



Local Plan Review Consultation  
Forward Planning  
Mid Devon District Council  
Phoenix House  
Tiverton  
EX16 6PP



17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Sirs,

**Mid Devon Local Plan Review consultation response  
The role of tree planting for carbon reduction in new development**

In the local plan review the proposed modifications to the Mid Devon Local Plan include the following sentences:

Page	Section	Text
92	3.81 CU3 North West Collumpton	The role of landscaping and tree-planting in flood prevention and carbon reduction should also be recognised in the development.
101	3.108 CU8 East Collumpton	The role of landscaping and tree-planting in flood prevention and carbon reduction should also be recognised in the development

While I agree that growing trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and that globally forests have an important role in sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>, there is a danger that these sentences are interpreted as saying that tree planting local to a new development can materially mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the development.

A study by The Forestry Commission<sup>1</sup> concluded that UK woodland sequesters 5.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare per annum. A single new home built to current building regulations (including regulated and unregulated emissions) will typically emit some 3.75 tonnes per year. To fully mitigate a single new home (excluding associated waste and transport emissions) will therefore require planting 0.7 hectares of trees.

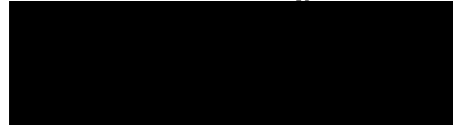
This calculation illustrates that the likely scale of tree planting on any new development will not provide material "carbon reduction" as implied by assertion that this should be "recognised in the development". If this wording remains there will no doubt be instances where developer proposals include tree planting in place of effective energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

I therefore recommend that the words "and carbon reduction" are removed from these sentences.

Yours faithfully,



Tony Norton  
Head of the Centre for Energy and the Environment



<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/6\\_planting\\_more\\_trees.pdf/\\$FILE/6\\_planting\\_more\\_trees.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/6_planting_more_trees.pdf/$FILE/6_planting_more_trees.pdf)