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# Arboricultural Survey & Impact Assessment

Land to the rear of 2 Harbury Street Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 ORX

Produced for:
Mr Chris Green
Andrew Granger & Co Ltd
Phoenix House, 52 High Street
Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7AF

Produced by Richard A Jones (MICFor, F Arbor A)

For: of RJ Tree Services Ltd

Chartered Arboriculturist
Institute of Chartered Foresters Registered Consultant

Issue Date: April 2016 Reference: Harbury Street Burton/01

Ground Floor Unit, 3 Millers Yard, Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7PW Tel: 01858 540221 Mob: 07765 792719 Email: richard@rjtreeservices.co.uk

Chartered Arboricultural Consultancy & Advice

www.rjtreeservices.co.uk

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### Summary

This survey appraises 13 trees and 6 groups to the standards in BS5837 (2012) 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations'. It finds that 9 trees and 6 groups are shown as a Low (C). A further 6 trees are identified as being Unsuitable (U) for Retention. It considers the impact of the proposed development on the trees and vice versa.

Statutory Constraints	Issue Date	Accompanying Plan/s	Agent	Local Planning Authority
No	18 March 2016	Arboricultural Survey, Constraints & Protection Plan: 01 Site Layout Plan: 3973/AG/16/003	Andrew Granger & Co Ltd Phoenix House 52 High Street Market Harborough Leicestershire, LE16 7AF	East Staffordshire Borough Council  The Maltsters, Wetmore Rd, Burton upon Trent DE14 1LS  Tel: 01283 508000  www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

### 1. Introduction & Brief

1.1 I received written instructions from Mr. Mr Chris Green of David Granger and Co Ltd (the agent) on behalf of the client on the 25 January 2016 to appraise the trees shown on the accompanying survey plan at land to the rear of 2 Harbury Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire (the site).

### 1.2 Qualifications & Indemnity

- 1.2.1 I am the sole Director at RJ Tree Services. I am a Chartered Arboriculturist and Institute of Chartered Foresters Registered Consultant. I hold the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Arboriculture, a National Certificate (NC) in Horticulture with an Arboricultural Option and a City and Guilds in Amenity Horticulture Phase 1. I have in excess of 25 years craft and managerial experience in the arboricultural and landscape management industries in the United Kingdom and the United States including six years as a local authority tree officer and 11 years as a consultant working for various public, commercial and domestic clients.
- 1.2.2 I am a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association (F Arbor A) and a Professional Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (MICFor). I am committed to professional development and regularly attend relevant seminars and courses.
- 1.2.3 RJ Tree Services Ltd holds professional indemnity and public liability insurance which is limited to £1000000. Please contact me should you require any more information relating to this matter.

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# 2. Background & Purpose

- 2.1 An application is proposed to acquire planning consent for terraced and semidetached dwellings at the site as described on the site layout plan plan: 3973/AG/16/003 by Corporate Architecture Ltd.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is therefore:
  - To provide an objective arboricultural survey of nearby trees to BS5837 (2012) 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations'
  - To provide sufficient data to calculate tree Root Protection Areas
  - To appraise the proposed development in relation to the trees and vice versa
  - To provide a method statement/s where appropriate

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### 3. Conditions & Limitations

- 3.1 Trees should be assessed by a competent and qualified person on a regular basis. It is my recommendation that the trees discussed in this survey be assessed every one to two years in line with the guidelines in the International Society of Arboriculture Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas publication (1994); or more often where stated.
- 3.2 While every effort has been made to identify defects within the trees inspected, no absolute guarantee can be given or is intended to the safety or otherwise of any tree or trees discussed in this survey or report. Extreme climatic conditions can on occasions cause damage to what appear to be healthy trees.
- 3.3 On undertaking the recommended works, the arborist/tree surgeon must without delay report any defects that become apparent while climbing or working on the tree/s in question. Those defects must be reported immediately to the project manager, landowner and or the author of this survey to enable the appropriate remedial action.

