

Winchester City Council Response to Recent Changes to the Order Limits

Ash dieback

21 December 2020.

The Council has noted the submission by the applicant of the following documents on 11 December 2020:

- Explanatory letter to Examining Authority (AS-052)
- Supplement to the Book of Reference (AS-053)
- Request for changes to the Order Limits (AS-054)
- Information in support of Change Request 2 (AS-055)

These documents seek to address two changes to the proposal. The first relates to revisions to the Order Limits in the vicinity of Broadway Lane. The second addresses the issue of Ash dieback that was raised by the South Downs National Park Authority and also by WCC in the Landscape section of the Councils Local Impact Report (section 4.6.12) (REP-183).

This submission has been accepted into the Examination process at the discretion of the Examining Authority on 18th December 2020. The Council wishes to make a comment on the second issue regarding ash dieback.

The supporting statement indicates that the applicant has considered the implications of ash dieback on the landscape screening and in recognition of the potential reduction in screening it is proposed to add two additional areas of woodland to the Order Limits. These are identified in the submission as Mill Copse and Stoneacre Copse.

The Council is supportive of this change to the scheme as far as they go. However, it would like some clarification why the assessment does not appear to have considered the potential dieback implications on the existing landscape screening that lies to the west of the site for the proposed converter station. Having considered the Tree Constraints Plans (REP1-101) and the descriptive tables that set out the Tree Survey Schedule Rev 002 (REP3-007) it appears that ash does form an important part of the makeup of some of the landscape features on this side of the site. Attached below is a cut and paste of sheet 6 of 41 from the Tree Constraint Plans. The tree survey schedule records the following examples of ash trees in some of the features recorded on this plan :

G639 Boundary group of large mature ash. Some very large specimens at southern end.

G689 is mature ash and oak overstorey.....

G705 Group of mature large ash and oak.....

H879 Large ash standards to 15m.....

The assessment undertaken does not appear to give any weight to the implication of ash loss to features on this side of the development. On the basis that ash dieback has been accepted as potentially reducing the effectiveness of the existing landscape screening, what measures are proposed to consider and address the implications on this side of the proposed development?

End.

