

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED WORKS  
TO TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA

WESTWOOD MILL  
LOWESTWOOD LANE  
LINTHWAITE  
HUDDERSFIELD  
HD2 5UN

1.0 THE SITE..

- 1.1 The notification relates to trees within the drained former mill pond and leat from the River Colne which serves it immediately to the west of the derelict mill buildings as shown edged and hatched red on Plan 53802/PLA01E. The site lies within the Linthwaite Conservation Area.

2.0 CONTEXT.

- 2.1 Most of the buildings together with the mill pond are separately listed Grade II\* with Group Value.
- 2.2 On 27 January 2021 the Council's Strategic Planning Committee considered a planning application for partial demolition, partial rebuild, erection of extensions and alterations to form 63 apartments and erection of 64 dwellings (2020/90710).
- 2.3 The committee resolved that subject to further consultation and the signing of a S106 agreement then planning permission should be granted subject to conditions.
- 2.4 The first phase of the development which it is hoped will be completed within one year includes the restoration of the mill dam and leat to a watertight condition, partial restoration of the mill buildings to be retained and the construction of 18No. dwellings roughly on the line of the southern bank of the existing dam wall and the eastern section of the leat, as shown on the enclosed plan PLA04M.
- 2.5 Since draining, the mill pond and leat have been invaded by self seeded trees together with some older trees on the canal towpath banking on the northern side all of which now form a dense copse.
- 2.6 The restoration of the mill dam and leat requires their clearance to establish what works will be needed to secure the structures to allow the refilling of the dam, the safeguarding of the integrity of the leat, the safeguarding of the integrity of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal towpath, the engineering works required to enable the reconstruction of the dam wall on its realigned southern side to enable the construction of the dwellings, and to construct a bridge across the head of the dam to give access to the canal towpath.
- 2.7 The finalization of matters to enable planning permission to be issued will take some weeks. If that were not the case the fact that the planning permission will allow the restoration of the dam and the leat would have been relied on such that this notification would not be necessary.
- 2.8 However, to meet the project timetable it is vital that works are commenced as soon as possible – hence this submission.
- 2.9 Informal discussion has recently taken place with Nick Goddard, KMC Trees Officer.

3.0 THE TREES..

- 3.1 Submitted in support of the planning application is an arboricultural method statement with impact assessment and tree survey prepared by Brooks Ecological and dated June 2020 (Ref: AR-3976-03 AMS).

- 3.2 The existing trees within and on the banking of the former dam and leat are identified as G46 shown on the Tree Protection Plan at page 62, shown in Figure 3 on page 50 and Figure 5 on page 52 and described at page 45 – *‘Structural Condition – Fair. Dense group of goat willow, alder, birch and hawthorn. Some poorer trees, Deadwood and stubs evident throughout canopy. Bark wounds noted throughout’.*

#### 4.0 METHOD STATEMENT.

- 4.1 To enable the site investigation it is necessary to cut the trees down to stump height. There will be no excavation to remove tree roots at this stage. Access to the site will be gained from Lowestwood Lane and through the site between the mill buildings and the River Colne. A tractor(s), chipper(s) and trailer(s) will be used rather than heavy equipment such that damage to other trees in the overall site is avoided.

#### 5.0 TIMETABLE.

- 5.1 As previously stated it is vital to meet the timetable that the clearance is carried out as soon as possible prior to the trees coming into leaf and the bird nesting season.
- 5.2 As such your early attention and consideration is requested.
- 5.3 Should there be any matters of concern please contact me as soon as possible.

Malcolm Sizer

Malcolm Sizer Planning Ltd.

February 2021