

Whitlock, Melissa

From: Squire, Sandra <[REDACTED]@forestrycommission.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 October 2023 11:09
To: Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation
Subject: WW01003 -Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation

Categories: Deadline

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this proposal.

As a Non-Ministerial Government Department, the Forestry Commission provide no opinion supporting or objecting to an application. Rather we provide advice on the potential impact that the proposed development could have on trees and woodland including ancient woodland.

We note there are no ancient woodlands within the proposed site area, however do agree with the Woodland Trust comments and the Inspectors question (14.11) regarding the two veteran trees located within the order limits along the Waterbeach pipeline corridor between Clayhithe and Horningsea.

Ancient and veteran trees are irreplaceable habitats. As highlighted in Paragraph 180 (c) of the National Planning Policy Framework, which states: *“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”*.

While Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are not subject to the NPPF, it sets out the importance of these habitats. Therefore a buffer zone should be provided to protect these trees from any potential impacts of the development. A buffer zone around an ancient or veteran tree should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5m from the edge of the tree’s canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree’s diameter.

We also note the plans include tree planting proposals for screening purposes. Species and provenance of new trees need to be considered to establish a more resilient treescape which can cope with the full implications of a changing climate. Also, when planting new trees and woodland, ensure that biosecurity is robust to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases.

We hope these comments have been useful, if you require any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Sandra

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