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Arboricultural and Planning Integration Report: 60 Copse Wood Way, Northwood, HA6 2UA

15th January 2025

Ref: GHA/DS/122760:25

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Arboricultural Report

Location: 60 Copse Wood Way, Northwood, HA6 2UA
Ref: GHA/DS/122760:25
Client: R Grewal
Date: 15th January 2025
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 13th August 2024

Instructions

Issued by – R Grewal

TERMS OF REFERENCE – GHA Trees were instructed to survey the subject trees within and adjacent to 60 Copse Wood Way, 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.

Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to construct a new extension to the side (south) of the existing house. 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. Existing layout plans
2. 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.

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 realisitically 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 Copse Wood Way, a residential through road located to the south of Northwood.

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 (east) 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 This is an update to the previous tree survey from 2021; T1 has since been removed and a new tree 'T16' has been added.

The Proposal

5.1 The proposal for the site is to construct a new extension to the side (south) of the existing house.

5.2 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 ACCOMODATE 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 structure 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. The assessed RPAs are shown on the appended plan.

ASSESSED IMPACT ON RPAS BY PROPOSED STRUCTURES

6.5 The proposed new structure is situated outside of the assessed RPAs of all of the trees proposed for retention, therefore these trees pose no below ground constraints on the new structures or vice versa.

PROPOSED ACCESS TO THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

6.6 The existing driveway and parking areas will be retained and there are no plans to upgrade or extend these areas as part of the proposed site works.

INSTALLATION OF SERVICES

6.7 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.

6.8 New services should be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers must also be sited outside the RPAs of any nearby trees.

Post Development Pressure

FUTURE TREE AND STRUCTURE RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 The retained trees are at a satisfactory distance from the proposed new building, and highly unlikely to give rise to any inconvenience.

7.2 Some minor lateral pruning of the retained trees and shrubs may be required in the medium term; however, any such work would not have a significant impact on the health or amenity value of these trees.

7.3 The trees on site are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). These designations will ensure that the local planning authority retain full control over all future works to these trees, ensuring any future occupants are unable to undertake any inappropriate works to these trees.

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

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

8.4 MIXING OF CONCRETE

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

8.5 USE CRANES, RIGS AND BOOMS

Precautionary measures **MUST** be observed to avoid contact of any retained trees when manoeuvring cranes rigs or booms into position.

8.6 INCOMING SERVICES, DRAINAGE AND SOAKAWAYS

New services **MUST** be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers **MUST** be sited outside the RPA.

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

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.

15th January 2025
Signed:

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

Appendix A
TREE PLAN
(see separate PDF)

Appendix B
TREE TABLE

Tree No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (mm)	Branch Spread				First Significant Branch	Height of Canopy	Life Stage	Remaining Useful Life (Yrs)	Observations & Preliminary Recommendations	Category Grading	Root Protection Area - Radius (m)
				N	S	E	W							
T1	Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)	Removed since last survey												
T2	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	11.5	590e	5	6	6	4	4	4	M	40+	Ivy clad off-site tree.	A1	7.20
T3	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	10.5	560	4.5	5.5	5	5	4	4	M	40+	Ivy clad tree with minor crown dieback, growing in recently constructed raised bed.	B1	6.60
T4	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	11	270	4	4	4.5	1.5	4n	4	EM	40+	Tree growing in recently constructed raised bed.	B1	3.30
T5	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	11	280	5	5	1.5	3	3n	3	EM	40+	Tree growing in recently constructed raised bed.	B1	3.30
T6	Cheeswood (*Pittosporum*)	9	250 180 170	3	3	3	3	2	2	M	20+	Multi-stemmed shrub.	C1	4.20
G7	Beech	15	290e	2.5	4	4	2.5	5	5	EM	40+	Group of two copper beech trees growing off-site.	B2	3.60

