



TECHNICAL ARBORICULTURAL APPRAISAL OF T15

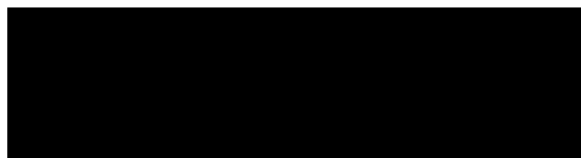
Land at Nyton Nurseries,
Nyton Road,
Westergate

27 November 2017

Our Ref: JSL2869_772

RPS

Lakesbury House
Hiltingbury Road
Chandlers Ford
Hampshire
S053 5SS



QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to provide a technical appraisal of Protected Tree T15 (*Quercus ilex*) in its current form and with regard to its location, with a view to evaluating the potential for its retention given its position relative to the proposed cycleway as shown in the proposals. The document also outlines the options available in providing access in relation to the retention of T15.

Please read this document in conjunction with JSL2869_770 (Tree Survey Report) and JSL2869_771 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment)

1 TECHNICAL ARBORICULTURAL APPRAISAL

1.1 Introduction

A detailed assessment of T15 was carried out on site by David Cox (BA, MarborA, CMLI) on the 22/11/17, located to the south of the Site adjacent to the proposed adopted highway entrance onto Nyton Road. This was undertaken in order to ascertain the potential to provide a cycleway route in this location, whilst being able to retain the tree given its protected status.

1.1.1 Arboricultural Appraisal

The tree in question comprises a semi-mature Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) set close to property boundary, on land elevated approximately 750mm above the existing highway / pavement. To the east a private house with gardens lies on land similar in level to the buttress of the tree.



(Figure 1; Photograph from Nyton Road; T15 circled)

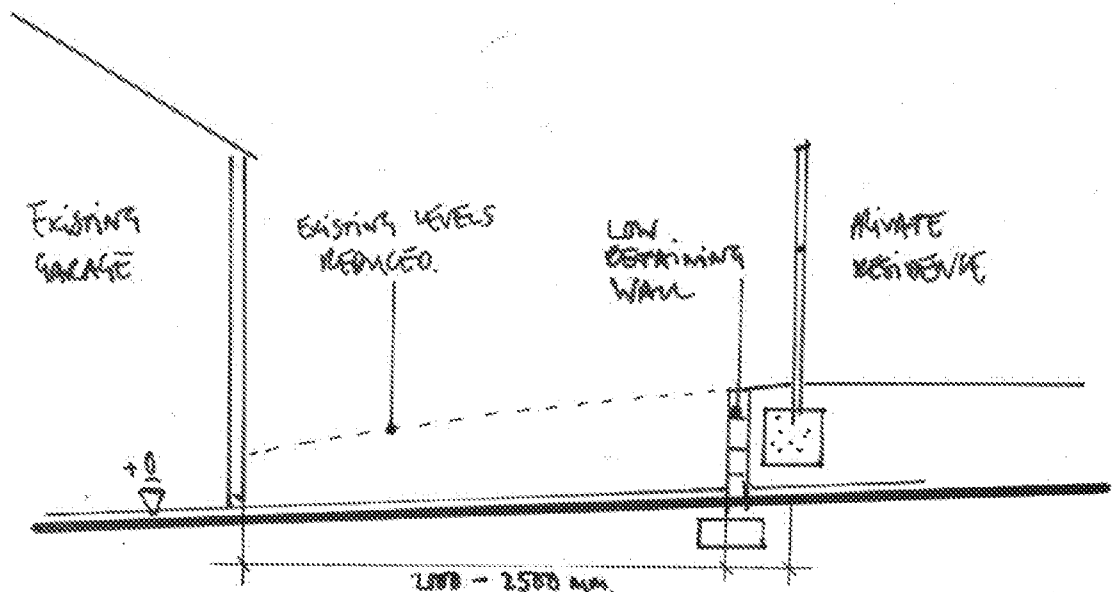
As shown in the photograph below, the tree has been recently pruned, leaving fresh pruning wounds between 100mm and 250mm diameter in size. It has been assessed that the tree has moderate amenity value, albeit this has now been reduced since the pruning work has been undertaken, which has left the tree with an imbalance in its canopy form.

