

## **WSCC COUNTY ARBORICULTURIST response to planning consultation**

**Application reference number:** WSCC/021/23

**Location:** Recycle Southern Ltd, Elbridge Farm Chichester Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 5EF

**Proposal:** Regularisation, consolidation and extension to the existing waste transfer facility including an increase in throughput of waste.

**District:** Arun

**Date:** 30/06/2023

**Summary response:** Further information required including methodology to preserve trees throughout construction activities and a new tree aftercare programme.

### **Response:**

#### **Preservation of trees:**

No arboricultural assessment has been supplied in support of the application; however, no trees are proposed for removal nor will likely require removal providing the below consideration is addressed through revised plans and/or construction methodology.

Direct impacts to trees are likely to occur to trees on the southern border of the site extension where both security and acoustic fencing are proposed adjacent what appear to be lower quality trees aiding to screening to properties adjacent (as identified in the Site Layout Plan ref: GPP/RS/BR/EXT/22/02). The installation of both fence lines are likely to require excessive branch removal or tree loss to construct fencing, and indirect damage may occur through installation methods using concrete foundations (contrary to para 5.2.9 of the Planning Statement (June 2023) submitted). It is not apparent why two fence lines are required, nor why they are proposed within crown spreads and expected rooting areas of the trees rather than outside.

A concrete retaining wall is proposed adjacent trees mentioned above, though due to the current activity within the arable fields and unlikely presence of tree roots resulting, impact to trees are unlikely to lead to adverse impacts providing construction methodology is provided to limit damage to soils through protection barriers, ground protection and contamination.

Construction access throughout the site could impact on trees shall need addressing, such as areas near trees external to the site to be excluded from construction activity.

#### **Planting (provision) of new trees:**

New tree planting is proposed and welcomed as an enhancement to the site. This includes the planting of standard trees to enhance existing treelined screening (which has potential for impact as stated above), as well as the planting of native trees on a soil bund on the eastern perimeter.

Adequate specification for the above planting is stated on the landscape proposal (ref 2414-TFC-00-00-DR-L-1001). Further details for the aftercare/management of new tree planting is required.

### **Recommendations:**

- a) Request the applicant provides a response with regard to the positioning of the security and acoustic fencing and how trees will be preserved through construction methodology in line with BS 5837:2012; or, provides a revised site layout which avoids impacts to the trees as mentioned.
- b) Request the applicant submits:
  1. A construction management plan (or similar) which identifies areas of construction exclusion alongside measures to prevent unauthorised access; and,

methodologies for construction activities surrounding trees which prevents adverse impacts to trees.

2. A five-year aftercare management plan for all new tree planting to include: maintenance specifications to ensure tree establishment; bio-security measures; and, defect periods with compensation strategies for dead, dying, severely damaged or diseased trees.

(Reason: To ensure the preservation and planting of trees in line with S197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; to ensure new tree planting establishes in the landscape; and, for the protection and management of trees or areas of woodland when undertaking development in adherence with policy ENV DM4 of Arun's local plan).

**Informative advice:**

The following British Standards should be referred to

- BS: 5837 (2012) Trees in relation to demolition, design and construction – Recommendations.
- BS: 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations.

The submission of construction management plan (or similar) shall need to consider tree protection measures in line with BS: 5837 (2012) for any operations in proximity to trees, specialist arboricultural advice is recommended. Construction methodologies and associated plans may utilise existing fence lines which provide suitable tree protection barriers, as well and existing vehicle access points.

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