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Amendments to Approved Access off Pendleton Road.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

22nd August 2023

Introduction.

A new 6m wide access off Pendleton Road was recently approved by RVBC.

Proposals have now been put forward for the movement of this access – some 2m to the south, which would entail a 2m encroachment within the root protection area (6.9m radius) of T2.

The following comments & observations are therefore offered.

Considerations.

The original survey of the trees found them to be in acceptable condition with no obvious major defects. They were considered as mature with reasonable vitality. Both items had ivy growing up the trunks which restricted inspections.

The diameters of the two largest trees in closest proximity to the proposals were measured as;

T1 750mm equating to a root protection area of 9m radius

T2 575mm equating to a root protection area of 6.9m radius

When these root protection areas were plotted on the site plan and / or measured on site it was evident that the new access could be formed without impacting on the expected root zones.

The amended proposals require the entrance to move to the south which, would necessitate a 2m encroachment into the root protection area of T2.

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Whilst the majority of the new drive could simply be formed across the open soils / lawn in accordance with Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 12, The Use of Cellular Confinement Systems Near Trees: A Guide to Good Practice thereby causing no significant harm, a section of hedgerow and the "bund" / "mound" upon which it has been established will require removal to achieve acceptable levels to form the transition between road and garden.

The hedge can be readily removed and roots grubbed out either manually, by mini excavator or stump grinder to the required level of the new access.

It is possible that roots from T2 could also exist within this mound and could be cut / destroyed by removal of the hedge and any excavations but, due to the presence of the hedge plus the raised nature of the soils that would inevitably create improved drainage and a drier environment, the roots from T2 may well have developed at a greater depth away from any competition and into improved soils.

It should also be noted that any excavations will only encroach radially into the expected root protection area and will not cut across it. As such if any roots are damaged / cut, such actions will be to low root volumes extending outwards compared to a secant cut through numerous items.

It is not considered therefore that the proposed amendment would generate any significant harm to the tree.

As per the previous application, no pruning, crown lifting or similar works to any retained trees are necessary to implement the proposals.

Tree Protection.

Again, as discussed previously, this is a small scale project being undertaken by the householder. There is no requirement for any heavy machinery or indeed access. All works will be undertaken manually and even should deliveries to the site be made, these will be deposited at the new entrance and carried or barrowed in as required.

Any requirement for protective fencing is therefore unnecessary.

Conclusions.

From the foregoing comments and observations, it is evident that the proposed amended access will have no significant impacts on retained trees and the surfacing system proposed would retain a desirable soil structure should any tree roots exist or expand into the area.

The project is very low key / small scale and it can be reasonably accepted that no tree protection fencing is necessary in this instance.

It is reasonable to conclude therefore that there are no arboricultural reasons why approval should not be forthcoming.

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