

Arboricultural Consultant Site Visit

Company: SJ Stephens Associates Ltd	Site: Riverside Day Nursery
Consultant: Simon Stephens	Visit Date: 6.4.16
Address: Savernake Barn Stokke Common Great Bedwyn Marlborough Wilts SN8 3LL	Site Address: Palmer Park London Road Reading RG1 3PA
Representative: Catherine Fforde	Site Representative: Warwick Tilley, Project Manager, Midas Construction Ltd (Contractors)
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Purpose of Visit:

Inspection of Tree Protection Fencing and Ground Protection measures
To advise on any other matters arising in relation to tree protection

Meetings held while on site:

Warwick Tilley, Project Manager

Observations and Recommendations:

- 1) An Arboricultural Method Statement, dated 14.3.16 was prepared by S J Stephens Associates Ltd, to satisfy a number of planning conditions for the expansion of the ERAPA Community Centre to accommodate the relocated Riverside Day Nursery. The recommendations in the report, including provision for Arboricultural Supervision, are now being implemented by the contractor.

Progress:

- 2) Heras fencing has been erected around the site, around trees that are contained within the site, and around trees that are located between the site and the construction access point from Haywood Court. Tree Protection notices have been fixed to the fence. However the heras fencing is not in alignment with the position shown in the Arboricultural Method Statement. The Tree Protection Plans seen on site have been superseded. A copy of the Tree Protection Plan, drawing no. 757-03 Rev A, was given to Mr Tilley and a pdf copy of the Arboricultural Method Statement, together with Tree Protection Plans were subsequently sent by email on 7.4.16. Demolition work is underway within the building and external play equipment has been excavated from the ground. Construction vehicles are on site.

- 3) Ground Protection measures have been installed between Haywood Court and the site, using Trakmats over a compressible layer of woodchip laid on top of a geotextile. Photos of the measures implemented are attached to this report. However on the day of inspection the ground protection was still being installed and was not therefore complete. A larger area than that specified has been protected by Ground Protection measures, rather than Tree Protection fencing, to facilitate the transfer of materials between the access point and the site, and to allow construction vehicles to turn around safely within the fenced off area.
- 4) Crown lifting has been carried out to trees within Palmer Park to facilitate construction access. Crown lifting work has been carried out to a greater number of trees than specified in the Arboricultural Method Statement and to a greater height. Trees adjacent to the construction access within Haywood Court have not been crown lifted as specified and damage has occurred as a result. A number of broken and hanging branches were observed together with abrasion damage to laterals caused by vehicular contact. Further damage is inevitable if crown lifting is not implemented. Photos are attached to this report.
- 5) Some parts of Root Protection Areas were not protected by either Tree Protection Fencing or Ground Protection measures. Access had been required to one area to allow for removal of ground anchored playground equipment. Access was also still required to allow for the removal of the existing iron railings. The position of the Tree Protection fence was discussed and it was agreed that the fencing would be extended away from tree stems as far as possible and that any remaining areas within the Root Protection Areas would be protected using Ground Protection. Materials currently stored in the Root Protection Areas, which appeared to be mainly components of the Tree Protection Fencing, will be removed and these areas will be kept clear. The existing areas of hard standing were discussed and it was agreed that these would remain in place until new landscaping proposals were ready to be implemented following completion on the main construction. Photos are attached.
- 6) The new service trench was discussed. The section of the trench to be excavated within Haywood Court will be undertaken by the Statutory Authorities whilst the section within Palmer Park will be undertaken by the contractor. The position of an existing lamppost within Haywood Court was discussed as it may conflict with the position of the service trench. It was stated that on no account must the trench be moved closer to the protected silver birch (T31) and that the Statutory Authorities must be made aware of this issue. The Tree Protection fencing will be repositioned to facilitate access for excavation of the trench when work is due to begin. Until this time the area will remain closed off by the fencing as currently erected.
- 7) Tree Protection Fencing within Haywood Court did not extend as far as shown on the Tree Protection Plan. However construction vehicles have been prohibited from entering the parking area used by the residents and it is therefore considered unnecessary to extend the fencing into this area. At the time of the excavation of the service trench, when work within this area will intensify, the fencing will be extended around the silver birch (T31).

Recommendations:

- 1) To complete Tree Protection fencing and Ground Protection measures as soon as possible, and to remove all materials currently stored within Root Protection Areas.
- 2) To carry out crown lifting work to trees within Haywood Court, as specified, as soon as possible to prevent further breakage and abrasion damage.
- 3) To transfer uncured concrete from the concrete delivery vehicle to the dumper truck, which is being used to transport the product into the site, over the existing hard surfacing within Haywood Court rather than over the Ground Protection area, in order to minimise the risk to trees from accidental spillage.

Date of Next Visit: To inspect Tree Protection Fencing when repositioned for the excavation of the service trench.

Riverside Day Nursery



Tree Protection fencing in closer proximity to trees than specified, however larger areas of Ground Protection have been installed to compensate. A deep, compressible layer of woodchip has been laid over a layer of geotextile, and then covered by Trakmats.



Materials stored within Root Protection Areas to be removed.

Root Protection areas to be enclosed with Tree Protection fencing or Ground Protection measures must be installed.

Riverside Day Nursery



Tree Protection Fencing in place within Haywood Court. However crown lifting to adjacent trees has not been carried out



Broken branches and abrasion damage from construction vehicles.