Simon Pryce Arboriculture

Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan

Client: Mr & Mrs Cherkas

Site: 12 The Rose Walk, Radlett, WD7 7JS

Inspection date: 15th February 2024

Document date: 1st March 2024

Reference: 21/121

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report and method statement have been prepared for Mr & Mrs Cherkas, or 12 The Rose Walk, Radlett, WD7 7JS in connection with the construction of a single storey rear extension. This is based on my survey on 15th February 2024 and follows the guidelines set out in BS5837: 2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

1.2 This has been granted consent by Hertsmere BC, their reference 23/1199/HSE subject to conditions. This document has been prepared to address condition 5 which states:

Prior to commencement of development an Arboricultural Method Statement (including any demolition, groundworks and site clearance) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Statement should include details of the following:

A. Measures for the protection of those trees and hedges on the application site that are to be retained

B. Details of all construction measures within the 'Root Protection Area' (defined by a radius of dbh x 12 where dbh is the diameter of the trunk measured at a height of 1.5m above ground level) of those trees on the application site which are to be retained specifying the position, depth, and method of construction/installation/excavation of service trenches, building foundations, hardstandings, roads and footpaths

C. A schedule of proposed surgery works to be undertaken to those trees and hedges on the application site which are to be retained

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Method Statement unless agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To ensure that the trees and hedges on site are adequately protected, to safeguard the character and visual amenity of the area, in accordance with policies SP1 and CS12 of the Hertsmere Local Plan, Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework and all relevant Core Strategy Policies. This condition requires matters to be agreed prior to commencement of development to ensure that existing trees are adequately protected prior to any ground disturbance.

1.3 As far as A is concerned, all the significant trees and hedges are to be retained except for a short section of privet hedge at no.10, removed in connection with an insurance claim. Protection measures for the trees and shrubs are specified in detail in Part 2 below and illustrated on the plan showing the proposed layout, which serves as the tree protection plan (TPP) specified by BS5837.

1.4 As far as B and C are concerned, no works take place within root protection areas (RPAs) and no tree surgery is required in connection with these works.

2 General comments

2.1 The two main functions of tree roots are 1) physical support and 2) the supply of water and nutrients from the soil. Roots are opportunist and grow wherever conditions are favourable i.e. there is a suitable supply of air and water. Many are in about the top metre of the soil, but they can and do grow much deeper if conditions are favourable.

2.2 Construction near trees can damage roots directly, by excavation, and indirectly by soil compaction due to heavy machinery and contamination from things like diesel oil and cement. BS5837 recommends measures to avoid or minimise this, the main one being that root protection areas (RPAs) are established round retained trees and fenced to exclude access. No ground work should take place within these without suitable safeguards, such as protecting soft ground against compaction or contamination.

2.3 The starting point is that a single trunked tree's RPA has an area equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the trunk diameter measured at 1.5m above ground. The 12x figure is not based on research, but it has proven effective in most cases. Under open ground roots spread more or less uniformly from the tree, but they are affected by obstructions and variations in growing conditions, so depth and spread are less predictable near roads and buildings. RPA shapes should be adjusted from the original circle where there is evidence that root spread and/or depth are uneven, but growing conditions here are reasonably uniform, so the circular RPAs shown on the plan are appropriate.

3 Arboricultural implications

3.1 The only significant trees here are a mature ash in the far left hand corner of the garden, a row of large cypresses on boundary with 7 Loom Lane to the rear and an oak on the back garden of no.10 to the rear right. These are all 20m or more from the back of the house, so are well away from the work area and the only access route which is from the front. As a result they are not vulnerable to direct or indirect effects of the proposed works and can be safeguarded with a basic fence across the garden preventing any access into the RPAs.

3.2 This is a small scale project and Mr and Mrs Cherkas will be in residence throughout the works. The trees are well away from work areas and access routes, so they and the shrubs near the back of the house can be safeguarded with some basic fencing. Linked crowd control sections will be sufficient here and work better for small areas than the sectional welded mesh panels often used on larger sites.

3.3 A small section of the existing hedge on the bank next to no.10 is to be removed following an insurance claim. This consists mainly of privet and is to be replaced with small growing plants, i.e. up to ½ - 1m high. Suitable species would include *Hypericum calcynum (*Rose of Sharon), *Potentilla fruticosa* or one of the lower growing roses, but this will be covered in more detail in the landscaping plan being prepared by others to address condition 6.

Restrictions

3.4 The site is in Radlett South Conservation Area, but Hertsmere DC's online map shows that none of the trees in the vicinity are protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs).

