

11 03 2022

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Proposed Extension at 11 Parc Gilbertson, Pontardawe, SA8 4PT

Introduction

There is one tree within the site, the remainder are in the garden of 9 Parc Gilbertson and to the north in land owned by Persimmon Homes adjacent to the unoccupied Gelligron Rehabilitation Unit.

A tree survey was undertaken by David Rice Forestry on 10 March 2022 (see separate document). The current proposal is for the construction of an extension immediately to the north of the existing dwelling,

History

No 11 Parc Gilbertson was constructed some 10 years ago. It is apparent that the RPA, (Root protection area) of the off site, T1 Sitka spruce, was impacted by at least 40%. The foundations would have severed all roots in that area and further loss would have occurred during the construction and kerbing of the access drive. Subsequent construction of a shed and bunker base may also have affected the RPA.

T1 Sitka spruce is subject of Tree Preservation Order T211/A7

Impact on existing trees

The proposal does not impact on the root protection areas or crowns of T2, T3 or G1. The RPA of T1 Sitka spruce will be impacted by the development.

Discussion

The past damage to the roots of T1 Sitka spruce has compromised the stability of the tree. The heavy coning suggests possible stress. It was not possible to establish if there was any root heave due to the significant ground cover.

The concern is the possibility of wind blow which could result in very significant property damage and even personal injury. A mature Scots pine has been blown down in this winters gales on the northern boundary of Gelligron Rehabilitation Unit. Such events are predicted to occur with increasing frequency in the future.

It is therefore recommended that T1 Sitka spruce is felled.

Protection of retained trees

The proposed extension will not affect the retained trees therefore no protection required.

Conclusion

The removal of T1 Sitka spruce eliminates the health and safety risk.

David Rice