To the west, the rear elevation of a brick built garage stands at the level of the pavement, approximately 750mm below that of the trees buttress. It appears that the damp proof membrane of this building relates to the finished level of the pavement and the car park within which it sits, and not the higher ground where the tree sits between the garage and the adjacent property to the east. The top layer of the ground here comprises mainly of brash, and foliage recently felled from T15.



(Figure 2; Photograph towards Nyton Road; T15 circled)

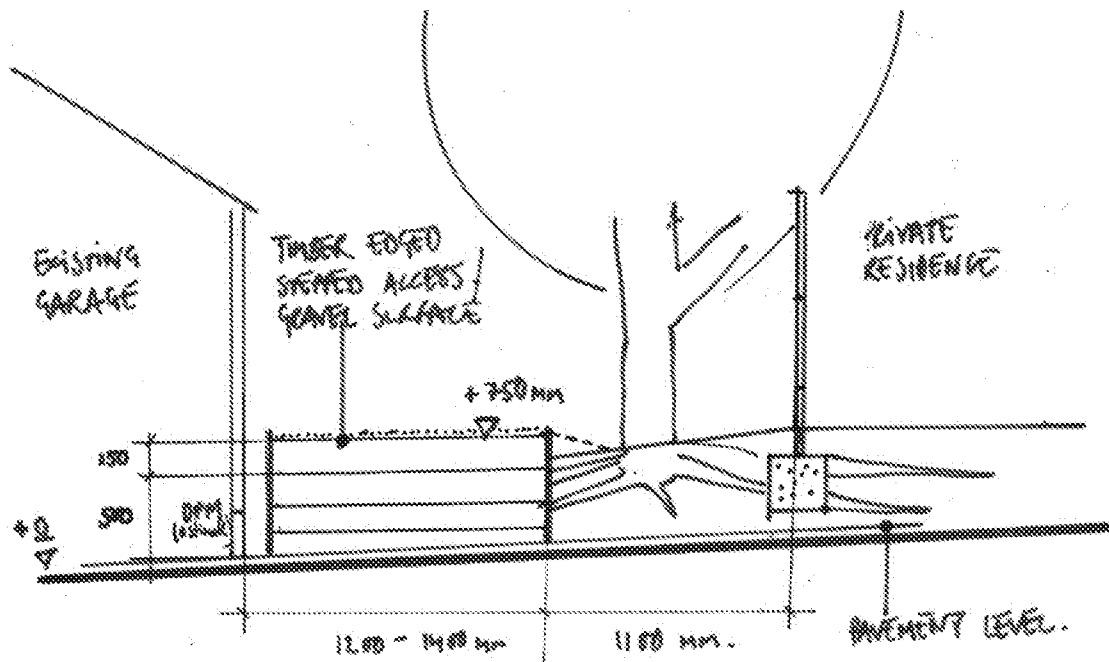
The first option relating to the proposals, would be to fell the tree with planning authority consent, and reduce the ground levels in order to provide an acceptable gradient into the site, suitable for pedestrian and cycle access, with particular consideration to the proximity of Nyton Road. This would require a low retaining wall on the boundary to the private residence to the east as demonstrated in Figure 3, and would enable the provision of a formal cycleway of an approximately width 2.0 – 2.5m.



(Figure 3; Illustrative sketch section across proposed footpath showing tree removal / level reduction)

The second option would be to retain the tree, and in turn, retain the existing levels. In order to provide access, either a short steep ramp, or a small set of steps would be required. The surface

of the path would have to be a porous “low key” solution in order to avoid any negative impact on water flow and soil porosity down to the tree roots, most suitably a loose gravel or hoggin aggregate. Additionally, no excavation would be possible given the proximity of the base of the tree to the proposed path, and a “no dig” path construction would be required. A timber retaining solution would also have to be provided to prevent the path compromising the damp proof of the adjacent garage. (Please refer to Figure 4)



(Figure 4; Illustrative sketch section across proposed footpath showing tree retention / stepped access)

To summarise, in order to provide a formal cycleway with a level transition through to Nyton Road it would be necessary to remove T15 and all other foliage between the brick building and the fenceline of the adjacent private property, and reduce levels accordingly (150mm below the damp proof course of the existing brick building). The retention of the tree would require either a steep ramp or a set of steps up to the existing level, and a no dig footpath over the tree roots, where the path would narrow to roughly 1.2 – 1.4m wide in order to provide access.