

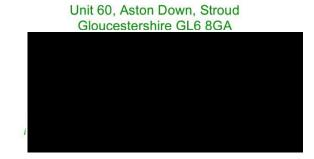






Mr M Polovyy
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Unit 3
Milton End
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GL2 7JH
3 February 2021

Our Reference: 15142 / 64860



Dear

RE: Arboricultural Implications Assessment and Tree Removal and Protection Plan Fretherne Bridge House, Saul, Glos

Following our survey on 18 January 2021 and provision of the Proposed Site Plan A105 for the new access, I have assessed the proposals in accordance with British Standard 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction 2012.

All trees surveyed were of low or poor quality and the Ash have a significantly reduced life expectancy.

Arboricultural Implications.

The proposed access is already covered with a gravel hard surface, is used for parking and is subject to regular vehicle movements (photograph 1). The highway verge on the north side of the fence is narrow but soft landscaped.

Photograph 1. Existing gravel drive surface adjacent to trees.



Trees 1,2 and 3 are all Ash which overhang the parking area and area adjacent to the highway. Their decline and failure is likely to result in damage to property and/or injury to highway users. The trees show evidence of Ash Dieback at health class 2 and 3 and have a very limited life expectancy. They should be removed at the earliest opportunity regardless of any development proposals (photograph 2).

Photograph 2. Trees 1,2 and 3 already in decline.



Tree 4 is at health class 1 but is likely to decline further over the next 1-2 years requiring its removal. Unfortunately, the tree has grown as part of a group which has provided mutual support and shelter. Sudden removal of the adjacent trees renders this tree liable to windthrow (tree being blown over from the roots). Given its proximity to the highway and garden store, I recommend that the tree is removed at the same time as other works being completed.

Tree 5 is a rather small and suppressed specimen but would be suitable for retention in the short term subject to some formative pruning to improve its shape and form.

Group 5 is set beyond the edge of the existing pin kerb and would be unaffected by the entrance proposals. Although recommended for removal due to its poor quality, there is no reason to remove the group for development reasons and it can be protected during the minor works required to form the entrance.

Tree Works

All tree works will be undertaken prior to the commencement of site preparation and construction works. All permitted or approved tree work should be carried out in accordance with the British Standard "Recommendations for Tree Work" BS3998:2010, by suitably qualified and experienced professional arborists.

Under no circumstances shall site personnel undertake any tree pruning operations. All tree surgery works should be carried out prior to the development of the site and erection of protective fencing.

Consideration should be given to the timing of the proposed tree works to avoid the active growing period of trees. Therefore, all tree work should ideally be carried out during the dormant period from November through to February and then again from June to August. Consideration should also be given to nesting birds, and tree works should not normally be undertaken between March and May; however, care should be taken to inspect trees during the summer months for evidence of nesting birds.

Should additional tree works become apparent during the construction process; written consent will be required from Stroud District Council prior to these additional works being undertaken.

Conclusion

The four Ash trees in the locality of the entrance require removal regardless of the development proposals and therefore I can see no arboricultural reason to refuse the application. Although group 1 is poor quality, it can be retained and protected during the works. It will be for the Local Authority to decide if replacement planting in the area is required, however this can be achieved with the inclusion of a suitable condition.

For clarity, I attach a Tree Removal and Protection Plan 15142 / 64860 to aid contractors carrying out the works.

Yours sincerely



Enc. Tree Removal and Protection Plan 15142 / 64860

