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Tree Surveys

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Arboricultural Impact Statement Relating To Required Additional Access Facilitation Tree Works</b>
<b>Client:</b>	<b>Durham University</b>
<b>Site:</b>	<b>Boldon House, Pity Me, DH1 5GJ</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>30 November 2023</b>
<b>Surveyor:</b>	<b>Andrew Burden, HNDip.arb.</b>

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Forestry

Arboriculture

Environmental

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## **1.0 Introductory Details**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide solutions to enable installation of scaffolding and allow construction works access to several areas around the main building, Boldon House, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5GJ.
- 1.2 This report is an addition to the existing BS:5837 (2012) Tree Survey, Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan.
- 1.3 This report is a formal request to carry out additional arboricultural works for the purpose of construction works access facilitation.

## **2.0 Site Discussion**

- 2.1 Tree No: 603 (Italian Alder) Category B1 – This tree is situated within the central courtyard of the building, erection of scaffolding is required in this area. The tree is very close to the building, pruning works may not give enough clearance to allow erection of scaffolding and tree protection fencing. We would advise this tree be removed and a suitable replacement tree be planted within the courtyard upon completion of construction works.
- 2.2 Tree No: 604 (Wild Cherry) Category B1 – Tree situated within the central courtyard of the building. Reduce East side of crown by approximately 3m to 3.5m to allow space for erection of scaffolding. Scaffolding will be required within the Root Protection Area (RPA) of this tree, the following shall apply:

- 2.2.1 Erection of scaffolding within RPA to be carried out under arboricultural supervision.**
- 2.2.2 If possible keep upright supporting scaffold out of RPA, if this is not possible uprights to be supported on scaffold board pad or similar.**
- 2.2.3 Scaffold should not pass through the crown of the tree.**
- 2.2.4 Upon completion of scaffolding within RPA the tree protection fencing shall be installed which should encompass the entire crown spread of the tree.**
- 2.3 Tree No: 607 (Viburnum) Category C1 – Situated within the central courtyard of the building. This shrub will have to be removed to allow installation of scaffolding. A suitable replacement to be planted upon completion of construction works.
- 2.4 Tree No: 608 (Western Red Cedar) Category C1 – Situated within the central courtyard of the building. Narrow, columnar tree with no scope to allow pruning works. Should this tree be too close to the building to allow erection of scaffolding removal will be the only solution. A suitable replacement tree shall be planted upon completion construction works.
- 2.5 Tree No: 623 (Cherry) Category B2 – Situated to the South of the main building. Although this tree is of fair overall physiological and structural condition there is a large diameter, shallow buttress root to the North extending towards the building which is lifting the paving slabs. Removal of this root to allow repair / relaying of the paving is not possible as it would cause issues to the safe retention of the tree. We would advise this tree be removed and the stump / shallow roots be ground out to

allow repair of paving and erection of scaffolding within this area. A suitable replacement tree shall be planted upon completion of construction works.

- 2.6 Mixed non-native shrub planting – There are areas of low value shrub planting to the North East corner and South of the main building which will require removal or cutting back to allow erection of scaffolding and other site access. These shrub beds do not form a constraint to the redevelopment of the site and are easily replaced within the proposed landscaping scheme.

### **3.0 Conclusions**

- 3.1 The removal of the three additional trees will have little overall arboricultural impact upon the general amenity of the site.
- 3.2 Tree No's: 603, 608 and the shrub T 607 are situated within the central courtyard of the building and are only visible from within the building itself. Due to these trees and shrub being planted very close to the building there would be limited scope for long term retention. Replacement trees should be planted at a greater distance from the property to allow for future growth and longer term retention without impacting upon the property.
- 3.3 Tree No: 623 although in reasonable health is causing structural damage to the paving / footpath access around the perimeter of the building to the North. There are two other good quality trees to the South of T 623 which screen the street view of this tree. Overall arboricultural impact upon general amenity following removal will be low.

- 3.4 Replacement trees can be planted within the schemes final landscape design as mitigation for the additional tree removal.
- 3.5 All tree works should be carried out by a suitably qualified contractor in accordance with BS:3998 (2010) Tree Work Recommendations (BSI London).
- 3.6 All tree and shrub removal / pruning works where possible should be carried out outside of the bird nesting season.

The 'Bird Nesting Season' is officially from February until August (Natural England) and it is recommended that vegetation works (tree or hedge cutting) or site clearance should be done outside of the nesting season. However, in reality the nesting period may start before this and extend beyond it, in some cases. The busiest time for nesting birds is from 1st March until 31st July and of course varies according to species, etc.

#### **4.0 Appendices**

##### **4.1 Specification For Access Facilitation Tree Works.**

T 603 (Italian Alder) – Fell to ground level.

T 604 (Wild Cherry) – Crown reduce East side of canopy by approximately 3m to 3.5m

T 607 (Viburnum) – Fell to ground level.

T 608 (Western Red Cedar) – Fell to ground level.

T 623 (Cherry) – Fell to ground level.

4.2 Amended Tree Protection Plan (Attached as separate file)

**Surveyor:** Andrew Burden, HNDip.arb.

**Signed:** AR Burden

**Date:** 30 November 2023