

Abigail Wolfendale

From: National Forest Planning <planning@nationalforest.org>
Sent: 23 April 2026 15:05
To: SDDC Planning Applications
Subject: DMPA/2026/0306 - Swartling Wood, Coton In The Elms, Derbyshire
Categories: Abi Northover

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Dear Planning,

Thank you for consulting the National Forest for the creation and operation of a natural woodland burial ground with associated access arrangements and parking.

National Forest Planting

As acknowledged within the application documents, policy INF8 is applicable. At 7.10ha in area, there is a requirement for National Forest planting. While we typically seek new tree and woodland planting, in this case, due to the wooded nature of the site, and the detail of the proposal, we consider adherence to a woodland management plan would appropriately meet the requirements of Policy INF8. A condition requiring a woodland management to be submitted is therefore recommended.

Tree removal

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment suggests that tree removal will be limited to appropriate woodland management (as detailed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment), which subject to the woodland management plan being approved would be acceptable.

National Forest Tender Scheme and Access

The woodland in question (and the surrounding woodland) has been subject to a long and complex history. As identified the site was planted under a National Forest Tender Scheme and one of the requirements of this contract is that the site should have 100% permissive access. Although not a planning issue, the applicant should be aware of this, and our aspirations for this to continue.

We have identified reference to a publicly accessible National Forest car park to the east of the site (paragraph 2.5.6). This car park is not in our ownership and to our knowledge not publicly accessible.

Informative note

In the event of an approval, we would be pleased if an informative note could be included to encourage dialogue between our Woodland Manager and the applicant. We suggest, 'The applicant is encouraged to liaise with the Woodland Manager at the National Forest to discuss access and coordinated management across the wider woodland complex. Please contact enquiries@nationalforest.org'.

Conclusion

We request that should the application be approved, a condition requiring a woodland management plan to be submitted and adhered to is included. We would also request an informative note is incorporated requesting dialogue between our Woodland Manager and the applicant, to discuss issues of access and woodland management across the site and wider woodland complex.

Kind Regards
Eilish

Eilish Gardner | Green Infrastructure & Planning Officer

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