

Arboricultural Consultant Site Visit

Company: SJ Stephens Associates Ltd	Site: Riverside Day Nursery
Consultant: Simon Stephens	Visit Date: 25.5.16
Address: Savernake Barn Stokke Common Great Bedwyn Marlborough Wilts SN8 3LL	Site Address: Palmer Park London Road Reading RG1 3PA
Representative: Catherine Fforde	Site Representatives: John Taylor, Site Manager Warwick Tilley, Project Manager Midas Construction Ltd (Contractors)
Phone: 01672 871 862 077 965 37052	Phone: John Taylor – 07761 634257 Warwick Tilley – 02380 750111 / 07740 807027

Purpose of Visit: To advise on position of the service trench and associated tree protection measures
Meetings held while on site: John Taylor, Site Manager 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: 1) Tree Protection Fencing and Ground Protection measures are in place. 2) Construction work on site is underway, including the installation of new areas of external hard surfacing. The area for the new bike shelter has been relocated further away from the lime, T20. This now falls outside the Root Protection Area of the tree and therefore No-Dig construction has not been necessary. The area of new footpath adjacent to the southwest corner of the existing building, and within the Root Protection Area of the lime, T24, has been reduced in width and the footpath has been implemented using No-Dig construction. The finished surface of this path has not yet been laid. A photo of the footpath is included at

the end of this report.

- 3) The position of the service trench was discussed. Due to the restriction on the number of angled bends permitted in the gas pipe a straight line was marked out between Haywood Court and a point within the site where the pipe will be angled to facilitate its connection. The line was positioned to keep the excavation as far from the main stems of the trees within this area as possible. The section of the trench within Haywood Court will be excavated to the north of the existing street lamp and at the outer edge of the Root Protection Area of the protected silver birch, T31.
- 4) Ground protection measures within the site are to be lifted where required to allow the excavation of the 800mm wide trench. Spoil will be deposited on top of the retained area of ground protection to one side of the trench. The other side of the trench will remain free of spoil to facilitate site access over the retained ground protection. Any excess spoil will be stored temporarily away from the trench.
- 5) Tree Protection Fencing is in place within Haywood Court however this will need to be relocated to allow access for the excavation of the trench. Discussion took place regarding the responsibility for installation of the tree protection measures within Haywood Court as this area is outside of the responsibility of Midas Construction. Although these measures should be the responsibility of the Statutory Authorities, who are to excavate the section of trench within Haywood Court, it was agreed that Midas Construction would reposition the existing fencing and implement ground protection and root protection measures as necessary to ensure that root protection would be provided to the lime trees, T17 and T22, and the silver birch, T31, whose roots are located in this area.
- 6) There will be an interval of approximately three weeks between the installation of the electrical cable and the gas pipe that are being laid in the service trench. Protection measures were discussed to ensure that exposed roots within the trench are protected from damage during this interval before the trench can be backfilled. Larger retained roots and small exposed roots at the sides of the trench will be covered with hessian, which will be kept damp. Additionally the top of the trench will be covered with boarding, primarily as a site safety measure, but which will also provide further protection to the roots.
- 7) Trees adjacent to the site access in Haywood Court are still being damaged by construction traffic. Recommended crown lifting work has not been carried out. It is understood that this is due to the difficulty in establishing ownership of the trees. A small number of low branches have been removed however numerous broken branches were observed. Photos are included with this report. A section of one twin stem tree is in decline however this is unlikely to be associated with recent construction activity.

Recommendations:

