

WSCC COUNTY ARBORICULTURIST response to planning consultation

Application reference number: WSCC/037/23

Location: Brookhurst Wood Landfill Site, Langhurstwood Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4QD

Proposal: Construction and Operation of an Open Windrow Composting (OWC) Facility

District: Horsham

Date: 23/10/2023

Summary response: No objection subject to a pre-commencement condition for a detailed arboricultural method statement.

Response:

The submitted Arboricultural Impact Assessment (rev. 01) provides a comprehensive assessment of arboricultural features which could be impacted by the proposed development. A majority of the tree features recorded within the site are to be removed to facilitate the proposal, however, they are stated to be of low to moderate value. None of the removed tree features appear to be of great significance within the wider landscape, though they will contribute to the local ecology and will provide ecosystem services locally.

Appendix E Outline Tree Protection Measures provides suitable outline methodologies for working practices in proximity to retained trees. A detailed arboricultural method statement is required and is recommended to be a condition of planning consent if granted.

No new tree planting has been identified in compensation for tree loss. Whilst not a requirement of planning policy in relation to this application, tree planting within the site is encouraged.

Recommendations:

- a) A condition to the following wording is applied:
- *Prior to the commencement of development (including all preparatory work), a scheme for the protection of the retained trees, in accordance with BS 5837:2012, including an arboricultural method statement (AMS) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

(Reason: In accordance with WSCC's local validation list as works are likely to affect trees within or adjacent to the site. To ensure the preservation of trees in line with S197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990)

Informative advice:

The conditioned AMS must include matters outlined within the approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Appendix E Outline Tree Protection Measures). An auditable/audited system of arboricultural site monitoring, including a schedule of specific site events requiring input or supervision is also expected within the AMS.

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