

Subject: Toddbrook Ancient Woodland - Ref DET/2024/0026
Date: 30 October 2024 15:39:03

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this application. The Commission is a non-statutory consultee on developments in or within 500m of ancient woodland. As a Government department we neither support nor object to planning applications but endeavour to supply the necessary information to help inform your decision on the application.

The red line boundary contains sections of Scar Wood, which is partly Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, and partly a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site, although we note the proposed development site for the proposed building is outside of the boundary of the Ancient Woodland, although within some 20 metres of it.

As stated in the Natural England and Forestry Commission's [Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland](#) states that proposals should have a buffer zone of at least 15m from the boundary of ancient woodlands to avoid root damage which can result in loss or deterioration of the woodland.

The Root Protection Zone (as specified in British Standard 5837) is there to protect the roots of trees, which often spread out further than the tree canopy. Protection measures include taking care not to cut tree roots (e.g., by trenching) or causing soil compaction around trees (e.g., through vehicle movements or stacking heavy equipment) or contamination from poisons (e.g., site stored fuel or chemicals).

Having reviewed the documents, we note the proposals include the management and removal of non-native invasive Rhododendron from the woodland, which as part of a management regime would be recommended to enhance the biodiversity of the woodland. We note that no proposed management plan has been submitted with the application and would recommend that one is implemented.

The local planning authority should consider whether proposed forestry buildings are reasonably required for the commercial running of forestry operations and are consistent with the size of the woodland, the management plan and any timber product to be produced. Forestry buildings should not be used for recreational or domestic use.

We hope these comments have been useful to you. If you require any further information, particularly on woodland management, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Sandra Squire

Local Partnership Advisor
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