

Do you consider the BDP is **unsound** because it is not:

(1) Justified (see Note 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Effective (see Note 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Consistent with national policy (see Note 6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Positively prepared (see Note 7)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. Please give details of why you consider the BDP is unsound. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the soundness of the BDP, please also use this box to set out your comments. (Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

73/1
We object to the comment in paragraph 8.84 that: "Whilst the Council agree that Green Infrastructure could be a possible area for contributions a definitive list of possible areas for contribution is no longer included in the policy". Whilst we appreciate that a definitive list may no longer be included, the text is unclear whether – as a matter of principle – green infrastructure is indeed an eligible item in Infrastructure Contributions.

The CIL regulations cite the definition of infrastructure in the Planning Act 2008, section 216, specifying that 'open spaces' and 'flood defences' are eligible items for CIL.

The National Policy Planning Framework clearly states: 'Local planning authorities should:.....set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure' (DCLG, March 2012, para 114).

For instance the **Bristol City Council Adopted Core Strategy** June 2011 states -

Policy BCS9

Development should incorporate new and/or enhanced green infrastructure of an appropriate type, standard and size. Where on-site provision of green infrastructure is not possible, contributions will be sought to make appropriate provision for green infrastructure off site.

Policy BCS11

Development and infrastructure provision will be coordinated to ensure that growth in the city is supported by the provision of infrastructure, services and facilities needed to maintain and improve quality of life and respond to the needs of the local economy.

Development will provide, or contribute towards the provision of:

n Measures to directly mitigate its impact, either geographically or functionally, which will be secured through the use of planning obligations;

n Infrastructure, facilities and services required to support growth, which will be secured through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bristol.

Planning obligations may be sought from any development, irrespective of size, that has an impact requiring mitigation. Contributions through CIL will be required in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

The **Stroud District Local Plan - Pre-submission Draft** : Sept 2013 states:

Infrastructure and developer contributions

2.88 In order to create sustainable communities, the Council wishes to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is put in place to address community needs and ensure that transport improvements take place to address the traffic and travel consequences of new development.

New development can create a need for additional infrastructure or improved community services and facilities, without which there could be a detrimental effect on local amenity and the quality of the environment. The Council will consider viability and deliverability aspects in accordance with national advice.

2.89 Community needs can include affordable housing, allotments, community orchards, education, healthcare facilities, emergency services, security, leisure activities, transport infrastructure, public utility infrastructure, flood risk management infrastructure, community facilities, play and green infrastructure.

7. Please set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the BDP sound, having regard to the test you have identified at 6 above. You will need to say why this change will make the BDP sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible. (Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary) (see Note 8 para 4.3)

In order to meet national & local policy, we would like to see Policy BDP6 amended to make it clear that green infrastructure forms part of infrastructure contributions by amending the text (UPPER CASE AMENDMENTS) – “Development and infrastructure provision will be coordinated to ensure that growth in the District is supported by the provision of infrastructure INCLUDING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, services and facilities needed to maintain and improve quality of life and respond to the needs of the local economy”.

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change(s), as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

8. If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? *Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.*

No, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes, I wish to participate at the oral examination	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary. (Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 11/11/2013

Part B (see Note 1 and Note 8 para 4.2)

Please use a separate Part B form for each representation you wish to make

Name or Organisation (see Note 8 para 4.1)

Woodland Trust

1. To which part of the BDP does this representation relate?

Page: 82	Paragraph:	Policy: BDP17.6
Policies Map:	Other document:	

If your representation does not relate to a specific part of the document, or it relates to a different document, for example the Sustainability Appraisal, please make this clear in your response.

2. Do you consider the BDP is legally compliant? (see Note 2)

Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Please give details of why you consider the BDP is not legally compliant. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance of the BDP, please also use this box to set out your comments. (Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

4. Please set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the BDP legally compliant, having regard to the issue(s) you have identified above. You will need to say why this change will make the BDP legally compliant. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible. (Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary) (see Note 8 para 4.3)

5. Do you consider the BDP is sound? (see Note 3)

Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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We would like to see this section reflect the National Planning Policy Framework's (CLG, 2012) requirements for development to "take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption" (para 96). This should include the role of street trees and woodland in combatting climate change.

The Government's Forestry Policy Statement (Defra, 2013) states that: "English woodlands already play an important part in the growth of the UK forest carbon market and in ground-breaking projects that use land management to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, enhance biodiversity and adapt to impacts of climate change" (p.24).

