

From: Poulton, Adele
Sent: 22 December 2020 11:27
To: Weaver, Steve
Cc: Howard, Katie
Subject: APP/20/00626 - Contraventions of track construction on existing hedgerow and mature trees

Good morning Steve

Thank you for asking me to comment on aspects of this application, namely the impact on existing mature trees and the hedgerow, all on the boundary of the site off Tournurbury Lane.

I have been able to view the site recently and the access track now in place, and have had sight of a number of photographs of the track under construction. I noted the depth of excavation, the machinery used in the process and the nature of the backfill. I was not able to see any construction in progress within the canopy spread of identified mature trees situated within the hedge line on the western boundary, and as a consequence saw no evidence of damage to roots of mature trees. There is some evidence in the photos of very small roots, probably from the hedgerow

I could see from photos and it was confirmed to me on site, that geotextile was laid in the excavated access before backfill was added, and that the backfill was stone/gravel, permeable to air and oxygen. I could also see from photos that a tracked vehicle was used in the construction process which can be less damaging in the vicinity of trees as the loading is spread and rutting avoided.

The approved Tree Report and accompanying plans, identifies a no-dig construction method in the form of cellular confinement system, which is specifically referred to on plan, Map Filename dated 20th September 2012 and Tree Survey Information 2nd May 2017, where the use of no-dig construction method is referred to in proximity to trees T1,T3 and T15 all mature Oak.

It is clear that there has been a breach of Condition 6 of planning permission 17/00207 as the approved tree detailing has not been complied with.

I would recommend the applicant and his agent assess the current situation with regard to the identified trees and hedgerow against the approved measures in the Tree Report and come forward with proposals to mitigate against the actions that have occurred which are in breach of the approved details.

You asked me to comment on possible alterations to the entrance to the track off Tournurbury Lane. I have no objection to the alteration but would ask that details are submitted which accurately identify the existing tree and how the alterations can be undertaken without causing this Ash any harm.

With kind regards,

Adele Poulton – Arboricultural Officer
East Hampshire District Council, Penns Place, Petersfield, GU31 4EX
Tel: 01730 234218
Email: adele.poulton@easthants.gov.uk

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