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### 4. Survey Information

- 4.1 I undertook a brief visual assessment of the subject trees from ground level on the 12 February 2016 using current tree assessment information and in accordance with the guiding principles of BS5837 (2012). The trees are recorded in the survey sheets in appendix 1. I was unaccompanied when carrying out the survey work. No digging or drilling was undertaken.
- 4.2 This survey is for planning guidance purposes only and is intended as only a preliminary assessment of the trees. In the case of groups of trees, only a general assessment has been made and the recorded condition and retention categories awarded are on the basis of what is typical of the group.
- 4.3 The condition ratings and life expectancies are estimated (est) and retention ratings are assumed in the case where the assessment has been restricted by way of the trees being located outside the site, or access being constrained by barbed wire, dense ivy or other plant growth, a build up of debris, soil etc.
- 4.4 The weather conditions were clear with adequate visibility for surveying trees.
- 4.5 This survey is based on a site Topographical Survey Plan provided by Mr. Mr Chris Green, which I have amended to produce the Arboricultural Survey and Constraints Plan 01. The trees are shown on the Arboricultural Survey and Constraints Plan 01 thus: T1 and so on.

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### 5. Statutory Protection

5.1 The East Staffordshire Borough Council interactive website map on the 04 April 2016 shows that no trees at the site are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)-see clipped plan 01.



Plan 01

- 5.2 The site does not appear to be in a conservation area.
- 5.3 General Guidance: A TPO is an order made by a Local Planning Authority (LPA) to protect trees when it is considered expedient in the interests of amenity. Written consent from the LPA must be obtained before any work can take place on protected trees. Failure to acquire written consent from the LPA or damage, deliberate or otherwise, to TPO trees or trees in conservation areas may result in prosecution and a substantial fine.
- 5.4 New TPO's may be served and conservation area boundaries changed. Hence, I would recommend that you check the protective status of the trees at and around the site immediately before carrying out work on them.
- 5.5 **Exemptions:** An exemption from the need for an application under the TPO or conservation area applies to the removal of dead limbs or where tree pruning or removal work is necessary to implement a development with <u>full</u> planning permission. This exemption does not apply to outline planning consent.
- 5.6 It is not necessary to give the LPA six week's notice to work on trees in conservation areas with a stem diameter of less the 75mm.

# 6. Documents & Additional Information

6.1 Mr Chris Green provided the site layout plan: 3973/AG/16/003 by Corporate Architecture Ltd. He also provided a Topographical Survey Plan.

### 7. The Site

- 7.1 The proposed development area is positioned to the north west of Burton upon Trent Town Centre to the rear of Harbury Street. It is roughly rectangular in format with trees primarily positioned on the peripheries.
- 7.2 There are garages in the centre of the site (photograph 1), which appear to be somewhat dilapidated. The site appears to have been used for dumping garden and other domestic waste.



Photograph 1

- 7.3 The rear gardens of existing housing backs directly onto the site. Access is available through locked gates directly from Harbury Street.
- 7.4 There are no trees of any particular merit growing at the site. They are a mix of self seeded sycamore (photograph 2) and aging silver birch (photograph 3), ornamental conifers, fruit and other garden trees. The trees growing at the site are not particularly prominent in terms of the public visual landscape in that they are situated behind existing housing.



Photograph 2



Photograph 3

7.5 Fungal fruiting bodies were identified by me only where described in the accompanying survey schedule and or in the preceding paragraphs.

### 7.6 Generic Recommendations

- 7.6.1 **Plant Growth and Other Debris:** In situations where a build up of debris and or plant growth has restricted an adequate assessment taking place; it is my advice that the debris and or plant growth be removed and that a further assessment be undertaken at the soonest opportunity as described in the following tree works schedule.
- 7.6.2 **Tree Works:** To avoid confusion and on agreement (in writing) with the LPA, I would recommend that any trees selected for removal should be marked on site by the supervising arboriculturist using spray paint.
- 7.6.3 It is my advice that the tree works recommended in the associated survey schedule should be completed at the soonest opportunity subject to statutory constraints and formal consent from the appropriate tree/land owner.
- 7.6.4 *Trees and Wildlife*: Trees are hosts to nesting birds, many of which are protected by law. Investigations should be carried out for signs of bats (all of which are protected by law) and nesting birds and advice sought from appropriate agencies such as Natural England, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) following any positive sightings. Tree works should be planned carefully to avoid disturbing nesting birds and roosting bats. The disturbance of protected species is an offence and could result in prosecution, a criminal record and a substantial fine.

