

Application for approval of all Reserved Matters (siting, scale, external appearance, and landscaping) relating to Phase 9 (North West Corner and Visitor Centre) of the Havant Thicket Reservoir development pursuant to Condition 2 of the S73 consent planning reference APP/24/00312 dated 6th December 2024.

I note the following documents that have some arboricultural bearing in this case:

Site block plan.

Havant Thicket Reservoir, North West Corner Planning Statement .

Landscape masterplan.

Landscape plan.

Hard landscape strategy.

There do not appear to be any pressing highways arboricultural matters evident at this stage.

No objections in terms of HCC Highways considerations.

It would be prudent at this desk top stage to consider the proposed tree planting stock size, planting arrangements, and tree genus/species selection.

Suitable replacement trees must be selected that will provide the necessary and vital BNG outcomes, whilst also providing for example, a nectar source, canopy cover, seasonal interest, climate resilience as well as various other beneficial ecosystem services.

The maintenance requirements for newly planted semi-mature trees planted into the “vehicle macadam” car park must be considered in terms of the necessary soil volume required by various tree genus and species, in order to guarantee successful establishment and longevity.

With this in mind, it would be worth considering the following:

- The probable beneficial use of carefully designed co-joined or otherwise enlarged tree planting pits for the proposed new trees in terms of the required

soil rooting volume and the likely impact of soil-moisture deficits caused by heat events.

- In order to greatly enhance establishment, it will be vitally important to plant appropriate – usually smaller – stock sizes.
- Monitor and extend as necessary the timing and availability of irrigation to the new trees, which might include e.g. individual bespoke timed irrigation systems that waters each tree for a certain number of litres or hours every evening when the water is less likely to evaporate.
- Design-in supplementary irrigation via e.g. rainwater harvesting systems, the use of permeable surfacing and other methods where natural rainfall is directed to the tree rooting environment.
- The new tree maintenance contract must be robustly worded enough to guarantee the trees will become successfully established, whilst also enabling the timely replacement of planting losses.

The proposed use of English oak (Qr) to be planted over the car parking bays seems likely to be problematic, owing to the naturally occurring seasonal debris fall that Qr generates. Perhaps the small leaved lime (Tc) avenue could be partly adjusted, and some Tc could be planted over the parking bays instead, which should reduce some of the more problematic seasonal debris fall.

Please do come back to me if you require any further input into this case.

Kind regards.

Dave Harris

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