The Government launched **The Big Tree Plant** in December 2010. The Big Tree Plant is a campaign to encourage people and communities to plant more trees in England's towns, cities and neighbourhoods. The Big Tree Plant website* states that:

'Trees can make a street come to life, by attracting wildlife, changing colours throughout the seasons, and creating shade and shelter. They shield houses from traffic noise, can help save energy, and reduce the risk of flooding.' The website goes on to say 'There is evidence that trees in cities can also help fight the effects of air pollution and climate change.'

(* <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/whytreesmatter.html>)

For example, Policy ENV 3 'Design Quality' of the adopted **Black Country Core Strategy** (Feb 2011) states : "6. Including design features to reduce the urban heat island effect such as tree cover, green roofs and the inclusion of green space in development".

73/2

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In order to meet national & local policy, we would like to see Policy BDP17.6 amended to read (UPPER CASE AMENDMENTS) – "Opportunities will also be encouraged in new schemes to mitigate against and adapt to the effects of climate change, for example, renewable energy, TREE COVER and recycling".

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Part B (see Note 1 and Note 8 para 4.2)

Please use a separate Part B form for each representation you wish to make

Name or Organisation (see Note 8 para 4.1)

Woodland Trust

1. To which part of the BDP does this representation relate?

Page: 103	Paragraph:	BDP21.1 (paragraph a)
Policies Map:	Other document:	

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We are pleased to support paragraph a) of Policy BDP21 Natural Environment supporting protection of ancient woodland but suggest that it would be even better if it also included a reference to ancient trees.

It is also important that there is no further avoidable loss of ancient trees through development pressure, mismanagement or poor practice. The Ancient Tree Forum (ATF) and the Woodland Trust would like to see all such trees recognised as historical, cultural and wildlife monuments scheduled under TPOs and highlighted in plans so they are properly valued in planning decision-making. There is also a need for policies ensuring good management of ancient trees, the development of a succession of future ancient trees through new street tree planting and new wood pasture creation, and to raise awareness and understanding of the value and importance of ancient trees. The Ancient Tree Hunt (<http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>) is designed specifically for this purpose and has already identified ancient trees in the District, such as the Wild Black Poplar near the B4091 at Catshill (grid ref. SO 960 732).

73/3

Government policy is increasingly supportive of absolute protection of ancient woodland and ancient trees. The new **National Policy Planning Framework** clearly states: "...*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...*" (DCLG, March 2012, para 118).

This NPPF wording should also be considered in conjunction with other national policies on ancient woodland -

- The Government's policy document '**Keepers of Time – A statement of Policy for England's Ancient & Native Woodland**' (Defra/Forestry Commission, 2005, p.11) supports: '*Take steps to avoid losses of ancient woodland and of ancient and veteran trees*'.
- The Government's **Independent Panel on Forestry** states: '*Government should reconfirm the policy approach set out in the Open Habitats Policy and Ancient Woodland Policy (Keepers of Time – A statement of policy for England's ancient and native woodland).....Reflect the value of ancient woodlands, trees of special interest, for example veteran trees, and other priority habitats in Local Plans, and refuse planning permission for developments that would have an adverse impact on them.*' (Defra, Final Report, July 2012). This has been endorsed by the response in the recent **Government Forestry Policy Statement** (Defra Jan 2013): '*We recognise the value of our native and ancient woodland and the importance of restoring open habitats as well as the need to restore plantations on ancient woodland sites. We, therefore, confirm our commitment to the policies set out in both the Open Habitats Policy and Keepers of Time, our statement of policy for England's ancient and native woodland*'.
- The **West Midlands Forestry Framework (Growing our future, May 2010, Forestry Commission)** Objective EB5 seeks: '*To increase contributions and commitment to wildlife gain with regard to woodland, urban trees, hedges, traditional orchards, parkland & wood pasture, ancient and notable trees*'.

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In order to meet national & local policy, we would like to see Policy BDP21.1 (paragraph a) amended to read (UPPER CASE AMENDMENTS) – "Protect, restore, enhance and create core areas of high nature conservation value (including nationally and locally protected sites and irreplaceable nature resources such as sites with geological interest, ancient woodlands, ANCIENT TREES and habitats of principle importance), wildlife corridors, stepping stones and buffer zones".

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