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Arboriculture Impact Assessment

59B Belsize Park Gardens, London

Written By Alastair Gavin On behalf of Tree Aware UK Ltd
on the 19th of October 2016

The purpose of this document is to assess the tree or trees and/or any significant vegetation at the above site, to fully identify any constraints that the tree/trees or significant vegetation may pose to the proposed construction or design in line with BS 5837: 2012 “trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations”.

Contents

1.0 Summary

The following points in this summary are intended for quick reference only. As we recommend that the report is read fully.

1.1 Overview of Tree Constraints

Following a site inspection on the 05/10/2016, a general preliminary assessment of the site as a whole is that the existing trees located at the site this being the property 59B Belsize Park Gardens, London should not pose a constraint to the construction, if the recommendations within this Impact Assessment are followed.

1.2 Overview of Construction Costs in Connection to the Trees

In terms of additional costs in providing adequate tree protection, it is deemed that the presence of the trees may pose a minor additional cost. This is dependent on the final proposed design.

1.3 Notable Tree Constraints (Trees of a BS 5837 Category being either an A or B)

It was identified that the trees T4, and T6 located at the site were of a notable category being category B with the remaining trees being a category C. (Please see Appendix A, BS 5837 Tree Survey Schedule for specific tree details).

1.4 Impact on Trees

The foot print of the current proposed rear extension to the property does not encroach into the root protection areas of the trees identified on the site, this being 6 individual trees with no groups of trees present. There is the potential for there to be some minor conflict between the south west corner of the rear extension and the canopy of T1.

There is however the potential for damage to occur to the 6 individual trees from the construction process of the rear extension this being in the form of

direct damage to the trees stems from impacts during construction or indirect damage from compaction or contamination of the ground.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Instruction has been received from the client to assess the impact on the trees at the site from the proposed rear extension to the property, which might cause a constraint to the current proposed design/location of the extension.

2.2 A BS 5837 Tree Survey in accordance to BS 5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition, and Construction"- Recommendations was carried out on the 05/10/2016. The trees included in the survey (please see Appendix A) have been visually inspected from ground level. No climbing inspection or any decay detection equipment has been used or carried out.

2.3 As there are trees located on the site which are contributing to the character of the area it is important to assess and ascertain the quality and value of the trees and the likely impact on the trees from any proposed construction this being the rear/side extension.

2.4 Dependant on their age, condition and species trees differ in their ability to cope with root disturbance and damage. Subsequently, tree roots which are commonly located within the top metre of soil can be affected by natural and manmade topography and structures, which can restrict, redirect and affect trees root growth rate. It is therefore important to consider all relevant factors when ascertaining the retention and or removal of trees.

3.0 Site Description

3.1 The site being made up of an existing property is within an urban environment that has a medium amount of tree cover. This is made up of predominantly

privately owned trees in front and rear gardens. The trees that are present near to the site are predominantly of the same age but vary in species.

3.2 The area surrounding the site comprises of privately owned properties with small to medium gardens. The majority of the area is flat in gradient with little level change occurring over a wide area.

3.3 The trees in question are located in the rear garden of the property and can be classed as individual trees with no groups of trees. During the BS 5837 Tree Survey no abnormal grounds conditions such as water logging or contamination were noted next to the trees surveyed.

4.0 Impact on Trees

4.1 The trees near to the proposed rear extension to the property have been assessed in accordance to BS 5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition, and Construction"- Recommendations. Please see Appendix A for tree details in accordance to the methodology of BS 5837:2012. The trees have been categorised as follows;

T1	Mimosa	Category C
T2	Bay	Category C
T3	Lime	Category C
T4	Cherry	Category B
T5	Lime	Category B
T6	London plane	Category B

4.2 The proposed rear extension does not encroach into the root protection area of the six trees listed above and there is sufficient construction room to allow for the rear extension to be built. There is however the potential for there to be some minor conflict between the south west corner of the rear extension and the canopy of T1.

