

## **WSSC TREE OFFICER response to planning consultation**

**Application reference number:** WSSC/036/20

**Location:** Ford Circular Technology Park, Ford Road, Ford, Arundel BN18 0XL

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing buildings and structures and construction and operation of an energy recovery facility and a waste sorting and transfer facility for treatment of municipal, commercial and industrial wastes, including ancillary buildings, structures, parking, hardstanding and landscape works

**District:** Arun

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Summary response:** no objection subject to appropriately worded conditions to secure tree protection and a full, detailed landscape specification.

**Response:** The site benefits from some limited existing planting on the northern and eastern boundaries. Although this is shown outside the red line boundary, opportunities should be explored to supplement and reinforce this planting, especially where gaps exist.

Looking at the site within the context of the wider landscape, opportunities should be explored to improve the linear habitat connectivity by planting up gaps in hedgerows / shelterbelts where possible, e.g. the gap to the north east of the site along the access track from Rodney Crescent, which is also PROW 200\_3.

The site is extremely constrained, so there are limited opportunities for 'landform screening, landscape planting and biodiversity improvements'; hence the need to look beyond the site boundaries for additional landscape enhancements, if possible, to 'integrate the proposal with the adjacent landscape', as advised at the second pre-application meeting.

The arboricultural impact assessment (AIA) has identified Group 10, the poplars along the access road, to have <10 years remaining contribution and categorised them as 'U', so planned replacement of these should be incorporated into future landscape plans to ensure the screening they provide is continued.

The conservation grassland proposed on the northern boundary could be heavily shaded by Group 1 conifers (and the acoustic fence) unless the access track is to be retained between these and the new planting.

Smaller tree stock should be used – it is likely to establish more successfully, assuming the maintenance and aftercare is thorough – 10-12cmg instead of 20-25cmg. This will also avoid the need for ground anchors, but some low above ground staking will be required.

**Species mixes:** scrub planting – omit alder buckthorn (which does not occur locally) replace with field maple (*Acer campestre*); omit silver birch and replace with goat willow (*Salix caprea*).

**Hedgerow** – hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) should be 60% of the mix and field maple 20% instead of blackthorn. Omit *Clematis vitalba* (which will appear over time naturally) and replace with 5% blackthorn.

Planting along the southern boundary is challenging because of the very narrow area, additionally constrained by two fences; an inner 3m high timber acoustic fence and an outer 2.4m high security fence. Enough light should be available for the grassland to establish, but may be difficult to maintain. Given time, the proposed oaks may clear the fencing and branches can then grow over both, but they could be constrained / distorted by the fencing with branches growing through the outer fence. Security would also potentially be compromised if it was possible (well into the future) to climb the trees and gain access to the site that way. The oaks are also shown planted very close together – each must have sufficient space to develop to their full potential. Smaller stock should be planted which is likely to establish more successfully.

A full, detailed planting specification is required together with details of suppliers; prior approval is required, particularly for biosecurity reasons. Tree guards, shelters and fixings should be biodegradable.

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) cannot be planted due to the prevalence of ash dieback.

There must be full compliance with, and implementation of, the tree protection measures and mitigation detailed within the AIA. As noted, bespoke method statements may be required in future for any additional works that could impact on existing trees / shrubs, e.g. CHP pipeline.

A comprehensive Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) should incorporate and add to the submitted landscape management plan.

I cannot comment on the submitted LVIA.

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