

From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 March 2021 17:34
To: Simon Davis <Simon.Davis@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Daniel Vick <Daniel.Vick@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: 261 Aldwick Road, Aldwick

Hi Simon

Following on from our discussion yesterday afternoon, please find attached my report for your consideration.

Please copy me in to any developments from your end and I shall do likewise.

Regards,

Mark

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Greenspace Team

T: 01903 737974
E: mark.warwick@arun.gov.uk

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltrovers Rd, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk



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Planning Officer: Simon Davis

Planning Application Ref: AW/279/18/RES

Location: 261 Aldwick Road Aldwick PO21 3QU

Purpose of visit: Ad-hoc inspection of approved Tree Protection Measures

Comments and observations: Site attended – 18th March 2021, 1400hrs

- While recently travelling en-route in the area I became aware of groundworks and construction activity occurring at the above site. An excavator was seen to be travelling across the Root Protection Area (RPA) of the high value, off-site oak tree (T04) in Malmayne Court. This tree is also the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. The site has been inactive for many months and since the last breach of condition; I attach my previous report which details the findings and outcomes from that event. As such, I was concerned to know if the approved ground protection measures remained effective. **Tree Retention and Protection Plan, LLD1425-ARB-DWG-002, Rev 02.** The following is a record of my observations and I draw conclusions and provide recommendations for remedial action.
- Groundwork across the site is advanced, with the footprint of all four plots dug out and above ground construction underway.
- Having been approached by one of the operatives (Dan, High Acre Construction), I was able to gain permission to enter the site and make an assessment of T04. The protective mats had been separated and scattered, with very little evidence of topsoil/mulch or woodchip in the RPA. It must be assumed that the bulk of that material has been incorporated and compacted into the subsoil. The geotextile membrane was destroyed. It was clear that a tracked vehicle had been active across large exposed areas of the RPA with consequential smearing and compaction of the soil.
- Materials are also being stored within the now unprotected RPA of T04.
- Despite large areas of RPA being identified for 'No-dig' construction, there was no preparatory ground protection in place. This 'No-dig' area has therefore been compromised once more and we need to ensure adequate ground amelioration and protection is undertaken promptly.
- Dan explained that this state was found when they were first attended site in the last week and that they had needed to construct a service run (open trench). This could doubtless have been achieved with the vast majority (if not all) of ground protection in place. We agreed a plan of action for the immediate short-term; that he would arrange for the boards to be dragged out to form a temporary (if only partially effective) level of protection so that they could conclude operations this week. I can confirm this had been undertaken within an hour of my attending site. I then spoke with Dan's manager, Keith Collier, [REDACTED] – who assured me that they would be finishing that phase of work today.

Conclusions:

- It is likely that significant damage to the most valuable tree affected by the development has occurred once more, in the form of substantial ground compaction - as a direct result of the activity by groundwork contractors employed by the developer.
- Urgent action must be taken by the developer and their project arboriculturist to arrange for the careful removal of all materials stored within the RPA of T04, effective ground amelioration and installation of ground protection as per the approved plan – as mitigation and to prevent further damage.

Recommendations:

- There is clearly a lack of oversight from the developer to ensure their sub-contractors understand why the Tree Protection Plan exists and what is required of them. This should be addressed urgently with a 'toolbox talk' from the

project arboriculturist, as recommended in the approved **Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement, LLD1425.ARB-REP-001, Rev 02** (para. 5.5).

- This incident should be investigated to determine how this event occurred and referred to our enforcement team to consider any further action. Given the gravity of these omissions, the probable extent of damage sustained and risk of ongoing damage occurring; my personal recommendation is that you place a **Temporary Stop Notice** across the site until such time as we are confident that appropriate investigation, ground amelioration, installation of approved protection measures has occurred under the direction and supervision of their project arboriculturist.



Fig.1. Looking south from near site entrance. T04 Turkey oak (TPO) to the right of frame, in the grounds of Malmayne Court. Note service run (open excavation with grey plastic duct visible) and tracked vehicle marks.



Fig.2. Looking south-west across exposed RPA of T04 showing deliberate misplacement of unsecured ground protection mats and stored materials within.



Fig.3. Looking south from near entrance to site, showing progress of above ground construction.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team