

Date: 21/02/23
Our ref: 3
Client ref:

**FAO: Tree Officer
Gravesham Council**

BY EMAIL ONLY

RE: Tree removal and pruning at The Mill House, Mill Hill Lane, Shorne DA12 3HA

Dear Sirs

The garden of this property lies within the Shorne Village Conservation Area. Trees within this garden are protected by the Conservation Area mechanism, and my client wishes to undertake routine pruning works to a number of trees with a stem diameter over the 75mm circumferential limit. The works consist of:

- 1) Removal of conifer T1
- 2) Crown lift 4m of sycamore/maple group G2
- 3) Crown thin 20-30% apple T3
- 4) Crown thin 20-30% fig T4
- 5) Crown thinning of field maple 20% T5

The removal of conifer T1 is unfortunately necessary, owing to the tree's condition. The crown has started to die back at several points both apically and from the centre of the lower crown. This dieback is not considered recoverable, and the removal of the tree is therefore necessary for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

Adjacent to T1 is a row of young cherry (visible in fig.1) which will benefit from the space afforded to them from the loss of T1. Given that there are screening trees already in situ, replacement of T1 is likely to affect the growth of the cherry and I would like to avoid replacement in this location.



Figure 1; Conifer T1 showing dieback and young cherry group to rear.

With regards to crown lifting of tree group G2, the removal of the adjacent tree has allowed more light into this area. This has resulted in a proliferation of epicormic growth on the edge field maples and sycamore trees. The growth will likely continue, and so this notice forms a request to manage the low shoot growth in perpetuity, crown lifting to 4m on a bi-annual basis hereafter. Crown lifting concerns all sycamore and maple trees adjacent to the old mill building.

The lower canopy and shoot growth of this tree group is not visible from the public highway, and so there would be no identifiable loss to the character and appearance of the conservation area resulting from the pruning, or allowing this work to continue periodically, in perpetuity.

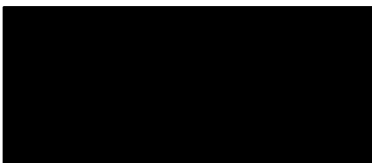
The garden contains a number of culinary fruit trees. Apple T3 have been neglected for some time and would benefit from regenerative pruning. I have recommended that between 20% and 30% of branches be removed to regenerate the crown and remove diseased wood. The tree is not visible from the road, and screening hedge trees prevent views of this work from the scout building on the adjacent property.

Similarly, fig tree T4 has been neglected and is in need of regeneration to encourage fruiting. The tree is not currently visible from the public highway and so the pruning would have no discernible effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area.

Field maple T5 forms part of a dense hedge group. This hedge group is visible from the public highway, however the canopy of T5 is not individually discernible from the wider group. Furthermore, the proposed crown thinning would not affect views of the tree or the general shape and appearance of the tree; crown thinning would remove diseased and crossing branches and would allow the tree to generate a more open and natural shaped crown as it matures.

If the Council need more details or do not consider the submission valid, please inform me at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Margaret Wright BSc MSc MArborA
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