

37 STOCKHAY LANE

HAMMERWICH

NR LICHFIELD

WS7 0JE

*Report Prepared by*

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Chartered Arboriculturist*

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## Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an arboricultural assessment of the trees within influencing distance of a planning proposal at 37 Stockhay Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JE. The assessment is based on BS5837-2012 Trees in Relation to Demolition, Design and Construction-Recommendations and the report will provide information on the trees. The report concludes that redevelopment of the site is possible with no tree removal for development purposes.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Brief** I am instructed by Ms A Burford to survey the trees within influencing distance of a planning proposal at 37 Stockhay Lane, Hammerwich, WS7 0JE and provide an arboricultural report to meet the requirements of BS5837-2012 Trees in Relation to Demolition, Design and Construction (2012)
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience. I have experience and qualifications in arboriculture and include a summary in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** I have been supplied the following information by Ms Burford
- Topographical survey of the site
  - Proposal drawings
- 1.4 **Relevant background information:** Using the Lichfield District Council online mapping it was determined that the site was not within a Conservation Area, and that the trees on site are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- 1.5 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with surveying the trees on the site. It includes a preliminary assessment based on the site visit and the documents provided, listed in 1.3 above.

## 2. SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

- 2.1 **Site visit:** I carried out an accompanied site visit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigations and I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. I did not have access to trees outside the boundaries and have confined observations of them to what was visible from inside the site. The weather at the time of inspection was dry with reasonable visibility.

- 2.2 **Brief site description:** The site is a collection of buildings which may have been used for storage or other agricultural usage. The site is accessed by a hard surfaced drive from Stockhay Lane continuing along the front of the properties. A public footpath runs across the northern boundary of the site. All other boundaries are with open agricultural land. The site topography is broadly level and the area is not considered to be exposed.
- 2.3 **Identification and location of the trees:** I have illustrated the approximate locations of the significant trees and groups on the sketch plan included as Figure 1 at Appendix 4 to this report. This plan is for illustrative purposes only and it should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information on the trees is contained within this report and the provided documents.
- 2.4 **Collection of basic data:** I inspected each tree and have indicated the numbering on the site plan extract enclosed as Figure 1 in Appendix 4. For each tree I collected information on species, height, diameter, maturity, and potential for contribution to amenity in a development context. I have recorded this information in the tree schedule included as Appendix 2. I stress that my inspection was of a preliminary nature and did not involve any climbing or detailed investigation beyond what was visible from accessible points at ground level. I have used Visual Tree Assessment techniques to assess the trees on site.

### 3. APPRAISAL

- 3.1 **Relevant references:** The tree protection distances used in Appendix 3 are based upon the recommendations in BS5837 Trees in Relation to Demolition, Design and Construction (2012).
- 3.2 I have taken into consideration three individual trees and three groups when preparing this report. None of the groups are graded above C within the BS5837 classification scheme. The individual trees have all been graded as B.
- 3.3 The three individual trees are on the western side of the access drive and all are Oaks. T1 the largest tree is dying back in the high crown and has had several large pieces of dead wood removed that were overhanging the driveway. The tree has a significant degree of Ivy in its lower crown and on the stem. Ivy although not a hazard can disguise defects from observation.

- 3.4 T2 has minor dead wood within its crown but no more than is usually associated with a tree of its age. T3 located at the end of the drive has Ivy growing up its stem and into the lower crown.
- 3.5 G1 is a linear group of Cypress giving good screening between the house and outbuildings and the public footpath to the north. The trees also screen the residential properties further to the north. The trees have been reduced in the recent past and have very little growth on the northern part of their crowns. Laurel shrubs have been planted to the south of this feature providing extra low-level screening. These shrubs extend some way over the existing drive.
- 3.6 G2 is the understorey to T1, T2 and T3. It provides good boundary definition to the west of the access drive. No recent works appear to have been carried out on the trees. G3 is a group of three Cypress located adjacent to the gateway to the site. These trees have also been reduced in the recent past and provide a continuation of G1.
- 3.7 **The proposal:** This report is prepared with two options in mind.
- 1) Demolish the existing buildings and rebuild on the footprint
  - 2) Convert the existing buildings into a residential unit.
- 3.8 Whichever option is finalised the trees can be adequately protected during the construction process. The width of the existing drive will allow free passage in and out for construction and demolition vehicles if needed. Storage of materials can be made on existing hard surfaces and welfare facilities placed here also or the existing outbuildings utilised.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 On the basis of the above information and discussions, I summarise my conclusions as follows:-