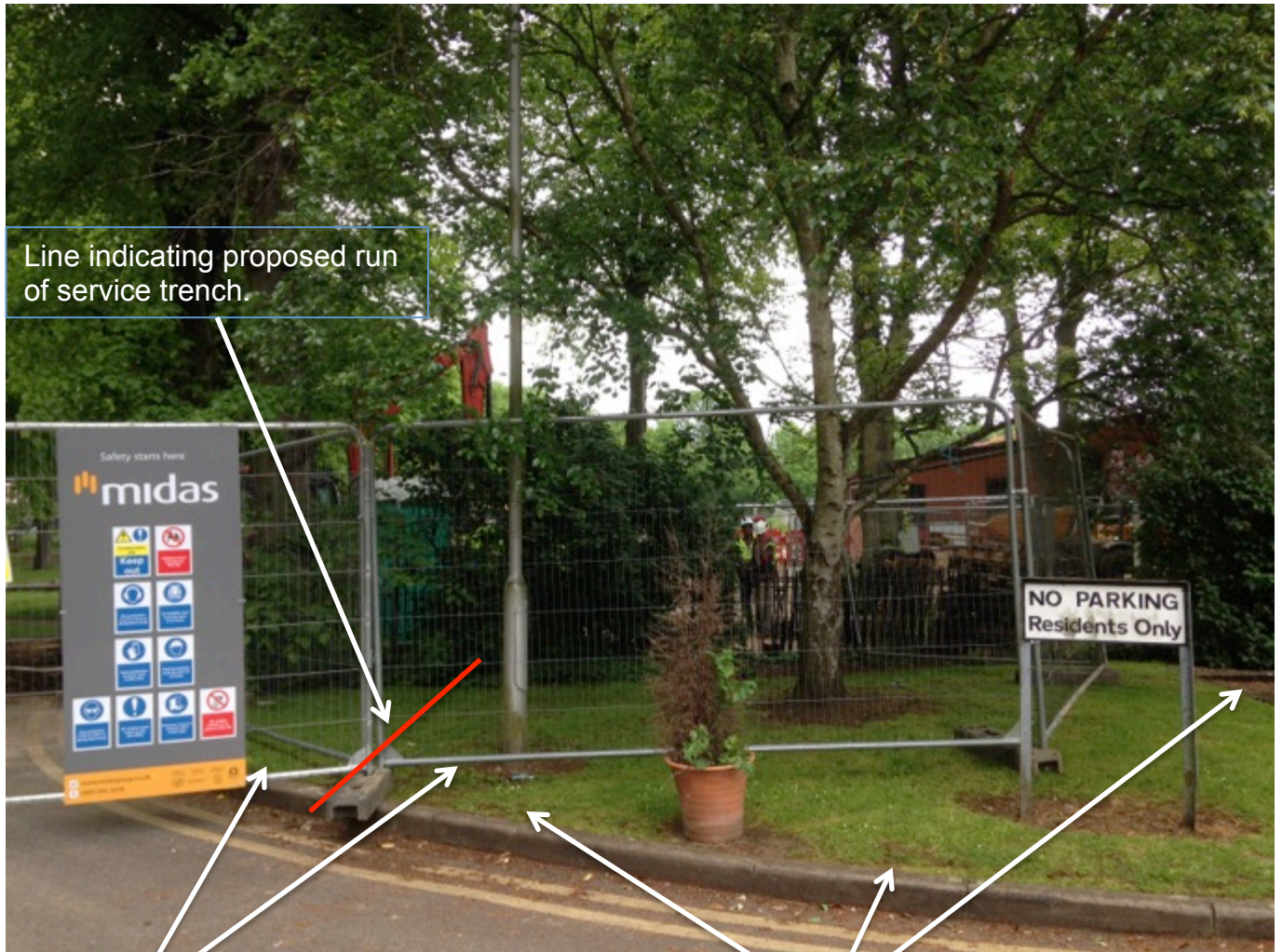
- 1) To ensure that Tree Protection Fencing and Ground Protection measures are in place either side of the service trench, including the section within Haywood Court, before excavation begins. Tree Protection Fencing should be located at the outer edges of the grass verge area within Haywood Court, and either side of the service trench, as shown on the Tree Protection Plan and as indicated on the attached photo.
- 2) To ensure the Statutory Authorities and all those engaged in the excavation of the service trench and the installation of the new services are informed of, and compliant with, the recommendations set out in section 4.2.5 of the Arboricultural Method Statement.
- 3) To cut back broken and damaged branches to trees within Haywood Court.

Date of Next Visit: To advise on any tree related issues arising during the excavation of the service trench.



New pathway created using No-dig construction within Root Protection Area of T24. Permeable surface still to be laid.

Riverside Day Nursery



Line indicating proposed run of service trench.

Tree Protection Fencing to be placed either side of trench, or if additional working space is required Ground Protection measures must be installed.

Tree Protection Fencing in Haywood Court to be moved to edge of grassed area before work on the service trench begins in this area.



Damage to trees within Haywood Court from construction traffic.