



Environmental Checklist for Highway Works Response

Designer Name: Regulation 13 - personal
Scheme Ref: PR3930

Date: 25th September 2020

Scheme Title: Brandon Road, Swaffham

Arboriculture

<p>Thank you for consulting on this scheme which has been reviewed as a desk-based exercise.</p>
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<p>The new access and shared used cycleway will necessitate the removal of a hedge and may impact on other trees, hedging and shrubs to the rear of properties at Hoveton Drive and Oulton Close that could be suitable for retention.</p>
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<p>This scheme is to facilitate a planning application determined by Breckland DC. This application is supported with a preliminary arboricultural impact assessment and it is assumed that this is the most up to date assessment on trees and hedges that is relevant to this scheme. This can be found here:</p>

<p>http://planning.breckland.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/viewDocument?file=dv_pl_files%5C3PL_2017_1487_O%5C13.+Preliminary+Arb+Impact+Assessment.pdf&module=pl</p>
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<p>In this assessment tree T1 is categorised as B1 (suitable for retention) and having a rooting area that extends close or into the proposed footprint of the shared use footway. This assessment does not consider any trees or hedges adjacent to the proposed shared use footway to the north of T1.</p>
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<p>It is not clear how the loss of the field boundary hedge will be mitigated or offset. These works are integral to planning consent from Breckland District Council who will have considered these impacts in their decision making for the whole scheme. It is not within the scope of this consultation to re-visit the decision to remove the hedge or comment on appropriate mitigation measures for these highway improvements.</p>
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<p><u>Recommendations:</u></p>

<p>The scheme commissions a full (not preliminary) arboricultural impact assessment and appropriate tree constraints and protection plan and method statement in line with British Standard 5837 2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. In particular this must consider all trees, shrubs and hedges that may</p>

be impacted by the new shared use cycleway and specifically the trees to the northern end of the proposed cycleway. If trees and hedges are found to be impacted, then the ownership of these features is established and solutions agreed to minimise the impact of the scheme to these features.

The scheme demonstrates that it follows any permissions that have been granted and specifically that it adheres to decisions to mitigate or replace the hedgerow feature that will be lost due to this scheme.

All tree and hedge work should take place outside the bird nesting season and in accordance with any specific advice from an ecologist.

Regulation 13 - personal , Arboricultural and Woodland Officer

Ecology

Breeding birds are protected in law. No removal, in full or in part, of hedgerows, trees or shrubs shall take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive, unless a competent ecologist has undertaken a careful, detailed check of vegetation for active birds' nests immediately before the vegetation is cleared.

Regulation 13 - , Ecology and Landscape Team Leader

Landscape

Thank you for consulting me on this scheme which I have looked at from a desk-based perspective.

This scheme is to facilitate access and provide a shared use cycle way in relation to a planning application determined by Breckland District Council, application number: 3PL/2017/1487/O. The LVIA submitted (The Landscape Partnership, November 2017) as part of this application recognises that the removal of hedgerow at the site boundary will have a moderate adverse impact in the short term, and a minor adverse impact longer term. It goes on to state that the development will be accompanied by a comprehensive landscape strategy with proposals providing for the replacement of removed vegetation and overall net increase across the site.

The assessment of this assessment and subsequent proposals form part of the planning consent from Breckland District Council who are the decision-making authority for the entire scheme. As stated by my Arboriculture colleague, it is not within the scope of this consultation to revisit the decision to remove the hedge or to comment on suitable mitigation measures.

From a landscape perspective the scheme should demonstrate that it adheres to permissions given on the above application, particularly in relation to mitigate or replace the lost hedgerow which forms a significant landscape feature in both the wider landscape and street scene.

Regulation 13 - , Green Infrastructure and Landscape Officer