

This form has two parts:

Part A – contact details

Part B – your representation

Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

Ref:

(for official use
only)

Part A

1. Personal Details*		2. Agent's Details (if applicable)
<i>* If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in column 2.</i>		
Title	Mr	
First name	Neil	
Last name	Jarvis	
Job title (where relevant)	Local Partnership Advisor	
Organisation (where relevant)	Forestry Commission	
Address line 1	Forest Services Office	
Line 2	Santon Downham	
Line 3		
City/Town	Brando	
County	Suffolk	
Postcode	IP27 0TJ	
Telephone number	0300 067 4571	
Email (if provided we will always contact you this way)	neil.jarvis@forestrycommission.gov.uk	

4 (3) Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not sound, referring to the tests of soundness as appropriate, be as precise as possible.

(continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

5. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the matter you have identified at part 4(1) or 4(3) above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound.

It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Thank you for seeking the Forestry Commission's advice about the impacts the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan, Part 2 may have on woodland in the Daventry District Council area. As a non-statutory consultee, the Forestry Commission is pleased to provide you with the attached information that may be helpful:

- Details of Government Policy relating to ancient woodland
- Information on the importance and designation of ancient woodland

Ancient woodlands are irreplaceable. They have great value because they have a long history of woodland cover, with many features remaining undisturbed. This applies both to Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).

We note that there are at least two sign significant ancient woodlands in the Daventry District Council area: **Badby Wood** 74 hectares and **Nobottle Wood** 45 hectares.

It is Government policy to refuse development that will result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland, unless "*there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists*" (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 175).

We also particularly refer you to further technical information set out in Natural

England and Forestry Commission's [Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland](#) – plus supporting [Assessment Guide and Case Decisions](#).

As a Non Ministerial Government Department, we provide no opinion supporting or objecting to individual Planning Applications. Rather we include information on the potential impact that the proposed development would have on the ancient woodland.

If a planning authority takes the decision to approve an application, we may be able to give further support in developing appropriate conditions in relation to woodland management mitigation or compensation measures. Please note however that the Standing Advice states that "*Ancient woodland or veteran trees are irreplaceable, so you should not consider proposed compensation measures as part of your assessment of the benefits of the development proposal*".

We also assume that as part of the planning process, the local authority will give a screening opinion as to whether or not an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. If not, it is worth advising the applicant to approach the Forestry Commission to provide an opinion as to whether or not an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, as amended.

We hope these comments are helpful to you. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

N C Jarvis

Neil Jarvis
Forestry Commission
Local Partnership Advisor.

A summary of Government policy on ancient woodland

[Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) (published October 2006).

Section 40 – "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity".

[National Planning Policy Framework](#) (published July 2018).

Paragraph 175 – "*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*".

[National Planning Practice Guidance](#) – Natural Environment Guidance. (published March 2014)

This Guidance supports the implementation and interpretation of the National

Planning Policy Framework. This section outlines the Forestry Commission's role as a non statutory consultee on *"development proposals that contain or are likely to affect Ancient Semi-Natural woodlands or Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites (PAWS) (as defined and recorded in [Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory](#)), including proposals where any part of the development site is within 500 metres of an ancient semi-natural woodland or ancient replanted woodland, and where the development would involve erecting new buildings, or extending the footprint of existing buildings"*

It also notes that ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat, and that, in planning decisions, **Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) should be treated equally in terms of the protection afforded to ancient woodland in the National Planning Policy Framework**. It highlights the Ancient Woodland Inventory as a way to find out if a woodland is ancient.

[The UK Forestry Standard](#) (4th edition published August 2017).

Page 23: "Areas of woodland are material considerations in the planning process and may be protected in local authority Area Plans. These plans pay particular attention to woods listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and areas identified as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)".

[Keepers of Time](#) – A Statement of Policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland (published June 2005).

Page 10 "The existing area of ancient woodland should be maintained and there should be a net increase in the area of native woodland".

[Natural Environment White Paper "The Natural Choice"](#) (published June 2011)

Paragraph 2.53 - This has a "renewed commitment to conserving and restoring ancient woodlands".

Paragraph 2.56 – "The Government is committed to providing appropriate protection to ancient woodlands and to more restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites".

[Standing Advice for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees](#) (first published October 2014, revised November 2017)

This advice, issued jointly by Natural England and the Forestry Commission, is a material consideration for planning decisions across England. It explains the definition of ancient woodland, its importance, ways to identify it and the policies that are relevant to it.

The Standing Advice refers to an [Assessment Guide](#). This guide sets out a series of questions to help planners assess the impact of the proposed development on the ancient woodland. Summaries of some [Case Decisions](#) are also available that demonstrate how certain previous planning decisions have taken planning policy into account when considering the impact of proposed developments on ancient woodland.

(Continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matter and issues he/she identifies for examination.

6. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? (please tick as appropriate)

No, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination	X	Yes, I wish to participate at the oral examination	
--	----------	--	--

7. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary.

--

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

8. Please tick the box if you wish to be notified of further progress of the Local Plan.

--	--

9. Signature

Date

17/9/18

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

**Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.
Please return it to the Local Strategy Service at Daventry District Council
by 4.30pm on Friday 5th October 2018.
Responses received after this time will not be accepted.**