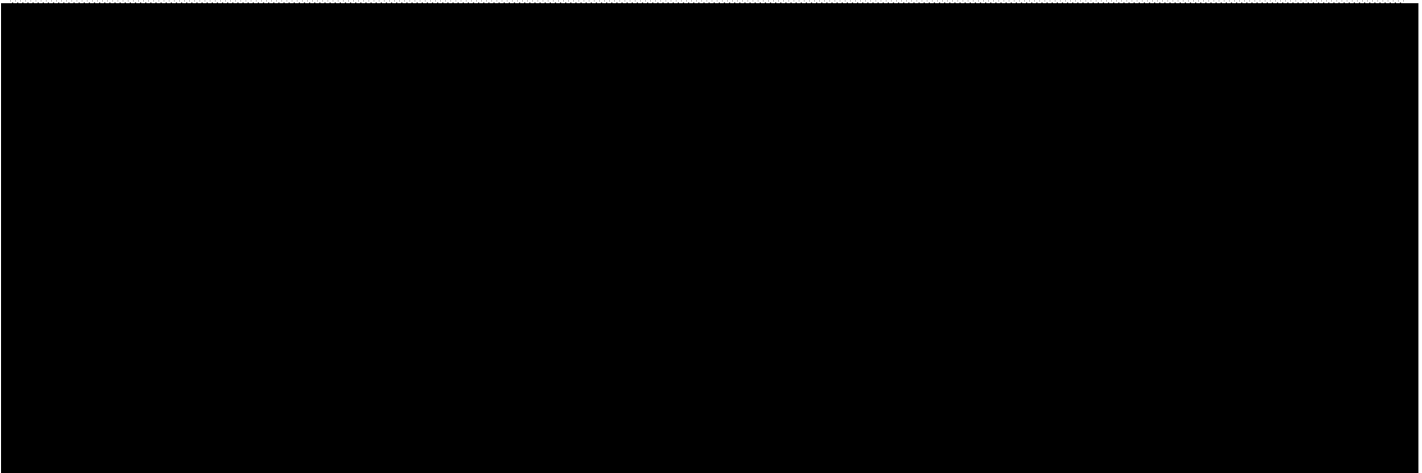



From: Mark Warwick

Sent: 10 July 2019 10:58

To: Anita Gardner <Anita.Gardner@arun.gov.uk>

Cc: Juan Baeza <Juan.Baeza@arun.gov.uk>; Amber Willard <Amber.Willard@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: LU/330/18/PL - Land South of Cornfield Close, Littlehampton

Dear Anita

I have considered the following documents, revised in response to the discovery of Japanese knotweed (Jk) on the site.

- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS), ref. THA21635aia-amsB, Rev.C 03.06.2019, ACD Environmental
- Tree Protection Plan (TPP), ref. THA21635 – 03A, ACD Environmental

From the TPP, it appears that an area of active Jk growth is off-site (but adjoining) in the grass verge alongside the road (Cornfield Close), rear of plots 6 & 7. I cannot be certain but suspect that land may be maintained by WSCC either in their capacity as highway authority or on behalf of the nearby school.

From the TPP, it appears that an area of active Jk growth on-site, rear of plots 12-14 incl., resides within the nominal root protection area of large roadside trees (G1 – Monterey cypress). Although not worthy of Tree Preservation Order in my opinion, they are nonetheless a significant local feature and roots are likely to be present on the applicant's site in great quantity. I suspect these trees are also on land maintained by WSCC either in their capacity as highway authority or on behalf of the nearby school.

It follows that attempts should be made to identify the landowner/management agency. They should be notified of the Jk discovery - collaborative working will be necessary to ensure the threat posed from this invasive plant can be eliminated.

It appears self-evident from the TPP that the large area of active Jk growth to the west of plot 15 clearly presents a risk of spread onto the adjacent school grounds.

Conclusions/Recommendations

I refer to section 3.7 of the AIA, Japanese Knotweed, which describes the proposed control measures.

I suspect the owner(s) of tree group G1 would initially challenge the recommendation of felling to facilitate soil extraction from site. Unless there are compelling reasons for such an approach (of which I am unaware) then repeat herbicide treatment may prove to be the most satisfactory response. This takes time of course and may delay part of the development. In any event, the applicant and/or their agent should negotiate with the owner of those trees before undertaking any substantive groundwork.

The removal of trees (G10) along the west boundary to facilitate treatment of infected soil is not problematic for me, as they are not of high amenity value nor the subject of any statutory protection – furthermore, I expect those losses to be compensated for with an adequate replacement tree planting scheme as described in para. 3.7.4. of the AIA. Detailed landscape proposals should be submitted to our Parks and Greenspace Team for approval.

Mark Warwick | Tree Officer, Greenspace, Arun District Council | Location: Bognor Regis Town Hall, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1LD

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