
1. Summary

- 1.1. Treework Environmental Practice are instructed by OCI Architecture to provide a brief Technical Note discussing arboricultural impacts and methods of mitigating those impacts from the replacement of the existing wooden fence located adjacent to trees T25 and T26, with a higher wooden fence supported by concrete posts at 11-13 Stanhope Gardens, Highgate, N6 5TT, as shown in sketch CFM-85447-SK-041.
- 1.2. I met online with Oana Ciurescu of OCI Architects on 23 February 2024 to discuss the methodology used during the installation of the existing fence, and the acceptable methodology of the installation of the new fence.
- 1.3. This document seeks to discuss the principals of removal of the existing fence and installation of the new in relation to the current tree stock and to outline methodologies to demonstrate feasibility of methodology.

2. Proposal

- 2.1. Neighbours of the existing fence have expressed concerns that it is not sufficiently robust or of sufficient height to provide adequate privacy. It is therefore proposed that a new taller fence is installed with a trellis. To allow this, the existing fence, which is supported by wooden fence posts on post spikes, will be removed and a new fence installed using concrete posts set into a concrete base, as shown in sketch CFM-85447-SK-041.

3. Existing Tree Population and Constraints

- 3.1. Our previous tree survey indicates that two trees will be impacted through this operation. T25 is a low-quality category C elder and T26 is a low-quality category C sycamore. Both trees are set back from publicly accessible areas at the end of a private drive. They have very little public amenity value due to their location and low quality. As such I consider them to have very little value to the wider landscape.
- 3.2. Trees present constraints to development both above and below ground. The above ground constraints comprise the physical extent of tree crowns. The below ground constraints comprise the roots and are expressed in terms of the Root Protection Area (RPA), which is the minimum rooting area that a tree needs to sustain itself in reasonable health. These constraints, as established by the tree-survey, inform this preliminary assessment of the impact of the development proposals.

4. Tree Protection and Methodologies

- 4.1. During our discussion I've been informed by Oana Ciurescu that installation of the existing fence was carried out in a highly tree sensitive manner. This included trial pits at each of the post spike locations to ensure no significant roots were impacted. I also understand that it is entirely possible for new fence posts to be located in the same positions to support the new panels.
- 4.2. I am therefore recommending that the existing panels are carefully removed by hand, and posts and post spikes carefully pulled vertically (not dug out) from their current locations using a small, tracked excavator which will be positioned on the hard landscape to avoid any compaction of soil.
- 4.3. Holes left following the removal of the post spikes will then be carefully enlarged by groundwork contractors using hand tools only, to provide sufficient space for a concrete post foundation.
- 4.4. Due to the previous excavation in this area, I do not anticipate any significant roots to be encountered, however if roots are uncovered they should be carefully pruned back to the edge of the excavation to a clean face using disinfected sharp secateurs or pruning saw, or, if they are to be pushed aside and re-covered, kept damp with wet hessian blanket and out of direct sunlight whilst exposed.
- 4.5. The excavated pit should then be lined with an impermeable membrane such as a plastic sack or sheeting, to prevent leachate from the concrete mix polluting surrounding soil. Appropriate post mix should then be used and the new concrete fence post set in place. Any support given to the new fence post during the setting process should not require attachment to the trees or excavation/posts within the soft landscape.
- 4.6. Minor regrading of existing made-up soil may be required to allow access to gravel boards, however this will not require excavation below the original soil levels.
- 4.7. No pruning is required of the above ground parts of either tree to facilitate the installation.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. Providing the above methodology is followed, I consider that the removal and re-installation of the fence is feasible without tree damage.

PHOTOS



Photo 1: Showing trees T25 & T26 and existing fence.



Photo 2: Showing trees T25 & T26 and existing fence.