Hi Steve,

I have reviewed the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) for this proposal and find that it would be acceptable with regards to trees in our district.

I note that this application spans both Mid Sussex District and Lewes District and therefore, have focused on the trees, hedges, and groups within our district only.

T3 (a category U oak tree) is listed to be felled. On reading the description from the survey and of the defects on this tree, it sounded as though it may be a veteran and therefore important to retain the ecological value and not fell such an important tree. Further, following up on a query from The Woodland Trust about the status and categorisation of these trees, it was decided that a site visit was required to assess these potential veteran trees.

I have now visited the site and carried out a RAVEN assessment (see attached documents) on T3 and T13. Whilst T13 does not meet the criterion of the RAVEN assessment to being a veteran tree, it is undoubtably of high value and has veteran features and potential. T3, however, does meet the criterion and in my opinion is a veteran tree and needs to be considered as such. Therefore, I believe that this tree needs to be retained and considered as the veteran I find it to be.

G29 (a category A group of mixed species, including oaks) is mentioned in the AIA as having a minor incursion into the root protection areas. I would need more detailed information as to how these trees will be protected. An Arboricultural Method Statement should cover this, or the proposed development would ideally be placed outside of the RPA of these valuable trees.

Kind regards

Emma

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