

From: Nick Sandford <NickSandford@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 21 February 2020 17:30
To: Planning Strategy <PlanningStrategy@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: Development Plan Policies regulation 19 consultation.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to make just one comment on your DPD, in respect of Policy DM4 and the protection that it gives to ancient woodland and veteran trees. The wording below appears to be weaker than that given to these habitats in para 175c of the NPPF, where the wording says that any loss of ancient woodland or veteran trees must be “wholly exceptional”.

In this respect, we believe that this policy wording is not consistent with national policy and hence renders this part of the plan unsound.

Best wishes

Nick Sandford
Regional External Affairs Officer
The Woodland Trust
Tel: 0343 770 5564
Email: nicksandford@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Address:
Kempton Way
Dysart Road
Grantham
NG31 6LL

DM 4 Development proposals must seek to avoid the loss of, and minimise the risk of harm to, existing trees, woodland, and/or hedgerows of visual or nature conservation value, including but not limited to trees or woodland which are subject to a Tree Preservation Order, or which are designated as Ancient Woodland or Ancient/ Veteran Trees. Where trees and/or woodlands are proposed to be lost as a part of development, this loss must be justified as a part of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) submitted with the application.

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