

Application number S6/2012/2608/MA

Replacement boundary fence to Nyn Park Estate.

24th January 2013.

I have looked at the plans, read the documents and also driven around the boundary with the applicant's landscape contractor.

The line of this proposed deer fence follows the line of an old boundary fence, barely surviving in places, however, it can be followed. I have no objection to the height, colour nor design of the deer fencing being erected on this old fence line.

Deer are a real problem when both managing SSSI woodlands, in this instance Well Wood and when trying to establish young planting and I welcome this measure to control their territory. The Nyn Estate has been controlling deer numbers for a number of years by shooting as have we on our adjoining land, Northaw Great Wood. The fencing is another method of control that we welcome.

However, I have read the Biodiversity Checklist that states in the Habitats section that trees will not be felled nor scrub cleared when this fence is erected. I think that this probably isn't true, whilst the line exists on the ground and isn't interrupted by any planting, the access required to replace it will mean that ground will have to be cleared to at least the width of the vehicle that will be used to transport and fix the fence in place. However, if the scrub is merely cut to the ground to allow the vehicle to drive along beside the line of the boundary it will shoot up again within a season. Any young trees lost should be replaced by others quickly but mature trees should be spared. As the vehicle will have a choice of routes, it should be noted here that the fence line should deviate to prevent the felling of mature specimens should the erection of the replacement prove difficult in this instance.

Finally, there is considerable scope to lay existing vegetation to form a thick hedge against this new fence that I gather will be done this season along the straight stretch adjoining Well Road, which will be a significant visual asset and also screen the new fence.

I don't have comment on the gates beyond the fact that they are not very ornamental. Entrance gates to such an estate are traditionally decorative and I would think that there is scope to be more distinctive and at the same time more fitting for such a rural location.

Ann MacDonald.

Landscape and Ecology Manager.

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