Trees in the Planning Process

Merton College, Oxford
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Arboricultural Methods, Special Techniques and Site Supervision

Sharon Hosegood  FICFor FArborA BSc (Hons) Tech Cert (Arbor A)
Arboricultural method
Statements

What are they and who are they really for?

What should you be looking for?

• Background - referencing the AIA and planning conditions
• Tree protection plans for each stage
• Tree protection specification
• Tree surgery schedule
• How works near trees will be carried out
• How the work will be supervised
• Key personnel and timeframe
What to expect in a AMS –
Tree protection plans
What to expect in a AMS – Tree surgery schedule and method statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree no.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Proposed works</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T19</td>
<td>Fig</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and grind stump</td>
<td>To facilitate access for Japanese knotweed removal. It will outgrow its situation and is out of keeping in the landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T24</td>
<td>Hazel and two much smaller hazel bushes</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and grind stump</td>
<td>To facilitate access for Japanese knotweed removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T25</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and remove stump</td>
<td>Low quality tree and to facilitate the removal of the Japanese knotweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T26</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and remove stump</td>
<td>Low quality tree and to facilitate the removal of the Japanese knotweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T39</td>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and remove stump</td>
<td>To facilitate development. This tree has major dead wood and included bark unions through the crown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T42</td>
<td>Norway maple</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and remove stump</td>
<td>This small tree is leaning and its removal is needed to facilitate Japanese knotweed removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T43</td>
<td>Cotoneaster</td>
<td>Fell to ground level and remove stump</td>
<td>To facilitate Japanese knotweed removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T44</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>Remove dead wood and crown lift tips to</td>
<td>As a precautionary safety measure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late August 2015
Pre-commencement meeting
Mark up trees to be felled and point out locations for stored timber (SHA)

September – December 2015
Tree surgery carried out
Tree protection fencing erected
Excavation commences for Japanese knotweed under supervision in areas prescribed (SHA)
Piling commences (contiguous as shown on the plan and sheet piling around T50 and T51)

Community involvement
National tree week 2015
Planting in local so

December 2015 – January 2016
Pavilion 1 constructed up to slab level
Crib wall erected to retain the northern edge of woodland W1

Up to December 2016 with internal trades
Pavilions 2, 3, 4 and 5 constructed up to slab level
Construction of framework and completion of pavilions
Communication
Special techniques for exploring issues & working near trees

The main objective is to protect the crown, trunk and roots of trees to be retained.

Protecting roots includes protecting soil, as well as the roots.

There are four main methods two of which are outlined:

- Root Protection Areas and gut feeling
- Trial pits
- Air spade
- TreeRadar
Technique: Air spading

What is it great for?
- Finding the extent of a rooting area, including fine roots
- Measuring root diameter
- Visually identifying roots between species
- Finding decay and dead roots
- Root pruning
- Installing underground services
- Vertical mulching
- Being easy to understand

What is it not great for?
- Noisy, messy and throws up dirt
- Affects the cambium and fine feeder roots
- Difficult penetration in compacted soils
- However, less invasive than digging and, in good soil conditions, relatively fast and simple
Technique: Air spading for root pruning
Technique: Air spading for vertical mulching
Technique – root exploration using TreeRadar
Technique – root exploration using TreeRadar for a veteran tree near proposed bypass
Technique – root exploration using TreeRadar for a new structure & dropped kerb
Technique – root exploration using TreeRadar for a new structure and dropped kerb
Technique – root exploration using TreeRadar for a new structure

Ground truthing for roots to inform pile positions @thetreelady67
#roots #treeprotection #treesandconstruction
Technique – demolition of structures and surfaces

Photo 2 of the roots, temporary works to create a new alignment

Line of underground services to be installed

Ground beam

Pile backs (set back)

Line of underground services to be installed

Photo 4 of the rooting area being covered in a geotextile membrane

Note the location for the ground beam (600mm deep)
Technique – underground services (NJUG 4) using and open trenches. Other techniques include underground moling.
Technique – ground protection during demolition and construction
Technique – new hard surfaces
Considering levels and permeability
The importance of team working and site supervision
Site supervision - Report

- Meeting held with the tree contractor to discuss tree protection works.
- Carry out tree surgery.
- Work involving tree protection, planting, and renewal of fencing.

Trench 2 - To be dug down to 100mm, as this one centred outside the map. No roots were found. Further excavation carried out in the root protection area in connection with the foundations.

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Photo 1 - Trench 2

The building has been laid.

Photo 2 - Trench 1

Root exploration:
- In accordance with the walks.
- Hybrid technology used.
- Two trees identified.

Photo 3 - Trench 2

Photo 4 - Trench 2

Photo 5 - Trench 2

Tree protection:
- Trench 11 of the tree protection finally being installed. The meeting took place to discuss tree surgery.

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Photo 6 - Trench 2

Photo 7 - Trench 2

Photo 8 - Trench 2

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Photo 9 - Trench 2

Photo 10 - Trench 2
Effective tree protection

Culture: understanding, respecting and influencing

Communication: listening, observing, relaying information and soft skills

Clarity: avoiding jargon, tool box talks and use of visual aids

Control: enforcement action, health and safety and budgets
Towards a new dimension: Community collaboration