



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
27 May 2014

Sarah's objection to controversial Smithy Wood service station

Sarah Champion MP, the Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has this week written to Sheffield City council to object to a controversial planning application for a motorway service area at Junction 35 of the M1.

In a letter to Maria Duffy, the head of Sheffield City Council's Planning Department, Sarah argued that the service station would fall within the green belt and have a significant environmental impact on the area. She also argued that there is not a strong needs case for the service station, and that it would cause issues with local highways and traffic.

Sarah wrote: "The section of the motorway where the applicant would like to construct this service station is already one of the busiest on the network. This is evidenced by the development of a smart motorway scheme between Junction 35a and Junction 28. As part of that scheme, and again because the traffic flows are so high and cause emissions beyond the legal limit, a 60mph limit will be imposed for the majority of the time on the section between Junction 32 and 35a.

"On the environmental impact of the proposed development, my major concern is protecting the ancient woodland of Smithy Wood, much of which would be lost if this development were to go ahead. Already, much of this woodland has been lost or eroded, for instance when the M1 motorway was constructed. Only a tiny proportion of the original, much larger, wood would be left following the site's construction. I do not believe that the planting of new trees as proposed by the applicant mitigates against the destruction of this ancient wildlife habitat."

ENDS NR028

Notes to Editors

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