



16 April 2025

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Response: Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan (Reg.16)

Thank you for consulting Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan (Reg.16 Consultation).

Policy ENV3

We particularly support Objective 9, page 30, which seeks to protect and enhance the countryside, including wildlife habitats and sites of special interest.

S3.8 on page 14 describes a number of ecologically important sites within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary which includes 4 County Wildlife Sites (CWS), 1 of which is largely 'Ancient Woodland', an 'irreplaceable habitat.'

We also note various Priority Habitats within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary, including deciduous woodland, lowland fen and traditional orchard.

Although there is some wording within Policy HOU3 for all developments 'to be designed to avoid or mitigate likely significant effects to the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC...', there is no policy wording in the Plan to protect the County Wildlife Sites, Priority Habitats or the River Tud from adverse impacts from development.

Any new development within the parish has the potential to create negative impacts on sensitive wildlife habitats, for example, from water or air pollution, direct loss of habitat, loss of species etc. It is important that these ecologically sensitive sites are protected now and for future generations.

We therefore recommend additional wording, perhaps at the end of Policy ENV3, for example (or similar):

'Development proposals should retain and protect existing habitats and species including County Wildlife Sites, Priority Habitats, the River Tud and other high biodiversity habitats, and seek to enhance these where possible.'

We trust that our comments have been helpful.

