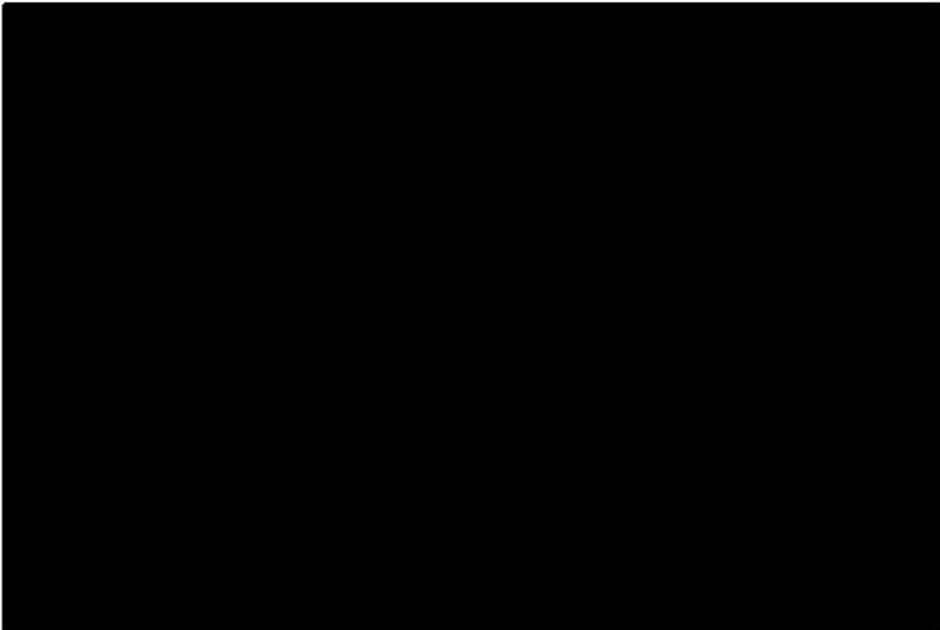


Karen Wooden

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 2:44 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Wednesday Meeting Agenda

George.

I hope you don't think I have exceeded the brief. I'm only trying to tease out the arguments. You will notice that I neither criticise nor praise the development.

Julian.

We said we would check accuracy of tree preservation map at the 2 fields of the prospective housing site.

Summary

In a 3 hour look we noted the very wide hedges which in some parts have almost turned into linear copses. All the trees are within the hedge line and include those which have been planted for timber production and those which have merely grown up from the hedge itself over the past 50 years when the field has not been set to arable use. The map in particular has simply not been kept cut back.

Most of the trees on the maps are surviving though there appear to be at least 1 missing on the West side and 1 small group on the East side. There are at least 6 oaks which are not marked on the map but which are of the same size and health of ones that are.

It appears from the development map as prepared that there is an intention at present of leaving the majority of the hedging and trees whether TPOd or not. See note at the end of the difficulty of maintaining medium height tree scrub. The surface of the Northern field itself might well be a remnant of mediaeval ridge and furrow farming which would be very unusual in the South and should be examined urgently by an archaeologist.

The next step has to be a more exact assessment on whether those trees sown to be of equivalent size to the conserved ones should themselves be conserved. A careful comparison needs to be made to see how much of the hedge zone is to be removed as at this width hedges are regarded as significant routes for animals and birds to migrate in.

Narrative

On the 25th March 2011 we walked into the Northern field in the company of some of the adjacent owners and also around the footpaths surrounding the Northern section of the site but only looked into the southern field there being no one at the Southern field to chaperone us, (note there are no rights of way in the fields themselves).

