

## WSCC TREE OFFICER response to planning consultation

**Application reference number:** WSCC/048/20

**Location:** Land to the north of CDEW Screening Site, Thistleworth Farm, Worthing Road, Horsham RH13 8NR

**Proposal:** Retrospective application for landfilling works

**District:** Horsham

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Summary response:** no objection subject to appropriately worded landscaping and maintenance condition

**Response:** It is clear from the sections drawing and site photographs that the western toe of the bund / landfilling is contiguous with the highway boundary fence. This will make maintenance of the fence virtually impossible unless an access gap is created. Elsewhere the bund has slumped over the fencing and it is imperative that this is avoided.

The arboricultural assessment and method statement dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 states that for the entirety of G1 (the trees between the A24 and the site) '*the trees are semi mature with an average stem diameter of 100mm and an associated Root Protection Area of 1.2m.*' I do not consider the toe of the bund to be 1.2m from G1, since numerous larger trees are immediately on the west side of the boundary fence. This incursion into the RPA may not show harmful impacts for some years but the applicant is heavily reliant on this densely planted feature to screen the site.

As with application WSCC/009/20, it is reasonable to require a native planting scheme along the western edge to supplement the existing planting and provide some screening 'insurance' should the existing planting be adversely affected and ash dieback results in depleting much of the present tree screen. The soil must be of sufficient depth and good quality to support additional planting; 300mm is not enough. There should be at least 500mm for hedgerow shrubs like hawthorn, field maple, hazel etc.

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