

Project: Coldharbour Road, Gravesend

B24030-TLP-02: Arboricultural Site Visit Record

Date: 30th August 2024 | Kit Hardy

Introduction

- 1.1 The Landscape Partnership has been commissioned by Simply UK to provide information in the form of an auditable system of arboricultural site visits for the approved development at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend (*Application: 20221251*). The information is required by Gravesham Borough Council in order to satisfy Conditions 5, 26, and 27 of the approved planning application. The second site meeting was conducted with Eli Ripley (Senior Site Manager) of Simply UK on 14th April 2024.
- 1.2 Two key points for consideration outside of the scope of the approved arboricultural details (i.e., TS AIA AMS Report, updated January 2023, and drawing *B22032-TLP-602D AIA AMS Coldharbour Road, Gravesend*), as discussed on site, is the need to remove additional vegetation associated with G5, and excavation to achieve finished site levels within the RPA of T9 and T10 where 'no-dig' hard surfacing has been previously specified.

Tree Protection

- 1.3 **Protective tree barriers:** site hoarding and Heras panel fencing largely remains in-situ as per the pre-commencement site meeting. As per previous recommendations, protective tree barriers or temporary ground protection should be used as a protective measure in relation to the RPA of T9 and T10.
- 1.4 Existing site hoarding and the temporary site office are to be moved in the upcoming weeks to a different part of the site away from T10. On completion of these works site photos shall be sent to the Author for confirmation and review.

Tree Works

- 1.5 **Approved tree work:** the approved TS AIA AMS Report (i.e., *Cold Harbour Road TS AIA AMS January 2023*) states in section 8.4 that the goat willow (T10) will be coppiced prior to the construction work being carried out and that the pruning work is considered necessary because of the size of the trees crown and the likelihood of the tree to collapse. Therefore, these works are considered to be approved at planning and can therefore be actioned. The TS AIA AMS Report does however specify 'no-dig' hard surfacing within the RPA of T10 and for the tree to be allowed to regrow.

Updated Arboricultural Details

- 1.6 **Approved works:** the approved arboricultural report and drawings specify two areas that need to be updated; *Figure 1* shows the area where G5 is currently specified to be retained, and *Figure 2* shows where 'no-dig' hard surfacing (i.e., use of a cellular confinement system) is currently specified within the RPA of T9 and T10.
- 1.7 In the area shown below (*Figure 1*) the vegetation needs to be removed to allow room for a new sub-station and curb line. This part of the group comprises ivy and a small elder. The loss of vegetation in

this area would have a limited impact in arboricultural terms, but it is thought that permission is required from the LPA as it is outside of the scope of the approved TS AIA AMS Report (i.e., *Cold Harbour Road TS AIA AMS January 2023*).

- 1.8 To achieve the finished levels within the RPA of T10, and very slightly within the RPA of T9, the contractors need to excavate in the location of the specified 'no-dig' hard surface. Therefore, the previously specified 'no-dig' hard surfacing should be amended to include careful excavation and root pruning operations along the edge of the new surfaced area. T10 is due to be coppiced as per the approved AIA AMS report. The overall impacts to the condition of T9 and T10 will be relatively minor. It is thought that approval from the LPA will need to be obtained before these recommended works are carried out.
- 1.9 To date, correspondence with Shazad Ghani (Head of Planning) of Gravesham Borough Council via email has been undertaken, to seek approval of the required changes. There has been no response thus far.



Figure 1. Area where G5 needs to be removed in relation to the new sub-station is comprised of Ivy and 1no. elder.



Figure 2. Silver birch (T9) and goat willow (T10) where 'no-dig' hard surfacing is specified in the approved TS AIA AMS Report.

Summary

- 1.10 Overall, tree protection on site is considered acceptable in respect of the approved TS-AIA-AMS report, with the following recommendations and considerations:
 - Protective tree barriers surrounding T9 and T10 should be repositioned to prevent access to their RPAs whilst the matter of updated tree protection measures is resolved. If access is required to within their RPAs temporary ground protection will need to be installed.
 - The temporary site office will be moved in the upcoming weeks to another part of the site. Care must be taken when moving this structure in relation to the TPO beech tree (T1).
 - It is considered necessary to gain LPA approval for the required tree protection measure and tree removal details. No vegetation removal or changes shall be permitted until confirmation is gained from the LPA.