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Arboricultural Report

| <u>Title:</u> | Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan, for the development of: Beeches Farm, Icknield Way, Tring HP23 4LA. |
|----------------|---|
| Instructed by: | Mr A Screech Archaylen Property Limited Beeches Farm Icknield Way Tring HP23 4LA |
| Prepared by: | A S Peacock ABC Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture |
| Date: | 17 June 2022 |
| Reference: | APPA150622/1 |

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Arboricultural Report is to accompany a Planning Application development of an existing office/industrial area, located at Beeches Farm, Icknie Way, Tring HP23 4LA. The proposed development is to include single-storey offices, parking, landscaped areas and related facilities.
- 1.2 I am Alex Peacock, a qualified and independent arboriculturist. A summary qualifications, experience and professional memberships are included at Appendix 3.
- 1.3 This Arboricultural Report is based on recommendations and guidance se British Standard 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and constructior Recommendations.* Justification will be provided if any course of action deviates fro these recommendations.
- 1.4 I carried out a tree survey inspection on 6 April 2021 to record information about tree with a stem diameter of 75mm or more, on and adjacent to the site. Details survey are included in the Tree Survey Schedule at Appendix 1. An Explanatory Key to the Tree Survey Schedule is included at Appendix 2.

2.0 <u>Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)</u>

2.1 Impacts of the development on the trees

- 2.1.1 The removal of tree numbers 0720, 1044 and G7 will be required in order to undertak construction, as the trees are positioned within the footprint of the development are Loss of these trees is considered to be of low impact as they are either of poor quality or young in age (and therefore easily replaced). If these trees are to be retained it v result in excessive pressure on the remaining trees at the site in order to implement the design. Whereas removal of these trees will allow larger areas of root zone to remain undisturbed, reducing the impact of development on the retained trees.
- 2.1.2 The new access road will encroach into the RPA of tree number 0722. The impac this tree is considered to be low as the amount of incursion is negligible (estimated less than 5%). Furthermore, the tree's RPA has been significantly increased in all other areas surrounding the tree, and the ground will remain undisturbed due to a rc protective barrier to prevent any damage through construction activities.
- 2.1.3 The crowns of tree numbers 0715, 0716, 0717, 0722, G4 and G5 will overhan protective barrier and could therefore be damaged by construction traffic. This could result in large tears or wounding to the tree, which will be entry points for decay funplus the loss of foliage may cause a decline in health. The impact is considered to low, as minor crown pruning will bring the overhang back inside the protective barrie eliminating the likelihood of damage occurring. Furthermore, the crowns of G4, G5 and tree 0722 are above the height of construction traffic, therefore no pruning is needed.

2.2 Impacts of the trees on the development

Shading caused by the existing trees may cause reduced light levels to the east ϵ south elevation of the new offices, leading to future pressures for pruning, or the trees removal. Shading in this case, is likely to be of low impact, as the buildings ar ϵ residential, plus design of the internal configuration is orientated so that the outlook the offices are in the opposite direction, i.e. towards the landscaped courtyard views across Aylesbury Vale.

3.0 <u>Issues to be addressed in the Arboricultural Method Statement</u>

An Arboricultural Method Statement is attached to this document. It provides details (how the impacts detailed in paragraph 2.0 will be mitigated so that construction of th development can be undertaken with minimal risk of adverse impact to the trees bein retained. Issues to be addressed are as follows:-

- Location and specifications for tree protective barriers to protect the RPA trees being retained.
- Schedule of tree work, including a specification for pruning to tree numbers 07 0716 and 0717.
- Replacement tree planting to mitigate the loss of tree numbers 0720, 1044 and G7.
- Positioning of site offices and welfare facilities.
- Frequency and timings of arboricultural site monitoring.
- Locations of contractor parking and storage of building materials.
- Other general precautionary measures required for construction activities outside the construction exclusion zone.
- Sequencing of operations.

4.0 <u>Disclaimers</u>

This report is for the sole use of the above named client and refers to only those tree identified within; use by any other person(s) in attempting to apply its contents for a other purpose renders the report invalid for that purpose.

