

Date/Time Sent:	11/02/2025 23:41
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Opinion:	Object

Comment

I have huge objections to this development. There is no sense or need for service stations every few miles along the M5. This area is very well provided for with plenty of service stations very, very local to the planned development.

The negative impact upon the local community and hamlet itself is of high concernto purposely draw tens of thousands of extra vehicles and HGVs from the M5 and to be directed so close to the village is detrimental to both the air quality and noise levels and adds yet more pollution to the air. The noise level will be not only intrusive but harmful to mental health. The proposed fences are not really high enough to make any sound barrier. The surrounding network of country lanes are not designed for such amounts of traffic.

The removal of the longstanding hedges will take away not only valuable habitat for the endangered and dwindling wildlife but the natural beauty of this environment. This area is known to have long a standing bat species living in some of the village properties. These need protection from artificial and constant light exposure. (as do I !) The light sources required in this development should be a guaranteed minimum and aimed downwards to not disturb and distress wildlife.

Statistically this section of the M5 has more daily /weekly accidents than most other areas of the motorway and the standstill traffic that ultimately affects the A38 in both directions around this busy artery, blocking access to /from Bridgwater and North Petherton is relentless....the last thing needed is more congestion. Any service station would be better served having its own on /off access to the motorway and not via an ancient hamlet leading into country lanes. This area is regularly at a standstill and made worse by the traffic trying to access the badly designed j24 services already in situ. And local traffic cutting through Huntworth using it as a shortcut to avoid the blocked A38 for B/W. There are no safety measures for cyclists or pedestrians. This would all still happen with the building of yet another service station.

My own home will be so overlooked by the proximity of this proposed development that my anxiety levels are becoming a serious worry for the state of my mental health. The stress of the imminent continued bright lights shining into my home after dark and the constant noise levels are an unhealthy threat.

It is obvious that the population living in Huntworth made a life style choice when choosing to buy property and settle here to have purposefully chosen to live with guaranteed dark night and un-polluted skies and green spaces of farmland. The

value of our properties will surely plummet and who is to compensate for this. This once, still needed, food producing, fielded, green area will ultimately be strewn with litter from the fast food outlets proposed, discarded dog poo bags and the like, from visitors not familiar with the area and exercising their dogs, this all adds to the decline of this area. This will all happen as is proven with any such development ! Trees needed planting - 20 years ago realistically, to protect properties and wildlife. By developing on this side, the once protected side of the M5, will be the destructive start of yet more continuous joining of B/W with Taunton. What a gloomy prospect for any traveler on the M5 expecting to see glorious countryside as they travel South.

Kate Hunt