

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RA2C-B

Submitted to **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan**
Submitted on **2021-01-25 18:12:01**

About you

Are you responding as an: individual, group / organisation, agent?

Group / organisation

Group / organisation

Group / organisation

Group / organisation:
Woodland Trust Scotland

Name:
Arina Russell

Email address:
[REDACTED]

Contact telephone number :

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

Where would you like to go?

Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Leave a quick comment about the **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan, or planning and development in general.....**

Quick Comment:

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. We have three main aims: no further loss of ancient woodland, restoring and improving woodland biodiversity, increasing new native woodland. We own over 1,000 sites across the UK covering around 30,000 hectares. In Scotland we own and manage around 60 sites across 11,000 hectares which include the 5,000 hectares Glen Finglas estate and significant urban holdings in Glenrothes and Livingston. We combine the promotion of public access with forestry, farming and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage. The Woodland Trust has 500,000 members and supporters.

The Trust would usually endeavor to assess all site allocation for impact on ancient woodlands and provide comment on a range of policies related to nature and trees. Due to limited staff capacity we have not been able to fully do this for this consultation.

The policy on trees, woods and hedgerows is good, and we hope that the provisions of this are reflected in the site allocations. The Trust would not support any site allocations that would have a detrimental impact on ancient woodland. Where developments are proposed close to areas of ancient woodland, the Trust recommends that a buffer is included between the woodland and the proposed development depending on the type and size of the development.

We hope our comments are of use to you and please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Do you wish to submit supporting information?

Submissions:
No file was uploaded

Where would you like to go now?

Submit your response to the consultation (Exit)

Comment on Policies

Which Policy are you commenting on?

Policy:
Policy EP13 Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

What are your comments regarding this Policy?:

Woodland Trust Scotland broadly welcomes this policy. In particular we welcome the specific mention that the woodland resource includes 'the maintenance and management of trees, ancient woodlands and pastures, and hedgerows.' This wording could be included within the policy text rather than in the introductory clauses.

Very importantly this policy refers to minimising 'adverse impacts on the biodiversity value of the woodland resource.' We welcome the inclusion of this and we hope this wording will remain the same in the final version of the LDP2. It is important that as well as avoiding direct impacts to the woodland resource (direct loss of trees and woodlands), indirect impacts from development that is in proximity to woodlands and trees (such as noise and light pollution, fragmentation of habitat adjacent to the woodland, chemical pollution, the introduction of invasive non-native species) are also avoided or minimised as much as possible. Woodland Trust Scotland recommends that to strengthen the provision on minimising adverse impacts wording on the provision of buffer zones between the woodland resource and the development is introduced and specified in planning conditions as may be the case. The wording can be added at the end of clause a) in the policy as follows 'a) aim to minimise adverse impacts on the biodiversity value of the woodland resource, including its environmental quality, ecological status and viability [through the provision of adequate buffer zones]. The introductory clauses in this section can include the following wording in relation to buffer zones so that it is clear for planning officers and developers what is meant and why 'Creation of new areas of woodland or buffer zones around the woodland resource, and particularly ancient woodland, will help to reduce and ameliorate the impact of damaging edge effects, serving to improve their resilience. The size of the buffer is dependent on the intensity of land use in the intervening matrix between ancient woods. For example, a buffer zone of at least 50 metres of semi-natural vegetation would be required to protect the woodland from the change in land use on the site. '

What would you like to do now?

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)