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Arboricultural and Planning Integration Report: 5 Linksway, Northwood, HA6 2XA

22nd February 2021

Ref: GHA/DS/133960:21

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Arboricultural Report

Location: 5 Linksway, Northwood, HA6 2XA
Ref: GHA/DS/133960:21
Client: DDA
Date: 22nd February 2021
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 16th February 2021

Instructions

Issued by – DDA

TERMS OF REFERENCE – GHA Trees were instructed to survey the subject trees within and adjacent to 5 Linksway, Northwood, in order to assess their general condition and to provide a planning integration statement for the indicative proposed development that safeguards the long term well being of the retained trees in a sustainable manner.

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Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to construct two new infill extensions, which will link the house to the garage. The scheme will also include the installation of new gates and railings to the front of the site. The proposed scheme does not require the removal or pruning of any of the trees on site, or of trees within nearby adjacent sites; therefore, the landscape character of the site will be unaffected by the proposal. The retained trees require protection in accordance with industry best practice and BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, in order to ensure their longevity.

Documents Supplied

The client supplied the following documents:

1. Topographical survey
2. Existing layout plans
3. Proposed layout plans

Scope of Survey

- 1.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 1.2 The planning status of the subject property was not investigated in detail.
- 1.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 1.4 Trees in third party ownership were surveyed from within the subject property, therefore a detailed assessment was not possible and some (if not all) measurements were estimated. Where the stem location of a third party tree has been estimated, this is noted on the plan.
- 1.5 Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) also prohibited full inspections for some trees; this is noted where applicable.
- 1.6 No discussions took place between the surveyor and any other party.
- 1.7 The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994)
- 1.8 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 1.9 Underground services near to trees will need to be installed in accord with the guidance given in BS5837 together with the National Joint Utilities Group Booklet 4: 2007 Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees (NJUG4).
- 1.10 The client's attention is drawn to the responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Survey Method

- 2.1 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars if needed.
- 2.2 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.
- 2.3 No soil samples were taken.
- 2.4 The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre.
- 2.5 The stem diameter for each tree was measured in line with the requirements set out in BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 2.6 The crown spreads were measured with an electronic distometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted on the Plan (appendix A) and within the tree table (Appendix B). The crowns of those trees that are proposed for removal, or trees where the crown spread is deemed insignificant in relation to the proposed development are not always shown on the appended plan; however their stem locations are marked for reference.
- 2.7 The Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree is included in the tree table, both as an area, and as the radius of a circle.
- 2.8 The crown clearance was measured using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where it is significantly lower in one direction, this is noted within the tree table at appendix B.
- 2.9 All of the trees that were inspected during the site visit are detailed on the plan at Appendix A; this plan was produced in colour and **MUST** only be scanned or reproduced in colour. The trees on this plan are categorised and shown in the following format:

COLOUR CODING AND RATING OF TREES:

Category A – Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. Colour = light green crown outline on plan.

Category B – Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Colour = mid blue crown outline on plan.

Category C – Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 to 20 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. Colour = uncoloured crown outline on plan.

Category U – Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. Colour = red crown outline on plan.

All references to tree rating are made in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations', Table 1.

The Site

- 3.1 The site is located on Linksway, a residential through road located to the west of Northwood Centre.
- 3.2 A good tree cover is present on the site itself as well as adjacent sites, with many semi-mature and mature trees of both native and exotic origin characterising the local area.
- 3.3 Access to the property is currently gained via a driveway to the front (west) of the site.

The Subject Trees

- 4.1 The details of the subject trees are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 The overall quality of the trees is good.
- 4.3 Of the seventeen individual trees, and groups of trees surveyed, nine have been assessed as BS 5837 category B, with the remaining trees being assessed as BS 5837 category C.

Category B	9 trees / groups
Category C	8 trees / groups

The Proposal

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to construct two new infill extensions, which will link the house to the garage.
- 5.2 The scheme will also include the installation of new gates and railings to the front of the site.
- 5.3 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL / RETENTION:

- 6.1 The proposed site layout and all of its associated structures allows for the healthy retention of all of the trees on the site itself, and within nearby adjacent sites; therefore, the arboricultural landscape character of the site will be retained.

