

BIODIVERSITY

The Natural History Museum in its "Introduction to biodiversity" defines biodiversity as:-

"Biodiversity, which is short for **biological diversity**, is the term used to describe the whole variety of life on Earth. It doesn't just mean rare species, like giant pandas, areas of high species diversity, such as rainforests, big impressive creatures, like lions, or economically important species, like cod. Biodiversity encompasses the diversity of all living things, from human beings to micro-organisms, the diversity of all the habitats in which they live and the genetic diversity of individuals within a species". (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/index.html>)

Berry Coppice and part of Cockarhams are both replanted ancient woodland. Although the trees are an important part of the ecosystem the trees protect the soil below which is far more important as the soil has remained undisturbed for hundreds if not thousands of years and is totally unique and site specific and of high biological diversity (mainly consisting of small macro and micro organisms) Once disturbed this important asset cannot be replaced.

The Warwickshire Local Biodiversity Plan (LBAP) is a very light weight project which in all essence is the promotion of 26 higher species and 24 different types of habitat.

We fail to see how the destruction of Berry Coppice and part of Cockarhams Wood (both ancient woodland) and hence the destruction of hundreds of thousands of macro & micro organisms covering thousands of unique species could improve "true" biodiversity in the area - as claimed in Mineral Core Strategy Revised Spatial Option Feb 2009, Potential Mineral Sites for Consideration, Site 7 - Berry Coppice, Dunnington (Pages 98-101)