



Forestry England

Wing Woods

Design Consultation

Responses



Design Consultation

Event

A Public Consultation Event was held on Tuesday 22nd November at Wing Village Hall. The event was held from 4-7pm with the presentation repeated twice, this was so that people who work during the day would have an opportunity to attend.

Attendance and Response

Approximately 70 people attended the event.

Additionally, the plans were published and advertised on Citizen Space. There were 49 written responses. Of those 42 responses were in favour of the proposals, 5 didn't indicate whether they were in favour or not and 2 were negative towards the proposals. Written responses included 2 Wing Parish Councillors and representatives from the RSPB, The Greensand Trust, North Bucks Bat Group and Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

Other written and verbal responses include: Historic England, Natural England, National Coppice Federation, Bucks CC HER, Bucks CC LERC, Andrew Mellor (local land owner), Malcolm Oliver (WPC & Long Spinney Working Group)

Follow-up

There has since been a meeting between Forestry England Representatives and six stakeholders to discuss species selection

Below are Forestry England's responses to comments regarding the design of the proposed woodland. Any comments relating to site selection and wider planning queries in the area will be responded to by Buckinghamshire County Council on their website.

Feedback	Response
Access	
Will the paths be accessible for bikes too?	Currently it is not intended for the site to be a cycling destination, however, cyclists will be able to use the infrastructure within the site.
Can there be a multipurpose path connecting Wing to the Linslade Bridge and to Liscombe Park?	This is not proposed as part of the woodland creation scheme.
How do the proposals link to Public Rights of Way?	The Public Rights of Way are unchanged, there are two footpaths through the site that will remain. Additionally, the whole site will be accessible to the public. We will also be looking to provide access to Long Spinney from the site.
Will there be a link to Long Spinney?	We will be looking into how we can link the site to Long Spinney and have altered plans accordingly.
Will there be a safe means of access for equestrians in the area	Safe access is provided for the existing equestrian users of the site.
Has there been an accessibility assessment?	All Forestry England developments undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.
Why are there no plans for access by car or those with disabilities?	There are currently no plans for access by car. The concept is to be as light touch as possible in terms of infrastructure for visitors with the focus being on the planting of the woodland, carbon sequestration, habitat creation and the enjoyment of the woodland as a new community resource. The proposals are seeking a balance between public access for enjoyment and quiet areas for nature to flourish and for that reason access on foot is encouraged. To maximise access for all, a link will be provided to Long Spinney. We have nearby sites, such as Wendover Woods that are accessible by car and have additional facilities such as 'changing places' toilets.
Could access by coach for local schools be provided?	There are currently no plans for access by coach. Forestry England has nearby sites, such as Wendover Woods that are accessible by coach and have additional facilities, such as toilets and a café.
The site is too far to walk to from Linslade or Wing for many people	A link to Long Spinney will improve pedestrian access from Wing. The concept is to be as light touch as possible in terms of infrastructure for visitors with the focus being on the planting of the woodland, habitat creation and the enjoyment of the woodland as a new community resource. The proposals are seeking a balance between public access for enjoyment and quiet areas for nature to

	flourish and for that reason access on foot rather than by car is encouraged.
People will drive and park on Soulbury Road to access the site causing a hazard on an already busy road.	The low-infrastructure nature of the site is intended to encourage people to walk to the woods rather than drive. If this becomes a problem, then we will reassess the need for a small parking area.
The new forest proposal includes a circular riding route for the Burcott Hall and Liscombe liveryies; will the facility be linked into the wider BW and permissive riding network?	At this stage the site will not be linked to the wider Bridleway and permissive riding network. In line with keeping infrastructure to a minimum this wider use could not be supported.
Management & Maintenance	
Is the primary purpose of this woodland for timber harvest and will the wood disappear for profit in years to come?	No, timber harvesting is just one of the many objectives of this woodland. All of the proposed woodland will be managed by Continuous Cover Forestry, meaning no area, aside from the Hazel Coppice, will ever be clearfelled and there will always be woodland cover.
When will the tree planting start?	We would like to start planting in February, provided the Environmental Impact Assessment and lease from Buckinghamshire Council is approved in time.
Will the local community be involved in planting and aftercare?	Where we are able, we would like the local community to be involved.
I was not clear from the documents who would be the owner of the newly developed wood, or responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the site?	Forestry England will be the leaseholder and manager of the site for 100 years. Buckinghamshire Council will remain the freehold owner.
When the construction traffic is heading to and from the site from the Milton Keynes direction, could they use the A4146 and turn off at the Soulbury roundabout. This would given them access to the site from the Burcott side of the village (passing Liscombe Park). This would prevent congestion through the village.	There is not likely to be much construction traffic, due to the low infrastructure on site but we can incorporate this into our plans.
Biodiversity & Species Selection	
Has a wildlife survey been done?	Yes, and Preliminary Ecological Survey and a Breeding Bird Survey has been carried out and the results used to inform the design.
There needs to be reassurance that the barn owls who hunt over there, the deer and badgers etc. will not be negatively impacted whilst the woods are established.	Raptors will be encouraged to use the site with the installation of perching posts. Barn owls will not be impacted and are seen as useful raptors. FE will follow the Badger and Forestry Operations practice Guide. Deer will be allowed to freely graze open

	areas, but restricted to enter the planting areas whilst the trees are being established
We hope that you can incorporate some ponds too.	Five ponds will be created.
Non-native trees should be kept to a minimum.	Species choice have been made based on the woodland objectives, and the use of Ecological Site Classification using a climate scenario of Med-High 2050, and Med-High 2080, which reduces the availability of native tree options
Have Poplar, Crab apples, and Dog woods been considered?	Black poplar, native poplar, crab apples and willow species have been incorporated into the plan
Elms that are resistant to 'dutch elm disease' should be given space.	As a result of the consultation, we have now included the addition of a few disease-resistant elm tree for the white letter hairstreak. These will be added onto the edges of some of the planting blocks, as individual trees
What is the benefit of Scots Pine, Red Oak and Sweet Chestnut.	Objectives of the woodland include timber production, which will be achieved by planting these species. However, we have a shortfall of 12,000 sweet chestnut, which will not be planted until next year. Following consultation, we have agreed to split them between pedunculate oak and sweet chestnut, and plant them within the FDT 8.1.2 areas.
I am not sure that Beech is suitable for this site.	ESC, using the med-high 2050 climate scenario suggests beech will be suitable
The combination of shade tolerant conifers and Beech suggest deep shade, no light penetrating the woodland floor, which equates to low biodiversity and wasted opportunities for wildlife.	Beech and conifers have been selected to achieve the woodland objectives. They will be planted in mixtures initially, with the conifers and other woodland areas being regularly thinned, at which point a ground flora will develop, along with natural regeneration to improve the woodland structure
Despite the statement that you plan planting 'long-lived' deciduous trees, we hope that here will be scope for some smaller, short-lived species in these areas. Blackthorn, Buckthorn, Hawthorn, Spindle and Wayfaring shrubs can provide both food and shelter to many invertebrates that need semi-shade rather than the deep shade that woodlands provide.	Buckthorn, hawthorn, guelder rose and dog rose have been incorporated into the mix, along with large areas of hazel coppice, which will benefit invertebrates. These will be planted on the edge of woodland areas, to create a woodland edge habitat. Some grassland areas will also be fenced to encourage invertebrates. As a result of the consultation, we will be planting more goat willow, and blackthorn shrubs, which can be added as small pockets on the edges of planting blocks between the deer fences and the main planted areas.

Has any consideration been given to the fact that there are badger setts right up against the boundary between Long Spinney and the farmlands to be used for planting?	Yes, these have been identified in a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. They will also be surveyed further prior to any planting or fencing being undertaken and the correct measures will be put in place to protect Badger setts.
What is the purpose of this proposed community orchard, and is it really needed. How is it to be managed?	The community orchard has been proposed as an opportunity for community involvement. It is envisaged that the trees will be provided by Forestry England following consultation, and the orchard will be managed by a community group. The orchard will only be planted if there is sufficient interest in the opportunity.