

Confusion over woodland areas

NICOLA Peel (letters, 2 July) thinks that the Pink/Blue route for the Arundel Bypass

goes through 'Binsted Wood'. In fact, the Pink (Western) end of the bypass was proposed in 1992 to avoid Binsted Woods (usually spelt without an 'a'), the 250-acre broadleaved ancient woodland within the old Binsted parish, now part of Walberton parish.

Previously suggested routes went through Binsted Woods. Instead, the Pink/Blue route goes across Tortington Common, nearer to Arundel.

Tortington Common is also ancient woodland, but 'ancient replanted', rather than 'ancient semi-natural' as Binsted Woods are. Having been mainly replanted with conifers, it was seen as less valuable than Binsted Woods, though it has improved since the Pink/Blue route was made the Preferred Route in 1993. Areas that fell in the 1987 hurricane have been allowed to regrow naturally.

'Binsted Woods' is the local name for the large complex of many different woods in Binsted - the woods are shown on OS maps as 'Binsted Wood'.

Further confusion may have been caused by references to the whole area of woodland (Binsted Woods and Tortington Common) as 'Binsted Wood'. There is also a smaller wood within Binsted Woods called...Binsted Wood!

Both Binsted Woods and Tortington Common are now in the National Park. Thinking of them as two separate woodlands emphasises their very different character, and helps when remembering bypass history.

But as a continuous very large area of ancient woodland, cross-crossed by much used footpaths, they are a precious asset, which their National Park designation confirms.

Although the Pink/Blue route across Tortington Common 'saved' Binsted Woods (after a lot of campaigning), and is still the least damaging route, a strong case is being made by Arundel SCATE for considering alternatives to the bypass. They are a local group set up to promote less damaging and more sustainable solutions than road building.

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