Alex Peacock Dip Arb L6 (ABC) Director of Peacock Tree Consultancy Ltd

Arboricultural Method Statement

1.0 <u>Tree Protective Barriers</u>

- 1.1 Protective barriers will be installed at the locations shown on the Tree Protec Plan (included at the end of this Report). The barriers will protect Protection Areas (RPA) of all trees being retained. The locations of prc barriers must be agreed by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) b construction activity starts on site. They will remain in place until there is no risk harm from development activity. This can be controlled via the impositi planning condition on the permission for the development.
- 1.2 No protective barriers will be moved from their agreed location, remetemporarily dismantled, without consulting the project arboriculturist. Furthermolithe condition of the fencing will be regularly monitored by the project arboriculturis to ensure it remains fit for purpose, i.e. sufficient to prevent unauthorised access or activities within the RPA's of retained trees.



1.3 The minimum specification for the protective barriers are as per the drawing below:

- 1.4 Behind the protective barrier, there will be no unauthorised vehicular access repeated pedestrian access; no fires; no storage of excavated debris, be materials, chemicals, or fuels; no mixing of cement; no service install excavation; no raising or lowering of soil levels; and no excessive cultivatic landscape planting. Any variations to these restrictions must be agreed project arboriculturist.
- 1.5 All-weather notices must be attached to the protective barrier with words such as: 'CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE - NO ACCESS'

2.0 <u>Tree Work</u>

2.1 Schedule of tree work required to enable development:

| Tree Number | Species | Work Required |
|----------------|---|--|
| 0715 | Acer pseudoplatanus | Reduce the lateral spread of the tree to the north-west by approximately one metre (to in line with the protective barrier). |
| 0716 | Acer pseudoplatanus | Reduce the lateral spread of the tree to the north-west by approximately one metre (to in line with the protective barrier). |
| 0717 | Fraxinus excelsior | Reduce the lateral spread of the tree to the north-west by approximately one metre (to in line with the protective barrier). |
| 1044 | Fraxinus excelsior | Remove tree. |
| G7 | <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Remove trees. |

2.2 Schedule of tree work required for reasons of proactive arboricultural management:

| Tree Number | Species | Work Required |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0720 | Prunus spp. | Remove tree. |

2.3 Tree work is to be carried out to the standards in BS 3998 (2010) *Recommendations for Tree Work.* It is advisable to select a contractor approved by the Arboricultu Association; their Register of Contractors is available free from The Malth Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse GL10 3DL - Telephone 01242 522⁻ website: www.trees.org.uk

3.0 <u>Replacement Tree Planting</u>

- 3.1 Extensive tree planting is to be completed throughout the site which will mitigate the losses of tree numbers 1044 and G7. Specifications for the replacem species, planting locations and stock size/type are detailed in the Softworks Plan (drawing number: 112-003-P03), prepared by tf-LAB London Landscape Architects Tree species have been selected that are either native to the area, or with wildlife value (e.g. providing nectar for bees and berries for birds/mammals).
- 3.2 All trees are to be planted of a size that will provide instant impact, i.e. of a minimum stem diameter of 10-12cm, select standard, in a 25 litre container. Stock v sourced from local and reputable nurseries that have high quality bio: measures in place.

3.3 Regular maintenance of newly planted trees will be completed for the first five years, including watering during prolonged drought periods, weed control, adjustmen tree ties and stakes, and formative pruning as necessary. Defects that be apparent during the maintenance period will be addressed by appropriate remedi works, including replacement of any failed tree stock.

4.0 Site Offices and Welfare Facilities

- 4.1 The location site offices and welfare facilities are to provide a functional ro barrier protection to the construction exclusion zone located to the east of the si The exact location is shown on the Tree Protection Plan.
- 4.2 The site offices and welfare facilities are to be installed directly onto the soil surface and no excavation into existing soil levels is to be performed unless approved the project arboriculturist. The site buildings are to provide a continuous b sufficient to prevent unauthorised access or activities within the RPA's of retain trees. Any gaps between site buildings are to be infilled with robust fencing conforms to all of the specifications detailed in paragraph 1.0.

5.0 <u>Site Monitoring</u>

- 5.1 Site monitoring will be undertaken by the project arboriculturist at regular interv (approximately every 2-4 weeks). The project arboriculturist's initial role is to lial with the developer and the LPA to ensure that protective measures a purpose and in place before any works start on site. Written records of monitoring will be circulated to relevant parties.
- 5.2 A pre-commencement meeting will be held on site before any of the site clearan and construction work begins. This will be attended by the site manager, the projec arboriculturist, and a LPA representative (if a LPA representative cannot attend, th supervising arboriculturist will inform the LPA in writing of the det; meeting). All tree protection measures described in this Arboricultural N Statement will be fully discussed so that their implementation and sequencing ; understood by all the parties. This will include agreeing the location of th protective barriers. Any agreed clarifications or modifications to the cons details will be recorded and circulated to all parties in writing. This meeting is wher details of the programme of tree protection will be agreed and finalised, which then form the basis of any supervision arrangements between the super arboriculturist and the developer.

