



National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

27th October 2023

Reference: The Examining Authority's Written Questions and requests for further information

Dear Jo Dowling,

The Woodland Trust would like to take the opportunity to respond to the question posed by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the London Luton Airport Expansion development consent order application. The Trust's response is as follows:

BIO.1.6: In written submissions [REP1-112 and RR-0462] it was stated that a buffer strip should be planted between the car park and Winch Hill Ancient Woodland due to the potential for noise, light and dust pollution, and that measures should be put in place to safeguard ancient woodland at the A1081 roundabout. It was also stated that a larger buffer zone than the standard 15 meters (m) might be necessary where an assessment shows that impact could extend beyond this distance [RR-0462].

Please provide an update on your position on this matter in light of the Applicant's comments in 'Response to Relevant Representations – Part 2D of 4' [REP1-024]

While the Trust did not raise the proposed car parking element adjacent to Winch Hill Wood within our written representation, we note the comments made within the Forestry Commission's relevant representation, and we wish to support their request for ancient woodland protection.

The 15m buffer zone referred to in the standing advice will help to protect the ancient woodlands on site from the impacts of root damage, however given the scale of the scheme proposed, the applicants should look to ensure larger buffer zones are implemented wherever possible to address potential pollution concerns, such as dust and noise.

With respect to nitrogen deposition and veteran tree matters, our position remains as before.

We hope that the following is sufficient to answer the Examining Authority's question, however, please do not hesitate to get in touch if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Hillier
Policy Advocate - Infrastructure

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