

From: Havant Borough Tree Wardens
Sent: 10 October 2018 13:15
To: Haywood, Daphney
Subject: 18/00672 and TPO 2071

10 October 2018

Dear Daphney Haywood

Application 18/00672 - Ancient Hedgerow (TPO 2071)

In my letter of objection (18.8.18) to the above application I made reference to important Field Maples in the central hedgerow that reach the criteria to be retained as "valuable" in biodiversity and visual amenity terms. This "value" has now been confirmed by Jon Stokes, Director of the Tree Council, who has visited the site with me to advise on the likely "Importance" of the entire hedgerow.

In that same letter I also mentioned I would arrange for the hedgerow to be surveyed using guidelines in the Defra Hedgerow Regulations, and would notify you when this is complete.

I am happy to say that the survey results do confirm many significant features of the whole hedgerow currently protected in TPO 2071, and that now the local planning authority should carefully consider the information I'm providing here with a view to deciding provision of a Hedgerow Retention Notice.

New information to date:

This hedgerow has been dismissed in the developer's Arboricultural Assessment, and subsequently by others as insignificant". This largely because parts are not in a favourable condition:

- Growth of younger hawthorns is straggly due to neglect
- Little herbaceous or lower growth due to cattle damage
- The woody species count is "species poor".

However, this assessment misses or glosses over several significant features:

- It is clearly marked on the 1840 Tithe map as closely associated with the local field system boundary at that time, and with the public footpath known as the Sussex Border Path. See attached overlays
- This footpath is the historically and culturally important route from the two villages of Westbourne (West Sussex) and Emsworth (Hampshire).
- The footpath also follows the old route of the River Ems, as does the hedgerow.
- The field has historically been part of the water meadow grazing associated with local farms.

You will see on the attached 1840 map detail, and the attached Google maps overlay, that the

land east of the field and hedge boundary is not included in the field lines since it is not used (except in summer) because of excessive surface water retention.

- With an extensive, healthy canopy, the hedgerow has an impressive presence as a landscape feature in its own right.

Within the hedge are valuable features that increase its significance:

- Three impressive Field Maples, showing idiosyncratic results of coppicing from decades ago
- The trunk of the multi-stemmed Field Maple has a 79cms basal diameter.
- The trunk of the Twin-stemmed Field maple has a 94cms basal diameter.
- Two veteran or ancient oaks.
- The remains of a ditch and bank system.
- The remains of a stile.
- Very recent records show Bechstein and serotine bat activity associated with the hedgerow, particularly around the oaks that show excellent potential for roosting and maternity quarters.
- Hampshire Bird Records from the HOS, Nov. 2017 confirm several important but declining bird species as present, and breeding, in and around the hedgerow.

Summary

The hedgerow meets the criteria set out in no's 1, 6 and 7(d) plus running alongside a public path no. 8. (attached)

In this context of "Importance" and the UK, and the Hampshire BAPs for Hedgerows, proposal that the hedgerow may be damaged in any way (e.g. re-coppiced with advice from an Ancient Tree expert), or that a section can be destroyed for an access road must be rejected.

The hedgerow, as it is now, must be considered as an Ecological Continuous Unit, and careful thought should be given to what happens to it.

I would be very happy to visit the hedgerow with an HBC officer, and to provide further detailed evidence to ensure the protection and suitably sensitive re-planting/management of the hedgerow where appropriate, in order to preserve and enhance its historical, cultural and ecological status.

With very kind regards



Copied to Tristan Norton, Senior Ecologist, HCC