- 5.3 Further site monitoring from the project arboriculturist will be required during worl of a sensitive nature (i.e. when development activity is to take place w adjacent to RPA's), these key stages are as follows:
 - 1. Following installation of the protective barriers (prior to commencer construction work).
 - 2. Prior to removal of protective barriers at the end of construction.
 - 3. As and when additional works occur that may be sensitive to tree prot∉ areas.

6.0 <u>Sequencing of Operations</u>

| 1 | Pre-commencement site meeting. | Meeting on site with supervising arboriculturist, site manager and LPA Tr Officer (if appropriate) to discuss: Details of the Arboricultural Method Statement, Identify any confliand work towards a resolution. Identify the locations and specification of tree protection barriers. Details of any clarifications or modifications to be record circulated to all parties in writing. |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Install tree protection. | Install tree protection barriers in the locations shown on the Tree Protecti Plan. Project Arboriculturist to undertake site visit to ensure they are positioned the correct location and specification. |
| 3 | Undertake tree work. | Carry out pruning to tree numbers 0715, 0716 and 0717, and remove numbers 1044, 0720 and G7. |
| 4 | Undertake construction work, inc. hard landscaping. | Site monitoring to be completed by the project arboriculturist approximat every 2-4 weeks. |
| 5 | Post completion site meeting. | Meeting on site with supervising arboriculturist, site manager and LPA Tr Officer (if appropriate). Confirm there is no risk of further construction activities that damaging to the tree's RPA. |
| 6 | Remove tree protection barriers. | |
| 7 | Undertake tree planting and soft landscaping work. | Meeting with landscaping contractors for briefing before work starts. Furthe supervision visits to be completed as necessary at the discretior supervising arboriculturist. |

7.0 Additional Precautionary Measures

7.1 Large Scale Plant

Any transit or traverse of large scale plant, e.g. wide loads, tall loads and plant will booms, jibs and counterweights (including drilling rigs), shall be conducted un the supervision of a banksman, to ensure that adequate clearance from tremaintained at all times.

7.2 Fires

Fires on sites must be avoided if possible. Where they are unavoidable, they munot be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches. The potential size of a fire and the wind direction must be taken into account when determining location, and it must be attended at all times until safe enough to leave.

7.3 Toxic Chemicals

The storage of fuels or any toxic chemicals is not permitted in RPA's. Where fuel c other chemicals are stored on site, a risk assessment will be carried out to identify i emergency spillage kits are needed to restrict the environmental accidents. Soil bunding or a supporting framework covered in heavy-duty pla sheeting will be installed where there is a risk of spillages contaminating RPA's. This specifically applies to cement mixing areas and vehicle washing facilitie leachate from poured wet concrete is toxic to plants and must be prevented f contaminating RPA's by using an impermeable membrane to stop any leakage int the soil.

7.4 Landscaping

- 7.4.1 No heavy mechanical cultivation of soil such as ploughing or rotavation is permitter within RPA's. No level changes shall occur within 1m of the trunk unless authorise by the supervising arboriculturist. No raising of soil levels to leave soil touchir trunk that was previously exposed to the air is permitted.
- 7.4.2 Specifications for hard landscaping and topsoil management are detailed i Hardworks Plan (drawing number: 112-002-P03) and Topsoil Management | (drawing number: 112-001-P03) prepared by tf-LAB London Landscape Architects.

7.5 Contractors' Car Parking and Storage of Building Materials

There is ample available space on site for contractors car parking and the storage of building materials. The designated area is to be the existing hard standing ir east corner of the site (in front of the site offices and welfare facilities).