- The proposal can be achieved with no tree removal for development purposes
- The retained trees down the driveway are out of direct influencing distance of the proposal and require no protection for construction or demolition purposes.

- G1 is set back and protected by the presence of the Laurel growing alongside the drive. A lightweight fence proportionate to the task can be erected along the edge of the drive to serve as adequate protection.
- The demolition or conversion of the properties can be achieved within the width of the existing hard surface.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 **Present requirements:** Works identified to the trees are made on arboricultural grounds and are contained within the data sheet at Appendix 3 to this report.

5.2 **Implementation of works:** All tree works should be carried out to BS 3998 *Recommendations for Tree Work* as modified by more recent research. It is advisable to select a contractor from the local authority list and preferably one approved by the Arboricultural Association. Their Register of Contractors is available free from The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3DL website [www.trees.org.uk/contractors.htm](http://www.trees.org.uk/contractors.htm).

5.3 **Statutory wildlife obligations:** The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. All tree work operations are covered by these provisions and advice from an ecologist must be obtained before undertaking any works that might constitute an offence.

5.4 **Arboricultural Impact Assessment:** The impact the proposal will have directly on the trees on site is considered to be low. No works will need to take place within the Root Protection Areas (RPA) of any of the trees and lightweight fencing will serve to retain G1.

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## Appendix 1 Qualifications

### Qualifications and experience of Andrew L Smith

#### 1. **Qualifications:**

Certificate in Arboriculture Royal Forestry Society 1986  
Technicians Certificate Arboricultural Association 1988  
Master of Arboriculture Royal Forestry Society 1989  
Advanced Diploma in Arboriculture and Community Forestry 2001  
Cardiff University Accredited Expert Witness 2006  
Licensed Practitioner of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment 2006  
Professional Tree Inspection, Arboricultural Association / Lantra 2007

#### 2. **Professional Body memberships**

Fellow of the Arboricultural Association  
Chartered Forester, Institute of Chartered Foresters  
Chartered Environmentalist, Society of the Environment  
Professional Member of the International Society of Arboriculture

3. **Practical experience:** I have been involved in arboriculture for 47 years and have experience of private and local authority work practices.

4. **Continuing Professional Development:** This is collated and monitored by the professional associations to which I belong and reaches and agreed amount hours per year.



## Appendix 2 Tree Schedule and Data

Tree No	Species	Crown Spread as radii from Trunk (m)				Height (M)	Age Class	Stem Diameter (mm)	Lowest Branch	Life Estimate	Condition
		N	S	E	W						
1	Oak	4	5	4	6	19	M	800	6	30	F
2	Oak	4	4	4	4	18	M	550	5	30	F
3	Oak	2	2	2	2	11	EM	300	3	30	F
G1	Cypress	1	1	1	1	8	M	320	0	20	F
G2	Oak, Cypress, Hazel	1	1	1	1	10	EM	250	1	20	F
G3	Cypress	1	1	1	1	5	M	250	2	20	F

