

## **WCC PAPER No. 2**

### **Winchester City Councils Comments on Ash Die Back Submission**

The ash Die back documents (Change Request No. 2) were submitted and published (16 December 2020) outside a normal “deadline” and consequently have been placed in the Examination library under additional submissions AS-052- AS-053 & AS-054. The Council did make some initial comments on this proposal at Deadline 3, which is recorded as REP6-088. A combination of more time to review the submission documents together with a meeting with the applicant has allayed the concerns of the Council regarding the extent of the ash dieback assessment.

The further consideration has raised several questions that need addressing.

Firstly, how the new landscape planting south of Mill Copse will be secured. The response to the ash dieback at Mill Copse is to consist of four actions. These are:

- Removal of some dead ash
- Leaving some dead ash in situ on the basis that even skeletal trees have some screening value
- New planting within the copse
- A new 10m wide tree belt to be planted off the southern edge of the woodland in what is currently agricultural land.

The new planting belt is referred to at section 3.1.1.2 in the document Request for Change to the Order Limits (AS-054). This new belt is annotated as PW27 on the plan attached as appendix 2 to the OLBS Rev 003 (REP-038). However, this land is not shown within the changed Order Limits as shown on sheet 1 of the Land Plans Rev04 (REP6-004). In appendix 2 of the Request for Changes to the Order document reference is made to an “option for easement” with Winchester College to secure the planting and New Landscape Rights.

If this land is not within the Order Limits, it is under clear exactly how the planting, maintenance and long term management can be secured with a link back to the DCO requirements.

A second question is whether the requirements need some explicit reference to the proposed actions and specifically those which will apply to Stoneacre Copse, where the necessity to balance the maintenance of the habitat with the maintenance of the landscape screen needs to be considered. There are a number of publications that offer good practice on management such as:

- The UK Forestry Standard 2017 (Forestry Commission)
- Ancient Woodland Restoration November 2018 (Woodland Trust)

Thirdly, consideration of the future management of these woodland has raised the general question if the powers within the New Landscape Rights as listed in Appendix A Rights and Restrictions Sought Statement of Reason Rev004 (REP6-019) includes the ability to install deer control fencing. Local knowledge indicates there is a significant population of Roe and Muntjac deer in the area. Deer fencing to exclude them from newly planted areas can be 2.5m tall. The current list of actions that sit within the New Landscape Rights may allow tree guard but it is unclear if it includes fencing of this size and potential extent.

End.

25 January 2021



