



The Woodland Trust
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Aidan Lonergan
Area Manager (West Anglia)
Natural England,
Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Rd,
Cambridge CB2 8DR
25/04/16

Dear Aidan,

Re: Fineshade Wood, Northamptonshire

The Woodland Trust would like Natural England to undertake an assessment and give serious consideration to notifying Fineshade Wood in Northamptonshire (Grid ref: SP980983) as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

We believe that the long term ecological integrity of this large and important woodland site may be put at risk by the cumulative impact of a series of developments, coupled with significant changes in management and recreational patterns and usage levels.

We are concerned that the incremental nature of the impacts from a series of modifications and developments that have taken place over a period of years in the wider woodland may not have been fully assessed. This may partly be due to these activities being designed and delivered by different parties.

We feel that the capacity of this site to absorb significant additional activity, without jeopardising its important conservation and biodiversity value is a key consideration here. Designation as SSSI would both recognise the national significance of this wood for wildlife, as well as requiring the fullest consideration of the context and cumulative impact of any further changes to use or management of parts of the wider site.

Clarification from Natural England regarding whether this site could be notified as a SSSI would be beneficial when considering any future changes to the use or management of the site. The Woodland Trust would be happy to work with Natural England to assist with this process where we can.

Yours Sincerely

Christine Reid
Head of Conservation