

North West & West Midlands Area Office

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Area Director
Keith Jones

Crowle Neighbourhood Plan

Date: 3 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Local Plan Consultation – Crowle Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2026. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on your local plan. The Forestry Commission is committed to supporting sustainable development and the protection of our natural environment. We would like to highlight several key considerations that should be integrated into your planning framework:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF states that development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland and veteran trees, should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists

We recommend that your local plan aligns with these national policies to ensure the protection and enhancement of woodland areas.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

From February 2024, major developments must deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain, ensuring a positive impact on nature.

Trees play a crucial role in achieving BNG by providing habitats for wildlife, improving air quality, and contributing to climate resilience. We encourage the integration of tree planting and woodland creation into your development plans to meet BNG requirements and enhance local biodiversity.

Standing Advice

Our Standing Advice on ancient woodland, ancient trees, and veteran trees is an important planning consideration for local planning authorities. This advice emphasizes the importance of these irreplaceable habitats for biodiversity, carbon capture, and cultural heritage.

This advice should be considered when making planning decisions that affect ancient woodland, ancient trees, or veteran trees.

Benefits of Trees

Trees and woodland offer numerous benefits to communities, including improving air quality, reducing flood risk, and enhancing mental health and well-being.

They are essential components of green infrastructure, contributing to the creation of resilient, sustainable places to live. We advocate for the inclusion of tree planting and preservation in your local plan to maximize these benefits for residents. Further information for support on tree planting and woodland creation can be found on our [website](#).

We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure that your local plan supports the sustainable management and expansion of woodland areas. Should you require further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

