

Arboricultural Assessment, Remedial Works Specification & Tree Protection Plan

Trotting Mare Caravan Park
Nr Ellesmere
Wrexham

Ref:
AA/TMC/05/15

Date:
28th May 2015

Commissioned by:
Mr G. Millington

Prepared by
S. Shields

**Arboricultural Assessment,
Remedial Works Specification
&
Tree Protection Plan**

Land at
Trotting Mare Caravan Park
Nr Ellesmere
Wrexham

This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the protocols, standards and procedures set out in BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' & BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'

This report, including appendices and attached plans, is the property of Shields Arboricultural Consultancy and is issued for the sole use of the client as identified in section 1.1 on the condition it is not reproduced, retained or disclosed to any unauthorised person, either wholly or in part without the written consent of Shields Arboricultural Consultancy. Ordnance Survey material is used with permission of The Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright 0100031673.

Contents

1.0	Instruction
2.0	Scope & Limitations
3.0	Statutory Controls & Obligations
4.0	Site Description
5.0	Arboricultural Assessment
6.0	Arboricultural Method Statement
7.0	Conclusions

Instruction

- 1.1 Shields Arboricultural Consultancy received instructions from Mr G. Millington to provide an arboricultural assessment and identify remedial measures required in respect of one tree at the above site.

Scope & Limitations

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to assess the impact on one oak tree that may have arisen from the re-profiling of an earth bund in close proximity to the tree and to provide remedial work specification where required.
- 2.2 The report is prepared with reference to the recommendations of the British Standard Document BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' and BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'.
- 2.3 This report is not an ecological assessment and does not identify habitats or constitute a protected species survey.

Statutory Controls & Obligations

- 3.1 Forestry Act; the felling of trees is controlled by the Forestry Act, which requires that a felling licence is obtained prior to cutting down any trees. The Forestry Act does not apply to the felling of trees growing within an orchard, private garden, churchyard or public open space. The Forestry Commission has the responsibility for enforcing the Forestry Act.
- 3.2 Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Areas; Local Authorities have specific powers under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, to protect trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders. Where trees are protected under such orders it is a criminal offence (subject to any exemptions for which provision may be made by the act or order) to undertake, cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees except with the consent of the local planning authority. Similar controls apply to all trees growing within a designated Conservation Area.
- 3.3 Bats, wild birds and other protected species; The Wildlife & Countryside Act & the Conservation (Natural Habitats & C.) Regulations make it an offence to disturb or destroy bats and bat roosts and wild birds and their nests. Other species of plant and animal are also protected. These creatures often inhabit trees and sufficient care must be taken to ensure they are not affected during forestry and arboricultural works.

Description of Site

- 4.1 The tree is situated within a hedgerow on the boundary of the Trotting Mare Caravan Park. The site is currently used as a touring caravan park and is situated in open countryside to the rear (west) of the Trotting Mare Public House, close to the town of Ellesmere. The site is accessed via a service road from the A528 and has a number of hard standing pitches around the periphery.
- 4.2 The site is level and at an elevation of 90m AOD and is not exposed.

Soils

- 4.3 Soils at the appeared to be free draining, cultivated brown earths. Soils appeared to be of reasonable depth and there is no indication of any significant impediments to rooting with the exception of the areas of hard standing that have been installed to provide caravan pitches.

*NB. This soil assessment is undertaken in situ using visual and manual techniques and is **only** for the purpose of establishing the influence of site soils on tree growth. The assessment **must not** be relied upon to inform any engineering decisions.*

Arboricultural Assessment

- 5.1 Details of the tree surveyed are provided in below. It is understood that the tree is not subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Tag No	Species	Size	Condition	Root Protection Area M2 (Radius)	Notes
1	Oak	L	Good	400 (11.3)	A soil bund approximately 5 m from the tree has been reduced and re-profiled.

- 5.2 The tree is situated on the boundary of the caravan park adjacent to a hard standing pitch. As part of a programme of improvements it is proposed to construct a new shower and toilet block on an existing area of hard standing to the north east of the tree. The shower block is to be constructed on a raft foundation formed on top of the existing hard standing and is outside of the RPA of the tree.
- 5.3 As part of the landscaping of the new shower block, an existing soil bund, forming the east boundary of the park and separating it from the adjacent area of hard standing, has been reduced and re-profiled. The newly exposed ground has been covered with loose tipped gravel.
- 5.4 The existing bund was within the Root Protection Area of the oak tree and therefore could have potentially been impacted by the alterations.

5.5 Trees are sensitive to any form of root disturbance and to ensure that trees are not adversely affected by the construction works it is necessary to:

- a. The avoidance of physical damage to the aerial parts of the trees (i.e. Impact and other damage to trunk and branches)
- b. The avoidance of damage to retained trees as a result of the severance or other physical damage to their roots
- c. Preserve of the character of the soil, through the avoidance of any activity that would cause it to become compacted or otherwise disturbed or disrupted, and to avoid contamination by potentially harmful substances
- d. To ensure free gaseous exchange is permitted between the upper layers of soil and the atmosphere
- e. To ensure adequate (but not excessive) water supply to the soil and hence to tree roots

This would normally be achieved by establishing an area, known as a construction exclusion zone (CEZ) around each tree. The CEZ is derived from the root protection area (RPA) and the crown spread of the tree. The RPA represents the area occupied by the tree's root system and is calculated for each tree based on its stem diameter and the ground conditions present taking account of and any impediment to rooting. The RPA should represent the most probable position of the tree's root system.

