



HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	Street Record Burnthouse Lane Cowfold
DESCRIPTION:	Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 11 to approved application DC/23/2172
REFERENCE:	DISC/26/0205
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice / more info
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION: The submitted Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) (THL-AMS26-11), Tree Protection Plan (TPP) (THL-1180-7) and associated Tree Survey and Tree Works Schedule provide details of the proposed tree works, tree protection measures, construction exclusion zones, arboricultural supervision requirements and the methodology for the installation of the underground cable infrastructure in proximity to retained trees and hedgerows. The AMS advises that no underground services are proposed within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees and that Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be utilised where the cable route passes beneath retained trees and hedgerows, including at G5/H26, G27/H31 and H15, which is considered an appropriate methodology in principle. The AMS states that HDD launch and reception pits will be located outside RPAs and that any unforeseen works within RPAs would require further arboricultural input and approval prior to commencement. However, further details should be provided confirming HDD pit locations outside RPAs, and these should be marked on the TPP and information on drilling depths to avoid root disturbance should be included in the AMS. The proposed arboricultural supervision regime is welcomed. However, it would be beneficial if the one of the Councils Arboricultural Officer were invited to attend the initial site meeting to review the agreed tree protection measures and HDD working areas prior to commencement.	
MAIN COMMENTS: The submitted Tree Works Schedule identifies a number of individual tree removals, principally comprising Ash trees affected by Ash Dieback and trees categorised as unsuitable for long-term retention. The proposed removals include T5, T11, T61, T80, T82 and G33, all recommended for removal on safety grounds or due to significant decline, together with T69, a dead Oak, and T8 which is identified for removal to facilitate the development. A number of group and woodland management operations are also proposed	

including the removal of declining Ash trees and a structurally poor Poplar within G4, removal of a dead Ash within G27 and management of Ash affected by dieback within W1.

The extent of tree removal is relatively limited when considered against the overall tree population recorded within the survey and is largely restricted to poor-quality, dead or declining specimens. The majority of retained trees, groups, woodlands and hedgerows remain unaffected by the proposed cable installation works.

The schedule also identifies several localised sections of hedgerow requiring removal to facilitate visibility splays, maintenance access routes and security fencing. These include sections of H2, H3, H4, H6, H9, H20, H22, H27, H28, H29, H31, H34 and H38. Whilst hedgerow losses are proposed, they are generally limited to short sections and are identified within the approved arboricultural documentation.

Tree surgery requirements are limited, with specific recommendations for the removal of major deadwood over the highway from retained trees T6 and T7, together with any minor access pruning required to facilitate construction activities.

Appropriate BS 5837 compliant tree protection measures are proposed throughout the construction phase, including protective fencing, Construction Exclusion Zones and restrictions on excavation, storage and vehicle movements within protected areas.

No underground service installation is proposed within the RPAs of retained trees. Where the cable route passes adjacent to retained trees and hedgerows, HDD is proposed to minimise the risk of root disturbance. However, it would be helpful if more information were provided to demonstrate that all extraction pits associated with the HDD works will be located outside the RPAs retained trees and hedgerows, with the extraction pits this highlighted on the TPP and the AMS should include details on the proposed drilling depths to ensure that they are sufficient to avoid adverse impacts on the rooting environment of the affected trees and hedgerows.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS: N/A

NAME:	Andy Bush Arboricultural officer (Planning)
DEPARTMENT:	STRATEGIC PLANNING - SPECIALISTS
DATE:	13/08/26