

# TREE PROJECTS

## PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ARBORICULTURE

7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Vine Architecture Studio  
1st Floor, 132 Whitechapel Road  
London E1 1JE

FAO Rory Pennant-Rea

Dear Rory,

Re: Trees Planning Support Statement: 73 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE

- 1.0 I write in support of the forthcoming planning application at 73 Plantation Road insofar as the proposed rear ground floor extension would be located within 2m of the stem of a fruiting apple tree. It is noted that the premises are within the Walton Manor Conservation Area, by which designation, 6 weeks written notification of intent should be given to the Local Planning Authority before a tree is pruned or removed.
- 2.0 This short report has been prepared with reference to Conservation Area and TPO Regulations and, BS 5837 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. The apple tree discussed is labelled TR03 within your Site as Existing Plan E/010 and, is depicted in the photographs within your Design and Access Statement.
- 3.0 The Apple tree, *Malus domestica*, is approximately 3m tall and has a stem girth circa 250mm. It has possibly failed at the root-plate in the past and has regrown on a leaning stem toward the house. The stem kicks away from the boundary wall, an indicator that its form is ad-hoc and not due to it having been espaliered. Brickwork at the base of the tree may be providing a degree of support. Approximately 1.5m/ 2 years of regrowth rises from the tree that ordinarily would be pruned as a part of apple tree management.
- 4.0 The proposed extension, as presented within the site as proposed drawing P/010, would be located within 2m of the base of the tree. Due to its lean and spread, this would give rise to a conflict between the trees crown and the new elevation. Pruning is not a realistic prospect due to the lean and a-symmetry of the tree and therefore my recommendation would be to remove it and, by way of mitigation, provide a new tree elsewhere within the premises. I note that a replacement apple tree is presented within P/010.
- 5.0 The existing tree is small in height and being located behind a terrace of properties, it is not visible from the public realm and therefore is of low amenity value. For this reason it is fair that it should with reference to the criteria of BS 5837 be graded C2.
- 6.0 In context of the Conservation Area, the requirement to provide 6 weeks notice of intent to the LPA is to enable an officer assessment to take place. If there were to be an objection, the LPA would need to serve a Tree Preservation Order to halt or control works. In this case, due to the trees diminutive size and location, it would not meet the test to be worthy of retention by way of a TPO.

**7.0** Because of the trees' low amenity value, that it does not meet the test to be worthy of a Tree Preservation Order and due to its C2 category grade, it should not be considered materially significant or an impediment to an otherwise acceptable scheme.

**8.0** Provision of a new tree would be reasonable in context of policy and continuity and ensure no harm to the appearance and character of the Conservation Area. This is allowed for.

Yours sincerely

Nick Bentley  
HNDH, RFS Cert Arb

# APPENDIX 1

## Brief qualifications and experience of Nick Bentley

1. Qualifications: HNDH Landscape Design & Horticultural Technology, Credit, Askham Bryan College, York, 1989. RFS Cert Arb 1991 Credit. Professional Tree Inspection, 2006.
2. Practical experience: As gardener, arborist and arboriculturist. Brighton Parks & Recreation Department as trainee gardener. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (Wakehurst Place) as climbing tree surgeon. 15 years experience Local Government as an Arboricultural Officer: Leicester City Council, Wycombe District Council and latterly 8 years at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea handling all aspects of public sector tree management and procedures relating to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 i.e. Development Control, public inquiries and informal hearings, tree preservation procedures and all aspects of control and enforcement thereof. Following a brief spell of 18 months as contracts manager of Arboricultural Association tree surgery contracting company I have sole traded since 2004 as a specialist tree planting and landscape contractor and, consulting arboriculturist for public and private clients
3. Continuing professional development: Member of the Arboricultural Association and Royal Forestry Society and Associate of the London Tree Officers Association. Seminars/ Workshops: 2009: Veteran Tree Management, ISA; Trees and Climate Change, EtaLog, 2008: The Underground Movement, Barcham/ Bartlett seminar; CAVAT in practice training seminar with Chris Neilan/ Tim Moya Assoc; 2007: the Business of Arboricultural Consultancy, Arb Association; Through the Trees to Development, AAIS; 2006; Introducing BS 5837: 2005, Arb Association; Report Writing, Arb Association; Elite Bio-Mechanics, Mattheck/ Symbiosis Consulting; The Future of Tree Risk Management,
4. Commissions undertaken:

Planning consultancy to British Standard 5837 Trees in Relation to Design Demolition and Construction; tree surveys and design advice for new builds, underground and above ground extensions, including method statements and tree protection plans.

Tree condition surveys and recommendations including data handling through bespoke tree management software solutions.

Providing advice on tree preservation matters, tree work applications and sub-contracting tree surgery operations.

Tree supply and planting and new hard and soft landscape installations

Small scale construction and refurbishment contracts, specialising where tree related considerations apply.

Tree root investigations by trench formation and pile spotting by use of non percussive air spade and air vacuum excavation techniques