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f Flitch Way Friends

Karen Denmark  
Uttlesford District Council  
Council Offices  
Saffron Walden  
Essex  
CB11 4ER

24 January 2017

Dear Ms Denmark

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE - UTT/16/3565/OP  
Bonningtons Green, Land to the West of Bonningtons Farm, Station Road, Hatfield Broad Oak**

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Flitch Way & Associated Woodlands. Our volunteers work for the benefit of the community to conserve, protect and improve the physical and natural environment of the Flitch Way and other sites throughout Essex under the guidance of Essex County Council (ECC) Park Rangers and PROW teams environment.

The Flitch Way Country Park is already designated a Local Wildlife Site reference Ufd196 and we are working with ECC Park Rangers to declare it a Local Nature Reserve.

We are concerned about the current configuration of the site UTT/16/3565/OP KD1 Bonnington Green, narrowness of the buffer zone, increased access and restriction of light from the south and ask that the site be re-configured to address the concerns.

**Buffer zone alongside the Flitch Way**

The preferred buffer zone between the Flitch Way and proposed Bonnington Green development should be at least 20 metres wide and ideally be 100 metres wide. The buffer zone should be landscaped sensitively and be attuned to the specific habitat of that part of the Flitch Way. For example, creation of rough grassland zones with high levels of light is especially important along the southern boundary of the Flitch Way which this forms. Having wider trim trail and dog walking areas next to the Flitch Way boundary and the installation of secure boundary fencing would help to mitigate habitat damage. Dog waste bins should be located within the development to reduce the risk of littering and dog waste on the Flitch Way.

**Access points on to the Flitch Way**

An access point already exists along the western boundary of Bonnington Green to the Flitch Way. We do not want to see additional new access points as this could lead to habitat damage from increased usage.

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and countryside for the community*  
Registered Charity No: 1115617

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### **Secure boundary with good light access**

The Flich Way is in a shallow cutting where it runs alongside Bonnington Green. It is essential to maintain good light access from the south to maintain as diverse a range of wildlife as possible. One way of achieving this would be to install open metal rail fencing or similar between the Flich Way and the buffer zone.

### **S106 funding to improve Flich Way path surface**

There is an opportunity to use S106 funding to improve and maintain the surface of the Flich Way path to help mitigate the expected increase in usage.

We hope these concerns can be addressed.

Kind Regards

Sandra Reynolds  
Secretary

**Friends of the Flich Way and Associated Woodlands**

Website: [www.friends-of-the-flitch-way.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-the-flitch-way.org.uk)

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