

Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Arboricultural Method Statement and tree protection

Thorneydown Farm, Moorhill Road, West End SO30 3AY
Reference 803/AIA/AMS/1
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The Eastleigh Council website shows a tree preservation order on Moorhill Road but not extending south east towards the roundabout to protect any of the trees shown on the tree survey plan. It appears that the trees are outside the site and therefore the proposal is to protect them from construction damage.

Introduction

This AIA has been written
for the LPA to
recommend granting
planning permission

This AIA document should provide the assurance required by the LPA Tree Officer in order to discharge their duty under the 1990 TCPA, and to meet their Local Plan policy requirements. It identifies and assesses the significance of the effect of direct and indirect impacts on the trees to be retained and recommends mitigation where appropriate. This document and accompanying Tree Protection Plan RNapc/803/TPP/1 support the development of the site.

The development

The proposed layout can
be achieved without loss
of or damage to the
retained trees

There is a fairly substantial change in levels from the footpath down into the site. The boundary to Moorhill Road will be returned to soft landscaping and the only issue is the proximity of the main building to the Scots pine T001. The other trees can be adequately protected.

APPRAISAL: no adverse
impact on character,
appearance nor the
health of the trees.

As the more significant trees are being retained there will be no detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the area.

The level of information supplied meets the requirements of BS5837:2012	The recommendation in BS5837:2012 <i>Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations</i> (BS5827:2012) section 6.1 requires a precautionary approach towards tree protection and working in the Root Protection Area (RPA). It suggests that an arboricultural method statement should be appropriate to the proposals. I have attached sufficient detail in Appendix B and the Tree Protection Plan that can be referred to in a planning condition to ensure the protection of the trees during the construction process.
The main structure is just within the RPA of Scots pine T001	The client requires a brick or blockwork building, not a timber structure. The proposal is to construct it on a pile and minimally invasive ground beam using a beam and block floor with a void below. This should reduce the impact on the rooting environment of the Scots pine to acceptable levels and cause no irreparable damage.
Site factors will have affected the RPA of the trees	The trees grow in a verge adjacent a busy road on one side and a degraded area of land on the other. As a result, it is difficult to predict the shape of the RPA, so I have shown it as a notional circle. We propose that the building is to be built on a non-invasive foundation to protect as much of the rooting volume as possible. I have shown all the RPAs as circles as explained above and in accordance with the recommendation in paragraphs 4.6.2 and 4.6.3 of BS5837:2012.
New service trenches should not affect the trees	The drains and services should be located outside the RPA of the trees to be retained. Where this is not possible, they will need to be hand excavated and I have attached a specification in Appendix B of this report.
The trees will be protected	Temporary tree protective fencing will be erected in the positions shown on the Tree Protection Plan RNapc/803/TPP/1. The fencing type will meet the recommendations of paragraph 6.2.2.1 and 6.2.2.3 of BS5837:2012. On this site the default specification (see Appendix C) is recommended.

Recommendations

There are no supportable or reasonable grounds for refusing permission in terms of trees	The scheme is technically compliant with BS5837:2012 and the way in which that Standard has been applied. Tree Protection Plan RNapc/803/TPP/1 completes this bundle.
Appendices include Tree Survey data and Tree Protection details	Appendix A is the tree survey data collected on site. Appendix B contains model specifications to demonstrate that tree protection can be achieved. Appendix C contains the default specification for tree protective fencing from BS5837:2012

Appendix A Tree Survey

Reference	Common Name	Retention Category	Stem Diameter (mm)	RPA: Radius (m), Area (m ²)	Comments	Height (m)	Crown spread North	Crown spread East	Crown spread South	Crown spread West	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Remaining Contribution
T001	Scots pine	B1	650	Radius: 7.8 Area: 213	Basal decay SE side	15	3	3	4	2	Early Mature	Good	Good	20+ Years
T002	Sycamore	B2	320	Radius: 3.8 Area: 45		10	5	5	4	4	Semi Mature	Good	Fair	20+ Years
T003	Sycamore	C2	300, 400	Radius: 6.0 Area: 113	Dieback	9	5	6	5	3	Semi Mature	Poor	Fair	<10 years
T004	Stump			No RPA.										
T005	Sycamore	C2	300, 300	Radius: 5.1 Area: 82	Dieback	8	3	4	5	2	Semi Mature	Poor	Fair	<10 years
T006	Sycamore	C2	200, 150, 100, 100	Radius: 3.4 Area: 36	Poor form, dieback	8	4	4	4	4	Semi Mature	Poor	Poor	10+ Years

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Appendix B Tree Protection

Tree protection

Construction specifications necessary to protect retained trees

The following are specific to the construction activities on this site. These are arboricultural specifications based on the physiological needs of the trees and are not engineering specifications. BS5837:2012 is the arboricultural reference.