### 8. Trees outside the Boundary

8.1 The tree/s growing outside the site boundary that impact on the development area and vice versa are considered above and in the survey schedule.

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# **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

# 1. The Trees & Development

- 1.1 This proposal requires the loss of all the trees at the site. They are a combination of self-seeded sycamore and aging silver birch, ornamental conifers, fruit and other garden trees. The site is constrained by houses on all sides. The trees growing therein are cannot not be easily seen from the outside as a result.
- 1.2 Accordingly, the existing trees have little merit as a visual amenity; which is reflected by their C and U grades in the accompanying survey schedule.
- 1.3 Conclusion: It is apparent that there is little potential for this development to impact on the overall general public amenity of the area from an arboricultural perspective. The existing trees proposed to be removed to facilitate the proposal have very limited merit in the broad public landscape and what merit is lost will be mitigated by new high quality landscaping. Accordingly, I cannot foresee any reasonable cause in arboricultural terms for this development not to go ahead.

### 2. Trees, Soils & Foundations

2.1 No data is available relating to soil type. Consideration should be given to the implications of tree removal, planting and retention in terms of foundation type. A suitably qualified structural engineer should be consulted in terms of foundation design.

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# **Arboricultural Survey Schedule**

Tree no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't <sub>(max)</sub> m		Crown Spread m (est max)		Cr'n Height (est max)	Stem Diam mm-	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations	
1	Constant	SM	20	1.4	22	N	E	S	W	m	640			C1	Vom done in restricted accesses
1	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	SIVI	20	14	22	6	6	6	6	2	640	-	-	C1	Very dense ivy restricted assessment Located internally within site-Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations: Clear ivy & re-assess Raise crown to 4m above ground level  RPA: 7.8m radius, 191m² area
2	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Yng	20	10	22	3	3	3	3	2	370	С	В	C1	Asymmetrical form Located internally within site-Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations: N/A RPA: 4.5m radius, 64m² area

#### Abbreviations:

Yng- Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy, SM-Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged, EM- Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy

Mat- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth, O/M- Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

Vet- Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value \* = Calculation from section 4.6a of BS5837 (2012)

Con Cat= Condition Category- A= Good. B= Fair. C= Poor, D= Dead, Phys Cat= Condition Category- A= Good. B= Fair. C= Poor, D= Dead, Ret Cat = Retention Category- A= High. B= Moderate. C= Low. U= Unsuitable for Retention. >= Greater than. <= Less than. est = Estimate. max = Maximum. H't = Height. C'n = Crown. CV = Cultivar. GL=Ground level, exp=Expectancy, RPA = Root Protection Area.

Tree no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't (max) m	N	Crown Spread m (est max)  N E S W		Cr'n Height (est max) m	Stem Diam mm-	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations	
3	Apple (Malus sp)	SM	20	8	10	2	2	2	2	1	320	В	B-C	C1	Located internally within site-Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations: N/A  RPA: 3.9m radius, 48m² area
4	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	Yng	20	10	22	2	1	2	2	1	240	В	В	C1	Asymmetrical form Located internally within site  Recommendations: N/A  RPA: 3m radius, 28m² area

#### Abbreviations:

Yng- Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy, SM- Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged, EM- Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy

Mat- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth, O/MOver Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

Vet- Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value \* = Calculation from section 4.6a of BS5837 (2012)

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Site: Land to rear of Harbury Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffs

Issue Date: April 2016

Tree no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't (max) m	N	Cro Spr n (est	ead n	W	Cr'n Height (est max) m	Stem Diam mm	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations
5	Silver birch (Betula pendula)	EM	10	10	14	1	3	3	3	2	380	С	С	U	Asymmetrical declining form-Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations: Remove  RPA: N/A
6	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	EM	20	16	22	10	6	6	10	2	570 x3 390 x1 1000*	В	В	C1	Ripped broken branch stubs, multi-stemmed at below 0.5m from ground level, compact branch unions Located internally within site- Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations:  If retained-raise crown to 4m & remove branch stubs  RPA: 12m radius, 452m² area
7	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	EM	10	12	22	6	1	6	6	3	450	С	B-C	U	Poor asymmetrical form Located internally within site  Recommendations: Remove  RPA: 5.4m radius, 92m² area

