

From: [REDACTED]
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I have looked at the Local plan and have the following comments:

Blean C12 Proposal

I am objecting to this proposal because of the following:

1. **Loss of Irreplaceable Habitats:**

- Ancient woodlands are unique ecosystems that have developed over centuries. When new houses are constructed on these woodlands, they will be lost forever.
- The direct effects of development can cause the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland or ancient and veteran trees by damaging or destroying them, including the biodiverse soils, ground flora, fungi, roots, and understorey vegetation.
- The destruction of these woodlands will lead to habitat fragmentation and huge biodiversity loss.

2. **Impact on Biodiversity:**

- Ancient woodlands support a rich diversity of plant and animal species. Construction disrupts these ecosystems, affecting wildlife habitats.
- LPAs cannot avoid or mitigate for negative impacts on protected species and ancient woodlands therefore going against Natural England.
- Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017: Skylarks are protected under this act. It is an offence to kill or injure, damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places. It is also an offence to disturb them intentionally or recklessly.
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006): All native birds, including skylarks, are listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 of this act.

3. **Fragmentation and Isolation:**

- New housing developments can fragment ancient woodlands, isolating smaller patches. This disrupts ecological connectivity and reduces genetic diversity.

4. **Climate Impact:**

- Ancient woodlands sequester carbon and contribute to climate regulation. Clearing them for housing & building houses will release stored carbon and increase CO2 impacting UK climate targets.

5. **Water Management:**

- Ancient woodlands play a role in regulating water flow, preventing flooding, and maintaining soil stability. Urbanization will alter these processes.
- Urban development alters natural water flow patterns. Paved surfaces increase runoff, leading to flooding and soil erosion.

6. **Visual and Cultural Heritage:**

- Ancient woodlands have cultural and historical significance and have heritage laws. Their loss impacts local communities and the landscape.
- Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI): The government acknowledged in Parliament that the AWI is a crucial tool for protecting trees and woods from harm. The Keepers of Time Policy outlines the value of England's ancient and native woodlands and ancient and veteran trees. It states Government's commitment to evaluate the threats facing these habitats and sets out England's updated principles and objectives to protect and improve these habitats for future generations.
- Principles and Objectives: The policy sets out updated principles and objectives to protect and improve these habitats for future generations. This includes increasing the extent of native woodland, improving the ecological condition of ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees, conserving the rare, threatened or priority species that rely on ancient woodland, reducing the pressures on ancient woodland, and valuing ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. The policy also recognises the importance of cultural importance to health and wellbeing.

7. Traffic and Air Pollution

- Increase in 2000 homes, 2000-4000 cars on the road, 2000-8000 people living in the area increasing waste and the significant impacts that has on pollution. Infrastructure Strain:
- New houses require infrastructure which will strain existing systems.

Tim day

