Arboricultural Consultation Response (conditions)

Application No:	**Location:**
24/80004/COND	Hemmingford Sports Pavillion, Manor Road, Hemingford Grey
Case Officer: KS	**Proposals: Discharge of Condition 4 (Tree Protection Plan) of 24/01331/FUL**

Conditions reviewed:

4. Condition. No development, demolition, clearance or preparatory operations (including excavations and archaeology), hereafter referred to as "the works", shall commence on site in connection with the development hereby approved, until a Tree Protection Plan has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The approved Tree Protection Plan shall be implemented before any equipment, machinery, or materials are brought on to the site in connection with the works, be retained intact for the duration of the construction works and only be removed or altered with the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Any trees, shrubs or hedges covered by the agreed protection measures, which die or become severely damaged either from natural causes or as a result of the construction works; during the construction works or within five years from the completion of the construction works, shall be replaced with trees, shrubs or hedge plants of similar size and species, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Replacement planting to be undertaken by the end of the next available planting season (Planting season is 1st November to 31st March). Reason: This is a pre-commencement condition to ensure that initial site operations (involving ground works) do not harm any trees, shrubs and hedges to be retained on and adjacent to the site (and if necessary their replacement) in the interests of visual amenity, and to enhance the character and appearance of the site in accordance with Policies LP12 and LP31 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.

Observations:

We have now received a plan detailing the Root Protection Areas for the retained trees. The plan shows the installation locations, and design of the fencing as requested. I'm happy that the retained trees should as a result be protected during the construction process.

There is some encroachment into the root protection area of T8 being proposed. This should only occur when it is essential, and then minimised at all times. I would question why the equipment could not be located outside of the RPA, but the total loss of rooting area, should be limited to 10%.

It is also felt that the mature canopy of the trees will spread significantly over the play equipment over time, this is likely to create on-going pressure for remedial pruning and removal of the trees at some point.

However, I am happy that the Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan if correctly implemented and complied with, will allow work to proceed without impacting the health of the trees.

From British Standards – BS5837 - 2012

BS5837:2012 - 7.2 Avoiding physical damage to the roots during demolition or construction:

7.2.1 To avoid damage to tree roots, existing ground levels should be retained within the RPA. Intrusion into soil (other than for piling) within the RPA is generally not acceptable, and topsoil within it should be retained in situ. However, limited manual excavation within the RPA might be acceptable, subject to justification. Such excavation should be undertaken carefully, using hand-held tools and preferably by compressed air soil displacement.

Comments

Outstanding documents received and proposals are appropriate for protection of the trees which are to be retained.

Recommendation: Discharge Condition 4 subject to compliance with the Arboricultural Method Statement

Signed: NS	**Date: 24/02/2025**