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**BS5837:2012 TREE SURVEY AND  
ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:  
12A Frithwood Avenue, Northwood, HA6 3LX**

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Our reference: GHA/DS/162320:22

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# Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Location: 12A Frithwood Avenue, Northwood, HA6 3LX  
Our reference: GHA/DS/162320:22  
Client: I Dhanji  
Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA  
Date of Inspection: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

## **Instructions**

**Issued by – I Dhanji**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE – GHA Trees were instructed to survey the subject trees within and adjacent to 12A Frithwood Avenue, 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 wellbeing of the retained trees in a sustainable manner.**

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## **Executive Summary**

The proposal for the site is to renovate the existing house, work that will include a new rear extension. 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:

- Existing layout plans
- 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 No discussions took place between the surveyor and any other party.
- 1.6 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)
- 1.7 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 1.8 Underground services near to trees will need to be installed in accord with the guidance given in BS5837.
- 1.9 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 Frithwood Avenue, a residential through road located to the north of Northwood.
- 3.2 Access to the property is currently gained via a driveway to the front (south) 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 Of the six individual trees, and groups of trees surveyed, one has been assessed as BS 5837 category A, with the remaining trees being assessed as BS 5837 category C.

Category A	1 tree
Category C	5 trees / groups

## **The Proposal**

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to renovate the existing house, work that will include a new rear extension.
- 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 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 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.
- 6.5 The RPAs of several trees have been amended to take account of the existing structures; these adjustments can be seen on the appended plan.

## ASSESSED IMPACT ON RPAS BY PROPOSED STRUCTURES

- 6.6 The proposed new structure is situated outside of the assessed RPAs of all of the trees; therefore, these trees pose no below ground constraints on the new structure or vice versa.

## PROPOSED ACCESS TO THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

- 6.7 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

- 6.8 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 building outline and highly unlikely to give rise to any inconvenience.

## **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 MIXING OF CONCRETE

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

8.4 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- **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.

8.5 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.

7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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 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	Leyland cypress	21	480	1	5.76	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	M	3	10-20	C2	Lapsed hedge.
G2	Sorbus	7	100	1	1.20	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	M	2	10-20	C2	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
G3	Leyland cypress	6	400	1	4.80	2	2	2	2	M	0	10-20	C2	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T4	Amelanchier	7	196	6	2.35	2	3	2	2	M	2	10-20	C1	Small tree of limited value in the wider landscape.
G5	Mixed cypress	10 to 22	400	1	4.80	3	3	3	3	M	4	10-20	C2	Lapsed hedge.
T6	Oak	22	1200	1	14.40	7	8	7	8	M	5.5	40+	A1	No notable defects recorded during inspection.

**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