8.0 Site Personnel Contact Details

| | Company Name | Individual | Emergency Phone No. |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|
| Client | Archaylen Property Limited | Andrew Screech | N/A |
| Architect | Gollifer Langston Architects | Andrew Gollifer | 020 7734 2134 |
| Arboriculturist | Peacock Tree Consultancy Ltd | Alex Peacock | 07884 055207 |
| Local Authority Tree Officer | Buckinghamshire Council (Aylesbury Vale area) | James Remmington | 01296 585589 |
| Site Agent/Manager | ТВС | ТВС | ТВС |



Alex Peacock Dip Arb L6 (ABC) Director of Peacock Tree Consultancy Ltd

17 June 2022

Appendix 1 - Tree Survey Schedule

| Cat. Grade | 5 | B1 | B1 | G | B1 | G | C |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Ret. Span | 40+ | 40+ | 20+ | <10 | 40+ | 40+ | ۲ 0 |
| Preliminary Management Recommendations | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. However, consider removal of this tree for pro- active management due to it's low quality and deteriorating health. |
| Condition, Observations and Defects | Crown suppressed by tree number 0715 (to the north-east) creating a slightly imbalanced crown. The tree otherwise appears in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. | The tree appears in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. | Early development of included bark within stem bifurcation at 0.25m height. Crown is imbalanced due to competition with tree number 0717. | Symptoms of <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> evident within the tree crown. Crown is imbalanced due to competition with tree number 0718. | The tree appears in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. | Twin stemmed from 30cm height. The tree appears in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. | Tree is in decline and has large dead branches (20cm-30cm in diameter) throughout it's crown. However, the risk the dead branches pose is low, as the lawn area beneath the tree is infrequently used. The north-west side of the stem contains internal decay (between ground level and 1m height), whereas the opposite side is more robust. <i>Daldinia concentrica</i> fruiting bodies are evident on branches within the tree crown. |
| Phys. Condition | Good | Good | Good | Fair | Good | Good | Poor |
| Crown Height (m) | 0 | 2 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.5 | 1.75 | 2 |
| Life Stage | Young | Semi- mature | Semi- mature | Semi- mature | Semi- mature | Semi- mature | Over- mature |
| S = 1 | 5 1.5 | 5 | 2 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| pread | 1.6 | 5 | 3.5 | сı I | 4 | 3 2.5 | 0.5 |
| | 0.5 | 2 | ц С | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| RPA Area (m2) | 10 | 64 | 81 | 55 | 48 | 34 | 191 |
| RPA Radius (m) | 1.8 | 4.5 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 7.8 |
| Stem Diameter @1.5m (mm) | 156 | 380 | Stem 1: 292 Stem 2: 323 (combined diameter: 435) | 340 | 324 | Stem 1: 180 Stem 2: 204 (combined diameter: 272) | 648 (measured at 0.5m ht.) |
| Tree Ht. (m) | ω | 1 | 10 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Tree Species | Chamaecyparis lawsoniana | Acer pseudoplatanus | Acer pseudoplatanus | Fraxinus excelsior | Acer pseudoplatanus | Acer pseudoplatanus | Prunus spp. |
| Tree/ Group Ref. No. | 0714 (no tag) | 0715 | 0716 | 0717 | 0718 | 0719 | 0720 |
| | | | | | | | |

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| ncy Ltd | eeches Farm |
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| Peacock Tre | Arboricultur |

| | Cat. Grade | B1,2 | õ | C1 | B1,2 |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 5 | Ret. Span | 10+ | 40 | 40+ | 40+ |
| | Preliminary Management Recommendations | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. Depending on the site layout; the tree crown may require pruning, or protective barrier siting to incorporate the overhanging crown. Alternatively, the tree is of low quality and could feasibly be removed if desired. | The tree offers little in the way of benefits and could feasibly be removed if desired. | No action required at time of survey. |
| | Condition, Observations and Defects | Some dieback of branches is evident in the upper tree crown. The tree otherwise appears to be in good structural condition. | This tree has been selected as an individual, as it is one of the largest trees in G6, and its crown overhangs the site more than the others in the group. The tree stem leans towards the east and the crown is imbalanced due to competition with other trees in the group. Symptoms of <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> are evident within the tree crown, there is also some minor dead wood (10mm-20mm in diameter). There is a small hanging branch located at 5m height to the south-west side, but is not considered of high risk due to the low value target beneath. | Co-dominant leaders originate from 1 metre height. The tree appears in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. | Group of two trees, each with multiple stems which originate from ground level. The trees are becoming over-run by Russian vine. The trees appear in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. The trees provide a good screening function to the highway. |
| | Phys. Condition | Fair | Fair | Good | Fair |
| | Crown Height (m) 1.75 | | ى ع | 0 | 0 |
| | Life Stage | Mature | Early- mature | бипо <u></u> | Early- mature |
| | d W | 6.5 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| | anch bread | 5.5 | c) # | 5 | 5 5 |
| HP23 4LA | | 5 6 | © | 5 | Ň |
| | RPA Area (m2) | 102 6. | ∞ | 7 | 48 |
| s Farm | RPA Radius (m) | 5.7 | 5.1 | 1.5 | 3.9 |
| rt - Beeche | Stem Diameter @1.5m (mm) | 479 (measured at 1m ht.) | 430 | 121 (measured at 1m ht.) | 317 (largest tree) |
| Repo | Tree Ht. (m) | 11 | 5 | 8 | 14 |
| Arboricultural | Tree Species | Prunus spp. | Fraxinus excelsior | Fraxinus excelsior | Thuja plicata |
| | Tree/ Group Ref. No. | 0721 | 0722 | 1044 | 6 |

