

TREE SURVEY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SITE AT BURGESS HILL BURIAL GROUND, BURGESS HILL, WEST SUSSEX.

10th February 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

The planning application for this proposal at Burgess Hill Burial Ground, off Jane Murray Way in Burgess Hill, submitted to Mid Sussex District Council, has trees located within 15m of the proposed development and therefore requires a tree survey and impact assessment to be submitted.

The purpose of the report is to survey and record the trees identified as being in the proximity of the proposed development, indicate their Root Protection Area (RPA) to show which trees are affected by the development, and, if needed, to propose a mitigation scheme that would cause minimal disturbance to the RPA.

The proposed development is to extend the existing car parking area and build a new storage yard within the existing Phase 1 and proposed Phase 2 areas of the approved application, dated 09-March-2001 with planning reference number HP-00-2576-FUL.

2. SCOPE OF TREE SURVEY

All trees of 75mm diameter or more at 1.5m above ground level were included in the survey. This included mainly trees on the existing site, but also trees immediately adjacent to the site.

3. SURVEY DATA COLLECTION

All the trees were surveyed/measured from the ground and no climbing or specialist investigations were undertaken. Each tree was measured as indicated in Annex C of BS 5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations".

The tree survey recorded the following information:

- (1) Tree reference number
- (2) Tree species
- (3) Height in metres
- (4) Stem count
- (5) Stem diameter in millimetres

The survey data from section (5) above, Stem diameter in millimetres, was used to reference Annex D of BS 5837:2012 "Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations" to establish the Root Protection Area for each tree. The RPA for each tree has been indicated on drawing 2410-006B Proposed Ground Floor Plan.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT - INFORMATIVES

Although the potential risk to someone passing beneath a tree when the tree or part of it fails is relatively remote, the risk is present. This increases significantly in areas of consistent and regular usage on a year round basis, such as footpaths, gardens and roadways. Where static structures exist, the risks become constant and an assessment should be made as to whether complete or partial failure of a tree could potentially cause physical damage to such structures.

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Within the scope of any tree survey it is a fact that not all risks of stem or crown failure can be covered, particularly in relation to freak occurrences of weather when even healthy trees can suffer stem snap or windblow. There is also a well known propensity for mature trees to occasionally shed limbs for no discernible reason, even on calm days. Although relatively rare, limbs may occasionally be shed and this should be acknowledged as a risk that cannot entirely be mitigated.

The risk of stem or crown failure has not been assessed under this tree survey, therefore the above risks are still present as are the risks from tree age and condition.

5. RESULTS OF TREE SURVEY

A total of 12 individual trees were measured/surveyed. Eight were mature oaks, one was a cherry, three were multi-stem ash trees, and one was a single stem ash tree.

The site appears to have been well maintained for a number of years, with much evidence of maintenance to the trees, plants, shrubs and cut grass in this location.

Of the trees surveyed, the following is a breakdown of the various numbers of trees and groups in each BS category.

BS category	Tree Ref.	Sub total
A	T1, T3, T4, T5, T6, T9, T11	7
B	T2, T7, T8, T10, T12	5
C		0
R		0
	TOTAL	12

Interpretation of table

- Category A** Retention most desirable. Of high quality and value and in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested).
- Category B** Retention desirable. Of moderate quality and value and in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested).
- Category C** Could be retained – of low quality and value. Poor crown form, heavily asymmetric, large numbers of similar species/size. Currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested) or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.
- Category R** Trees for removal. Dead/dying/dangerous trees due to structural defects, fungal decay or root plate uplift. Those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

6. REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The proposal is to extend the existing car parking area and build a new storage yard within the existing Phase 1 and proposed Phase 2 areas of the approved application (dated 09-March-2001, with planning reference number HP-00-2576-FUL).

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7. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSALS ON INDIVIDUAL TREES

In considering the feasibility of tree retention within any site, account has to be taken of the areas of undisturbed roots that will be retained around each tree. Based on the stem diameter of the tree and the table contained in Annex D of BS 5837:2012, an area of undisturbed rooting necessary for the survival and longevity of each tree can be referenced. The table below indicates the minimum required root protection areas for trees indicated in the survey and on the drawings.