## Appendix 3 Works Required and Tree Protection Distances

Tree No	Species	Remarks	BS 5837 Classification	Works Required	TPZ (m <sup>2</sup> )	Radius of TPZ
1	Oak	Dieback in high crown ivy on stem and lower crown	B2	Sever Ivy	290	9.6
2	Oak	Located with G2, minor dead wood in crown	B1	No tree works required	137	6.6
3	Oak	Ivy on lower stem and crown	B2	Sever Ivy	41	3.6
G1	Cypress	Linear feature of cypress with Laurel under planting, reduced in past and little growth to north west, good screen value	C1	Maintain as hedge	46	3.8
G2	Oak, Cypress, Hazel	Lining hard driveway, understorey to individual trees	C1	Maintain off drive	28	3.0
G3	Cypress	Three trees recently reduced	C1	No tree works required	28	3.0

## Explanatory Notes

- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are estimates unless otherwise indicated.
- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first. In some instances, it may be difficult to quickly and accurately identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, it is indicated with a '?' after the name in order to avoid delay in the production of the report. The species listed for groups and hedges represent the main component and there may be other minor species not listed.
- **Mathematical abbreviations:** > = Greater than; < = Less than
- **Height:** Height is estimate height to the nearest metre.
- **Spread:** The maximum crown spread is visually estimated to the nearest metre from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches.
- **Diameter:** These figures relate to 1.5m above ground level and are recorded in millimetres. If appropriate, diameter is measured with a diameter tape. 'M' indicates trees or shrubs with multiple stems.
- **Estimated Age:** Age is estimated from visual indicators and it should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records or local knowledge. Y= < 20Yrs, SM = Half the expected mature age, EM = Two Thirds the expected mature age, M = Mature age, OM = Over mature going into senescence, V = Veteran
- **Distance to Structures:** This is estimated to the nearest metre and intended it as an indication rather than a precise measurement.
- **BS 5837** Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction- Recommendations 2012 lists 4 categories that trees should be placed into to aid in the Design, Planning and Implementation of Construction works near trees, these categories are as follows
  - **Category U Trees (less than 10 Years)**
  - Those trees that are in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management
  - **Category A Trees (More than 40 Years)** Those of such high quality and value, that they are able to make a substantial contribution to the finished development.
  - **Category B Trees (minimum of 20 years)** Those of moderate quality and value and that are able to make a significant contribution to the finished development.
  - **Category C Trees (Minimum of 10 years)** Those of low quality and value and can remain until new planting can be established or young trees below 150mm diameter.
  - Categories A B and C have 3 sub categories to cover either Arboricultural (1) Landscape (2) or Conservation (3) values

- **Condition** P = Poor F = Fair G = Good
- **Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) M<sup>2</sup>** The area needed surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure its survival.
- **Radius of Tree Protection Zone (M)** Suggested minimum radius of a circular enclosure that ensures the tree has sufficient rooting volume left undisturbed.
- **Works Required**
  - Formative prune generally entails cleaning through the canopy to remove dead, dying, crossing and rubbing branches. It also includes the removal of epicormic and basal growth, the removal of any unbalanced or misshapen limbs, this will leave the tree in a safe attractive and desirable form
  - Crown lift to a specified height is when lower branches are removed to allow either highway access or pedestrian access. This work is specified where the author has felt that damage may occur to the tree if lower branches are left as they are.
  - Remove ivy instructions mean that at least 300mm should be removed from the base of any ivy growing into a trees canopy; the ivy should be allowed to dieback and then be removed from the tree.
  - Monitor refers to an annual check on the condition of a fork that may be prone to movement within it.

