



The Woodland Trust

Kempton Way

Grantham

Lincolnshire

NG31 6LL

Telephone

01476 581111

Facsimile

01476 590808

Website

woodlandtrust.org.uk

To Whom It May Concern,

The Woodland Trust is offering its support to the aims of the local community seeking to preserve the Chiltern Lanes and prevent the loss of a significant number of mature trees. These trees are of great importance for the local environment and local people alike. We always favour the retention of healthy mature trees. Research shows that trees in the over mature and veteran stages of life store the most carbon¹. Mature trees also offer a range of other benefits that increase over the lifespan of the tree.

We urge the Department for Transport, HS2 Ltd. and its contractors to work with local people and utilise local expertise, knowledge and passion for this area of countryside and its valuable trees. Evidence of the environmental impact of the loss of these trees and engineering reports commissioned by the local community both warrant serious consideration by HS2 Ltd. and its contractors to prevent the loss of the mature trees on Leather Lane.

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. We aim to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future. We own over 1,000 sites across the UK, covering over 30,000 hectares and we have over 500,000 members and supporters.

Sincerely,

Adam Cormack
Head of Campaigning – Woodland Trust

¹ Hand, K. L., Doick, K. J. and Moss, J. L. (2019), *'Ecosystem services delivery by large stature urban trees'*, Research Report, I Forest Research, Edinburgh I-IV