

Address: Lane Head Farm Park Lane Huddersfield HD8 8NP

About the application

Application number: 2025/92242	
What is the application for?:	Reserved matters application (including consideration of appearance, scale and l
Address of the site or building:	Land off, Hermitage Park, Lepton, Huddersfield, HD8 0JU
Postcode:	WF2 7UA

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No
The submitted proposals do not consider the ancient woodland or public safety. The NPPF 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" Natural England and Forestry Commission Standing Advice suggests a minimum 15m buffer zone this is to avoid root damage only, other impacts extend beyond this distance resulting in a larger buffer zone requirement. They state buffer zones "should consist of semi-natural habitats such as woodland, a mix of scrub, grassland, heathland and wetland planting" The Woodland Trust states "Many problems stem from unmanaged access • Frequency of fly-tipping into woodland • Dumping of garden waste into woodland leading to local nutrient enrichment. • Trampling of plants, chronic disturbance negatively impacting on habitat use, foraging opportunities and breeding • Relocation or removal of timber, vandalism of trees. • May lead to reductions in species diversity and abundance or elimination from the wood. Other issues may include • Gardens – increased predation • Escape of invasive plants or dumping in woodland. Nutrients and light/shade. They also state that buffer zones should be at least 50-100m wide, this is widely published.	

Although Kirklees does not appear to have published their own guidance for Ancient Woodland Buffer Zones a great many other authorities have in order to meet their environmental obligations.

Kirklees Trees and Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan acknowledges that “Trees, woodlands and associated habitats have a rich biodiversity. The historic decline in woodland cover caused a decline in associated wildlife and biodiversity. Increasing woodland cover and effectively managing existing woodlands would ensure a suitable habitat for woodland species such as the Spotted Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher and Roe Deer.

Ancient Woodlands are immensely valuable for numerous reasons including:

- Trees, shrubs, wildlife and soil communities are often little modified by human activities
- Wildlife communities are often richer than those of more recent woods
- Valuable archaeological remains
- Very high percentage of the rare and vulnerable wildlife in England
- Sometimes large, old trees providing refuges for specialist species such as lichens
- These woodlands are of crucial importance for the conservation of biodiversity

Ancient woodlands are descended from England’s primeval woodland and once destroyed they cannot be recreated.”

The Action Plan admits that “A common issue relating to developments is that there is often little consideration of the initial and long term adverse impact to trees on or immediately adjacent to the site. These relate to direct issues surrounding tree removal, damage to tree roots, over hanging branches etc and to issues relating to shade, leaf litter, debris drop, fears the trees may break or fall.”

Falling branches and trees are common yet the proposals show a buffer that is vastly insufficient and promotes access.

It is a strict requirement by other LPAs that fenced off planted buffers 50-100m wide be incorporated and Kirklees Council must enforce this to meet their environmental and public safety obligations.

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