

MEMORANDUM

From:	Brigitte Crafer Landscape Architect		
Service	WBC Landscape and Trees	App No:	260800
Address:	Greenways Bridge (culvert) Riverside Park, Woosehill, Wokingham..		
Proposal:	Full application to replace a culvert with a 3.45m clear span and 3.5m clear width footbridge, including the removal of 7 no. trees.		
Type of Development:	Minor All other developments		
Site Visit Made:	Yes/No		

Summary Of Recommendations

- ☐ No comment
- ☐ No objection
- ☒ No objection subject to conditions (and reasons) **stated below**
- ☐ Request further information before determination as **stated below**
- ☐ Objection due to the reason(s) **stated below**

Comments On Proposal

The site is located in Woosehill Meadows a Local Wildlife Site, which also contains a woodland/orchard and Parkland. The site is within the Wokingham settlement/development area and is a well-used park with woodland and trees and the river Emm Brook.

The proposals include the removal of an existing culvert and its replacement with a 3.45m clear span and 3.5m clear width footbridge known as Greenways Bridge. 2 previous footbridges were included and approved under PA 203617. The culvert needs to be removed and replaced with a brudge to allow the water to flow freely.

The arboricultural character of the site and surroundings includes several large mature Oak trees and many riverside Alders, and understorey shrubs of varying quality including Elm regeneration. There is a more densely wooded patch to the north which is becoming heavily ivy clad, and there a few individual trees of high arboricultural value. The trees have had little management over the years and the Alder has become over mature and some groups are in decline. There are patches of Elm which shows decline due to Dutch elm disease, and Poplar seedlings establishing which will likely be more successful out competing preferable species.

There are no protected trees on the site which is not in a Conservation Area.

Tree removal to facilitate development include; 29, 52, 51, 50, 49, 48, 46 consisting of Alder, White Poplar, Ash, Hazel as shown on the Tree Protection Plan for Greenways Bridge – Drawing No. MW.21.0124.GB.TPP 20.3.25 which is acceptable.

Where work is within the wooded areas or within RPAs of trees ground protection will be used, such as Trackmat over woodchip. Where protection is required along stream banks Hazel or Chestnut faggots will be laid down under the excavator for activities such as silt excavation and spreading which provides a stable work platform. The faggots can be left in situ and used for biodiversity gains. This complies with Policy CC03 to protect and retain existing trees, hedges and other landscape features.

Sequence of work;

1. Tree removals
2. Installation of tree protection barriers
3. Removal of existing bridge
4. Excavation for concrete supports
5. Casting of concrete supports or installation of pre-formed units
6. Footbridge replacement
7. Removal of barriers after all external construction work has been completed

Replace all shrubbery areas and individual trees under condition CL5.

A method for silt removal and stream side plant access is described on Page 16 of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement.

I have no objection to the bridge design.

I require a condition to replace the trees/native understorey to replace vegetation lost to the removal of the culvert and the installation of the Greenways Bridge.

Conditions & Reasons (if required)			
CL4 – Soft Landscape Proposals in accordance with Policy CC03			
Date:	1.6.26	Signed:	BRC