

**Martin Harrison**  
**Arboricultural Contractor**



**HARRISONS TREE SERVICE**  
7 Cadmore Lane  
Cheshunt  
Herts EN8 9JG

Phone/fax 01992 630 612  
[www.harrisonstreeservice.co.uk](http://www.harrisonstreeservice.co.uk)

11 July 2009

**FAO:**

Stephen O'Connell  
Hanoman Architecture & Design Ltd.  
63 Chevening Road  
London  
SE19 3TD

**Site Address:**

Jonathan Crown  
59 Fitzjohn's Avenue  
London  
NW3

**Preliminary Arboricultural Implications Assessment/Protection Plan and Method Statement RE T1 Cherry Tree at Above Site Address**

T1 on plan supplied by Stephen O'Connell of Hanoman Architecture & Design Ltd: *Prunus* cultivar (not formally identified).

We have been supplied with drawings of a proposed development/extension of the lower ground floor of the above site address which will have an impact on the T1. The usual course of action when proposed development is in such close proximity to a tree is to remove and plant a replacement elsewhere however in this instance the owner is keen to retain T1 if possible. This leads us to consider that the tree is suitable for retention.

Our notes, proposals and comments follow regarding the retention of the aforementioned tree with regards to proposed building works

**Description:**

- Tree Value: Category B BS5837
- Location: Approximately 4m away from present building at top of retaining banked slope
- Height: Approximately 8 to 9m
- Crown spread: Approximately 7 to 9m
- DBH: Approximately 250mm
- Vigour: Fair to good
- Age: Semi mature to mature
- Life expectancy: 30 years if left undisturbed
- Status: Covered by conservation area legislation and to our knowledge there is no tree preservation order in force at this time.

#### Root description:

- In close proximity to the stem of the tree an existing physical root barrier (wall) of undetermined depth will have caused the tree to form an asymmetrical root system.
- The tree has several large surface roots, (common to the prunus family) radiating to a distance of up to 2 to 2.5 m from the main stem.
- It must be assumed that most of the tree's root system is within the top 600mm of soil
- Root spread in soft landscaped areas i.e. soil/bank/lawn will exceed crown spread.

#### Amenity Considerations:

- The tree is located in a private rear garden.
- The property appears to be multi occupancy and therefore the tree has some amenity value.
- The tree is not clearly visible from the street.
- The tree's removal would in our view have a moderate impact on the garden landscape
- Several other semi mature trees are present in the garden along with one young cherry tree.
- If tree is removed a replacement could be planted approximately 5m from current location.

#### Pre Development Access Facilitation Pruning:

Pruning the tree as early as possible before building works will help to minimise potential for branch and limb breakage caused by building works. It is recommended that the following specification for works is carried out as soon as possible before building work commences. This specification should allow adequate clearance of the new building and adequate access for building contractors. Light levels to the new extension should be adequate assuming that the tree is regularly pruned. All works to be carried out to BS3998.

##### Pruning Specification

##### Crown reduction:

Reduce lateral branches/crown spread by approx. 25%

Reduce crown height by approx 20%

Remove one major low limb growing towards the South West

Raise the remaining crown by 1 to 1.5m.

#### Protection Plan:

'BS5837 2005 Trees in relation' to construction sets out recommendations for the protection of trees to be retained on development sites. Where possible these recommendations should be adhered to.

#### Considerations:

- i. Contaminants, (i.e. soil contaminants, building materials etc)
- ii. Underground services and ground works
- iii. Access for works
- iv. Soil compaction and soil level changes
- v. Pruning
- vi. Fires
- vii. Bark damage to main stem
- viii. Major root damage and stability

#### Actions:

- i. No building materials and fuel etc to be stored within fenced off area (see below). If possible building materials and fuel etc should be stored a minimum of 10m away from tree.
- ii. Considering the tree has an asymmetrical curtailed root area, routing service within 4m or the tree's stem should be avoided if the tree is to be retained.
- iii. Access not to be allowed within fenced area. No storage of machinery and materials allowed within fenced area. Facilitation for pruning works should allow adequate access around tree to minimise crown damage.
- iv. Soil levels should remain unchanged. It is unlikely that heavy vehicles and plant machinery will be used on this site but if in the event that they are, use/access in close proximity to the tree must be kept to a minimum and avoided in wet weather. Foot traffic can cause soil compaction but this is unlikely to be a major concern.
- v. Pruning is to be carried out as far in advance of the commencement of building works as is possible and must adhere to BS3998.
- vi. No fires to be lit within 15m of the tree's stem.
- vii. Appropriate fencing to be installed, see protective barrier notes below.
- viii. It is inevitable that during the course of the proposed works some major roots will need to be severed. We do not advise that any roots be severed at a distance closer than 1.2m from the main stem. Surface roots should be protected by adequate fencing.

#### Protective Barrier:

For a tree of T1's age/size/vigour BS5837 recommends a barrier/fence be erected a minimum distance of 3 to 4m from stem which will not be possible within these proposals and therefore must be erected in a position as far from the stem as possible but allowing for proposed building works; 130cm from the main stem. This action will protect the tree from stem damage, large surface root damage and possible central crown limb damage.

This barrier/fence must be constructed prior to any building works including demolition and site proprietary clearance. Clear signs should be put on the fence and all contractors and site works should be made aware of the importance of protecting the tree. No construction activity which could potentially cause damage to the tree should be allowed within the protection barrier area.

#### Impact of proposed building works on T1:

The proposed construction work will no doubt have a detrimental affect on T1 however we expect it to survive the works with a reduced potential life expectancy. The works will result in the loss of at least one third of the root system. Access facilitation pruning should leave large enough leaf area to sustain the tree along with promoting a more compact crown structure.

#### Remedial Tree Work:

Should any breakage/damage occur to the crown of the tree during works, remedial pruning work should be carried out as soon as is practicable. Broken branches will need to be cut back to suitable growth points as outlined in BS3998. Tree's health, vigour and potential hazards should be checked annually. A further crown reduction should be carried out in three years time.

#### Suitable Replacement Plans:

If the tree is not retained it will be possible for new planting to be sited approximately 5m away from current trees site close to the corner of existing lawn, not marked on plan.

#### Possible replacements:

*Crataegus x lavalleyi* 10-12 STD to 12-14 STD

*Prunus dulcis* 10-12 STD to 12-14 STD

*Prunus x subhirtella* 'Autumnalis' 10-12 STD to 12-14 STD