



SJ Stephens Associates

ARBORICULTURAL, LANDSCAPE &
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Arboricultural Post Completion Report

At:-

Geoffrey Field Infant School
Exbourne Road
Reading
RG2 8RH

On behalf of:-

Reading Borough Council
Level 11
Civic Centre
Castle Street
Reading RG1 7AE

Prepared by:

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Survey Date: 30th January 2018
Report Date: 13th February 2018
Project no: 564

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Planning permission was granted by Reading Borough Council on 14-10-2014 for the erection of a single storey extension to provide 4 classrooms, nursery classroom, associated facilities and external works, single storey extension to entrance, removal of existing temporary classroom and provision of 6 additional parking spaces at Geoffrey Field Infant School, planning reference: 141041. The approved planning permission was subject to conditions, which included the following:
 - Condition 15. The development shall be in accordance with the approved Arboricultural Method Statement.
 - Condition 17. The hard and soft landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
- 1.2** This post completion report has been prepared by SJ Stephens Associates on instruction from Hampshire County Council Property Services, to provide evidence of compliance with Conditions 15 and 17.
- 1.3** The report has been prepared by Catherine Fforde HND Hort, Dip Arb L4 (ABC), MCIHort, MArborA and approved by Simon Stephens MA Oxon, Dip Arb (RFS), MArborA, C Env, MICFor, a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association, with over 20 years relevant experience.
- 1.4** Documentation supplied:
 - S J Stephens Associates Arboricultural Method Statement, dated 23rd August 2015
 - HCC Property Services Proposed Site Plan, drawing no: E02164.701 Rev A
 - HCC Property Services Detailed Planting Plan, drawing no: E02164.708 Rev B

2 SURVEY SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- 2.1** Tree inspection took place from ground level.
- 2.2** No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used.
- 2.3** No soil excavation or root inspection was carried out.
- 2.4** A Tree Hazard Assessment was not carried out.
- 2.5** The survey has been carried out to determine whether work has been carried out in accordance with the details set out in the Arboricultural Method Statement and whether new tree planting has been carried out as set out on the Detailed Planting Plan. No shrubs or perennials plants were included in the survey.
- 2.6** Development work has been completed and therefore this report is limited in scope to visual observations from a single site visit, utilising the information contained in the supplied documentation, detailed in section 1.4.

3 OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Compliance with Arboricultural Method Statement

- 3.1.1** Trees specified for removal have been removed.
- 3.1.2** Work on site has been completed and therefore no tree protection fencing or ground protection measures were seen. No sign of damage to trees was seen, other a small area of basal bark damage to one cherry tree, T123. The construction site huts were shown to be located in close proximity to this tree on the tree protection plan and, as detailed in section 4.6.2 of the Arboricultural Method Statement, it was not possible to erect tree protection fencing around this tree. It is not possible to definitively attribute the damage to a construction wound as it could have been caused by grounds maintenance machinery. The tree has increased in girth and crown spread since the last inspection, and is developing into an attractive specimen.
- 3.1.3** The new cycle store has been constructed to the north side of the access road, and is within the root protection area of the Lawson cypress, T117. The cycle store has a concrete base, which is set into a grassed area, adjacent to the road. The tree is not showing any adverse impact from this work. A photo is included in Appendix A.

3.2 Compliance with Planting Plan

- 3.2.1 New trees have been planted in the positions shown on the approved detailed planting plan. The trees are the correct species and size, and are of good form and structure.
- 3.2.2 It is not possible to ascertain whether the tree pits were excavated in accordance with the specification, or whether fertilizer has been incorporated. However the trees are showing good vitality and appear to be firmly planted.
- 3.2.3 Trees have been double staked and tied with rubber ties and spacing blocks. An irrigation tube was present at the base of each tree. An area of bark mulch is spread around the base of each tree.
- 3.2.4 Two cherry trees (*Prunus avium* Plena), located in the northeast corner of the school site, have significant basal stem wounds, shown in the photos attached as Appendix A. It is not known how these wounds have occurred.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the two damaged cherry trees in the northeast corner of the site are re-inspected within 18 months to ascertain whether the basal stem wounds are occluding, or whether heartwood decay is developing. If the trees are found to be of poor vitality, or if there are other signs that decay is progressing, then the trees must be replaced in accordance with Condition 20 of the approved planning permission.
- 4.2 Trees must be maintained in accordance with the approved maintenance plan. It is of particular importance that the trees ties and spacers are adjusted as necessary to allow for growth, in order to prevent stem damage, until such time as the trees are established and the ties can be removed.



New cycle shelter constructed within the Root Protection Area of the Lawson cypress, T117.



Basal stems of two newly planted cherry trees (*Prunus avium Plena*). Both have significant wounds and may require replacement.