4.3 The six trees are of a distance from the proposed extension to be constructed where there is a risk of damage in the form of compaction/contamination to the root protection areas, and direct damage to the trees stems occurring

from the construction process of the extension if basic tree protection measures are not used. This would be in the form of tree protection fencing protecting the trees stems and root protection areas.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 As there is no encroachment to T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, and T6 from the footprint of the proposed rear extension to the property this being 59B Belsize Park Gardens the above six trees can be viably retained.

5.2 As there is the potential for minor conflict between T1's canopy and the south west corner of the rear extension. The affected part of the canopy should the pruned back lightly which will reduce/remove the risk of this impact.

5.3 As the trees are at risk from the construction process in the form of direct damage to the trees stems and indirect damage in the form of compaction/contamination to the root protection areas of the trees from the construction of the rear extension, basic tree protection in the form of tree protection fencing should be used to protect the trees on the site.

5.4 It is recommended to ensure adequate tree protection is used and to promote awareness to protect the trees during construction that an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) is produced along with a Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

5.4 In terms of additional costs in the protection of the trees, to stop damage occurring during the construction of the proposed extension, it is deemed that this may pose a minimal additional cost dependant on the final design. This would be in the form of tree protection measures as recommended being tree protection fencing.

Appendix A BS 5837 Tree Survey Schedule

Sequential Reference Number	Species (Common Name)	Height	Stem Diameter	Branch Spread N S E W in meters	First Significant Branch	Canopy Height	Life Stage	General Observations	Estimated Remaining Contribution in years	BS 5837 Category
T1	Mimosa	7m	190mm	3#, 4, 4, 4#	1.6m	1.3m	Semi Mature	Average formed tree, evidence of past branch pruning, split pruning stub west side of stem, canopy overhangs balcony of property, close proximity to wall, average condition to tree.	10+	C
T2	Bay	12m	200mm# 230mm# 180mm#	4#, 3, 3, 3#	Ground Level	1.5m	Mature	Multi stemmed tree consisting of three stems, average form to tree, tree could not be fully inspected due to access restriction as the tree is located in the neighbouring properties garden, dead wood in canopy, birds nest in tree as of 05/10/2016, potential weakness in stem union. **Recommendation** **Monitor condition of tree, remove dead wood**	10+	C

T3	Lime	14m	490mm	3, 3, 3, 3	8m	6m	Mature	Tree has been recently pollarded, reason unknown, small re-growths present, Ivy at base of stem as such tree could not be fully inspected, dead Ivy on stem, old pollarded tree with old pollard point at 6m, decay likely in old pollard point/pruning wounds, stem leans slightly north east. **Recommendation** **Re-reduce every 3-5 years**	10+	C
T4	Cherry	16m	310mm	7, 3, 4, 3	2m	2m	Mature	One sided cherry tree due to suppression by T3 and T5, stem leans north east, with canopy favouring the north east side also, dead wood in canopy, average form to tree, trees shows good vitality. **Recommendation** **Remove dead wood**	20+	B
T5	Lime	16m	590mm	3, 3#, 4, 3	6m	6m	Mature	Tree has been recently pollarded at the same time as T3, reason unknown, small re-growths present, Ivy at base of stem as	10+	C

								such tree could not be fully inspected, dead Ivy on stem, old pollarded tree with old pollard point at 6m, decay likely in old pollard point/pruning wounds, average form to tree, tree suppressed by T6. **<u>Recommendation</u>** **Re-reduce every 3-5 years**		
T6	London Plane	20m+	800mm#	5#, 4#, 4#, 3#	5m	4m	Mature	Multi stemmed tree at 3m, tree has four main growing leaders, tree located in neighbours garden as such tree could not be fully inspected due to access restriction, tree previously reduced by approximately 20%, re-growths present, potential weakness in stem unions, Ivy on stem north side of tree, bird next in tree as of 05/10/2016, reason for previous reduction unknown. **<u>Recommendation</u>** **Re-reduce every 3-5 years, monitor**	20+	B

Appendix B Root Protection/Constraints Plan

(Please see separate document)