

**From:** National Forest Planning <planning@nationalforest.org>  
**Sent:** 20 January 2026 08:57:51 UTC+00:00  
**To:** "Planning Folder New" <PlanningFolderNew@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk>; "Alex Jelley" <Alex.Jelley@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** 24/00914/OUT - Burroughs Road Recreation Ground Burroughs Road Ratby  
**Categories:** Yasmin

Dear Alex,

Thank you for reconsulting the National Forest Company on the above application.

**National Forest planting**

As you are aware, based on a site area of 32.7ha, there is a requirement for 30% (or 9.81ha) National Forest planting (Policy 21). Although the applicant was aware of this requirement, in our previous responses we highlighted that not all the green infrastructure shown on the plans would contribute to the National Forest planting guidelines, and that we would expect at least half of the 9.81ha of National Forest planting to be plantation woodland.

The application is now accompanied by a Technical Note: National Forest, Green Infrastructure prepared by FPCR, dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025. This document thoroughly and helpfully considers the National Forest planting requirements. The resultant amendments detailed in this document and shown on National Forest Compliance Plan Rev P06 (including 4.91ha of woodland and woodland belt planting) indicate the areas/elements of the green infrastructure which are proposed to meet National Forest Planting guidelines. We consider this plan responds positively to the comments we have raised.

If minded to approve, we would recommend conditions covering the following matters:

- National Forest Compliance Plan Rev P06 to be one of the listed approved plans.
- Full details (to include species, species mix, size and density species mix, planting density, protection measures) of all woodland and tree planting shown on National Forest Compliance Plan Rev P06. There will need to be significant new native tree planting within the National Forest contribution area (the lighter green areas and around the drainage ponds) in order that they can be considered National Forest planting.
- Full details of the drainage ponds which demonstrates they are ecologically designed and surrounded by tree planting. Engineered ponds without sufficient tree planting and biodiversity value will not contribute to our planting requirements.
- A Management Plan covering a 10-year period to ensure successful establishment of all habitats.
- A Woodland Management Plan for the management of existing woodland.
- A phased approach to the implementation of the woodland and tree planting. Waiting until the completion of the development to implement tree and woodland planting would not be acceptable.

- Replacement tree and woodland planting in the event of failures for a 5-year period.
- Full details of the play facilities noting our preference for natural play design which is integrated into the open space. This could include natural materials such as tree trunks and boulders, changes in level and access to water. Where equipment is used this should be timber based as should benches, bins and fencing. Play and exploration should be encouraged across the landscape and designating areas for play behind fencing should be avoided.

### **National Forest character**

The potential to create a National Forest character is referred to in the Design and Access Statement. We welcome this and ask that it is explored further through the reserved matters submission should this scheme be approved. This can include play area design, street trees, the inclusion of timber in design and the inclusion of sustainable design.

### **To conclude**

To conclude:-

- National Forest Compliance Plan Rev P06 shows an area of compliant National Forest planting, full details of which will need to be submitted at a future reserved matters stage having regard to our planting guidelines.
- We welcome the potential to include National Forest character and ask that this is explored at any future reserved matters stage.

To reiterate earlier conclusions:-

- We welcome the network of paths and the connections to off-site paths and public rights of way.
- The impact on trees will need to be considered by the Council's Tree Officer, and all retained trees will need to be appropriately protected during construction.
- The applicant is encouraged to liaise with our education colleagues to achieve a well-designed and located Forest school provision.

Kind Regards

Eilish

**Eilish Gardner | Green Infrastructure & Planning Officer**

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