed to be built upon.

It is the community's intention to formally register this area as a village / town green. It qualifies as it has been used as common land for at least 20 years by the community. Stratford District Council's own signage proves this beyond doubt. As per policies; ID.16 (*Adoption, Ownership and Long-Term Stewardship and Delivery of Public Open Space*) and BN.11 (*Historic Landscapes ~ Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Village Greens*), Stratford District Council should take ownership and stewardship of the whole area, including the fields and woodland to the south, which are currently in private ownership.

Conclusion

Retaining the fields / meadows and woodland will support multiple of Stratford District Council's strategic and plan policies;

- It improves the quality of life of our community and is a key community facility (**Policy SO8 and Policy ID18**).
- It connects people to places through being easily reached by walking for most of Trinity Mead and Bridgetown areas (**Policy SO9**). The overall strategy of the plan relating to 20 minute neighbourhoods and increasing active travel should also be considered here i.e removing the fields will mean a number of people will have to either travel by car, or further than 20 minutes on foot, to let their dogs off in an open area safe to do so.
- Makes effective use of land and natural resources and creates attractive places and spaces (**Policies SO4 and SO6**)
- Protects and enhances our environment assets and works towards environmental net gain, whilst protecting sites, habitats and species (**Policies SO10, BN1**)
- Supports recreational activity, green space and accessibility, quality and value of open space, play, recreation and community spaces (**Policies ID13, ID14, ID14 and ID17**).
- Finally, the actual detail in 8.18 Proposal STR2 states clearly that "Bridgetown **Woodland and Meadows to be protected** as a potentially allocated local nature reserve. Development should not result in the loss or deterioration of this site nor prevent its future designation". The signs at Figure 2 above show the boundaries of what actually is the Bridgetown Woodland & Meadows, however the plan diagram (figure 1) contradicts the statement in the policy detail. If the policy is to keep the woodland and meadows / fields, why does the plan not actually show this ? The plan is contradicting itself. Further evidence that the inclusion of STR2 in the plan was last minute and rushed.

Policies aside, at the heart of this issue is people. People who live in Stratford Upon Avon, pay their taxes here and support their community here. People who enjoy and rely on the space the fields / meadows and woodland provide. A space, that if retained, will provide the same to new residents of the STR2 developments. The SWLP proposes concreting over much of the countryside in South Warwickshire over the next 25 years, what harm is there in keeping a small part of it that is much loved and used by the local community ?