The table also includes an assessment of which trees would be affected by the proposed development. T4, T5, T6, T9 and T10 trees have their RPA affected by the extended car park and new storage yard to the proposed development.

Tree no.	Species	BS Stem Diameter (Annex C)	BS Root Protection Area (Annex D)	Disturbance to RPA	Type of disturbance	Comments
T1	Oak	700mm	8.4m	No	None	No impact
T2	Ash	425mm	5.1m	No	None	No impact
T3	Oak	800mm	9.6m	No	None	No impact
T4	Oak	600mm	7.2m	Yes	Car Park	Permeable gravel surface ensures supply of rainwater. Minimal incursion of RPA by gravel surface to car park.
T5	Oak	600mm	7.2m	Yes	Car Park	Permeable gravel surface ensures supply of rainwater. Minimal incursion of RPA by gravel surface to car park.
T6	Oak	700mm	8.4m	Yes	Car Park	Permeable gravel surface ensures supply of rainwater. Minimal incursion of RPA by gravel surface to car park.
T7	Ash	425mm	5.1m	No	None	No impact
T8	Ash	425mm	5.1m	Yes	Storage yard	Permeable gravel surface ensures supply of rainwater. Signs to ensure no storage of toxic substances or heavy objects to east side of yard.
T9	Oak	700mm	8.4m	Yes	Storage yard	Permeable gravel surface ensures supply of rainwater. Signs to ensure no storage of toxic substances or heavy objects to east side of yard.
T10	Ash	400mm	4.8m	Yes	Storage yard	Permeable gravel surface ensures supply of rainwater. Signs to ensure no storage of toxic substances or heavy objects to east side of yard.
T11	Oak	700mm	8.4m	No	None	No impact
T12	Cherry	150mm	1.8m	No	None	No impact

8. TREE SURGERY REQUIREMENTS

There are signs of tree surgery, possibly within the last 3 years, indicating care and management has been undertaken. The tree care and management, including tree surgery, should be continued.

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9. TREE PROTECTION MEASURES - FENCING

The drawing 2414-003 Proposed Site Plan indicates the proposed location of protective fencing based on the calculated tree protection area and space available.

The protective fencing is to be constructed of a scaffold framework with uprights driven into the ground to a minimum depth of 0.6m and at no greater than 3m spacing. On to the framework weldmesh panels such as “Heras” or a similar product will be securely mounted with all weather notices attached to every 5th panel reading “Keep Out – Protected Area”. The fencing will form enclosed areas to which no access will be allowed.

Protective fencing is to be erected prior to commencement of site works and remain in place until completion of construction. The location and suitability of the fencing can be confirmed to the local authority by an arboricultural consultant prior to commencement of construction. Any tree felling will need to be undertaken prior to fence installation to minimise risks to operatives. All tree surgeons’ vehicles will be kept outside the indicated protection zones.

Potentially injurious materials such as fuels, oils, chemicals and cement will be stored at least 15m from any stem, or in a bunded storage vessel. No fires will be lit within 5m of the drip line of any retained tree.

10. SITE OPERATIONS AND MATERIALS STORAGE

Details of site zoning can be seen on the drawing 2414-003 Proposed Site Plan where the robust protective fencing will define the site space available for storage and operations.

11. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The proposed extension to the existing car parking area will affect the RPA of T4, T5 and T6 Oaks to the areas indicated on drawing 2414-003 Proposed Site Plan. The incursion to the RPA’s of these trees would be considered as having marginal or nominal effect, and therefore no mitigation measures are needed.

The proposed storage yard will affect the RPA of T8 Ash, T9 Oak and T10 Ash to the areas indicated on drawing 2414-003 Proposed Site Plan. The incursion to the RPA’s of T9 and T10 trees would be considered significant. Therefore, the mitigation measures recommended here are to have self binding gravel finish, to the east half of the yard, in contrasting colour to west side of the yard, and to erect signs to ensure and state “No storage of toxic substances or heavy objects is permissible in this area of the yard – the area of the yard demarcated in light gravel”, which is to the east side of storage yard. This demarcation can be seen indicated in the drawing 2414-003 Proposed Site Plan.

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