Arboricultural Consultation Response	
Application No: 25/00350/REM	**Location:** Alconbury Weald, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley
Case Officer: LP	**Proposals:** Reserved Matters Application relating to the approval of appearance, layout, landscape, access and scale in respect of the construction of green, grey and blue infrastructure including all ancillary and associated engineering and earthworks including substations and foul pump station pursuant to outline planning permission ref. 19/01341/OUT

Observations:

The proposal is not located within the Conservation Area, but there are a number of ancient woodlands that require consideration and buffer zones implementing around their perimeter. This would need to be taken into consideration as part of the design and application processes.



The buffer zones are now marked in yellow, and although there are still grass paths within this area, the play areas appear to have moved location.

There are a lot of small to medium sized trees within the landscaping and planting scheme that should be upgraded to large canopied, high carbon-fixing, high biodiversity native trees such as Oak, Small leafed Lime, Hornbeam and Beech. Alternatively, statement tree species such as Giant Redwood, Holm Oak, or Oriental Plane could be chosen. These should supplement any improvement works within the woodlands. The development should be aiming to create 25% canopy cover, and small canopied trees simply will not achieve these objectives.

LP 30: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

This policy focuses on safeguarding and enhancing the district's ecological value.

- **Development must avoid harm** to biodiversity and geodiversity assets, including trees, woodlands, and habitats.
- Proposals should align with national planning policy.
- If harm is unavoidable, it must be **minimised and mitigated**, with compensation as a last resort.
- The policy supports the **protection of trees** as part of wider ecological networks—especially those with veteran or ancient status.

This indirectly reinforces the protection of RPAs by discouraging development that would damage root systems or tree health.

LP 31: Trees, Woodland, Hedges and Hedgerows

- Development proposals must **retain and protect existing trees**, especially those of high arboricultural or landscape value.
- **Encroachment into RPAs is discouraged**, and any such impact must be justified and mitigated.
- Proposals should include **tree surveys and arboricultural impact assessments**, following BS5837 standards.
- New planting is encouraged to **enhance green infrastructure** and compensate for unavoidable losses.

Recommendation: Support Application but would welcome more large canopied trees in the planting scheme.

Signed: NS	**Date: 01/10/2025**