I

I

B1,2

40+

No action required at time of survey.

Group of four trees, some of which are developing weak branch unions, although not of high concern at present. The trees otherwise appear in good structural condition. The trees provide a good screening function to the highway.

Good

0

Early-mature

ო ო 3 4

64

4.5

386 (largest tree)

4

Thuja plicata

g

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| Cat. Grade | B1,2 | B1,2 | B1,2 | B1,2 | C1 |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Ret. Span | 40+ | 40+ | 40+ | 40+ | <10 |
| Preliminary Management Recommendations | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | No action required at time of survey. | Both trees offers little in the way of benefits and could feasibly be removed if desired. |
| Condition, Observations and Defects | Group of three trees. North-east tree has co- dominant stems from 0.5m height. The trees appear in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. The trees provide a good screening function to the highway. | Group of three trees. The middle tree is developing a poor union at 1.5m height. The trees otherwise appear to be in good structural condition. Concrete access road is located 1m to the south-west of the group. The trees provide a good screening function to the highway. | The trees all appear to be generally in good structural condition, with no significant defects observed. Concrete access road is located 1m to the north-east of the group, and although some branches overhang, they are at a significant height which is unlikely to restrict access for larger vehicles. The trees provide a good screening function to the highway. | Linear belt of trees of mixed native species. The trees appear to be located off site, but overhang the boundary fence by1m-2m. No significant structural issues were evident, however, some of the ash trees are infected by <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> . The group provides a good screening function to the site. | Elder is almost entirely ring barked at ground level. Ash is self-seeded and offers little contribution for the future. |
| Phys. Condition | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good and Poor |
| Crown Height (m) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3-4 | 0 |
| Life Stage | Early- mature | Early- mature | Early- mature | Semi- mature and early- mature | Young and mature |
| 3 | 3.5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| anch oreac | 4 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| n Sp | 5 3.5 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 2 | ς. | 4 | e | 1 | 5 |
| RPA Area (m2) | 124 | 163 | 92 | 41 | 28 |
| RPA Radius (m) | 6.3 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 3.0 |
| Stem Diameter @1.5m (mm) | Stem 1: 396 Stem 2: 328 (combined diameter: 514) | 600# (largest tree) | 450# (largest tree) | 300# (approx. average size) | 259 (elder measured at GL) |
| Tree Ht. (m) | 13 | 13 | 10 - 13 | 12 | 5 |
| Tree Species | Thuja plicata | Thuja plicata | Thuja plicata | Crataegus monogyna, Fraxinus excelsior, Prunus spp, Fagus sylvatica, and Sambucus nigra. | Fraxinus excelsior and Sambucus nigra. |
| Tree/ Broup Ref. No. | G3 | G4 | G5 | ge | G7 |

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Appendix 2 - Explanatory Key

• Estimated Dimensions:

Dimensions that have been estimated (e.g. for off-site or other inaccessible trees) are suffixed with a '#' symbol.

• Tree/Group Reference Number:

Sequential reference number for each individual tree, or group of trees, which corresponds with the tree survey plan. Where appropriate, corresponding number tags will be placed as high as convenient on the stem of each tree.

• Groups of trees and woodlands:

Trees growing as obvious groups, or woodlands, will be assessed as such (where considered appropriate). However, an assessment of individuals within the group (or woodland) will be undertaken if there is a need to differentiate between them (e.g. in order to highlight a significant variation in attributes).

Tree Species:

Listed by botanical name.

• Tree Height:

Measured to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m, and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.

• Stem Diameter:

Recorded in millimetres, and rounded to the nearest 10mm. Measurements are taken at 1.5m above ground level, at the highest point on sloping ground. For trees with low branches or swellings on the stem, measurements will be taken at the narrowest point below the fork/swelling. Variations of the measurement height are recorded with an 'x' (e.g. x = 40cm).

