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Lockington Hall
Lockington
Derby
DE74 2RH

Our ref: 11376 / GEC

Katie Chew
Planning Officer
Kirklees Council

28th March 2025

Joseph Norton School, Deighton

Dear Katie,

Following the meeting on 27th March 2025 between Kirklees Council and representatives of Wates, and at the request of the Tree Officer, please find set out below further information including photographs of the areas of tree cover affected by the current application at Joseph Norton School (Planning reference 2023/48/93350/W) and the proposed Section 73 application.

The additional tree removal is largely restricted to the site's northern boundary and the removal of self-seeded material which had established on the site between the dates of the original assessment and survey undertaken in November 2022 and the latest survey undertaken in November 2024.

The young self-seeded material which has established on the main site we would suggest is not a significant arboricultural constraint and further detailed are provided below on the additional tree removal from the site's northern boundary.



Photograph 1 – View from within the site looking north west towards the corner of the site showing small section of G10 identified to be removed.

This area of tree cover is situated within the northwest corner of the site and was not identified to be removed within the previous application but was situated within a proposed forest school area subject to further design. Further assessment of levels within this area now requires this section of G10 be removed which as you can see from the photograph above, is restricted to buddleia, bramble and very young self-seeded trees, with the larger trees shown in the background which includes T8 being unaffected by the proposals.



Photograph 2 – View from within the northwest corner of the site looking north east along the edge of G10 showing young and self seeded material identified to be removed.

G10 comprises a mixture of former landscape planting, self-seeded material and larger trees including an outgrown hawthorn hedgerow set back from the site boundary and is situated along the length of the site's northern boundary. The section shown in Photograph 2 above was identified to be removed within the previous application but a further assessment of levels within this area now requires an additional section of G10 be removed.

The additional section of G10 identified to be removed is of a similar composition to what is shown above with the tree removal restricted to the younger trees and self-seeded scrub which had established along the edge of the group. The mature specimens which are situated further down the bank and are not visible on the photograph above would be unaffected by the proposals.



Photograph 3 – View from within the northwest corner of the site looking south west showing young and self seeded material within G12 identified to be removed.

The previous application identified no removal of trees from within G12. However, a further assessment of levels within this area and additional information provided through the latest topographical survey, has identified that a small section of this group along the site edge would need to be removed. As you can see from the photograph above this tree removal would be restricted to hawthorn, dogwood, bramble and very young self-seeded trees, with the larger trees shown in the background being unaffected by the proposals.



Photograph 4 – View from within the northwest corner of the site looking south east showing young self seeded material an bramble with G13 identified to be removed.

It is a similar situated with regards to G13, with the previous application not identifying any removal of trees from within this group. However, a further assessment of levels within this area and additional information provided through the latest topographical survey has identified that a small section of this group along the site edge would need to be removed. As you can see from the photograph above this tree removal would be restricted to bramble and very young self-seeded trees, with the larger trees shown in the background being unaffected by the proposals.

During the meeting on 27th March 2025, the Tree Officer also requested a comparison between the previous application and the Section 73 application and a percentage of additional tree loss from what was approved.

As discussed during this meeting a comparison is not possible due to firstly the new topographical survey instructed by Wates, which has allowed for us to plot the tree cover, particularly along the northern boundary with greater accuracy, and secondly the further work that has been undertaken on ground levels, which will require additional tree removal from that shown to facilitate the development as approved.

I hope the above information is of assistance when determining the Section 73 application and provides some reassurance to the Tree Officer that the tree cover identified to be removed is not of high arboricultural value and could be mitigated for through the new tree and shrub planting that would come forward on the site.

If you require any further information or have any queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Edward Cole ND Arb, TechArborA
Associate Arboriculture

FPCR is a corporate member of the Arboricultural Association