

Forestry Commission
By email
19/10/20

To Whom it may concern,

Thank you for inviting the Forestry Commission to comment on the Wickham Bishops neighbourhood plan.

We note that Wickham bishops has a significant amount of ancient woodland and that this is well covered for in the plan, we only have one observation to make which is on:

Chapter 3 3.2 WBen 02 BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HABITATS

The statement in paragraph one is a bit misleading as it slightly misquotes the National Planning Policy Framework

NPPF Para 175,

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (**such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees**) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

The irreplaceable habitat referred to is 'ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees', Suggest this paragraph is amended to make it clear that both are protected in the same way.

For information we have included the link to the Standing Advice although the plan seems to have it well covered. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licencesIt>

Lastly, the UK is committed in law to net zero emissions by 2050. Tree planting is recognised as contributing to efforts to tackle the biodiversity and climate emergencies we are currently facing. Wickham Bishops already has a significant amount of woodland but any opportunity to plant trees can help the UK to reach the target. Any planting considered by the plan should require healthy resilient tree stock with the appropriate provenance to minimise the risk of pests and diseases and maximise its climate change resilience, a robust management plan should also be put in place.

We hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Local Partnership Advisor

Forestry Commission East and East Midlands Area

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If you need to contact us about a grant, licence or other enquiries please contact

the Admin Hub on: adminhub.buckshornoak@forestrycommission.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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