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**BS5837:2012 TREE SURVEY AND
ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
2 Mason Street, Reading, RG1 7PD**

Dated: 28th March 2024

Our reference: GHA/DS/222160:24

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Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Location: 2 Mason Street, Reading, RG1 7PD
Our reference: GHA/DS/222160:24
Client: S Riaz
Dated: 28th March 2024
Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
Date of Inspection: 19th March 2024

Instructions

Issued by – S Riaz

TERMS OF REFERENCE – GHA Trees were instructed to survey the subject horse chestnut tree adjacent to 2 Mason Street, in order to assess its general condition and to provide a planning integration statement for the proposed development that safeguards the long-term wellbeing of the tree in a sustainable manner.

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Executive Summary

The proposal for the site is to renovate and extend the existing house, work that has part begun. The proposed scheme does not require the removal or pruning of the subject tree; therefore, the landscape character of the site will be unaffected by the proposal.

Documents Supplied

The client supplied the following documents:

- Existing layout plans
- Proposed layout plans

Scope of Survey

- 1.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 1.2 The planning status of the subject property was not investigated in detail.
- 1.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 1.4 The tree was inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994)
- 1.5 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.

Survey Method

- 2.1 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars if needed.
- 2.2 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject tree undertaken.
- 2.3 No soil samples were taken.
- 2.4 The height of the tree was estimated using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre.
- 2.5 The stem diameter for the tree was measured in line with the requirements set out in BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 2.6 The crown spreads were measured with an electronic distometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted on the Plan (appendix A) and within the tree table (Appendix B).

- 2.7 The Root Protection Area (RPA) for the tree is included in the tree table, both as an area, and as the radius of a circle.
- 2.8 The crown clearance was measured using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where it is significantly lower in one direction, this is noted within the tree table at appendix B.

The Site

- 3.1 The site is located on Mason Street to the west of Reading.

The Subject Trees

- 4.1 The details of the subject tree are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 The overall quality of the tree is good and it has been assessed as BS category B.

The Proposal

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to renovate and extend the existing house, work that has part begun.
- 5.2 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL / RETENTION:

- 6.1 The proposed site layout and all of its associated structures allows for the healthy retention of the chestnut tree; therefore, the arboricultural landscape character of the site will be retained.

TREE PRUNING TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSAL OR ACCESS TO THE SITE

- 6.2 The implementation of the proposal does not lead to the requirement to prune the tree as there is no part of the new structure which will have tree canopy overhanging it and the building works can progress safely without the need for any facilitation pruning.

ASSESSMENT OF RETAINED TREES ROOT PROTECTION AREAS

- 6.3 Section 4.6.3 of BS 5837: 2012 states that the Root Protection Area (RPA) of each tree should be assessed by an arboriculturalist considering the likely morphology and disposition of the roots, when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions.
- 6.4 The RPA of T1 has been amended to take account of the existing walls; these adjustments can be seen on the appended plan.

ASSESSED IMPACT ON RPAS BY PROPOSED STRUCTURES & PROPOSED MITIGATIONS

- 6.5 The proposed new structure is situated outside of the assessed RPA of T1; therefore, the tree poses no below ground constraints on the new structure or vice versa.

INSTALLATION OF SERVICES

- 6.6 The full details of existing and proposed new services have not been made available at the time of writing.
- 6.7 New services must be routed to avoid all RPAs of the retained tree. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible.

Post Development Pressure

FUTURE TREE AND STRUCTURE RELATIONSHIPS

- 7.1 The retained tree is at a satisfactory distance from the proposed new building outline and highly unlikely to give rise to any inconvenience.

Tree Protection Measures and Preliminary Method Statement for Development Works

- 8.1 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS
The existing boundary wall will act as an adequate root protection barrier to keep construction activity away from the tree.
- 8.2 MIXING OF CONCRETE
All mixing of cement / concrete **MUST** be undertaken outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees.
- 8.3 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS
- **NO** fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained.
 - **NO** fuels, oils or substances which will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.

- **NO** storage of any materials within the root protections zone.

Conclusion

- 9.1 In conclusion, the chestnut tree can be retained and adequately protected during development activities.
- 9.2 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to the tree.

Recommendations

- 10.1 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
- a. Be present on the site the majority of the time.
 - b. Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
 - c. Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
 - d. Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
 - e. Make immediate contact with the local authority and / or retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.
- 10.2 It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

28th March 2024

Signed:



Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

Appendix A
TREE PLAN
(see separate PDF)

Appendix B

TREE TABLE

Tree Number	Tree Name (species)	Ht (m)	Calculated Stem Diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	N (m)	E (m)	S (m)	W (m)	Age Class	Clearance (m)	Estimated life expectancy	BS Category	Comments / Recommendations
T1	Horse chestnut	18	755	4	9.06	5	4	7	7	M	4 east	20-40	B1	Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated.

KEY :

Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)
Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),
Veteran (V)
Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

