



## **BURTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

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### **Representation for Section 7.1 Natural Environment: Policies BN.2, BN.3 and BN.4**

Burton Green Parish Council supports the emphasis within Policies BN.2–BN.4 on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, habitat connectivity, measurable biodiversity enhancement and the protection, enhancement and expansion of trees, hedgerows and woodland.

**The Parish Council considers that the supporting text should provide greater clarity about the role that major strategic development can play in delivering landscape-scale nature recovery.**

COV.1 illustrates this opportunity particularly well. Approximately 4,000 homes are proposed immediately adjacent to a substantial Biodiversity Enhancement Area containing an opportunity to reconnect several existing ancient woodlands through relatively modest areas of targeted woodland and habitat creation.

Development on this scale should make a proportionate contribution towards creating and maintaining this strategic ecological infrastructure.

#### **Proposed modification**

The Parish Council requests additional supporting text to Policies BN.2–BN.4 along the following lines:

**“Where major or strategic development lies within or adjacent to an area identified through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy or the Local Plan as having particular potential for landscape-scale habitat creation, restoration or improved ecological connectivity, development should make a proportionate contribution towards the delivery and long-term management of that strategic nature recovery opportunity.**

**This may include targeted off-site woodland and habitat creation where this would reconnect existing priority or irreplaceable habitats, strengthen ecological networks and deliver significantly greater nature recovery benefits than isolated habitat creation.”**

The COV.1 Biodiversity Enhancement Area and Woodland Country Park should be referenced in the supporting text as an example of this approach.

This modification would strengthen the relationship between the Natural Environment policies and the strategic allocations within the Plan and provide a clearer policy basis for securing appropriate contributions towards strategic nature recovery.