TREE PRUNING TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSAL OR ACCESS TO THE SITE

- 6.2 The implementation of the proposal does not lead to the requirement to prune any of the retained trees, or shrubs.
- 6.3 There is no part of the new extensions which will have tree canopies (from trees to be retained) overhanging it and the building works can progress safely without the need for any facilitation pruning.

ASSESSMENT OF RETAINED TREES ROOT PROTECTION AREAS

- 6.4 Section 4.6.3 of BS 5837: 2012 states that the Root Protection Area (RPA) of each tree should be assessed by an arboriculturalist considering the likely morphology and disposition of the roots, when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions.
- 6.5 Following the assessment described in section 6.4, the RPAs have all been drawn as notional circles as there are no existing site structures (visible from the available access) which are assessed to have the potential to significantly affect tree root morphology.
- 6.6 The proposed new extensions are situated outside of the assessed RPA's of all of the trees proposed for retention, therefore these trees pose no below ground constraints on the new buildings or vice versa.

NEW GATES AND RAILINGS

- 6.7 The new section new railings, gates, gate piers are located within the RPAs of nearby trees as can be seen on the appended plan.
- 6.8 The excavation of the foundations for these structures **MUST** be done carefully by hand, with the use of hand tools **ONLY**. Any roots which are discovered during these works which are over 25mm must be retained and worked around. The retained roots (those over 25mm) must be protected with the use of Hessian sheeting, in order to avoid direct damage and minimise any water loss. These roots must at no point be left uncovered overnight or for lengthy periods (over 2 hours). Minor, smaller roots which are found during the excavations must be cut in accordance with the guidelines set out below.
- 6.9 Once the trench is excavated to the correct depth, care must then be taken to ensure the structures are installed so as to avoid any roots present. **Any roots that require pruning should be cut using sharp tools to leave a 'clean' cut, in order to minimise the risk of infection by decay pathogens.** The trench must then be backfilled and the soil compacted using hand tools only, to ensure

not air pockets are left as these can be damaging to tree roots. The holes / trenches within the RPAs should then be lined with plastic sheeting before any concrete or cement is placed into the hole, in order that there is no risk of leaching into the nearby soil as the mixture dries.

This section of work MUST be closely supervised by the retained arboriculturalist.

INSTALLATION OF SERVICES

- 6.10 The installation of underground apparatus and drainage systems with the use of mechanical excavators will undoubtedly sever any roots that may be present and can change the hydrology and structure of the nearby soil in a way that will adversely affect the health of any nearby trees. Particular care should therefore be taken when assessing the layout of new services and consideration **MUST** be given to the methods of installation of **ALL** underground apparatus.
- 6.11 From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, the existing drainage system has been assessed as suitable for re-use and it is assumed that the electric and gas cabling is also satisfactory. Therefore, there is no reason to assume that any new service installations will be required within the RPAs of any trees.

Post Development Pressure

FUTURE TREE AND STRUCTURE RELATIONSHIPS

- 7.1 The retained trees are at a satisfactory distance from the proposed new buildingS, and highly unlikely to give rise to any inconvenience.
- 7.2 Regular inspections of the retained trees by a suitably qualified Arboriculturalist and subsequent remedial works will ensure that the trees are maintained in a suitable manner, to exist in harmony with the new structures and its occupants for many years to come.

Tree Protection Measures and Preliminary Method Statement for Development Works

8.1 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

It is essential for the future health of the trees to be retained on site, that all development activity is undertaken outside the root protection zone of these trees. The position of the fence **MUST** be marked out with biodegradable marker paint on site and agreed with appropriate representatives from the LPA and contractor. The fencing **MUST** be erected **prior** to any works in the vicinity of the trees and removed only when all development activity is complete. The protective fencing **MUST** be as that shown in BS 5837 (see Appendix C). The herras panels **MUST** be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers which

MUST be installed so they can only be removed from the inside of the fence. The panels **MUST** supported by stabilizer struts, which **MUST** be installed on the inside and secured to the ground using pins or appropriate weights.

The Fence must be marked with a clear sign reading:

“Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access”

8.2 GROUND PROTECTION – LIGHTWEIGHT ACCESS ONLY

Where any additional ground protection is required, these areas **MUST** be covered with a permeable membrane, with 150mm layer of compressible woodchip overlaying it; an 18mm marine ply boards will then be secured on top of the woodchip to allow a 1.5tonne mini-digger to access the area without causing major compaction or soil erosion.

