

Letters to the Editor

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We must now get on with taking traffic away from local villages

I NOTED the letter from Nicola Peel in the WSG (July 2) regarding the potential loss of ancient woodland at Binsted (not Binstead) to an A27 by pass of Arundel. The Ancient Woodland at Binsted west of Arundel is protected and has been deliberately avoided in the route planning. The section west of Tortington Lane was finally chosen by the Highways Agency (Dept of Transport) after extensive discussions between all the Authorities

and the Environmental Groups who visited the Woodland with the Minister and the Local Councils in 1992. My father, representing the Sussex Wildlife Trust, was involved in the negotiations to ensure that the Binsted Woods and its habitat were avoided by what became known as the "pink" part of the route. This was the most recently agreed route and although not perfect was a good

compromise for all parties by taking it through a coniferous plantation, which although attractive to some, is definitely not ancient. The pink section of the route is explained in Para.16 of the Secretary of State's Statement issued in February 1993. Part of the coppice on Tortington Common will be lost, but overall this route is the best solution. Any route must offer an alternative to Ford

Road Arundel with a junction just south of the old Priory at Tortington. We must now get on with this vital piece of Infrastructure to improve the lives of all local residents by taking traffic away from Houghton, Storrington, the Downs and our local villages.

**John Penfold
Aldingbourne**

20/11/13
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