

From: [REDACTED]@forestrycommission.gov.uk> on behalf of East and East Midlands  
Forest Area Enquiries <eandem@forestrycommission.gov.uk>  
Sent: 04 May 2021 14:36  
To: NK - Neighbourhood Planning  
Subject: RE: Branston and Mere Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation

CAUTION: External email, think before you click!

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for inviting the Forestry Commission to respond to the consultation on the Branston and Mere Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately we do not have the resources to respond to individual plans but we have some key points to make relevant to all neighbourhood plans.

### **Forestry Commission and Neighbourhood Planning**

#### **Existing trees in your community**

*The Forestry Commission would like to encourage communities to review the trees and woodlands in their neighbourhood and consider whether they are sufficiently diverse in age and species to prove resilient in the face of tree pests and diseases or climate change. For example, if you have a high proportion of Ash, you are likely to see the majority suffering from Ash Dieback. Some communities are proactively planting different species straight away, to mitigate the effect of losing the Ash; you can find out more [here](#). Alternatively, if you have a high proportion of Beech, you may find they suffer particularly from drought or flood stress as the climate becomes more extreme. There are [resources](#) available to help you get ideas for other species you can plant to diversify your tree stock and make it more resilient.*

#### **Ancient Woodland**

*If you have ancient woodland within or adjacent to your boundary it is important that it is considered within your plan. Ancient woodlands are irreplaceable, they have great value because they have a long history of woodland cover, with many features remaining undisturbed. This applies equally to Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). It is Government policy to refuse development that will result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland, unless "there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists" ([National Planning Policy Framework](#) paragraph 175).*

*The Forestry Commission has prepared joint [standing advice](#) with Natural England on ancient woodland and veteran trees. This advice is a material consideration for planning decisions across England and can also be a useful starting point for policy considerations.*

*The Standing Advice explains the definition of ancient woodland, its importance, ways to identify it and the policies that relevant to it. It provides advice on how to protect ancient woodland when dealing with planning applications that may affect ancient woodland. It also considers ancient wood-pasture and veteran trees. It will provides links to Natural England's [Ancient Woodland Inventory](#) and [assessment guides](#) as well as other tools to assist you in assessing potential impacts.*

#### **Deforestation**

*The overarching policy for the sustainable management of forests, woodland and trees in England is a presumption against deforestation.*

#### **Woodland Creation**

*The UK is committed in law to net zero emissions by 2050. Tree planting is recognised as contributing to efforts to tackle the biodiversity and climate emergencies we are currently facing. Neighbourhood plans are a useful mechanism for promoting tree planting close to people so that the cultural and health benefits of trees can be enjoyed alongside their broader environmental benefits. Any planting considered by the plan should require healthy resilient tree stock to minimise the risk of pests and diseases and maximise its climate change resilience, a robust management plan should also be put in place.*

Forestry Commission | Santon Downham | Brandon | Suffolk | IP27 0TJ

[eandem@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:eandem@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

+44 (0)300 067 4574 (direct)

[www.gov.uk/forestrycommission](http://www.gov.uk/forestrycommission)

For up-to-date information follow us on Twitter:

[@SteveScottFC](https://twitter.com/SteveScottFC) or

<https://www.facebook.com/makingwoodlandwork/>



100 YEARS  
of forestry 1919 - 2019

## General Data Protection Regulations

The Forestry Commission will use your contact information you have previously provided as part of our general duty under the Forestry Act 1967 to promote the interests of forestry, the development of afforestation and the production and supply of timber. If at any time you no longer wish to receive information from the Forestry Commission on these issues then please reply to this e-mail including the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line of your message. We will then remove your details from our contact list.

The Forestry Commission is registered as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 (Registration No: Z6542658). Details of our privacy policy can be found on our web site: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission/about/personal-information-charter>

---

From: Anne-Marie Shepherd <[Anne-Marie\\_Shepherd@N-KESTEVEN.GOV.UK](mailto:Anne-Marie_Shepherd@N-KESTEVEN.GOV.UK)>  
Sent: 19 April 2021 09:29  
Cc: NK - Neighbourhood Planning <[NeighbourhoodPlanning@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:NeighbourhoodPlanning@n-kesteven.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Branston and Mere Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation

**This Message originated outside your organisation.**

Good morning,

I understand you were originally consulted during the pre-submission stage of the plan so in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Act I would like to make you aware that Branston and Mere Parish Council have now submitted their draft neighbourhood plan and the statutory period has begun.

The plan, supporting information and the response form can be downloaded from the North Kesteven District Council website via:

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/living-in-your-area/localism-your-community/neighbourhood-plans/branston-and-mere-neighbourhood-plan/regulation-16-consultation/>

The publicity period runs from Monday 19 April to Monday 14 June 2021, during which interested parties are invited to make comments on the neighbourhood plan. All comments must be received by 17:00pm on Monday 14 June 2021 and submitted in writing to North Kesteven District Council using the response form.

Completed forms should be returned via email to: [NeighbourhoodPlanning@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:NeighbourhoodPlanning@n-kesteven.gov.uk) or by post to:

Partnerships Team  
North Kesteven District Council  
District Council Offices  
Kesteven Street  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire, NG34 7EF

An independent Examiner, who will report on the plan prior to a local referendum on the final document, will consider all comments received. If you wish to be notified of the District Council's decision on whether to accept the Examiner's recommendation and any future progress with the plan please state this in your representation. Please note that all representations received will be made available to the public with personal details redacted.

For further information, please contact the Partnerships team at the District Council via e-mail at or by phone on 01529 414155.

Kind regards,



## Anne-Marie Shepherd

### Senior Partnerships Officer

Tel: 01529 414155

Email: [Anne-Marie\\_Shepherd@N-KESTEVEN.GOV.UK](mailto:Anne-Marie_Shepherd@N-KESTEVEN.GOV.UK)

[www.n-kesteven.gov.uk](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk)

Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF



#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorised to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware.