

Clipsham early engagement feedback - October 2023

In October last year, we wrote to people at over 400 addresses in the local area inviting their views on the issues important to them as we develop our designs for the creation of a new woodland on land in Clipsham.

We received over 50 responses, from residents and businesses, parish councils, a ward councillor and the Yew Tree Avenue Trust.

The feedback is summarised below, and together with further design and survey work and engagement with stakeholders, has helped to shape the design proposals we have included in the March 2024 public consultation.

This summary focuses on those responses that raised questions, issues and suggestions about our proposals. We also received a range of other general positive and supportive responses.

A. Respondents told us that overall, the objectives for the new woodland considered most important to them, in order of priority, are:

1. Link adjacent woodlands at landscape scale to improve habitat connectivity
2. Provide additional opportunities for informal access to the countryside
3. Seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity
4. Sequester atmospheric carbon, supporting Government in achieving net zero emissions targets
5. Produce a resilient and sustainable supply of high-quality timber
6. Incorporate a new seed stand, helping to secure future supply of climate resilient tree species
7. Seek opportunities to pilot, innovative silvicultural activities

B. Responses to the open questions (Is there anything special about the site you would like us to consider, any other comments), have been summarised under the following headings:

- Access to the new woodland
- Footpaths and connectivity
- Design considerations for the new woodland
- Use of the new woodland
- Special views from the new woodland
- Suggested names for the new woodland

Access to the new woodland

Suggestions for parking - including:

- On the south side of the Clipsham to Castle Bytham Road where the contour of the road allows safe access in both directions.
- On the north side of the Clipsham to Castle Bytham Road a few hundred yards south of the entrance to Yew Tree Avenue where there is already a large area of hard standing
- Do not include parking at the junction of Main Street

Issues and concerns

- The weight limit for heavy vehicles on Clipsham road
- The safety of Clipsham Road and pedestrians
- The local woodland would increase visitors and traffic to the area
- Light pollution and the proximity of the woodland boundary and paths to houses
- How the deer population will be managed
- The potential for anti-social behaviour in the new woodland
- Concern about public access along a private road

Footpaths and connectivity

Suggestions

- Connect existing blocks of woodland into one larger area
- Improve connectivity between Castle Bytham and Clipsham and Yew Tree Avenue
- Include more footpaths and circular walks
- Provide year-round access from Clipsham Village (current access is unusable in winter)

Design considerations for the new woodland

Suggestions

- Consider existing hedgerows and leave some areas of the woodland undisturbed
- Protect the roadside nature reserve (Hollywell Road), and take measures to limit damage to the edge of Robinsons Field and Hollywell Bank
- Include glades and rides to encourage diversity of species
- Make the woodland dog walker friendly and consider fencing
- Include arable land, plant species native to the area - no monocultures
- Protect woodland from external noise
- Measures to protect breeding birds, Lapwing, Skylark, Yellow hammer, and Linnet

Use of the new woodland

Suggestions

- Create a children's forest
- Do not allow shooting clubs
- Include a picnic spot
- Set up a charitable trust/Friends of Clipsham Wood

Tree choices and species

Suggestions

- Include diverse planting and deciduous trees and trees that are resilient to climate change
- Plant species native to the area, no conifers

Special views from the new woodland

Suggestions

- View from northern boundary of Pickworth Wood - 1518N 9848E - a view in an arc towards the north
- Western side of Holywell Quarry - 1627N 9882E Ridge viewpoint just to the north of Holywell quarry 1627N 9882E with fine views in all directions
- Halfway along the Clipsham to Castle Bytham Road where there is a view to the south 1638N 9777E.
- The footpath running east from the village 1610N 9721W towards Holywell 1600N 9822E should remain open to the south to allow sunlight to enter even late in the day.
- Views from existing paths and particularly from the path through Holywell quarry
- The immediate area adjacent to the road
- Views from the entrance of Pickworth Great Wood - looking north
- Views to Yew Tree Avenue
- From the village of Clipsham
- Views east or west from top of ridge
- Views across to Clipsham Hall
- Views to Holywell Hall

A name for the new woodland

The most frequently mentioned name suggestions for the new woodland included:

- Clipsham Coronation Wood
- Quarry Woods
- Kings Wood
- Clipsham Wood/Forest
- Holywell Woods
- Holywell Great Woods

Further details can be found in [Our response to key themes from early engagement](#)¹

¹ <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/clipsham-coronation-wood> Our response to key themes from early engagement