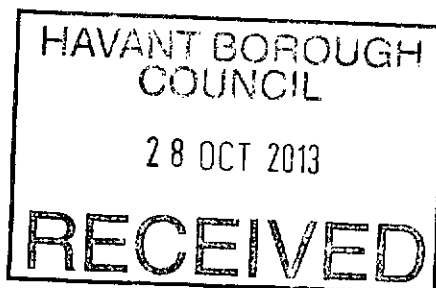




FAO Terena Plowright
Greening Campaign



South East & London

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southeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Area Director

Alison Field

9 October 2013

Dear Terena

Johnson's Copse and pet burials

As you will recall Mike Pittock and I met your colleagues in Johnson's Copse last autumn and we noted how diverse the woodland is and how robustly it has been used by local people in the past. Regrettably budgetary pressures over recent years have resulted in much less active management of the wood and a very marked drop in the use of the site by local people.

Reflecting on this it was great to hear the progress you have made over the last year in restoring a small area of coppice and in exploring the range of opportunities to support restoration of management of the woodland in a manner which provides a range of benefits for local people. We're particularly impressed by the thoroughness of the management plan you have prepared for the wood and the concept of developing pet burial opportunities within the woodland to help support the overall management of the wood.

As you appreciate Johnson's Copse is ancient woodland and as such retains a huge diversity of native plants and animals and we wholeheartedly support your vision to manage the wood to maintain and enhance the ecological value and also the access it provides for local people. As you know the use of woods as burial sites for humans and the principles applied to do so in a manner which prevents adverse impacts on the woodland are well established, though not common. Consequently we sought advice from our national lead on woodland biodiversity to ensure that our advice to you is up to date, and we apologise for the time it has taken to draft a formal response.

Key recommendations in respect of pet burials in woodland:

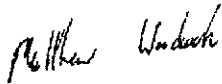
1. Avoid debilitating root damage to established trees – soil disturbance is common within woods but rarely impacts major tree roots. Hence:
 - a. Align burials in a 'star' pattern around major trees (i.e. at right angles to the stem);
 - b. Hand dig burial pits and don't cut roots more than 2cm in diameter;
2. Avoid nutrient enrichment of surface layers – as ecosystems woodlands cycle nutrients in the upper soil layers and draw minerals from deeper soil layers with most ground flora linking their nutrient balance to surface layers. Hence:
 - a. Bury pets well below the surface soil layers – ideally well into the subsoil;



- b. In digging and filling burials:
 - i. ensure surface layers are dug out and replaced as deep turfs (at least 15cm deep),
 - ii. avoid mixing soil layers,
 - iii. replace soil layers in the same order; and
 - iv. allow upper soil to 'sit proud' allowing for settlement back to the previous soil level
 - c. Avoid inorganic materials being buried with pets
3. Scattering of ash from pet cremations – as noted above nutrient enrichment of surface layers of the soil strata can adversely impact native flora by encouraging nutrient hungry species at the expense of those rarer species which have adapted to cope with low nutrient levels. Hence:
- a. Restrict ash scattering to areas which have already been enriched; or
 - b. Bury ash below the surface layers of the soil strata
4. Introduction of non native flora – introduction of flora to woods can be damaging to native flora and fauna. Hence, while it is understandably it can be tempting for pet owners to consider planting flowers etc to mark their pets grave we strongly recommend that this is discouraged and the woodland is monitored to prevent establishment of damaging flora.

We hope these recommendations prove helpful and we wish you every success with your project.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Woodcock
Partnership & Expertise Manager South East England

Greening-Campaign

From: Pittock, Michael [Michael.Pittock@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 10 October 2013 16:42
To: terena@greening-campaign.co.uk
Cc: Woodcock, Matthew
Subject: RE: Johnston's Coppice Management Plan

Dear Terena,

Many thanks for the copy of the updated plan which I am happy to approve. Please feel free to submit a claim form for the outstanding grant. I will now begin the process of generating a 10 year felling licence based on the information contained in table b of the plan.

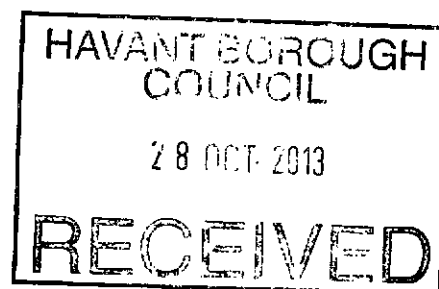
Kind regards
Mike

Michael Pittock

Woodland Officer
Forestry Commission
South East & London
Bucks Horn Oak
Farnham
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☎ Telephone - 01483 326200
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From: Greening-Campaign [<mailto:terena@greening-campaign.co.uk>]
Sent: 10 October 2013 14:32
To: Pittock, Michael
Cc: Woodcock, Matthew
Subject: Johnston's Coppice Management Plan

Dear Mike,

I have attached the final Management Plan for Johnston's Coppice and have updated the information after the letter with advice gratefully received from Matthew Woodcock. I believe you already have all the relevant maps which have not altered since I posted them to you.