#### Abbreviations:

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Mat- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth, O/M- Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

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Site: Land to rear of Harbury Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffs

Issue Date: April 2016

Tree no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't <sub>(max)</sub> m		Crown Spread m (est max)		Cr'n Height (est max)	Stem Diam mm	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations	
8	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	EM	10	10	22	1	1 1	1	1 1	<b>m</b> 2	150	B-C	В	C1	Poor asymmetrical form Located internally within site- Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations:
															RPA: 5.4m radius, 92m² area
9	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	EM	20	14	22	6	6	4	6	2	460 x1 410 x1 616*	С	В	U	Multi-stemmed at below 0.5m from ground level- attached by potentially fragile included bark union Located internally within site-Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations:  If retained-raise crown to 4m & remove branch stubs  RPA: 12m radius, 452m² area
10	Silver birch (Betula pendula)	EM	20	10	14	3	3	3	3	2	260	В	В	C1	Located on site boundary Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations: Remove  RPA: 3.3m radius, 34m² area

#### Abbreviations:

Yng- Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy, SM-Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged, EM- Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy

Mat- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth, O/M- Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

Vet- Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value. \* = Calculation from section 4.6a of BS5837 (2012)

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Site: Land to rear of Harbury Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffs

Issue Date: April 2016

Tree no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't (max) m	N	Crown Spread m (est max) N E S W		Cr'n Height (est max) m	Stem Diam mm	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations	
11	Plum (Prunus sp)	SM	<10	8	10	2	2	2	2	1	150	C-D	В	U	Recommendations: Remove  RPA: N/A
12	Maple (Acer platanoides)	SM	20	10	16	2	2	2	1	1	200 est	-	В	C1	Located outside boundary-Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations: N/A  RPA: 2.4m radius, 18m² area
13	Maple (Acer platanoides)	SM	20	10	16	2	2	2	1	1	200 est	-	В	C1	Located outside boundary-Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations: N/A  RPA: 2.4m radius, 18m² area

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Mat- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth, O/M-

Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

Vet- Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value. \* = Calculation from section 4.6a of BS5837 (2012)

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# **Group Survey Schedule**

Grp no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't (max) m		Crown Spread m (est max)		Cr'n Height (est max)	Stem Diam mm max	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations	
1	Silver birch x 3 (Betula pendula)	Mat- OM	10	14-16	14	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b> 6	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b> 6	<b>m</b> 2	A. 480 B. 460 C. 480	B-C	В	C2	Inherently short lived trees, dense ivy growing over TC Located internally within site-Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations:  If retained-Clear ivy & re-assess  RPA: 5.7m radius, 101m² area max
2	Silver birch x 2 (Betula pendula)	Yng	20	10	14	3	3	3	3	2	A. 290 B. 160	В	В	C2	Pair of inconsequential trees Located internally within site-Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations:  If retained-Clear ivy & re-assess  RPA: 3.6m radius, 41m² area max
3	Leyland cypress (XCupressocyapris leylandii)	SM	10	10	20	2	2	2	2	GL	300 est	С	В	C2	Located on/just outside the site boundary-Limited merit as general public amenity
															Recommendations: Maintain as hedgerow  RPA: 3.6m radius, 41m² area est max

#### Abbreviations:

Yng- Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy, SM-Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged, EM- Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy

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Grp no	Species	Age	Min life exp (est)	Height (est) m	Mat H't (max) m	N	Spr	ead n max)	W	Cr'n Height (est max) m	Stem Diam mm max	Con Cat est	Phys Cat est	Ret Cat	Comments & Recommendations
4	Leyland cypress (XCupressocyapris leylandii)  Lawson's cypress (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana)	SM	10	8	18	2	2	2	2	GL	200 est	С	В	C2	Located on/just outside the site boundary-Limited merit as general public amenity  Recommendations:  Maintain as hedgerow  RPA: 2.4m radius, 18m² area est max
5	Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Yng	20	8	22	1	1	1	1	GL	180	В	В	C2	Insignificant trees of very little merit in landscape Probably originally planted as a hedgerow  Recommendations: N/A  RPA: 2.1m radius, 14m² area max
6	Leyland cypress (XCupressocyapris leylandii)	SM	10	10	20	2	2	2	2	GL	200 est	С	В	C2	Insignificant trees of very little merit in landscape Clipped hedgerow  Recommendations: Maintain as hedgerow  RPA: 2.4m radius, 18m² area est max

