

Method statement in relation to retention and protection of tree/s

(During works relating to application ref: 2011/4903/P)

Condition 4 of 2011/4903/P (14 South Hill Park Gardens, NW3 2TG):

All trees on the site, or parts of trees growing from adjoining sites, unless shown on the permitted drawings as being removed, shall be retained and protected from damage to the satisfaction of the Council. Details shall be submitted to and approved by the Council before works commence on site to demonstrate how trees to be retained shall be protected during construction work: such details shall follow guidelines and standards set out in BS5837:2005 "Trees in Relation to Construction"

Background

14 South Hill Park Gardens (The Site) contains, within its boundary, a mature Horse Chestnut tree which is approximately 10 m tall (The Tree), and the subject of a tree protection order.

The Tree is currently protected and isolated from the property on The Site by a semi-circular retaining wall of 6m radius (from the trunk centre) and 2m height.

The significant majority of work proposed in 2011/4903/P will occur outside of the retaining wall and will also be accessed from outside of the retaining wall and so will have no impact on The Tree.

The portion of 2011/4903/P which has the potential to impact on The Tree is the lowering of a portion of the retaining wall by 500mm for a distance of 500mm thereby reducing the radius to 5.5m for this section of the retaining wall (see associated planning application for detail, scale drawings)

Viewed from above, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the semi-circular retaining wall is within The Site and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ is within the boundary of the adjacent property, 12a South Hill Park Gardens.

Identical work *i.e.* relocating the top 500mm of the same retaining wall, to a radius of approximately 5 to 5.5m was undertaken at 12a South Hill Park Gardens approximately 3 years previously in accordance with 2007/4043/P.

No detrimental effect of the work previously undertaken in accordance with 2007/4043/P is evident.

Tree Protection Plan (during Implementation of Works)

No tree surgery works are envisaged as part of the implementation of works.

Since the significant majority of work proposed will occur outside of the retaining wall, the retaining wall is, in effect, the protective fencing for the implementation of works.

The implementation of works will entail the removal of up to approximately 1m³ of soil which will arise from a 3m length of existing retaining wall in the area adjacent to and on the inside of the retaining wall, therefore potentially from within the outer perimeter of the root protection zone.

No works or storage of materials will take place in the root protection area of the tree other than those specified in the method statement

Removal of the soil in the area described above will be undertaken using hand digging tools. Any tree roots exposed will be left as intact as careful digging with hand tools will allow.

Given that roots can become desiccated quickly, exposed roots will be covered will be covered with a dry cloth to prevent freezing overnight and a wet cloth to prevent drying out on warmer days/nights.

If, for any reason, roots are to be severed then clean, straight cuts will be made in order to minimise wounding. If roots in excess of 50mm diameter are encountered, they will not be severed.

The tree protection plan will be brought to the attention of the contractor undertaking the works and formal, written acceptance of the plan by the contractor will be obtained.