

28th November 2023

Dear Rowan

Armada Way, Plymouth. Woodland Trust response.

The Woodland Trust (WT) welcomes the consultation process and the opportunity to comment.

While WT welcomes the retention of a number of the existing trees, we were disappointed to see a number still proposed for removal. We understand and appreciate the reasons given but would ask that PCC review the design and see if further trees can be retained through amendments to the drainage scheme, access layout and the proposals for compounds and works areas.

While it is testament to the Councils commitment to not lose any further trees, if the City Council intends to rely on translocation then WT would like to see that undertaken as a published trial to ensure monitoring and reporting. Our understanding of translocation generally, however, is that it is costly and likely to yield limited success. We would sooner see that resource invested in retaining the trees where they are, or to secure greater tree cover both within the scheme and across the city, ideally in pursuit of 5 points outlined below.

Overall, The Woodland Trust welcomes the City Councils commitment to trees and woods in the City and looks forward to continue to work with the City Council, other organisations and residents on:

- Bringing into urgent effect the administration's commitment to **double tree cover in the city centre**. The Trust welcomes the City Council's recognition of the significant health and wellbeing benefits that well located new tree planting brings for residents. The Trust has offered to work with the City Council to apply a Tree Equity approach to ensure that **comparable targets are adopted for all Plymouth wards where there is significant inequality of access to trees and green space**.
- That the City Council set out their ambitions for delivering on these commitments (along with those of partners including the Woodland Trust) in an updated and resourced **Plymouth Plan for Trees**. That this be adopted by March 2024 for accelerated delivery in the next financial year.

- That the City Council continue to support and promote delivery of trees and woodlands through the **Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest** and celebrates the role the forest can play in ensuring healthy trees and woods throughout the city for future generations.
- That the City Council establish the promised **Plymouth Tree Panel** made up of interested residents and organisations who can work with the City Council to see the plans turned into delivery.
- That the City Council support those organisations putting on the **2024 Plymouth Festival of Trees**.

I am handing over to Ian Froggatt as Regional Director and he would be very happy to pick up discussions with you and the City Council. Ian can be contacted at ianfroggatt@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Kennerley

Ross Kennerley
South West Director – Woodland Trust

Cc
Tudor Evans. Leader. Plymouth City Council.
Anthony Payne. Strategic Director for Place

