

The Woodland Trust would like to lodge a further objection to this application on account of likely additional loss or damage to a potential ancient tree located within proximity to the proposed Flyup 417 Bike Park access track, as outlined in the applicant's deadline 8 submission (reference: REP8-029).

In line with the recommendations outlined in our written representation regarding ancient and veteran tree protection (REP1-136), the applicant should look to ensure that the ancient tree is retained and afforded an un-encroached root protection area in line with Natural England and Forestry Commission's Standing Advice. This guidance has recently been updated (14th January 2022) and now states:

“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.

Where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, the proposal is likely to need a larger buffer zone.”

We hope our comments are of use to you.