# Appendix 4 Plan

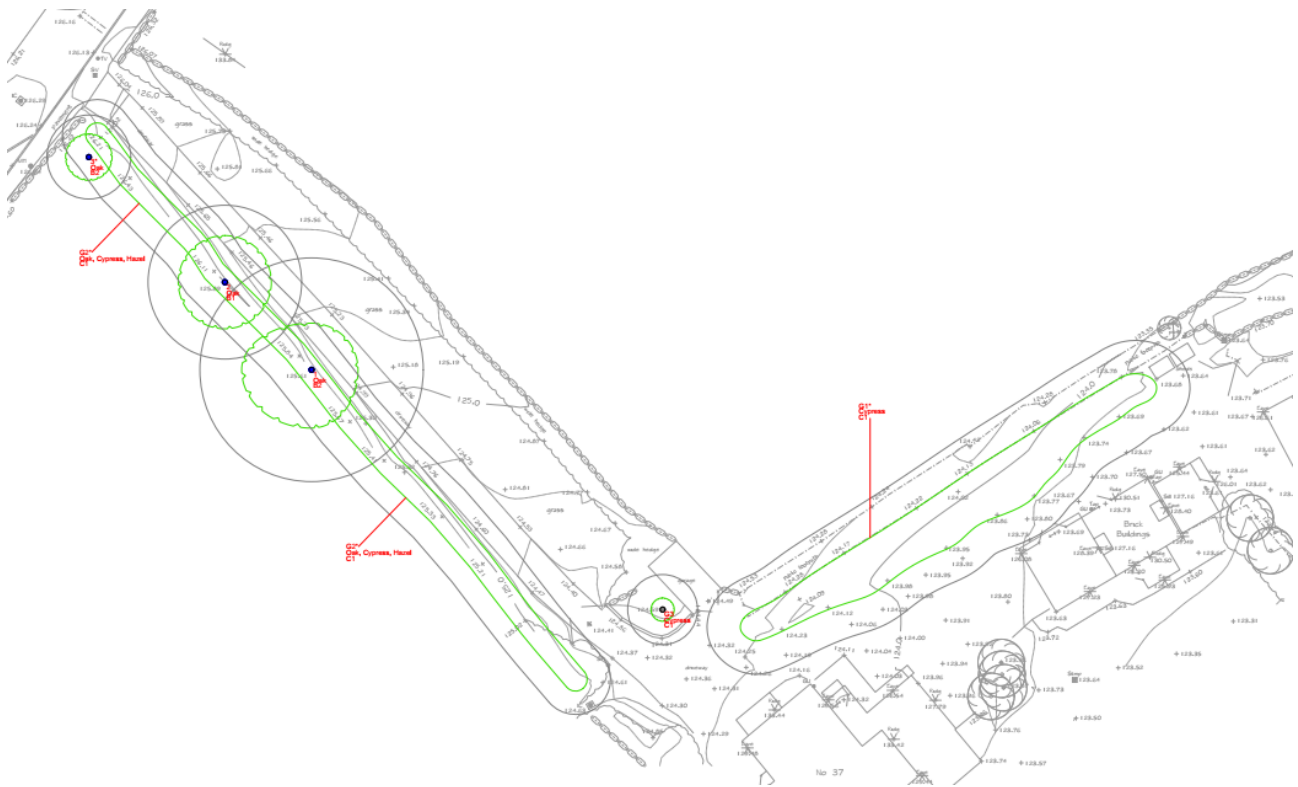


Fig 1 Tree Constraints Plan\*



Unless stated otherwise

## **1. The Service**

1.1 Tree Health Consulting Ltd agrees to supply arboricultural consulting services of a preliminary nature or a more thorough service as advised or as commissioned.

## **2. Fees**

2.1 The client(s) will settle the agreed fee in full, within 14 days of receiving the invoice. Reports will remain the property of Tree Health Consulting Ltd until full payment has been received. No liability is accepted for the contents of a report that is not paid in full. Any queries should be notified to Tree Health Consulting Ltd within 7 days of the invoice date.

2.2 If the client(s) fails to pay within the time specified in 2.1 then Tree Health Consulting Ltd shall charge the client(s) interest on the outstanding fee, both before and after any judgment, at the rate of 4% above the HSBC base rate, until payment is made in full (A part of a month being treated as a full month for the purposes of calculating interest).

2.3 In the event that it is necessary to recover any outstanding fees from the client(s), the client(s) will fully reimburse any costs and expenses incurred during the recovery period, including court costs. Tree Health Consulting Ltd reserves the right to make a charge for every letter sent and telephone/fax call made, in connection with the recovery.

