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Client: Mr & Mrs Barron

Project: Extensions / Alterations at: 3 Hardwick Road, Sedgefield, TS21 2AL

Title: **Preliminary Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

Date: 19th February 2024

File: 912

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- 3 Hardwick Road, Sedgefield, TS21 2AL: DCC Reference - [DM/24/00259/FPA](#)
 - It has been identified that 3no. significant specimen trees that sit beyond the rear boundary of the proposed application site could be effected by the proposed works.
 - These trees are located in Hardwick Park and are within the Hardwick Park Conservation Area; thus are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. These particular trees are defined as a 'Group or Area'.



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- The specifics of these trees are illustrated in the attached Tree Plan.
- The Tree Plan shows that the proposed works to the main dwelling will have no impact on the existing trees but that the proposed storage outbuilding will be situated within their Root Protection Areas (RPAs); notably T1 and T3.
- It is proposed that the storage outbuilding will be of timber, shed-like construction and, as such, would not require any significant foundations or construction operations. There are a number of sheds and similar temporary structures constructed along the rear boundaries of the adjacent dwellings.



- The foundations for the structure could be comprised of either 600 x 600 x 300dp(mm) concrete pads located at corners and connected above ground by a ring-beam, or a nominal 150mm deep concrete slab. Both options require a minimal amount of excavation, thus reducing the amount of ground disturbance and potential root damage. It is unlikely that either of these methods would detrimentally effect the trees.
- There would be no requirement for heavy machinery or other excavation-type activities within the RPAs of the discussed trees.
- Based on the tree measurements, the RPAs of the trees has been calculated at circa 11 metres. The proposed pads, for example, would only impact on circa 2% of the RPAs of T1 and T3.

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- The canopy height of the trees is between 7 and 9 metres from ground level, so the 2.5 metre high shed would not have a detrimental effect on branches and/or foliage.
- To further mitigate the impact of the proposed storage outbuilding, its construction would follow a method statement:
 1. Digging by hand, no mechanical machinery to be used within tree root protection area;
 2. Looking for tree roots at all times;
 3. If any roots are exposed, they should be wrapped in dry, clean hessian sacking to prevent desiccation and to protect from rapid temperature changes;
 4. Roots smaller than 25 mm diameter may be pruned back, preferably to a side branch, using a sharp cutting tool such as secateurs or handsaws;
 5. Roots larger than 25 mm should only be severed following consultation with an arboriculturist, as they may be essential to the tree's health and stability;
 6. Prior to backfilling, any hessian wrapping should be removed and retained roots should be surrounded with sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content which is toxic to tree roots), or other loose granular fill, before soil or other material is replaced. This material should be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.
- This information has been prepared using the verbal guidance of an Arboriculturist. A formal report/method statement can be prepared within the timescales of the Planning application if it is deemed necessary.