Simon Pryce

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Part 2 - Arboricultural method statement

This document is to be read in conjunction with the tree protection plan [TPP]. Any queries are to be referred to the arboriculturist.

Preliminaries

1. Before any demolition or building starts the contractor and arboriculturist are to agree all work affecting trees, particularly protective fencing, access routes and storage areas.

2. No tree works are required in connection with this proposal.

Fencing

3. Protective fencing is to be erected so as to provide a barrier preventing works access near the trees and the shrubs near the back of the house, as shown on the TPP. This is to consist of linked sectional crowd control barriers as shown in figure 1.

4. If it is more practical or convenient distances from the trees may be increased, but they must not be reduced without the agreement of the arboriculturist.

5. Each run of fence is to have at least one warning sign, as shown in figure 2, or a suitable alternative giving the same information.

Ground protection

6. There are no tree RPAs under the lawns near the house, but if any soft ground needs to be used, for instance for storage, it can be protected against ground disturbance or contamination. Options for this are:

- Scaffold boards or 18mm min plywood placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame to form a suspended walkway, or on a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a Terram ® or similar geotextile membrane;

- Proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards. Figure 3 shows a typical proprietary system.

7. No fencing or other tree protection is to be moved or dismantled without the agreement of the arboriculturist.

Work methods

8. Outside fenced and protected areas there are no arboricultural constraints on working methods.

Underground services

9. New services will connect to existing ones in the house. If any new external connections are needed these will run out to main supplies in the road in front, well clear of any trees.

General

10. No work is to take place within fenced areas without the prior agreement of the arboriculturist and without suitable alternative protective measures.

11. No equipment, machinery or structure shall be attached to or supported by any retained tree.

12. Any roots found outside protected areas are unlikely to be significant, but any over 25mm diameter and not obviously from recently removed vegetation should be covered to prevent them drying out and the arboriculturist notified. Smaller roots can be cut cleanly.

13. Cement and concrete mixing must take place as far as possible from rooting areas, over a suitable hard surface to prevent soil contamination from spillage or washing out into rooting zones.

Storage

14. No materials are to be stored within RPAs except on existing impermeable hard surfaces.

15. Potential contaminants such as diesel oil and cement must be stored as far from rooting areas as practical, with provision made for any spillage or run off to be contained away from rooting areas.

Landscaping

16. Tree protection measures are to remain in place until all demolition, construction and hard landscaping are complete.

17. Outside the protected areas there are no arboricultural restrictions on hard landscaping.

18. Any new or replacement soil is to comply with; BS3882:2015 - *Specification for topsoil*, for the upper 300mm to 400mm, with replacement subsoil below that to comply with BS 8601:2013 - *Specification for subsoil and requirements for use*, and to include a 200mm drainage layer.

19. No persistent soil acting herbicides are to be used.

Completion

20. Once site work is complete the trees and shrubs are to be reinspected and any necessary work is to be carried out.

Monitoring and supervision

21. Pro forma inspection schedule and report forms are attached below.

Timing	Purpose
Pre-start	Check tree protection measures are in place and fit for purpose. Confirm access routes, work and storage areas, and any other queries.
Monthly	Routine check of protection measures and any other matters requiring attention. These can be more frequent if appropriate, e.g. on complex projects.
As required	One off checks as required, for instance if work schedule requires protection layout to be altered or if large roots are encountered unexpectedly. Supervision of potentially damaging operations such as exploratory excavation near trees.
Completion	Final check of tree condition, assess the need for any pruning or other work.

Contact details

Position	Name	Phone	Mobile	e mail / web
Arboriculturist	Simon Pryce	01923 467600	07710 224906	info@simonpryce.co.uk
Designer	Andrew Dust ADSE			
Owner	Mr & Mrs Cherkas			
Main contractor	TBA			
Site manager	TBA			

Figure 1 - Sectional crowd control barrier

Figure 2 - Warning sign for tree protection fence

Figure 3 - Typical proprietary ground protection system

Site monitoring schedule

Site	12 The Rose Walk, Radlett, WD7 7JS	**Ref**	21/121	**Date**	
Client	Mr & Mrs Cherkas				
Site contact		**Tel**			
Date / phase	**Comments**				
Initial	Check tree protection measures are in place and fit for purpose. Confirm access routes, work and storage areas, address any other queries.				
	Add or delete rows as required				
Completion	Final check of tree condition, assess the need for any pruning or other work.				