2.4 Should the arboriculturist be unable to complete the site investigation as a result of conditions outlined in 3.5, then Tree Health Consulting Ltd will charge the client(s) the costs of travel and time spent.

## **3. Site Investigation**

3.1 The scope of the site investigation is preliminary in nature, unless otherwise agreed with the client(s). Where a more detailed investigation is required, the client(s) will be advised accordingly.

3.2 No investigation will be made of any covered, inaccessible, or underground structures (unless specifically stated).

3.3 Investigation of Private Covenants is to be the responsibility of the client/landowner or agent.

3.4 Site investigations are undertaken by experienced and suitably qualified arboriculturists. Observations are taken from ground level only, within the curtilage of the site and public accessible areas, where this can be done safely and without undue difficulty. Binoculars are used where necessary. Tree heights, age range and future growth potential are approximate. Unless stated otherwise: 1) information contained within our reports covers only those trees that were examined and reflects the condition of those trees at the time of the inspection: and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of the subject trees from ground level only and without dissection, excavation, probing or coring. There is no warranty

or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future.

3.5 During the site investigation if the arboriculturist considers their personal safety is at risk, or that they would breach the conditions of the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), then they are entitled to abandon the investigation and advise the client(s) accordingly.

3.6 The inspection may require on-site soil profile analysis and excavation and we cannot be held responsible for damage to any underground services not made known to us by the client/landowner or agent.

3.7 Identification of fungi, insects, or tree disorders is based on field observations and does not include a laboratory analysis (unless specifically stated).

3.8 Soil profile samples are extracted using a hand auger. The identification of soil profile types and soil conditions is based on field observations. No samples are taken for laboratory analysis (unless specifically stated).

#### **4. The Report**

4.1 If any part of the report is lost, or altered without the written consent of Tree Health Consulting Ltd, then the entire report becomes invalid.

4.2 The general format of reports is a licensed/certified product and cannot be shown, copied or distributed to third parties without the permission of Tree Health Consulting Ltd. No liability is accepted for the contents of the report, other than to that of the client(s).

4.3 The report will purport not to express any opinion or comment as to the condition or structural integrity of any building and no reliance should be made on any such comments.

4.4 The report does not represent legal advice and no reliance should be placed on any such comments.

4.5 If tree/s are on neighbouring land, the tree owner is ultimately responsible and therefore we would advise that the neighbouring tree owner check with his/her insurance company in order to ascertain if adequate building insurance cover is available in the event of any claims arising from the action of the tree/s.

4.6. Trees are dynamic living organisms and constantly change; therefore, all trees to be retained on site should be further inspected every two years by a qualified Consulting Arboriculturist.

4.7. Scale drawings, technical land surveys and accurate tree plotting data will be supplied if necessary and at extra cost. Non-scale sketch plan drawings may be included as part of the report.

#### **5. Insurance Cover**

5.1 All work carried out by Tree Health Consulting Ltd is covered by a £5,000,000 Third Party, Public Liability insurance and a £1,000,000 professional Indemnity insurance.

## **6. Quality of Craftsmanship**

6.1 When appointing a Tree Contractor, please use only suitably qualified and experienced companies (The Local Authority Tree Officer may be able to provide a select list of such companies) and always check that they carry Public and Products Liability Insurance with a minimum of £2 million cover and the relevant Employers Liability Insurance. All tree works must conform rigorously to BS 3998 (2010) 'Recommendations for Tree Work' and as modified by research more recent. Any stump treatment (poisons) must be carried out by a licensed chemical operative.

6.2 Tree Health Consulting Ltd will not accept liability for any works undertaken by any other companies, or contractors.

## **7. Statutory Provisions**

7.1 Before authorising these, or any other tree works, you should contact your Local Planning Authority to ascertain if the trees are the subjects of any Tree Preservation Order or if they are within a Conservation Area, as if either applies, statutory permission will be required before any works can take place