



8.3 Ancient Woodland

8.3.1 The NPPF classifies Ancient woodland as an irreplaceable habitat. Paragraph 118 of the NPPF states that:

"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"

- **8.3.2** A buffer zone of 15 metres surrounding an ancient woodland site was supported by the Secretary of State in determining a planning appeal for development close to an area of ancient woodland in West Sussex (The Four acres appeal references: APP/D3830/A/05/1195897-98 and APP/D3830/A/06/1198282-83).
- **8.3.3** Therefore, a 15 metre buffer has been assumed for the purposes of this review as a distance within which enhanced evidence will be required on potential impacts on ancient woodland.
- **8.3.4** If insufficient suitable Specific Sites are proposed in response to the 'call for sites' the County Council would continue the Silica Sand Review by defining Preferred Areas and/or Areas of Search. It is proposed that such areas would exclude the 15 metre area of land around ancient woodland.
- **8.3.5** The map overleaf shows the areas of designated ancient woodland within the silica sand resource.

Question 6: Should enhanced evidence on the potential effects of silica sand extraction on ancient woodland be provided in areas within 15 metres of the ancient woodland, as supported in the Four Acres appeal, or should a different distance be used? In your answer, please provide information/evidence to support your view.

Relevant chapter of the National Planning Policy Framework:

- 11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- 13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Relevant Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policies:

CS14 – Environmental Protection

Relevant King's Lynn and West Norfolk Core Strategy Policies:

CS01 - Spatial strategy

CS12 – Environmental assets