
From: Tobin, Kate [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 August 2020 10:09
To: Planning Policy
Subject: RE: Farringdon Neighbourhood Plan

Categories: Farringdon NP

Thank you for inviting the Forestry Commission to respond to the consultation on the Farringdon Neighbourhood Plan, Unfortunately we do not have the resources to respond to individual plans but we have some key points to make relevant to all neighbourhood plans.

Forestry Commission and Neighbourhood Planning

Existing trees in your community

The Forestry Commission would like to encourage communities to review the trees and woodlands in their neighbourhood and consider whether they are sufficiently diverse in age and species to prove resilient in the face of tree pests and diseases or climate change. For example, if you have a high proportion of Ash, you are likely to see the majority suffering from Ash Dieback. Some communities are proactively planting different species straight away, to mitigate the effect of losing the Ash; you can find out more [here](#). Alternatively, if you have a high proportion of Beech, you may find they suffer particularly from drought or flood stress as the climate becomes more extreme. There are [resources](#) available to help you get ideas for other species you can plant to diversify your tree stock and make it more resilient. Whilst these trees may not be in the ownership or control of the community you may be able to work with landowners to encourage them to choose the right species at moments of change such as during selective fell and restock operations

There are several tools to help you measure and understand your local trees:

I Tree Canopy - <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/urban canopycover/>

Treezilla - <https://treezilla.org/about>

Setting a local tree canopy cover target - <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/tree-canopy-cover-leaflet/>

Ancient Woodland

If you have ancient woodland within or adjacent to your boundary it is important that it is considered within your plan. Ancient woodlands are irreplaceable, they have great value because they have a long history of woodland cover, with many features remaining undisturbed. This applies equally to Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). 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).

The Forestry Commission has prepared joint [standing advice](#) with Natural England on ancient woodland and veteran trees. This advice is a material consideration for planning decisions across England and can also be a useful starting point for policy considerations.

The Standing Advice explains the definition of ancient woodland, its importance, ways to identify it and the policies that relevant to it. It provides advice on how to protect ancient woodland when dealing with planning applications that may affect ancient woodland. It also considers ancient wood-pasture and veteran trees. It will provides links to Natural England’s [Ancient Woodland Inventory](#) and [assessment guides](#) as well as other tools to assist you in assessing potential impacts.

Deforestation

The overarching policy for the sustainable management of forests, woodland and trees in England is a presumption against deforestation.

Woodland Creation

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. Neighbourhood plans are a useful mechanism for promoting tree planting close to people so that the cultural and health benefits of trees can be enjoyed alongside their broader environmental benefits. Any planting considered by the plan should require healthy resilient tree stock 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 information is useful.

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*Protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands,
and increasing their value to society and the environment*

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