

Project: Coldharbour Road, Gravesend

B24030-TLP-01: Arboricultural Site Visit Record

Date: 26th April 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 pre-commencement site visit was conducted with both Connie Flynn (Construction Manager) and Craig Greig (Operations Manager) of Simply UK on 24th April 2024.

Tree Works

- 1.2 G3 (Category U tree group) located in the northern extent of the site in position of the new access route has been almost entirely removed (*Figure 1*). The approved TS-AIA-AMS report specifies this entire group for removal indicating that the remainder of G3 can be pruned back or removed to allow for the construction of the substation and / or access road. Also identified here was a single dead standing elm (recorded as T4 on the tree schedule to be felled), which can also be removed.
- 1.3 *Figure 4* shows the goat willow (T10) located to the south, along the south-eastern boundary, and has been noted with the following general observations; large main stems with multiple forked unions that appear structurally fair due to dysfunction within the unions / attachment points, eastern stem is in conflict with the boundary fence causing direct damage due to possible stem subsidence, heavy ivy cover into mid / upper crown obscuring visibility and suppressing live growth, and that the eastern stem / branches are within falling distance of the neighbouring building and property. It was also reported by Connie Flynn that the adjacent landowner has raised concerns with the tree and its proximity to the building. It is recommended that the tree is either cleared of ivy and crown reduced by 3-4 m, or that the tree is coppiced to regenerate growth at ground level, as also suggested within the TS-AIA-AMS report. Any proposed works will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.



Figure 1. Location of northern access, and part removal of G3.



Figure 2. Goat willow (T10) to the south in conflict with the fence.

Tree Protection

- 1.4 Along the north-eastern boundary the protective tree barriers have been installed (*Figure 3*) with the location of new hard surfacing marked out. The vegetation largely consists of ivy (including large dead sections), a small number of elder, and the cherry plum (T6). *Figure 4* shows the existing hard surface including kerb line in proximity to T6 and within it's RPA. Demolition of existing features and / or construction of the new hard standing can be carried out in this location with minimal detriment to T6. New surfaces shall utilise the existing made ground (surface or undisturbed sub-base material) within the RPA of T6. It may be necessary to temporarily move the protective tree barriers behind the kerb line to allow for access during the works.



Figure 3. North-eastern boundary protective tree barrier, and vegetation and trees



Figure 4. Existing hard standing and kerb line in proximity to the cherry plum (T6).

- 1.5 The Category B silver birch (T9) can be seen below in *Figure 5* with existing hardcore / rubble within it's RPA. It was discussed that this area was previously littered with waste materials. On site it was advised that the protective tree barriers around T9 were moved to at least the canopy dripline of the tree to protect the branches and RPA. Protective tree barriers should also be moved to prevent access into the RPA of T10, otherwise temporary ground protection will be required.



Figure 5. Protective tree barriers around T9 and T10.



Figure 6. Existing hard standing, site hoarding, temporary office in relation to the TPO beech tree (T1) and pear tree (T2).

- 1.6 *Figure 6* shows the temporary site office building in contact with the outer twigs of the TPO beech tree (T1). However, no damage was recorded during the site visit. It is understood that the temporary site office will be moved within 1-2 weeks, to which care must be taken to avoid direct damage to the tree and its branches. A banksman should be in place during the works.
- 1.7 The temporary site office has been positioned on top of the existing hardstanding car park without detriment to the soil environment / RPA associated with T1.
- 1.8 In this area (*Figure 6*), it is likely that the hoarding (erected prior to site acquisition) will need to be moved to the roadside kerb effectively incorporating T1 and T2 into the sites working area. Protective tree barriers will be installed along the edge of the existing kerb line for the protection of T1 and T2, during site works. As per the TS-AIA-AMS report, a new 'no-dig' hard surface has been specified within the RPAs of T1 and T2. The best option for the installation of the new hard surface, subject to any required level changes, will be to utilise the existing made ground to ensure the soil environment and RPA are left undisturbed. If demolition of the existing surface and sub-base are required arboricultural monitoring will be required to assess potential conflict with tree roots.

Summary

- 1.9 Overall, tree protection on site is considered acceptable in respect of the approved TS-AIA-AMS report, with the following recommendations and considerations:
 - The remainder of G3 and T4 can be pruned or removed in accordance with the approved TS-AIA-AMS report.
 - The goat willow (T10) is in direct contact with the boundary fence and in an overall 'fair' condition both physiologically and structurally, with neighbourly concerns. Only with permission from the LPA, it is recommended that tree works are carried out; either, (1) 3-4 m crown reduction and removal of ivy cover, or (2) coppice at ground level to promote regeneration.
 - Protective tree barriers surrounding T9 and T10 should be repositioned to prevent access to their RPAs. If access is required to within their RPAs temporary ground protection will need to be installed.
 - Existing hard standing within the RPAs of T1, T2, and T6 is currently acting as ground protection. Any requirements for hard standing / kerb demolition within RPAs will be undertaken in a careful manner with protective tree barriers repositioned on completion of works. New hard surfacing shall utilise the existing made ground when forming new surfaces within RPAs.
 - The temporary site office currently in contact with the outer branches of T1 will be moved within 1-2 weeks to another part of the site. Care must be taken when moving this structure, as to avoid direct damage to the branches, limbs, or stem of the TPO beech tree (T1).