8.3 GROUND PROTECTION (EXISTING)

The hard surfacing that exists on the driveway provides adequate ground protection and **MUST** therefore be retained in situ for the entirety of the site works.

8.4 SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

All site huts **MUST** be positioned outside of the retained trees RPA's.

8.5 MIXING OF CONCRETE

All mixing of cement / concrete **MUST** be undertaken outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees.

8.6 INCOMING SERVICES, DRAINAGE AND SOAKAWAYS

From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, the existing drainage system has been assessed as suitable for re-use, and it is assumed that the electric and gas cabling is also satisfactory.

8.7 ON SITE SUPERVISION

Regular site supervision is essential to ensure all potentially damaging activities near to trees are correctly supervised. A pre start meeting will occur to ensure all parties are aware of their responsibilities relating to tree protection on site; this will include a site induction for key personnel.

8.8 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- **NO** level alterations will occur within the RPA of any tree to be retained.
- **NO** fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained.
- **NO** fuels, oils or substances which will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.
- **NO** storage of any materials within the root protection zone.

8.9 DISMANTLING PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Protective barriers must only be completely removed when all machinery, and equipment has left site.

Conclusion

- 9.1 In conclusion, the principal arboricultural features within the site can be retained and adequately protected during development activities.
- 9.2 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to trees to be retained.

Recommendations

- 10.1 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
 - a. Be present on the site the majority of the time.
 - b. Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
 - c. Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
 - d. Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
 - e. Make immediate contact with the local authority and / or retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- 10.2 It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

22nd February 2021

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix A

Appendix B

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
G1	Birch	10	100	1	1.20	3	3	3	3	MA	2	20-40	B2	Good future potential.
G2	Cherry and Rowan	6	60	1	0.72	2	2	2	2	MA	2	10-20	C2	Small trees of little present or future value. Recommend: trees to be removed.
T3	Oak	16	650	1	7.80	5	0	6	8	M	12 (south)	20-40	B2	Recommend: remove deadwood.
T4	Oak	22	730	1	8.76	6	5	9	9	M	14 (south)	20-40	B2	Recommend: remove deadwood.
T5	Oak	18	300	1	3.60	7	4	3	7	M	6 (south)	20-40	Prov B2	Full inspection not possible due to restricted access. Recommend: remove deadwood over site.
T6	Oak	20	600	1	7.20	7	7	7	7	M	12 (south)	20-40	Prov B2	Full inspection not possible due to restricted access. Recommend: remove deadwood over site.
T7	Oak	20	350	1	4.20	6	5	5	2	M	5 (south)	20-40	Prov B2	Full inspection not possible due to restricted access. Recommend: remove deadwood over site.
T8	Hornbeam	10	190	1	2.28	1	3	5	5	MA	2 (west)	10-20	C1	Suppressed by adjacent trees.
G9	Cypress hedge	2	50	1	0.60	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	MA	0	10-20	C2	Boundary hedge.

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
G10	Hornbeam	14	200	1	2.40	4	4	4	4	MA	3	10-20	C2	Scrub.
T11	Wisteria	4	212	7	2.54	1	1	1	1	M	2	10-20	C2	To be removed and relocated if possible.
T12	Oak	14	700	1	8.40	6	6	6	5	M	2	20-40	B1	Previously crown reduced.
G13	Birch and scrub	12	300	1	3.60	2	2	2	2	MA	0	10-20	C2	Scrub.
T14	Oak	18	700	1	8.40	8	8	8	8	M	2	20-40	Prov B1	Full inspection not possible due to restricted access.
G15	Oak and Hornbeam	20	300	1	3.60	5	5	5	5	MA	3	20-40	B2	No visible defects.
T16	Plum (difficult to see fully)	6	100	1	1.20	2	2	2	2	M	2	10-20	C2	Full inspection not possible.
G17	mixed hedge	1.5	50	1	0.60	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	MA	0	10-20	C2	Boundary hedge.

KEY :

Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)
Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),
Veteran (V)
Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

Appendix C

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