Standard schedule - may be modified in the Method Statement

Timing	**Purpose**
Pre-start	Check tree protection measures are in place and fit for purpose. Confirm access routes, work and storage areas, and any other queries.
Monthly	Routine check of protection measures and any other matters requiring attention. These can be more frequent if appropriate, e.g. on complex projects.
As required	One off checks as required, for instance if work schedule requires protection layout to be altered or if large roots are encountered unexpectedly. Supervision of potentially damaging operations such as exploratory excavation near trees.
Completion	Final check of tree condition, assess the need for any pruning or other work.

Site monitoring record

One to be completed for each visit

Site	12 The Rose Walk, Radlett, WD7 7JS	**Ref**	21/121	**Date**	
Inspector					
Observations and comments - incl. previous recommendations					
Recommendations					
Next visit		**Signed**			

Site: **12 The Rose Walk, Radlett, WD7 7JS**

Inspection date: **15th March 2024**

Tree no.	Species	Age / vitality	Ht. m	Spread m				Dia. mm	RPA rad m	RPA area m^2	Crwn ht. m	Comments and recommendations	Cat
				N	S	E	W						
The trees are described in sequence, starting at the far left hand corner of the garden and going clockwise as shown on the plan. Asterisks in the first column indicate those in other gardens.													
1	Ash	M/N	20	8	7	7	7	560 + 640	10.2	328	5	Reduced a few years ago and growing on. Twig growth healthy looking, with no signs of ash die-back.	**B**
2 *	Leyland cypress group	M/N	19	2 - 5				350 - 450	5.4	90	2	On the boundary with the garden of 7 Loom Lane. Row of trees possibly planted to form a hedge but no signs of recent topping or trimming.	**C**
3 *	Oak	MA/N	12	7	7	6	5	510	6.1	117	4	In the back garden of no.10 The Rose Walk. Leans slightly but sound and healthy.	**B**

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Notes

Observations are made from ground level unless stated otherwise.
Trunk diameters are measured in millimetres at 1.5m above ground or at the narrowest point between the root buttresses and branch flare in multiple trunked trees; in such cases this is indicated by [c].
Crown spreads are taken from the trunk centre to the end of the longest live branches in the directions indicated [usually the four cardinal compass points]
Crown height is the clearance under the lowest significant branches.

Tree ages are estimated as below, based on the normal life expectancy of a tree of the species concerned on the site:

Immature.	[IM]	Newly planted or self-set tree.
Young	[Y]	Young tree that is established but has not yet attained the size or form of a fully developed example of its type.
Middle aged	[MA]	Between one third and two thirds of its estimated lifespan.
Mature	[M]	Over two thirds of it's estimated life span.
Veteran	[V]	Old tree with characteristic features including hollow trunk, old wounds etc. that give high landscape, ecological and cultural value.
Ancient	[A]	Exceptionally old tree, typically has short, wide hollow trunk and low squat shape due to the crown retrenching over many years.
Dying/Dead	[D]	Dead/dying or so badly decayed that it should be removed without delay if a potential threat.

Vitality is assessed on the basis of what is normal for the species concerned as:

High	[H]
Normal	[N]
Low	[L]
Dead / dying	[D]

Root protection areas [RPAs] - BS5837:2012

For single trunked trees these are calculated as an area equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the trunk diameter at 1.5m. For multiple trunked trees it is based on the diameter of a single trunk that would have the same cross sectional area at 1.5m.

Any deviation from a circular plot should take into account the following factors whilst still providing adequate protection for the roots.

- The shape and disposition of the root system when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions, such as the presence of roads, structures and underground services.
- Topography and drainage.
- The soil type and structure.
- The likely tolerance of the tree to root disturbance based on factors such as species, age and past management.

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Tree categories – based on BS5837: 2012, Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations

Trees for removal				
Category and definition				**Colour code**
Category U				**Red**
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	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse in the foreseeable future, including any that will become unviable after the removal of other U category trees. (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning.) • Trees that are dead or showing signs of significant immediate and irreversible decline. • Trees infected with pathogens significant to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing better ones nearby. *NOTE: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.*			
Trees for retention				
Category and definition	**Criteria – sub categories**			**Colour code**
	1 – mainly arboricultural values	**2 – mainly landscape values**	**3 – mainly cultural / conservation values**	
Category A				
Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant historical, commemorative or conservation value. (e.g. veteran trees or wood -pasture)	**Green**
Category B				
Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy at least 20 years.	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation.	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural benefits.	**Blue**
Category C				
Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural benefit.	**Grey**