

The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 4DF

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

We are writing to you as representatives from the arboricultural and forestry industries, with partners from other sectors, in regard to the England Tree Strategy consultation. We welcome the commitment of this government in recognising the importance of trees and congratulate you and your team on your efforts in bringing this England Tree Strategy to consultation stage. It is undoubtedly in the best interests of this country and of all of those involved in our industries to ensure that we get this right, and we are committed to doing what we can to work with you in order to make this a success.

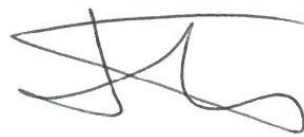
It is in this spirit of cooperation and collaborative working that we are contacting you to raise a number of significant concerns with the document and the consultation process itself. For many reasons, the detail of which we will be happy to provide, we do not feel that this draft England Tree Strategy is fit for purpose, particularly in relation to urban trees. Furthermore, the format of the consultation process – largely multiple choice questions which do not address the body of the text – means that it is not realistically possible to adequately express the level of changes which are required in order to ensure that this document delivers on its huge potential.

It would be very much appreciated if an online meeting could be arranged between yourself and representatives of the undersigned groups at which we could outline some of our concerns in the hope that the required changes can be made; firstly to the consultation process and framework, and then to the core of the document itself. This moment represents a huge opportunity for trees to at last be given the status and recognition that they deserve – as critical infrastructure and as key elements of the public commons. We are committed to working with you to ensure that this impressive ambition is translated into action.

Yours sincerely,



Stewart Wardrop
Chief Executive Officer



John Parker
Technical Director

Organisations offering their support to the above letter currently include -



**Landscape
Institute**
Inspiring great places

Daniel Cook
Chief Executive Officer



Sue James & Keith Sacre
Trustee Representatives



Laura Adcock-Ferguson
Chief Executive Officer



Colleen O'Sullivan
Vice Chair



Richard Edwards
Director



Andrew Allison
Chair



Prof John Moverley OBE
Independent Chairman



Andrew Fisher Tomlin
Director



Robert Huxford
Director



Matthew Carmona
Chair