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BS5837:2012 Arboricultural Survey, Implications Assessment & Arboricultural Method Statement

**Site Address:
151B King Henry's Road
Camden
London
NW3 3RD**

Robert Toll
HND Urban Forestry - ND Forestry - MArborA

Ref: RMT160
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PRO2239

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1. Direction

1.1 To undertake an inspection of trees that are on or adjacent to 151B King Henry's Road, Camden, London NW3 3RD in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

2. Purpose of this report

2.1 This report provides clarification of the above and below ground arboricultural constraints in order to inform the site layout design relating to proposed development at 151B King Henry's Road, Camden, London NW3 3RD.

3. Limitations

3.1 The survey was carried out from ground level using my observations of the trees.

3.2 All measurements taken to calculate root protection areas or canopy spreads have been measured wherever possible.

3.3 Where it has not been possible to access certain areas, dimensions have been estimated.

3.4 No soil assessments have been undertaken however the British Geological Survey gives the soil type as London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand.

4. Site Description

4.1 The property consists of a semi-detached house with a small rear garden. Adjacent to the southern elevation on the western side is a patio, and on the eastern side is a glass conservatory. The floor levels of the conservatory steps down to a door below the ground level of the garden. Along the eastern, southern and western sides of the garden are brick walls with the western wall a retaining wall. To the east, south and west sides of the rear garden are neighbouring residential gardens. The ground levels in the application site are circa 1m higher than those in the garden of 153 King Henry's Road.

5. Legal Restrictions

5.1 The local planning authority (LPA) has not been contacted to ascertain whether the trees on or adjacent to the site are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or if they are within a Conservation Order.

5.2 Verbal communication with the property owner has confirmed that the property is within a Conservation Area.

6 Proposal

6.1 The proposed development is for construction of a single storey rear extension.

7 Background

7.1 The defining arboricultural features are:

- One middle aged Silver Birch located to the rear of no. 151B King Henry's Road which is located within the rear garden.
- One offsite mature Purple Plum located in the rear garden of no. 153 King Henry's Road.

7.2 It was noted that there are other trees that are located on or adjacent to 151B King Henry's Road but they have not been included within this report. This is because it is deemed that they are:

- far enough from the area proposed for development that they would not be affected
- they would be adequately protected by the tree protection measures afforded to the surveyed trees
- they are specimens of limited significance.

7.3 Tree Categorisation.

At the time of inspection it was considered that both surveyed trees warranted a C grade. All trees were categorised in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 - see appendix 1.

The positions of the 2 surveyed trees have been plotted on the Tree Constraints Plan – see appendix 4.

7.4 Root Protection Area (RPA) Definition

Layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

(British Standard 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations – The British Standard Institute 2012)

Section 4.6.2 of BS5837:2012 states the following:

The RPA of each tree should initially be plotted as a circle centred on the base of the stem. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting has occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distribution.

(British Standard 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations – The British Standard Institute 2012)

On this occasion it has been necessary to indicate the RPA of T2 as a polygon due to the ground levels of 153 King Henrys Road being c1m lower than that of the application site coupled with the retaining wall which runs along the western boundary – see appendix 6.

7.5 Canopy Spreads

The canopy spreads have been measured from ground level using a laser measure and visual assessment.

7.6 Wherever possible all diameter at breast height measurements have been measured using a DBH tape. Where it has not been possible access the stems at c1.5m above ground level due such things as dense Ivy or the tree being inaccessible, an estimated measurement has been taken. All estimated measurements include the word “circa” or the abbreviation “c”.

8 Arboricultural Implications Assessment

8.1 Tree Removal – T1

Due to the proposed location of the extension it will not be possible to retain T1 – see appendix 5.

T1 is a specimen in an early stage of development and at the time of my survey exhibited signs of good overall health. It was observed that at some point in the past the main leader had been topped at c6m above ground level.

In terms of the significance and overall quality of T1, it is not a significant tree, being only fleeting visible from King Henry's Road through the gap between 151B and 153 King Henry's Road. As part of this survey T1 has been given a C categorisation which means that while it is not structurally or physiologically impaired, its overall quality is considered to be unremarkable.

On this occasion it is my professional opinion that there is insufficient justification to warrant the retention of T1 at the expense of the proposed development. The Tree Officer has expressed a view that replacement planting would aid the justification to remove T1 and proposals have been made within this report.

8.2 Replacement Planting

To mitigate for the loss of T1 it is proposed to plant a replacement tree elsewhere in the site. An indicative location for the replacement has been shown on the Tree Protection Plan – see appendix 6.

On this occasion it is proposed to plant an Ornamental Pear (*Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer*) which at the time of planting will be 3 – 4m tall with a stem girth of 14 – 16cm. The conical form and small/moderate potential height (<12m tall) of this species make it an excellent tree for small urban gardens.



Specifications for planting can be viewed in appendix 3.

