

**From:** Simms, Graham <[graham.simms@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:graham.simms@forestrycommission.gov.uk)> **On Behalf Of** NW&WM  
**Sent:** 29 August 2019 16:36  
**To:** Litchfield, Tom <[Tom.Litchfield@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tom.Litchfield@herefordshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Planning Consultation - 192623 - The Lower Venn, Avenbury, Bromyard, Herefordshire HR7 4JP

Thank you for your email.

Please see the attached letter which outlines the latest position of the Forestry Commission regarding development management and ancient woodland.

Kind Regards

**Graham Simms**

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29 August 2019

Your Ref: 192623

Dear Ms Jenman

## **Development management and ancient woodland – Forestry Commission approach**

The Forestry Commission is a [non-statutory consultee](#) on developments in or within 500m of ancient woodland.

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat. National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 118 states:

*'planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss'*

The Forestry Commission has prepared joint [standing advice](#) with Natural England on ancient woodland and veteran trees to which we refer you in the first instance. This:

- is provided in place of individual responses to planning consultations. We no longer respond to weekly planning lists;
- should be taken into account by planning authorities where relevant when determining planning applications;
- provides links to [Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory](#), assessment guides and other tools to assist you in assessing potential impacts.

In the majority of cases this will provide the advice you need to help you make your decision about a development proposal. If you need further bespoke advice from us please contact your local [Forestry Commission Area office](#).

Yours faithfully/ sincerely



Graham Simms  
Area Admin Officer