

Arboricultural Impact Assessment for site between 43 and 43A Portsdown Road, Havant, Hampshire, formerly large garden of No.43

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Impact Overview

The following assessment demonstrates the consequence of change in terms of development on significant trees.

SUMMARY OF BASELINE TREE COVER					
BS:5837 Retention Category	Number of Individual Trees				Approximate Area of canopy cover (m2)
	Young	Early- Mature	Mature	Veteran	
'A' quality trees			7	3	900
'B' quality trees	4	4	39		2000
'C' quality trees	1	5	4		270

IMMEDIATE POST DEVELOPMENT TREE COVER					
BS:5837 Retention Category	Number of Individual Trees				Approximate Area of canopy cover (m2)
	Young	Early- Mature	Mature	Veteran	
'A' quality trees			7	3	900
'B' quality trees	4	4	36		1900
'C' quality trees		5	3		255

The only other specimens within the development some are Category U and therefore by definition they are in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years.

There are 10 Category A trees on the site 2 of which may suffer some damage within about 5 percent (at most) of their Root Protection Area provided adequate care is taken with the TPP.

There are 47 Category B trees of which 3 Mature specimens would be lost in direct connection with the development.

Of the Category C trees the 1 Young specimen is **T7** which is completely beneath the canopy of **T6** and is therefore to be removed to benefit **T6**. A single Mature Category C specimen is proposed to be removed (**T79**) again for the benefit of neighbouring specimens **T78**. None of the trees in this category are therefore being removed in connection with the proposed development but rather for the benefit of the landscape as a whole.

Only 1 of the trees to be removed is visible in the broader urban landscape however this is **T10**, Category U, which is mixed into **T9** (a more important tree) and very little canopy cover or visual impact will be lost. Although this removal benefits the development, coppicing this tree would be advised anyway.

This indicates a low to very low impact on the trees on this site. Against this however we should consider that to remain growing many of the trees on this site require maintenance which has been lacking in the last 5 to 10 years. The development of the site therefore presents an opportunity for this maintenance to be done. The reduction of some of the category B trees will allow others to reach maturity rather than many facing storm damage and decline or uprooting in the thin soil on this site.

Work within RPA's

Whilst the existing driveway is within the RPA (Root Protection Area) of 2 category A trees the level of roots in this area is likely to be much reduced due to the compacted ground and the impact on these trees will be minimal, reversible and of low magnitude. Holm Oaks are quite notably able to withstand and recover from physical trauma. It is imperative though that drainage is maintained or improved as soil pathogens and anaerobic conditions could create a significant threat to the trees on the highest southern point of the site.

With a TPP in place very little if any root loss or failure is likely to occur. Some modest reduction of these specimens (**T3** and **T9**) will reduce the load that the canopy demands of the roots and therefore assist the trees in dealing with any root trauma.

Maintenance – Post Development Pressure

There are no specific maintenance requirements created by the development. The only trees at the same level as the houses are specimens **1** to **10**. And they are situated on the North side of the houses. No more maintenance is required to these trees as a result of the development, indeed the desire for their care and retention is increased by this proposal. As they are situated North of the houses and next to a busy road we would not expect any demand to reduce them for more light since they perform a function in shielding from traffic noise and pollution.

The maintenance of the rest of the site as a usable garden should allow more trees to reach maturity without being lost to high winds. This is because there will be a need to maintain a safe environment.

Therefore there should only be positive post development pressure to carefully maintain the trees on this site.

Conclusion

In conclusion the proposed development is in line with OPDM Planning Policy for example;

PPS1 – Protection and Enhancement of the Environment – “Planning should seek to maintain and improve the local environment and help to mitigate the effects of declining environmental quality” and “to protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas as a whole”

PPS3 – When assessing design quality – “the extent to which the proposed development...provides for the retention or re-establishment of the biodiversity within residential environments.”

The long term impact on Tree Canopy cover may be a net gain long term as the trees on the site benefit from maintenance, keeping a safe but pleasant garden environment. The initial impact on Tree Canopy cover is Low. Provided a Tree Protection is in place and enforced correctly the effects on the two Holm Oaks whose Root Protection Area is affected will be low, temporary and reversible.