



Arboricultural Statement
1079-1002-2023
Sandgate Nursery
West End Lane
Henfield



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Arboricultural Statement

This statement has been written in response to a comment made on the application titled Sandgate Nursery, West End Lane, reference DC/23/0189. The comment has been written by Andy Clout the assistant arboricultural officer.

Comment

‘As per previous comments regarding viability of drainage and utilities (reserved matters) for a development of the size proposed, in addition to the recently provided plans indicating those on-site boundary trees that could have their minimum recommended root protection areas (RPA’s) conserved, pls request the same in respect of the off-site veteran oak in Hollands Lane to the South. It would not be in accordance with current recommendations to have any new excavations within the trees minimum RPA which extends some distance into the site.’

Response

A survey of the veteran tree to the south of Hollands Lane was carried out on the 9th of November 2023. Accurate measurements were taken of the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the stem, height and canopy spread. This data was then used in conjunction with the standing guidance on veteran tree root protection areas (RPA) to assess the impact of the proposed development. This drawing can be seen below, figure 1.

Whilst the RPA of the veteran tree is encroached upon by the proposed development the impact is likely to be negligible. This is largely because the base of the tree sits substantially below the ground level of the site, at least 1 metre. Additionally there is a hardstanding road, ditch and then further row of semi mature and mature trees in between the tree and the development. We deem it highly unlikely that any significant roots will have made it past these obstacles and then upwards into the development site. We therefore do not feel a redesign of the masterplan is needed.

To ensure that no damage is done to the roots of this extremely valuable tree a root investigation will be recommended in the Arboricultural Method Statement to accompany the full application. This investigation will be able to ascertain the exact extent of the root plate and mitigation can then be agreed if deemed necessary.

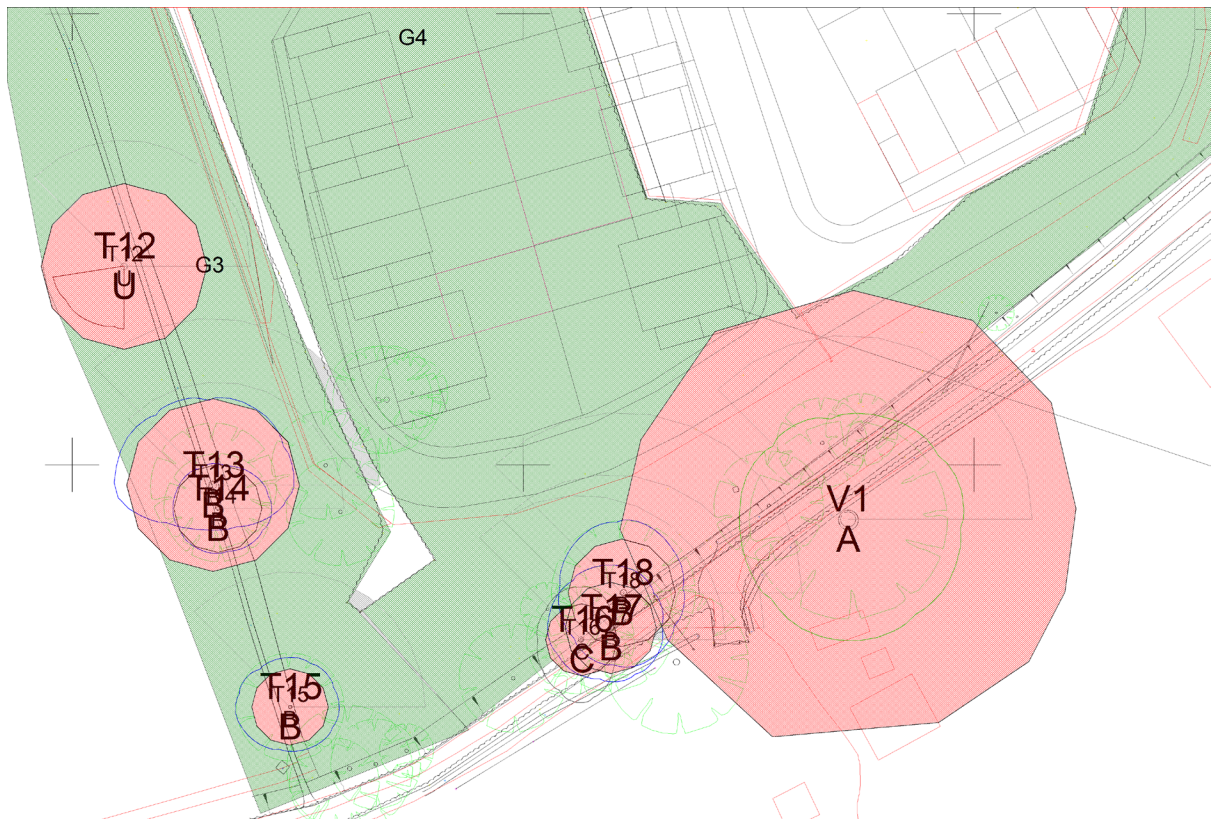


Figure 1 Veteran tree with RPA (V1)