

WSSC TREE OFFICER response to planning consultation

Application reference number: WSSC/019/20

Location: Knepp Castle, West Grinstead, Horsham, RH13 8LJ

Proposal: Proposed construction of landscape enhancement features using imported inert material, together with the provision of public access and amenity; comprising revised landform and details to WSSC/029/18/SP

District: Horsham

Date: 29th April 2020

Summary response: no objection subject to appropriately worded conditions to achieve a full, detailed landscaping scheme and long term maintenance and management plan

Response: The proposed dense planting on the northern slopes of the Buck Barn landform reflects and complements the landscape character of the immediate area, in particular the woodland to the east. A full, detailed planting plan is required to establish whether the proposed species will be suitable for the site. It appears that the proposed tree / shrub planting will be restricted to the slopes omitting the ridgeline itself which is more acceptable in visual terms. Given time, the planting just below the ridgeline will grow up and soften the apex of this feature.

The grass areas indicated are quite small and are likely to be shaded out quite quickly unless maintenance is thorough to prevent encroachment of surrounding shrubs etc. Some of the grass areas should be enlarged and connected up where possible.

A full, detailed, long term maintenance / management plan for the planting is required to ensure successful establishment.

There are some minor discrepancies / errors between the removals indicated on the tree schedule and the environmental statement; they need to agree.

The LVIA and relevant documents should be reviewed by a qualified landscape architect.

The photowires help to envisage the final profile of the landform but it is disappointing not to see a visualisation of the proposed landform, even outline, just to see how it 'sits' in the landscape from a viewer at ground level.

There must be full compliance with the submitted AIA and TPP.

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