

Dear Members of the Planning and Environment Committee, and Councillor Squire:

I write in opposition to the final draft of the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) for the southern portion of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area.

I am an area resident (50 Doncaster Place) and an avid runner and user of local trails. I am happy with the trail system the way it is and see no need for additional trails for recreational purposes for users like me.

I have serious concerns about the potential impact of the proposed pedestrian bridges in particular. From what I understand, the purpose of the bridges is to increase accessibility.

The unfortunate consequence of this increased accessibility would be to place at risk an already threatened species, the False Rue-anemone. The potential deleterious effect of increasing foot, cycle and other pedestrian traffic in this area outweighs, in my opinion, the benefit.

We have a beautiful city with many amazing nature trails and features to enjoy. To ensure the survival of the false rue-anemone and other species in the Medway Valley ESA, the best decision would be to forgo the construction of these bridges.

Sometimes, it's better to appreciate nature from a distance. Inspired by the story of London's unique False Rue-anemone population, I have created the attached artwork. I'm confident that other Londoners, advised of the threat this species faces and the importance of its population in our city, will find ways to appreciate the False Rue-anemone from a distance as well.

Sincerely,

Bronagh Morgan
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