Recent (post conquest) history of the site and what work needs to be done

We reviewed with the adjacent owners and attempted to make some sense out of the history of the site. It appears that the Northern field shows highly visible traces of 'ridge and furrow' plough marks generally considered to be of mediaeval origin. There is a distinct and wide headland which seems to have a slightly wider than necessary ditch structure running along the inner side (i.e. on the ploughed side not the hedge side). Whether this remnant of ridge and furrow represents the last remnant of strip field (and here thus tithe field) use in Hayling or whether it is simply mole boarded (but equally old) evidence I would leave to the archaeologists who should review this in the context of the use of Hayling as a monastic Grange. If the above interpretation is correct it would be a very rare occurrence in the South of England as the feature normally only survives in upland areas especially in the Midlands and North of England. It is not inconceivable that this method of using the land was a specific local adaptation to deal with the extensive water logging caused by the London Clay (or Reading beds) clay subsoil. This ref to the Chichester harbour AONB might be a start....

http://www.conservancy.co.uk/assets/assets/arch_Post_medieval_Industrial.pdf . Quite clearly before the field is dug up specialist knowledge must be sought.

The fields (Northern field specifically) were taken into arable use (a/c neighbour, names of farmers and crops known) for a period around 1950 but clearly not ploughed often enough to remove the surface marking. They then fell into disuse and then for about the past 10 years have been used for horses. The vegetation type as 'dwarf grazed herbage' might well be species rich and it seems to have an extensive bryophyte under storey. Such sites are now scarce due to the intensification of farming. As active farming seems to have ceased on the site before the introduction of selective herbicides a full species survey should be carried out. It should be checked further into spring by a competent taxonomist. Particular care should be taken to seek long lasting perennial plants such as Adders tongue fern.

We heard no comments on the origin of the hedges but as they are distinctly different in spp composition they might well retain their original planting mix. A full survey should not be carried out for at least 5 weeks to make identifications more easy. They have not been cut back in many years and the tree groups constitute grown out tree spp especially the Field maple section along the Western hedge. These boundary hedges are so wide, up to 10 metres as to almost constitute linear copse development and this is likely to be a secondary phenomenon occurring while the land was not in agricultural use. A map of species composition would assist in seeing which are recent subdivisions of fields and which are old remnants. The housing development will seek to reduce the width down to a more normal width, say 2 m unless enclosing a ditch where it might be 4. They would be expected to do this sooner rather than later. Without suitable additional surveying it will be difficult to show the extent and biological impact of the modification. (This will need a very careful comparison of the old with the new accurate survey). The expected (forecast) reason given that trees should be removed would be that they were merely outgrown hedge trees. It is important to note that, as referred to below, trees (either high or pollarded) were formerly often grown within the confines of a hedge to provide shelter for stock, and protection of the tree from stock, as well as to grow some timber without reducing too much the output of the field especially as the trees were generally the property of the landowner and the crop the property of the tenant i.e some of the trees are deliberately left to grow and some are not.

The trees and their mapping

In order to locate the trees we paced out the path in 30 m sections. (My pacing is generally accurate to about 1 m in 30m.). Clearly a precise survey of the present trees should be carried out as though some of the designated trees or groups of trees are as marked on the map others are not (developers map appear to have done this). I am not able to tell for sure the 2 oak spp apart without leaves so I assume original identifications accurate. There is only 1 fully grown very large Oak on the site all other trees are hedge plants that have grown up or others which look more as if they were specifically planted within the hedge themselves as a timber production method. Apart from 1 of the tree groups (the depauperate willows in the Southern field destined to have a road through it) all the trees are within the development area but outside the housing area and appear to have included into the margin of the development.

Northern Boundary of Northern field.

3 oaks in and around NE corner. Largest at 18.7m others much smaller though not so much lower. Old pollard., now trailing in an Easterly direction. One of other 2 has extensive damage to bark at the bole, other one has small bole and unequal branch development. These are not on map but were claimed by neighbours as 1) 'was registered recently' 2) 'was never off the map just not marked'. It appears that the access route would go through the 2 smaller trees. If a tree stands in the way of a development then a replacement tree could be planted if the desired need for the development were great enough

East Boundary of Northern field.

T1 as marked

T2 as marked

T3 as marked.

North of T2 are 2 quite respectable oaks of a similar size to TPOd ones elsewhere on the site.

G1 has gone

G2 is as marked
G3 has Ash as well. Rather tangled veg.

Southern Boundary of Northern field

T4 as marked
T5 as marked
T6 as marked
T4 has an adjacent equally sized oak
T5 ditto
between T6 and corner of field, 2 respectable oaks

Western Boundary of Northern field.

