

25/00931/FUL- Consultee Response

HBBC Tree Officer:

The revised scheme secures increased tree retention, including retention of Trees T10, T14 and T15, and provides additional justification regarding earthworks within Root Protection Areas. On this basis, the revised layout represents an arboricultural improvement over the previously submitted scheme.

The revised submission is also accompanied by revised landscape proposals. Initial assessment indicates that the scheme incorporates a significant level of new tree, woodland and hedgerow planting which has the potential to provide some mitigation for unavoidable tree loss associated with the development and does contribute positively to the site's long-term landscape structure.

In respect of statutory protection, the Arboricultural Impact Assessment acknowledges the existence of TPO Ref. 25/00003/TPO RD and notes that clarification from the Council should be sought regarding the protected trees. I can confirm that the trees and groups protected by the new Order correspond with those proposed for retention within the submitted scheme.

Furthermore, given the reliance on retaining trees in proximity to proposed earthworks and level changes, it is recommended that a Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement be submitted to demonstrate how the proposed retention strategy will be implemented and safeguarded throughout the construction phase. This should also involve service routes for review on their associated impact(s).

With regard to the proposed planting strategy, sufficient safeguards should be secured to ensure successful establishment of all new trees, woodland planting and hedgerows. Details of planting specifications (suggested minimum of heavy standards), maintenance and aftercare should be provided. Any tree or hedge planting which dies, is removed, becomes seriously damaged or diseased, or otherwise fails to establish within a period of five years from planting should be replaced during the next available planting season with planting of similar size and species, unless otherwise agreed.