

**Matter 14 - South Sheffield Sub-Area; Policy SA6****19. Is the designation of Bolehill Woods as a Local Greenspace (as identified in part f) justified and consistent with paragraph 102 in the NPPF?****Written Statement of Bob and Deborah Anderson**

I (Bob Anderson) own a small tract of land in Woodseats, near Bolehill Wood. I have marked the approximate outline of my land in black on the map that accompanies this statement. My family and I operate private allotments on the land, which we currently use for growing fruit and vegetables. I have also previously kept bees on the land. I have had to put this on hold due to an incident of theft, but I plan to resume beekeeping there soon.

Last year, my wife Deborah and I were informed by Sheffield City Council that part of my land was to be included within a new Local Green Space at Bolehill Wood. The Council sent us the map that accompanies this statement, with the perimeter of the proposed Green Space outlined in red.

We were surprised by the Council's intention to include any of my land within the Bolehill Wood Green Space. Above all, my land is not part of Bolehill Wood. It is adjacent to the Wood, but not in it. Furthermore, my land clearly does not meet the criteria set out in paragraph 102 of the NPPF. It is fenced off with no public access – it is not even visible to the public – and is in active use by me and my family for private purposes, so it does not and cannot “serve the community”. Nor is it “demonstrably special” to any local community, who cannot see or enjoy it.

We were also confused to see that while part of my land lies within the proposed Green Space, another part has been very clearly excluded (see the accompanying map). We did not (and do not) understand why my land should be divided in this apparently arbitrary way. It seems that the criteria set out in paragraph 102 has been applied inconsistently.

For these reasons, we told the Council last year of our intention to object. Unfortunately, we struggled with the technological aspects of the process, and the Council's proposal was ultimately signed off before we had an opportunity to explain our concerns. With regret, that is why we are here today in front of the Inspectors.

To be clear, we do **not** object to the proposed designation of Bolehill Wood (properly defined) as a Local Green Space. On the contrary, we wholeheartedly support this designation, and we fully believe that it is justified and consistent with paragraph 102 of the NPPF. Our position is simply that a portion of some private land that I own and use, situated next to the Wood, has erroneously been labelled as part of Bolehill Wood and wrongly included within the Green Space.

We therefore only seek what we hope will be a minor and straightforward amendment to the Council's proposal. That is, we propose a slight redrawing of the boundaries of the new

Green Space, so as to exclude my land entirely.