Least clear to assess. Positions do not seem to be exact.
T7 as marked
T8 as marked
T9 appears to have gone.
2 similar sized oaks between T7 and T8

G7 group seems to have spread Northwards $\frac{1}{4}$ as much again. Mostly very active field maple growing out of old hedge.

Southern field

G5 dump Salix apart from indicating water, going downhill
G4 viewed from distance seems to be extant.

Note on drainage..

This site might be impossible to drain. Generally there is in mid Hayling 20 cm of modern soil over varying depths of frost damaged gravel and under that heavy non permeable clays. As the field floods badly in periods of heavy rain some system of culverted drainage would be essential to prevent excess water simply being diverted to the foul water drainage system operated by Southern Water. Drainage into the subsoil would probably not be possible unless the Devensian glacial gravel deposits (easily seen in exposures on West side of Island) is well developed when lateral movement through the subsoil would be possible. These days road and roof run off may not be led to sewers. (I assume soil section would show 40-100cm combined depth of soil over Loess='Brickearth', then a layer of coarse frost cracked Devensian gravel a few cm to 200 cm deep over Eocene clays of some sort. The developers would have to find out if flooding in winter is caused by pooling on the brick earth or through the gravel layers on to the Eocene clays.

Future conservation of the hedge/scrub margin.

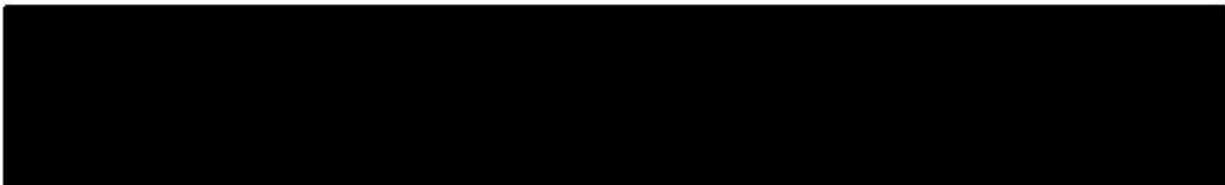
Maintenance would be quite difficult and would involve a continued cycle of selected pruning. The other choice would be to let it grow ever upwards when the by then young trees would be regarded as pests by the new owners as they would limit most gardening activities and would probably be cut back. Limiting tree presence to the few TPOd trees with the addition of at least some of the ones shown as missing from the plan might be a solution accompanied by converting the hedge into a much denser tight barrier preventing access from the path and providing better sound and amenity qualities. A clear decision and plan on how to deal with this should be made early on in the plan.

Accuracy of data

These comments are made in good faith. No legal action can be founded on what has been said. The text is strictly written without prejudice. Please do not over extend any arguments used within the text. Linear measurements were made by pacing. Use was made of a 1:3000 map from Havant BC. Tree heights where checked were measured using Pythagoras and a Leica Disto model D8. No fee was received by the author J Clokie nor V. Phillips the coauthor. I commend to you the 'Open Source Planning' document . (The new policies of the coalition.) 'Communities should be given the greatest possible opportunity to have their way and the greatest possible degree of control and we will match pound for pound (extended to £1,25 for affordable housing) the council tax for 6 years for new build'

Julian Clokie BSc. MSc.

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<william@williambiggs.orangehome.co.uk>; Sue Payne <normanpayne24@hotmail.com>; Sue Holt
<s.l.holt@btopenworld.com>; Peter Burton <pdburton@talktalk.net>; Julian Clokie <abbeystead@aol.com>; Liz
Walmsley <walmsleyhi@waitrose.com>
Sent: Tue, 15 Mar 2011 10:58
Subject: Wednesday Meeting Agenda

As promised, here is the agenda for our meeting. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

1. Trees in Hayling Park-Update
 2. Recent Activities.
 3. Beech Grove - Goldring Close Proposed Development
 4. Favourite Trees in the Borough.
 5. Planting Fruit Hedges.
 6. The Big Tree Plant - Government Initiative. *
 7. Training
 - Recognising Diseases.
 - Hedgerow Workshop.
 8. AOB.
- * The details of this scheme are online. Just enter The Big Tree Plant on google.

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