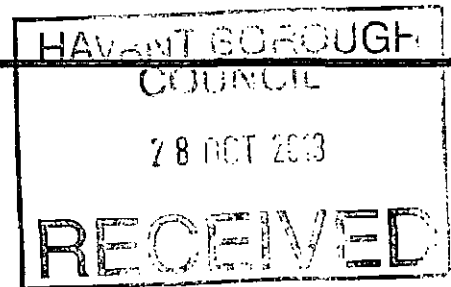
If you need anything further please let me know.
Thanks to you and Matthew for all your support.

All the best
Terena

Terena Plowright (Director)

Greening-Campaign

From: Hutchins, Kate [Kate.Hutchins@hants.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 September 2013 14:30
To: terena@greening-campaign.co.uk; Bailey, Kerry
Subject: Approval



Kerry / Terena,

I'm please to be able to confirm that approval was given at the Executive Members meeting on the 24th September for Johnston's coppice to be leased for the purpose of pet burials. I will therefore put together the instructions, (based on the agreed terms) to be sent to our legal team for preparation of the draft lease. I trust you are both happy for me to progress on this basis.

Kind Regards

Kate

Kate Hutchins BSc (Hons) MRICS

RICS Registered Valuer

Estates Surveyor

Hampshire County Council

HCC Property Services, Three Minsters House, 76 High Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UL

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Greening-Campaign

From: Sarah Johnston [johnstontreeconsultancy@gmail.com]
Sent: 12 September 2013 15:46
To: terena@greening-campaign.co.uk
Subject: Johnston's Coppice - Proposed excavations within rooting areas of trees

HAVANT BOROUGH
COUNCIL

28.09.2013

RECEIVED

Dear Terena,

As an Arboricultural Consultant I have dealt with a wide range of Arboricultural and Forestry projects over the last fifteen years. A large area of my work is with developments that adhere to the BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. I am involved with many projects that require the need for excavation within the root protection area of trees.

This is a regular occurrence and we submit reports to local planning authorities who have a legal duty to protect trees. They accept as long as it can be demonstrated that there is a clear methodology to achieve excavations with minimal disruption to tree roots, soil structure and therefore no negative effect upon tree health or longevity, that it is not unreasonable to undertake hand digging excavations within the rooting areas of trees.

In fact the type of excavations and construction undertaken is often up to 20% of the rooting area of mature trees and includes the installation permanent structures such as underground services, foundations as well as access roads and parking areas.

Given the above comments it is in my professional opinion not going to be detrimental to the trees within Johnston's Coppice to every seven years make a small excavation within the rooting area of a tree if you take care and seek Arboricultural advice if required.

Further to my site visit to Johnston's Coppice Tuesday 10th September 2013 I am pleased to supply the following comments:

It is noted that part of the site is a SINC and whilst it is acknowledged that some of the mature trees within the site are significant the methodology for excavation within the rooting areas of these trees should not differ from that for other trees within the site. However, it may be helpful to record these trees as over time they will require sympathetic management. Any above ground works should adhere to BS 3998: 2010 Tree work - Recommendations and be carried out by fully qualified Foresters or Arboriculturalists and detailed in your management plan.

With regard to the excavations for the burial plots the following methodology should be followed:

Between the months of October and May excavations should be carried out from an area of load bearing material, which is for example a geo-textile membrane layer with 100mm depth of woodchip with a hardboard or scaffold layer on top. This will prevent the compaction of the soil structure from where you are working from and therefore prevent damage to the fine root structure responsible for water uptake and nutrient transport.

Excavations should be undertaken using hand tools only. Where any roots over 50mm diameter are encountered Arboricultural advice must be sought prior to their severance to ensure that there are no implications for the stability of the tree from which they originate.

If these roots are to be severed it should be undertaken using sharp clear secateurs or saws leaving a small a wound as possible.

I trust this clarifies the position regarding the relatively small excavations you will be required to make to establish the pet burial within the woodland.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is worthy of note, that there are a number of woodland burial sites both private and run by the Forestry Commission for both humans and animals within woodland areas. In fact I am going to be buried within one myself. In my experience researching this before buying a plot these seem to have had a very little if any detrimental effect upon the trees on these sites.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah

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Sarah Johnston
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Ms T Plowright

Our Ref: GEN/13/00724
Direct Line: (023) 9244 6546
Ask For: Mrs R McMurray
Email: planning.development@havant.gov.uk

23 September 2013

Dear Ms Plowright

Site Location: Johnstons Coppice, Purbrook Way, Havant
Re: Proposed natural pet cemetery located within Johnstons Coppice, Havant

I am writing to you further to your enquiry received on the 15 August 2013 and our meeting at the Plaza on 6 September 2013 regarding the above proposal.

Firstly I can confirm that the proposal would require planning permission for the change of use from woodland to mixed woodland area and natural pet cemetery. I have now had the opportunity to carry out consultations with relevant consultees. In my view the following planning considerations would apply to the proposal:

- i. Principle of development
- ii. Impact on woodland / SINC
- iii. Highway considerations

i. Principle of development

The site comprises a woodland within an urban area, which is also designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). So whilst development is considered to be acceptable in principle in an urban area, certain considerations would apply which seek to protect and enhance the woodland and SINC.

ii. Impact on the woodland

For development proposed in a woodland area, Policy CS11 of the Local Plan would apply which seeks to protect and enhance the special environment and heritage of the Borough. Relevant sections of this policy advise that development should have particular regard to the designation of the SINC and look to support an ongoing programme of survey of habitats and species. It should also protect and where possible enhance the designated landscape and habitats and incorporate partnership working with landowners to ensure land management practices restore, enhance and where appropriate, create new valued landscapes, habitats and their soil structure. It would appear from the Woodland Management Plan submitted with the application that the proposal would seek to meet the requirements of the policy as set out in the above paragraph. As the land is designated as a SINC, the Ecology team at Hampshire Country Council would be consulted as part of a planning application.

Policy DM22 (New Cemeteries) from the Emerging Allocations Plan would also apply to this

proposal. This policy advises that where new cemeteries are proposed, they should be in keeping with the surrounding area, appropriately sites in close proximity to public transport links (i.e bus and / or train stop) and be clear of aerial and buried structures. It will be also be necessary to demonstrate that the proposed cemetery will not have an adverse impact on ground or surface water and in that respect the advice of the Environment Agency may be required.

A further consideration given the site characteristics would be the Havant Landscape Character Assessment. The Council's Landscape Officer has been consulted and has advised that the Woodland Management Plan complements the guidelines set out in the assessment. They have raised a query over the number of benches in the area however, you confirmed at our meeting that the benches would be spread out over the whole woodland area and not just the pet cemetery.

The Landscape Officer also advised that the Archaeology team at Hampshire County Council should also be consulted. However, at our meeting Tim advised that he already had spoken with the Archaeology team. As part of an application, the Council is likely to formally consult them but in this case, they will already be aware of the proposal.

The Council's Tree Officer has also been consulted and has advised that the Woodland Management Plan provides a useful overview of the tree issues and the potential impact the proposal might have on trees. Whilst it does not make any detailed assessment on individual or groups of trees that might be affected, making it difficult to make a complete assessment of the impact, it does offer an accurate reflection of the woodland structure and the potential for impact and proposes mitigation so overall there are no objections to the proposal.

The Council's Environmental Health Officer has been consulted and has advised that burials should be in accordance with relevant burial guidance. Consideration should be given to potential contamination of water if the site is in close proximity to a watercourse, table, extraction.

iii. Highways considerations

The main access to the site would be from Purbrook Way, using an existing access and service road. You advised at the meeting that the gate leading to the service road would remain locked unless a funeral is taking place where it would be opened for access and then locked again afterwards. Members of the public who already use the woodland can park at the entrance to the access. Comments I have received from the Highways Team expressed concern with the access and parking arrangements, so it would be useful to provide a statement with an application as to how the access and parking for funerals when they are taking place, would occur.

If you wish to proceed with a planning application then I can advise that the fee would be £385. As well as the application form, I would advise that you submit the following information:

1. A plan (scale of 1:1250 or 1:2500) which identifies the land with the application site outlined in red.
2. A Biodiversity / Ecological Assessment (This could be the Woodland Management Plan)
3. A plan / statement explaining access and parking
4. Any other supporting information

Further information on application requirements can be found at this link:

<http://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Local%20Information%20Requirements>

I trust this response has been of use to you however, if you do have any further queries then please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone.

Please note that the above comments are the opinion of an individual Planning Officer and are in no way binding upon the Council when determining an application for planning permission and nor will they prejudice the outcome of any application submitted.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R McMurray
Planner
Our Ref: GEN/13/00724