



The Woodland Trust
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Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffordshire,
ST13 6HQ
12th September 2016

Dear Ms Curley,

Planning application: SMD/2016/0378

The Woodland Trust has read the applicant's agent's response to our letter from July and our **objection** to these proposals still stand due to the direct loss to an area of ancient woodland. We would like to draw the council's attention to Natural England's standing advice regarding mitigation and compensation with regards to ancient woodland:

"If the planning authority decides to grant planning permission in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, it should seek appropriate mitigation or compensation from the developer. As ancient woodland and veteran trees are irreplaceable, **discussions on compensation should not form part of the assessment of the merits of the development proposal.**"¹ (bolding provided by the Woodland Trust)

In short no matter what arguments for perceived environmental benefits the applicant believes they could deliver if allowed to build cycle paths in Frame Wood, it should not be considered up front and it can never replace what would be lost.

The Woodland Trust urges the council to refuse planning permission for this site due to the impacts on the ancient woodland.

If you would like clarification of any of the points raised please contact us via campaigning@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Rist
Campaigner- Ancient Woodland

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences#avoid-reduce-or-compensate-for-the-impacts>