

ISSUE 4 – HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

We have had sight of the Green Party's submission regarding the Habitat Regulations Assessment, which we support totally, and we do not wish to duplicate arguments here.

However, it is worth giving a few quotes from the substantial amount of research that exists and that demonstrates the detrimental effect of ozone on trees:

Ozone is "formed by the action of sunlight on oxides of nitrogen (mainly from vehicle emissions and industry) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (mainly from vehicles, solvents and industry).....Peak ozone formation takes place downwind of precursor sources in sunny weather with low wind speeds." (APIS, 2011) The Cotswold Beechwoods are downwind from Javelin Park, and therefore most likely to be affected by ozone forming as result of emissions from an incinerator there.

"O₃ has direct effects on leaf structure and physiology and causes visible leaf damage and reductions in growth and yield in sensitive plant species. These may lead to long-term effects on ecosystem structure and function." (Royal Society, 2008)

"There is evidence of widespread ozone damage to vegetation in Europe. Effects of ozone on vegetation include visible injury, early senescence of leaves, reduction of crop/forest yield and a reduction in biomass of sensitive plant species." (APIS, 2011)

"Vitality and fertility of forest trees is affected, manifested in reduced growth, seed set, and seed germination rate, leading to economic loss and diminished forest regeneration." (Longauer et al, 2001)