8.3 Tree Protection Fencing

Due to the existing constraints on root morphology, tree protection fencing will not be required on this instance.

8.4 Ground Protection

Due to the existing constraints on root morphology, ground protection will not be required on this instance.

8.5 Services

All services will be routed from the existing house.

9 Conclusion

9.1 If the recommendations and methods within this report are followed then it is considered that the main arboricultural features on this and the adjacent site can be retained and their useful life expectancy will not be impacted upon by development.

10 Recommendations

10.1 Following any permission from the LPA, the principles and details of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment are to be followed to reduce the potential harm to the retained tree during development.

Appendix 1 – British Standard 5837:2012 Tree Categorisation Chart.

TREES UNSUITABLE FOR RETENTION				
CATEGORY AND DEFINITIONS	CRITERIA			IDENTIFICATION ON PLAN
<p>Category U</p> <p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning). Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality. <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5 of BS5837:2012</i></p>			<p>RED █</p> <p>RGB 127.000.000</p>
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
CATEGORY AND DEFINITIONS	CRITERIA - SUBCATEGORIES			IDENTIFICATION ON PLAN
	1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
<p>Category A</p> <p>Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years</p>	<p>Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue).</p>	<p>Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.</p>	<p>Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)</p>	<p>LIGHT GREEN █</p> <p>RGB 000.255.000</p>
<p>Category B</p> <p>Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years</p>	<p>Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation.</p>	<p>Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality.</p>	<p>Trees with material conservation or other cultural value</p>	<p>MID BLUE █</p> <p>RGB 000.000.255</p>
<p>Category C</p> <p>Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm</p>	<p>Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.</p>	<p>Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.</p>	<p>Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.</p>	<p>GREY █</p> <p>RGB 091.091.091</p>

Appendix 2 - Tree Survey Schedule.

Tree no.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk diameter (mm) at 1.5m	Canopy spread				Crown Height (m)	Age class	Condition	Recommendations	Anticipated remaining life expectancy	BS5837 category	Root protection area (radius in m)
				N	E	S	W							
T1	Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	10	207	3	3	3	3	2	Middle Aged	<p>Good Dominant canopy Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Historically topped at c6m above ground level – regrowth <50 dia – minor significance.</p>	<p>Remove tree.</p> <p>Works required for development: None.</p>	>20	C1	2.4
T2	Purple Plum <i>Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardii'</i>	9	Circa 200 250 200 250	4	3	4	4	3	Mature	<p>Good Offsite Dominant canopy Good vitality shown by twig and leaf size, structure, colour and density. Inaccessible due to offsite location impeding survey. Topped at c7m above ground level – regrowth <10 dia – minor significance. 4 stems at c1m above ground level with included bark union – unable to assess due to offsite location.</p>	<p>No works required.</p> <p>Works required for development: None.</p>	>10	C1	5.4 Or 92m2

Appendix 3 - Planting Specifications and Methodology

Species Choice and Size

Quantity	Species	Girth size (or other if specified)
1	Ornamental Pear <i>Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer</i>	14 - 16cm

Replacement Tree Location

The location of the replacement tree can be seen on the Tree Protection Plan – see appendix 6.

Timing of Planting

Due to the time of year much greater success rates in survival will be achieved planting the trees in the late autumn/winter months of November – March. The exact planting time will be dependent on weather conditions. Ideally planting would occur in late February/March to achieve maximum spring growth potential with the minimum time sat in the ground exposed to wind and possible water logging if a wet winter occurred. Planting will not occur in frosty conditions or temperatures of below 5°C.

Ground preparation prior to planting

- The planting pit will be excavated to a radius of 75cm or greater than that of the root system.
- Pit depth will be to match the “ground level” of the root ball/container.
- Pit walls will be broken up and the pit base dug over to a depth of 150mm to improve drainage and new root penetration.

Planting and support

- The tree is to be installed in to planting pit using the root ball /container to lift them, not lifted by the stem and in accordance with supplying nursery recommendations.
- Support should be using an underground guying system, such as a “Platypus” system or similar installed to manufacturers guidelines.
- Alternatively two large 3m stakes can be utilised, installed outside the root ball/container and fixed to the tree with appropriate size adjustable rubber ties, as recommended by the supplying nursery.
- All supply packaging is to be removed before backfilling with good quality topsoil, firmed in by foot in 150mm layers to avoid air pockets.

Watering and mulching

- The area around the base of the tree is to be covered to 1m radius with 50-75mm depth woodchip/mulch to reduce weed growth and aid moisture retention. Watering will be dependent on weather conditions and to the supplying nursery’s recommendations.
- If tree ties are used these are to be adjusted annually and removed within three years.

Appendix 4 – Tree Constraints Plan – RMT160 – TCP

Appendix 5 – Tree Implications Plan – RMT160 – TIP

Appendix 6 – Tree Protection Plan – RMT160 – TPP