

It is acknowledged that the demolition and subsequent removal of the building within the RPA of T1 Oak combined with the removal of the existing hard standing within the RPAs of T1 Oak and T2 Oak will place a degree of stress on the trees.

However, as detailed in the Arboricultural report the demolition and removal of hard surfacing is to be undertaken under supervision from Sarah Johnston the project Arboriculturalist. The demolition is to be top-down adjacent to the tree and removal of hard surfaces will be using hand-tools only.

The demolition of the building may result in a build-up of dust on the above-ground parts of the tree but this can be hosed off once complete.

The hard surfacing is to be replaced by lawn behind plots 1-4 with imported high quality top-soil and a sub base layer of soil beneath. It is considered this will encourage new fine root growth which is vital for water and nutrient uptake and therefore tree health and longevity.

In addition to the above we would be prepared to establish a metre wide mulch strip around the base of the trees to inhibit weed and grass growth/competition.

With regard to comments regarding a level change within the RPA of T2 Oak, this is not the case and it is proposed to finish the lawn at the same level as the existing hard surfacing.

Both trees were given a B category as they are considered to be robust trees with no obvious indicators of ill health. They are still relatively young specimens for this species with a considerable life expectancy. They have survived an inhabitable rooting environment and it is considered that they will tolerate the proposed demolition, change of ground surface and a minor infraction into their RPAs.

We propose to undertake some site investigations to determine the rooting pattern T1 Oak by hand excavating under arboricultural supervision using only hand tools and possibly compressed air soil displacement. We will excavate along the rear proposed foundation line of plots 2 and 3 the width of the proposed strip foundation and to a depth of 600mm minimum. We feel it is unlikely that any significant roots (greater than 25mm diameter) will be present in this area if any roots at all given the rooting environment.

Photographic evidence of the excavations will be provided to the Tree Officer once they have been completed.

Given the degree of supervision, the top down demolition, addition of high quality soil to a depth no greater than the existing ground level we hope that if no evidence of significant roots is found that Jamie Gargett may reconsider his objection to this development.

If Jamie would like to talk anything through with Sarah Johnston her number is: [REDACTED]