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Arboricultural Impact Assessment
9a Belsize Square,
London,
NW3

Client:
Henry Ledger,
9a Belsize Square,
London, NW3

Prepared by
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Date of Report : 26TH September 2014

1 Brief

To provide an Arboricultural Impact Assessment based on my 18th September 2014 tree survey, schedule and the proposals for a new structure within the garden.

2 Proposed Works

The proposed works include the construction of a new structure on raft foundations in the rear left section of the garden and a pergola to the rear right side of the garden supported on timber posts with orientation given as if facing the garden from the front.

3 Trees

The attached tree schedule lists five trees close to the proposed structure.

these trees are as follows:

1. T1. The tree is situated to the rear right of the garden to No.9a. it is a mature Lime tree previously crown reduced and generally in good condition from the limited visual inspection. It is very close to the proposed works at some 300mm away from the new structure and raft foundations. It is a Category A tree.

2. T2-T5. These trees are a line of Sycamores in the adjacent left side rear garden. They are in fair condition, previously crown reduced and some 1.2 metres from the new structure at closest. This group are Category C trees.

3.1 Category A trees (High Amenity Value)

T1.

3.2 Category B trees (Moderate Amenity Value)

None.

3.3 Category C trees (Low Amenity Value)

T2, T3, T4 & T5.

3.4 Category R tree (Trees recommended for removal)

None.

4 Impact Assessment

The construction of the new building and pergola is within the root protection areas of T1, T2 & T3.

The canopies of the trees are above the construction zone so there is no possibility of disturbance to the canopy of these trees.

The tree stems to T2, T3, T4 & T5 are separated from the works by a boundary fence and so are isolated from the work.

T1 tree stem is close to the construction zone.

The proposed works are within the root protection zone of trees T1, T2 & T3.

For the proposed construction works to be carried out, no trees are to be removed.

5 Tree Protection

The tree T1 is very close to the construction works area and will require protection. This tree is Category A.

The stem of this tree should be protected by plywood boxing to a height of 2.4m to avoid damage to the stem.

To avoid possible root compaction, water permeable matting should be laid with clay master (compressible cardboard sheets) boarding over, prior to the laying of the raft foundation. This will allow the raft foundation to be laid on a firm uniform surface without compacting the soil below. This should also allow the soil to 'breathe' under the new foundation.

The setting of post foundations is to be carried out with a hand dig only with significant tree roots (over 25mm diameter) to be avoided. If significant tree roots are found, the post foundation is to be moved to avoid disturbing the roots.

Any mixing of concrete and all other construction activity should be carried out distant from the tree and close to the house to avoid any contamination and compaction of the soil in the root zone area.

On this basis, there should be little difference in the potential rooting zones of the trees.

The trees T2, & T3 should also retain their rooting zone due to the suggested construction methods as detailed above.

Trees T4 & T5 are too distant to be affected by the works in terms of rooting area and separated from the work area by a fence.

6 Arboricultural Method Statement

T1 Protection

a) Plywood boxing around the stem to a height of 2.4m (not fixed into the tree).

b) Permeable sheeting and clay board to soil under and adjacent to new foundations to stop soil compaction.

c) No concrete mixing or construction activity in root protection zone excepting the laying of the raft foundation.

d) Any post foundations to be hand dug and to avoid tree roots wider than 25mm diameter.

7 Statutory Constraints

I have been informed that the property is located in a Conservation Area.

No cutting or removal of trees may be carried out without written approval from the local authority planning department.

8 Conclusion

None of the trees to the site are to be removed.

The tree T1, may be affected by the construction work and tree protection fencing is recommended to protect the stem. The existing ground cover is soil and the foundation design with the ground protection measures as detailed above should stop rooting zone compaction.

The remainder of the trees should not be adversely affected as they are separated from the work by a boundary fence and the above measures should stop additional root damage to the trees T2 & T3.

9 Recommendations

I recommend that the contractor and architect/designer should be provided with a copy of this report and should be responsible for the implementation for the above conditions prior to the commencement of any work on site.

Signed

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CHARTERED ARBORICULTURIST
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