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Yng- Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy, SM-Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged, EM- Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy

Mat- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth, O/M- Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

Vet- Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value. \* = Calculation from section 4.6a of BS5837 (2012)

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# **Arboricultural Survey Data Collection Methodology**

The trees are identified by their common and botanical names. The identification is based on visual observations and the common name is listed first, with the botanical name in brackets. In some instances it may be difficult to identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, a sp is shown after the genus. The species shown for groups represents the main constituent and there may be other minor species not listed. Common names are sometimes regional and may therefore vary in terms of the locality.

BS5837 (2012) suggests the following age classifications which have been supplemented to assist the reader:

**Yng**- Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy

**SM-** Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged

**EM**- Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy

**Mat**- Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth

**O/M**- Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature

**Vet**- Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value

A retention category (Ret Cat) is given as follows to correspond with table 1 of BS5837 (2012):

#### **Ret Cat**

- A- Trees of a high quality and value with greater than 40 years estimated life expectancy-shown as light green on plan (sub category 1: mainly arboricultural qualities, 2: mainly collective landscape qualities, 3: mainly conservation & or cultural values)
- B- Trees of moderate quality and value with 20 to 40 years estimated life expectancy -shown as mid blue on plan (sub category 1: mainly arboricultural qualities, 2: mainly collective landscape qualities, 3: mainly conservation & or cultural values)
- C- Trees of low quality and value with 10 to 20 years estimated life expectancy -shown as grey on plan
  Trees below 150mm diameter, which may be considered for transplanting
  (sub category 1: mainly arboricultural qualities, 2: mainly collective landscape qualities, 3: Mainly conservation & or cultural values)
- **U** Trees in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years-shown as red on plan

The trees are given a supplementary **structural condition** (Con Cat) and **physiological condition category** (Phys Cat) thus:

#### **Con Cat**

- **A** Trees that appear to be in a good condition without any obvious defects
- **B** Trees that appear to be in a moderate to good condition and/or with only minor defects that can be addressed by pruning and/or trees with an unbalanced shape or form
- **C** Trees that are of a poor quality that are in decline and or with one or more obvious structural defect that can be addressed by major surgery
- **D** Trees that are of a very poor quality with one or more significant structural defects and or that are in an irreversible state of decline with a very limited safe life expectancy, Dead trees

#### **Phys Cat**

- **A** Trees that appear to be in a good physiological condition
- **B** Trees that appear to be in a moderate physiological condition
- **C** Trees that are in a poor physiological condition
- **D** Trees that are in a very poor physiological condition or dead

**Trunk diameters** are recorded in millimetres at 1.5m from ground level and at the narrowest point below any out of the ordinary swelling as recommended in BS5837 (2012).

**Trunk diameters** are measured on the up-slope side of the tree base on sloping-ground as recommended in BS5837 (2012). A current maximum stem diameter is given to trees considered as a group.

**Tree heights** are estimated in metres and a mature height is given according to the guidelines shown in the NHBC Standards April 2006 Chapter 4.2, Table 12. A current maximum height is given to trees considered as a group.

As recommended in BS5837 (2012) **Crown radii** (Spread) are measured at the four cardinal points in meters: *N-North, E-East, S-South, W-West* and a lowest crown clearance from ground level is given at the lowest of the four cardinal points or all four when the crown clearance is roughly level. The crown radius and level measurements are as accurate as possible, but in some instances are estimated (est) due to difficult ground conditions or restricted access. In the case of groups, the maximum peripheral spread is given.

Brief comments are made on the overall health and condition of the trees in question and recommendations are given for any management works considered appropriate on the date of inspection in relation to the current site conditions.

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