- 5.6 The as noted above the alterations to the bund were within the RPA of the tree, at a distance of approximately 5m from the tree and affecting an area of around 35m² (8%) of the total RPA (see Remedial Work Area on attached Plan).
- 5.7 The site has been investigated visually and using a penetrometer to establish if the soil structure has been degraded. No evidence of severance of major roots was found and the soil was not compacted. As such the level of impact to the tree is not substantial and could be remedied through undertaking a general improvement within the root zone of the tree as identified below.
- 5.8 The gravel is to be removed from the area of newly exposed soil to the east of the bund and that this area is demarcated using wooden edging boards fixed in place with wooden stakes. The area must then be mulched using composted bark fines or S100 peat free organic compost.
- 5.9 All remedial work must be monitored by Shields Arboricultural Consultancy. Details of the findings and photographic evidence of the site inspection visits will be reported to the LPA by email within 24 hrs of the visit.

Arboricultural Method Statement

- 6.1 This arboricultural method statement (AMS) sets out the details of tree protection measures afforded to the retained tree on and adjacent to the site.
- 6.2 This document should be read in conjunction with the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) which will be issued when detailed plans are prepared for the site. The TPP indicates the construction exclusion zone (CEZ) that must be maintained around each retained tree. These areas must remain undisturbed during the construction process and must be protected using suitable fencing or ground protection as specified.
- 6.3 Copies of the TPP & the AMS must be available on site and all tree protection requirements explained to all persons undertaking activities on the site during the site induction process.
- 6.4 All tree protection measures must be installed and inspected prior to bringing onto the site any plant, materials or equipment or undertaking any construction works or demolition or any arboricultural works. The LPA must be informed in writing once the tree protection measures are installed.
- 6.5 The site is to be inspected by the consulting arboriculturalist in accordance with the schedule of inspections (see 6.17).
- 6.6 All measurements are given in metric using standard abbreviations.

Fencing and Ground Protection

- 6.7 The TPP indicates the position all protective fences. There will be no access permitted to the caravan park for construction operatives, plant and equipment or vehicles. This part of the site is protected by an existing barrier.
- 6.8 Protective fencing will comprise herras fencing or as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.9 No ground protection is specified for this site.
- 6.10 The protective fencing must be inspected on installation and will remain in place until completion of the construction phase and then only removed with the consent of the LPA.
- 6.11 Other than works approved in writing by the LPA, no works including storage or dumping of materials shall take place within the exclusion zones defined by the protective fencing.

General Precautions

- 6.12 No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health such as oil, bitumen or cement will be stored or discharged within 10m of the trunk of a tree that is to be retained or within any part of the CEZ. Spills kits, suitable for the type fluids, fuels and chemicals stored on site must be available on site and site operatives must have training in their use.

-
- 6.13 No fires will be lit within 20m of the trunk of any tree that is to be retained.
 - 6.14 Storage and mixing areas, contactor parking and all site huts must be outside the CEZ.
 - 6.15 Access to the work area is via the main site entrance and must not traverse the CEZ.
 - 6.16 All service and drainage routes, below or above ground must avoid the CEZ. All services are to be installed in accordance with NJUG volume 4 Guidelines.
 - 6.17 To ensure that all tree protection measures are properly installed and maintained the site shall be monitored by Shields Arboricultural Consultancy to the following schedule. Details of the findings and photographic evidence of the site inspection visits will be reported to the LPA by email within 24 hrs of the visit. All tree protection measures must remain in place until development work is completed and only removed after receiving written confirmation from the LPA.

Schedule of Inspection

1. On completion of erection of fencing and installation of ground protection prior to commencement of development works
 2. Monthly through out the project
 3. On completion of project
- 6.18 Prior to the commencement on site of any work, a competent person is to be appointed to monitor the day to day activities on site. In the case of a tree being damaged or where an unexpected event arises it will be for this person to contact Shields Arboricultural Consultancy to seek advice on contingency measures.

Conclusion

- 7.1 The impact to the tree was not substantial and providing the recommendations of this report are followed, it is reasonable to expect that it will suffer no adverse affects.

S.J.A. Shields

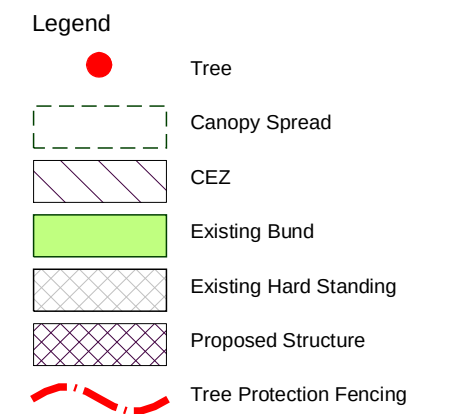
Chartered Forester

Uni. Cert. For. & F.P. (Bangor), Dip. Arb. (RFS),

M.Arbor.A, MICFor.

28th May 2015

Trotting Mare Caravan Park



Email:info@shieldsac.co.uk

