

Rescue

The British Archaeological Trust

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Valerie Stephens, Senior Project Manager
A27 Arundel Bypass Project Team
Highways England
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

By Email

26th October 2017

Dear Ms Stephens

I am writing on behalf of Rescue the British Archaeological Trust to express our concern about an apparent misconception that Highways England has in regards to ancient woodland. It appears that you believe that it is possible to recreate ancient woodland as part of the mitigation works associated with the new A27 by-pass at Arundel. Whilst we are pleased to see that you have committed to planting new trees, we would like to emphasize that this can in no way replicate the ancient woodland lost. Its high level of biodiversity established over centuries cannot simply be recreated, but of greater concern to Rescue is the complete absence of any recognition of the archaeological value of these woodlands which hold evidence of past centuries of use. No matter how welcome the new planting the archaeological evidence can never be restored. That lost woodland is irreplaceable, and whilst it might suit everyone's conscience to talk in terms of recreation, no new woodland, regardless of how desirable such an action may be, can possibly be described as 'recreating' it and to use such terms serves only to obfuscate the truth of the destruction that is or has taken place.

I would be grateful if you could advise me that Highways England has now understood and revised its understanding concerning the actual value and significance of ancient woodland, and especially in the context of the proposed Arundel Bypass.

Yours sincerely



Jude Plouviez, Chair

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