

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

*Dear Coniferent,*

**RE: APPG FOR ANCIENT WOODLAND AND VETERAN TREES.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of protections for aged and veteran trees; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Unfortunately, as an Assistant Government Whip, I am unable to actively support APPG activity, as doing so would likely be in breach of the *Ministerial Code* and its rules on 'collective responsibility'.

I do, however, understand and share your concerns regarding protection for our ancient woodlands and our aged and veteran trees, which are an irreplaceable aspect of our natural environment.

That is why I welcome that the final revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), sets out that: "*development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons*". This will ensure that these irreplaceable areas are not lost for future generations.

Essentially, whilst I will of course continue to follow this area of policy closely, I am confident that the revised version of the NPPF will protect our ancient woodland and our aged and veteran trees for decades to come.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**