This report provides site-specific mitigation...

It is based on the Arboricultural Impact Assessment data for soil, species, sensitivity of the trees to damage and the magnitude of the impacts of the proposed development

...in order to reduce the likelihood of damage to trees...

The guidance in BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction-Recommendations* Technical Design stage Sections 6-8 applies

General Precautions

The area within the tree protection fence is a **construction exclusion zone** from which access is prohibited for the duration of a project unless agreed by the Arboriculturist and local authority. Nothing should be placed, parked or stored in this area.

Fires should be avoided

Where they are unavoidable, they should not be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches, so take wind direction and potential size of the fire into account.

Run-off from concrete mixing causes damage to tree roots

Concrete mixing should take place on a ply board on top of a polythene membrane and outside the canopy spread of retained trees

Materials must not be stored and handled near trees

Any materials whose accidental spillage would cause damage to a tree should be stored and handled well away from the canopy of a tree

Install tree protection (barriers)

The fencing should be erected before anything is brought to site and should not be moved

All trees should be protected by barriers before any materials or machinery are brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences

Once installed, barriers and ground protection should not be removed or altered without prior agreement of the arboriculturist and the local planning authority

Install Ground protection

Ground protection will be used where shown on the future Tree Protection Plan

Ground protection should be installed at the same time as the barriers and vehicles should not be used in these areas of the site during installation.

The ground protection for the RPA of T001 should be capable of supporting any plant loading to prevent compaction damage to the rooting environment of the Scots pine outside the site. On this site I suggest temporary ground protection in the form of proprietary interlinked road boards (eg Ground Guard or TuffTrax) sufficient to accommodate the likely loads and laid over a 150mm deep layer of wood chip.

Groundwork

Ground works

All plant engaged in groundwork should work from outside the root protection area (RPA). All groundworks should be carried out using a toothless bucket

Extract from BS5837 7.2 & 7.3.2

7.2 Avoiding physical damage to the roots during demolition or construction

7.2.1 To avoid damage to tree roots, existing ground levels should be retained within the RPA. Intrusion into soil (other than for piling) within the RPA is generally not acceptable, and topsoil within it should be retained in situ. However, limited manual excavation within the RPA might be acceptable, subject to justification. Such excavation should be undertaken carefully, using hand-held tools and preferably by compressed air soil displacement.

NOTE Due to the demands that manual excavation places on a development project, and limitations arising from health and safety considerations, it is not realistic to plan for excavation using hand-held tools where there is a need for trench shoring or grading the sides of the excavation to a stable angle of repose.

7.2.2 Roots, whilst exposed, should immediately be wrapped or covered to prevent desiccation and to protect them from rapid temperature changes. Any wrapping should be removed prior to backfilling, which should take place as soon as possible.

7.2.3 Roots smaller than 25 mm diameter may be pruned back, making a clean cut with a suitable sharp tool (e.g. bypass secateurs or handsaw), except where they occur in clumps. Roots occurring in clumps or of 25 mm diameter and over should be severed only following consultation with an arboriculturist, as such roots might be essential to the tree's health and stability.

7.2.4 Prior to backfilling, retained roots should be surrounded with topsoil or uncompacted sharp sand (builders' sand should not be used because of its high salt content, which is toxic to tree roots), or other loose inert granular fill, before soil or other suitable material is replaced. This material should be free of contaminants and other foreign objects potentially injurious to tree roots.

New services and soakaways

Any service trenches that are required should avoid the RPA of retained trees, unless agreed by the Arboriculturist. Soakaways should not be located within the RPA of a retained tree.

Appendix C Tree protection barrier specifications

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier

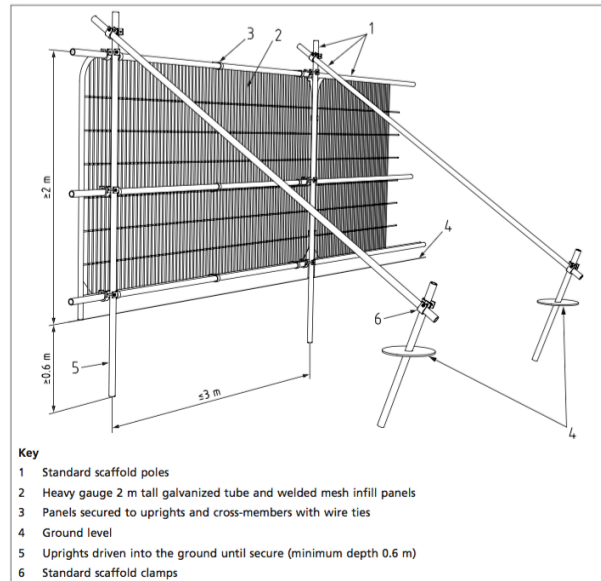


Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems

