

**From:** [Levine, Cody](#)  
**To:** [Aldridge, Steven](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Lea Castle Farm Quarry - Ancient Woodland Guidance  
**Date:** 11 May 2022 09:27:14  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Morning Steve

That's well spotted. Apologies, I don't recall whether my most recent response would have been drafted prior-to or after Natural England updated their standing advice on ancient woodland and veteran trees. I'm not entirely sure whether my comments fully take this into account. But, looking at the change between iterations of NE's advice, they've [summarised](#) this as:

*"In regard to ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, we've added further detail on the effects of development, on mitigation and compensation measures and the factors to be considered for buffer zones such as if the surrounding area is less densely wooded, close to residential areas or steeply sloped"*

There are some other implications which are well summarised [here](#). I don't think these materially alter the conclusions reached for the Lea Castle scheme, as the effects of mineral working on retained and protected trees (and also on offsite ancient woodlands) have been taken into account. Based on their 2022 updates, I don't think there's any obvious rationale to seek modification of the agreed Root Protection Zones.

Hope that helps?

Thanks

Cody.

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**From:** Aldridge, Steven <SAldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 10 May 2022 19:40  
**To:** Levine, Cody <CLevine@worcestershire.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Lea Castle Farm Quarry - Ancient Woodland Guidance  
**Importance:** High

Hi Cody in your comments on Lea Castle Farm Quarry proposal, you state:

Current Natural England and Forestry Commission standing advice (**November 2018**) is that *"for ancient woodlands, you should have a buffer zone of at least 15 metres to avoid root damage. Where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, you are likely to need a larger buffer zone..."* and that *"a buffer zone around an ancient or veteran tree should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5 metres from the edge of the tree's canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree's diameter"*.

This advice has been updated: [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). This advice states:

*For ancient woodlands, the proposal should have a buffer zone of at least 15 metres from the boundary of the woodland to avoid root damage (known as the root protection area). Where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, the proposal is likely to need a larger buffer zone. For example, the effect of air pollution from development that results in a significant increase in traffic.*

*For ancient or veteran trees (including those on the woodland boundary), the buffer zone should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5 metres from the edge of the tree's canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree's diameter. This will create a minimum root protection area.*

The advice appears to be very similar, are you content that your comments are amended to state the wording above to take into account the 2022 guidance?

Kind regards

Steve

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