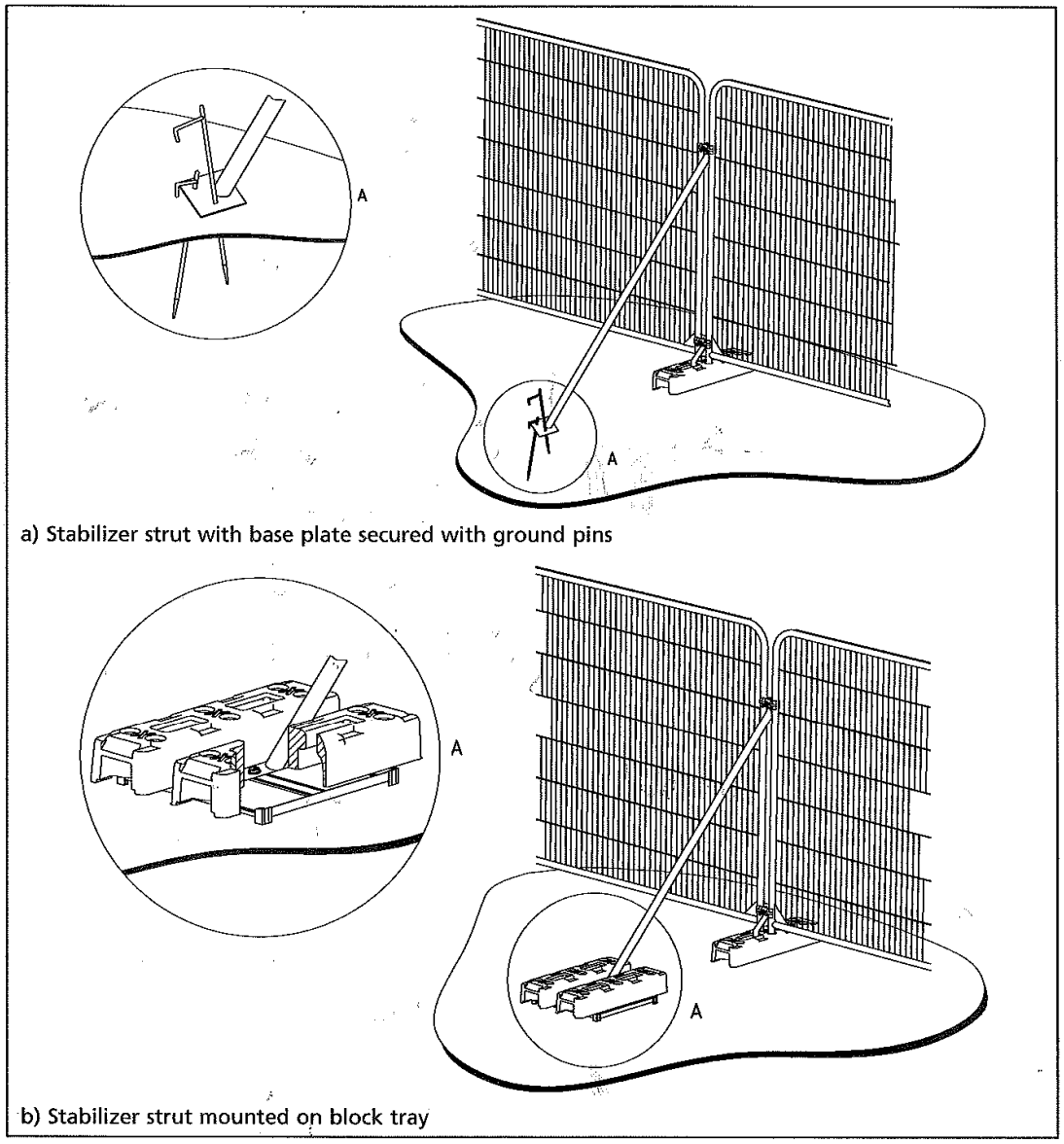
Tree No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (mm)	Branch Spread				First Significant Branch	Height of Canopy	Life Stage	Remaining Useful Life (Yrs)	Observations & Preliminary Recommendations	Category Grading	Root Protection Area - Radius (m)
T8	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	16	500	6	5	8.5	4	4	4	M	40+	No significant features.	A1	6.00
G9	Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)	14	240	3	3	3	3	3	3	EM	40+	Pair of close grown trees - one with significant bark damage.	C1	3.00
G10	Mixed Species	15	280	4	4	4	4	2	2	M	40+	Area of medium sized trees (tree at northern end dead).	C2	3.30
T11	Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)	16	480	8	8	8	8	6	6	M	<10	Displaying symptoms of Chalara Ash Dieback - limited retention potential.	U	5.70
G12	Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)	10	270	4	4	4	4	4	4	EM	40+	Pair of close grown trees.	C1	3.30
T13	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	18	690	5	7	7	6	5w	5	M	40+	Tree growing in recently constructed raised bed	B1	8.40
T14	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	17	570	6	7.5	7.5	5	4	4	M	40+	Off-site tree with no significant features.	A1	6.90

Tree No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (mm)	Branch Spread				First Significant Branch	Height of Canopy	Life Stage	Remaining Useful Life (Yrs)	Observations & Preliminary Recommendations	Category Grading	Root Protection Area - Radius (m)
T15	English Oak (*Quercus robur*)	16	620	5	5	5.5	4	4e	4	M	40+	Tree growing in recently constructed raised bed	A1	7.40
T16	Cypress	8	200	1	2	2.5	1	3	3	M	10 to 20	Off site - small tree. Suppressed by beech.	C1	2.40

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
TREE FENCING DETAIL

Figure 3 **Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems**



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray