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## **Arboricultural and Planning Integration Report: Site adjacent to Church at Tekels Park, Camberley**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Ref: GHA/DS/100760:23

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# Arboricultural Report

Location: Site adjacent to Church at Tekels Park,  
Camberley  
Ref: GHA/DS/100760:23  
Client: FMH  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA  
Date of Inspection: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## **Instructions**

**Issued by – FMH**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE – GHA Trees were instructed to survey the subject trees within and adjacent to Site adjacent to Church at Tekels Park, Camberley, in order to assess their general condition and to provide a planning integration statement for the indicative proposed development that safeguards the long term well being of the retained trees in a sustainable manner.**

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## **Executive Summary**

The proposal for the site is to construct one new detached house to the north of the church building. The proposed scheme does not require the removal or pruning of any of the trees on site; therefore, the landscape character of the site will be unaffected by the proposal. The retained trees require protection in accordance with industry best practice and BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, in order to ensure their longevity.

## **Documents Supplied**

The client supplied the following documents:

1. Existing layout plans
2. Proposed layout plans

## **Scope of Survey**

- 1.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 1.2 The planning status of the subject property was not investigated in detail.
- 1.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 1.4 Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) also prohibited full inspections for some trees; this is noted where applicable.
- 1.5 No discussions took place between the surveyor and any other party.
- 1.6 The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994)
- 1.7 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 1.8 Underground services near to trees will need to be installed in accord with the guidance given in BS5837 together with the National Joint Utilities Group Booklet 4: 2007 Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees (NJUG4).
- 1.9 The client's attention is drawn to the responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

## **Survey Method**

- 2.1 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars if needed.
- 2.2 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.

- 2.3 No soil samples were taken.
- 2.4 The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre.
- 2.5 The stem diameter for each tree was measured in line with the requirements set out in BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 2.6 The crown spreads were measured with an electronic distometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted on the Plan (appendix A) and within the tree table (Appendix B). The crowns of those trees that are proposed for removal, or trees where the crown spread is deemed insignificant in relation to the proposed development are not always shown on the appended plan; however their stem locations are marked for reference.
- 2.7 The Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree is included in the tree table, both as an area, and as the radius of a circle.
- 2.8 The crown clearance was measured using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where it is significantly lower in one direction, this is noted within the tree table at appendix B.
- 2.9 All of the trees that were inspected during the site visit are detailed on the plan at Appendix A; this plan was produced in colour and **MUST** only be scanned or reproduced in colour. The trees on this plan are categorised and shown in the following format:

#### COLOUR CODING AND RATING OF TREES:

Category A – Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. Colour = light **green** crown outline on plan.

Category B – Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Colour = mid **blue** crown outline on plan.

Category C – Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 to 20 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. Colour = uncoloured crown outline on plan.

Category U – 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. Colour = **red** crown outline on plan.

All references to tree rating are made in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations’, Table 1.

## **The Site**

- 3.1 The site is located on Tekels Park, a residential road located to the east of Camberley.
- 3.2 A good tree cover is present on the site itself as well as adjacent sites, with many semi-mature and mature trees of both native and exotic origin characterising the local area.

## **The Subject Trees**

- 4.1 The details of the subject trees are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 The overall quality of the trees is good.
- 4.3 Of the eight individual trees and groups of trees surveyed, three have been assessed as BS 5837 category A, four have been assessed as BS category B, with the remaining tree being assessed as BS 5837 category C.

Category A	3 trees
Category B	4 trees
Category C	1 tree

## **The Proposal**

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to construct one new detached house to the north of the church building.
- 5.2 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

## **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

### PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL / RETENTION:

- 6.1 The proposed site layout and all of its associated structures allows for the healthy retention of all of the trees on the site itself, and within nearby adjacent sites; therefore, the arboricultural landscape character of the site will be retained.

### TREE PRUNING TO ACCOMODATE THE PROPOSAL OR ACCESS TO THE SITE

- 6.2 The implementation of the proposal does not lead to the requirement to prune any of the retained trees, or shrubs.
- 6.3 There is no part of the new structure which will have tree canopies (from trees to be retained) overhanging it and the building works can progress safely without the need for any facilitation pruning.

### ASSESSMENT OF RETAINED TREES ROOT PROTECTION AREAS

- 6.4 Section 4.6.3 of BS 5837: 2012 states that the Root Protection Area (RPA) of each tree should be assessed by an arboriculturalist considering the likely morphology and disposition of the roots, when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions.

### ASSESSED IMPACT ON RPAS BY PROPOSED STRUCTURES

- 6.5 The proposed new structures are situated outside of the assessed RPAs of all of the trees proposed for retention, therefore these trees pose no below ground constraints on the new structures or vice versa.

### INSTALLATION OF SERVICES

- 6.6 The installation of underground apparatus and drainage systems with the use of mechanical excavators will undoubtedly sever any roots that may be present and can change the hydrology and structure of the nearby soil in a way that will adversely affect the health of any nearby trees. Particular care should therefore be taken when assessing the layout of new services and consideration **MUST** be given to the methods of installation of **ALL** underground apparatus.
- 6.7 New services should be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers must also be sited outside the RPAs of any nearby trees.

## **Post Development Pressure**

### FUTURE TREE AND STRUCTURE RELATIONSHIPS

- 7.1 The retained trees are at a satisfactory distance from the proposed new building and highly unlikely to give rise to any inconvenience.
- 7.2 Given this is now one house rather than two (as previously applied for), increased garden space will be available for the new plot which will also minimise pressure on trees which was a previous concern for the local planning authority. The new garden has 74% of its total area outside of tree canopy which is assessed sufficient.
- 7.3 Regular inspections of the retained trees by a suitably qualified Arboriculturalist and subsequent remedial works will ensure that the trees are maintained in a suitable manner, to exist in harmony with the new structures and its occupants for many years to come.

## **Tree Protection Measures and Preliminary Method Statement for Development Works**

### 8.1 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

It is essential for the future health of the trees to be retained on site, that all development activity is undertaken outside the root protection zone of these trees. The position of the proposed protective fencing for the site is shown on the plan at Appendix A by a pink line. The position of the fence **MUST** be marked out with biodegradable marker paint on site and agreed with appropriate representatives from the LPA and contractor. The fencing **MUST** be erected **prior** to any works in the vicinity of the trees and removed only when all development activity is complete. The protective fencing **MUST** be as that shown in BS 5837 (see Appendix C). The herras panels **MUST** be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers which **MUST** be installed so they can only be removed from the inside of the fence. The panels **MUST** supported by stabilizer struts, which **MUST** be installed on the inside and secured to the ground using pins or appropriate weights.

The Fence must be marked with a clear sign reading:

**“Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access”**

### 8.2 GROUND PROTECTION – LIGHTWEIGHT ACCESS ONLY

An area of the site will require ground protection to ensure that soil erosion or excessive compaction does not occur. The areas where this protection is required are outlined in orange hatching on the appended plan. This area **MUST** be covered with a permeable membrane, with 150mm layer of compressible woodchip overlaying it; an 18mm marine ply boards will then be secured on top of the woodchip to allow a 1.5tonne mini-digger to access the area without causing major compaction or soil erosion.



### 8.3 BOUNDARY TREATMENTS

Boundary fencing installation / upgrades **MUST** be undertaken as part of the soft landscaping phase and **MUST** be installed ONLY when all machinery that is on site for the main build has permanently left the site (NB. If needed, boundary fencing can also be installed prior to the commencement of site works, i.e.. before any machinery has been bought onto the site). Where sections of new / upgraded fencing are located within the RPA of ANY tree that is to be retained, this work **MUST** be undertaken by hand using hand tools only. The locations of the new fence upright posts will be finalised following trial digs to confirm there are no major (over 25mm) roots present; if any such roots are found, the location must be altered. If any smaller roots are found, these can be cut using sharp hand sharp tools to leave a 'clean' cut, in order to minimise the risk of infection by decay pathogens. The post holes within the RPAs should then be lined with plastic sheeting before any concrete or cement is placed into the hole, in order that there is no risk of leaching into the nearby soil as the mixture dries.

### 8.4 DELIVERY AND STORAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Storage areas **MUST** be to the front of the site and outside of the tree protection barriers (pink lines).

### 8.5 SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

All site huts **MUST** be positioned outside of tree RPAs and the tree protection barriers (pink lines).

### 8.6 ON SITE SUPERVISION

Regular site supervision is essential to ensure all potentially damaging activities near to trees are correctly supervised. A pre start meeting will occur to ensure all parties are aware of their responsibilities relating to tree protection on site; this will include a site induction for key personnel.

The key personnel relating to this project are:

Name	Position	Contact number / email:
Glen Harding	Retained arboriculturalist	07884 056 025 Or <a href="mailto:info@ghatrees.co.uk">info@ghatrees.co.uk</a>
TBC	Local authority Arboricultural Officer	TBC
TBC	Site manager	TBC

### 8.7 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- **NO** fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained.
- **NO** fuels, oils or substances with will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.
- **NO** storage of any materials within the root protections zone.

## 8.8 DISMANTLING PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Protective barriers must only be completely removed when all machinery, and equipment has left site. A minimum of seven days notice must be given to the local planning authority prior to dismantling works begin.

## **Conclusion**

- 9.1 In conclusion, the principal arboricultural features within the site can be retained and adequately protected during development activities.
- 9.2 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to trees to be retained.

## **Recommendations**

- 10.1 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
- Be present on the site the majority of the time.
  - Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
  - Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
  - Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
  - Make immediate contact with the local authority and / or retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- 10.2 It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA  
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

**Appendix A**  
**TREE PROTECTION PLAN**  
**(see separate PDF)**

**Appendix B**  
**TREE TABLE**

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T1	Oak	20	850	1	10.20	8	8	8	8	M	6	40+	A1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.
T2	Cedar	23	870	1	10.44	4	4	4	7	M	6	40+	A1	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T3	Oak	20	609	2	7.31	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	M	5 east	20-40	B1	Poor union at base of tree.
T4	Scots pine	26	750	1	9.00	4	3	4	3	M	10	20-40	B1	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T5	Beech	26	480	1	5.76	4	9	7	8	M	4 east	40+	A1	No notable defects recorded during inspection.
T6	Red oak	31	1240	1	14.88	11	9	10	10	M	10 east, 8 south	20-40	B1	Decay at 2m north side from old branch removal. Tree crown reduced in past.
T7	Red oak	24	430	1	5.16	6	9	9	0	M	6 over site	10-20	C1	Suppressed by T6.
T8	Oak	19	645	3	7.74	6	6	6	6	M	8 south	20-40	B1	Poor union at base of tree.

**KEY :**

Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)  
Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),  
Veteran (V)  
Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

**Appendix C**  
**TREE FENCING DETAIL**

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