Multi-stemmed trees

The combined stem diameter of multi-stemmed trees is calculated as follows;

- 1. Trees with two to five stems: $\sqrt{(\text{stem diameter 1})^2 + (\text{stem diameter 2})^2 + (\text{stem diameter 3})^2 + (\text{stem diameter 4})^2 + (\text{stem diameter 5})^2}$
- 2. Trees with more than five stems: $\sqrt{(\text{mean stem diameter})^2}$ x number of stems

• Root Protection Area (RPA)

The RPA is calculated as an area equivalent to a circle radius 12 times the stem diameter, and is determined using Table D.1, from Annex D of BS5837:2012. The calculated RPA for each tree is capped to 707m².

• Branch Spread:

Taken at the four cardinal points do derive an accurate representation of the tree crown. Measured to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m, and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.

• Life Stage:

- 1. Young (Y) = Saplings and young trees under 20 years of age.
- 2. Semi Mature (SM) = Trees older than 20 years but less than a third of the life expectancy for the species (normally making substantial extension growth).
- 3. Early Mature (EM) = Trees between a third and two thirds of their life expectancy for the species (normally making good extension growth).
- 4. Mature (M) = Trees beyond two thirds of their life expectancy for the species (typically low rate of significant extension growth).
- 5. Over Mature (OM) = Trees beyond two thirds of their life expectancy for the species, with the crown starting to break up and decrease in size.

Canopy height:

Measurements are divided into three sub-categories:

- 1. Height of first significant branch.
- 2. Direction of growth.
- 3. Height of tree crown.

Measurements are to the nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m, and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.

• Physiological Condition:

An assessment of the general vitality of the tree using visual assessment of extension growth, crown transparency, and branch architecture, then comparing with what is considered normal for that species. Grading codes used are; G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor and D = Dead.

• Condition, Observations and Defects.

General, visual, observations, particularly regarding the tree's structural condition (i.e. the presence of any decay and structural defects). Any trees with defects that present an immediate risk, or, are affected by a pest or pathogen which could cause widespread and serious damage unless controlled or eradicated, will be promptly brought to the attention of the relevant person.

• Preliminary Management Recommendations.

Recommendations for work required to the trees in their current context. This may include further investigations of defects that have been identified, i.e. climbing inspections, specialist decay mapping, or laboratory analysis of plant and soil samples.

Retention Span:

The estimate remaining contribution (in years) the trees are expected to reasonably provide. The grading is as follows:

- 1. Can not realistically be retained for longer than 10 years (<10).
- 2. Estimated remaining expectancy of at least 10 years (10+).
- 3. Estimated remaining expectancy of at least 20 years (20+).
- 4. Estimated remaining expectancy of at least 40 years (40+).

• Categorisation Grade:

Categorisation to identify the quality and value (in a non-fiscal sense) of the tree, group or woodland, to assist informed decision making concerning which trees should be retained or removed in the event of development occurring. For a tree to qualify under any given category, it should fall within the scope of that category's definition (U, A, B, C) as follows:

- 1. Category 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 than10 years.
- 2. Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years
- 3. Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.
- 4. Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm.

In addition, trees in categories A to C, should qualify under one or more of the three subcategories (1, 2, 3). Subcategories 1, 2 and 3 are intended to reflect arboricultural and landscape qualities, and cultural values, respectively. Further details can be found in Table 1 in BS5837:2012.

Appendix 3 - Qualifications and Experience of Alex Peacock

Qualifications and Training

- SEG Awards ABC Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture
- Registered User of QTRA (no. 7183)
- Lantra Awards Professional Tree Inspection
- ABC Level 3 Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (the current equivalent of ABC Level 4 Diplom Arboriculture)

Memberships

Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association

Experience

I have worked in the arboricultural industry continuously since 1999, developing my previous company, Peacock Tree Ecology, to achieve the highly coveted Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor accreditation.

This helped me to develop a robust underlying practical knowledge of trees. As well as managing all business activities, such as health and safety, biosecurity, training and administration, I ran several tree-surgery teams.

More significantly, I regularly advised customers on tree management – a service that included tree consultancy and producing professional arboricultural reports.

In 2017 I decided to build on my experience and focus exclusively on arboricultural consultancy and gained a Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture at the National Arboretum in Westonbirt.

Since qualifying I have worked closely with a wide range of professionals from property development & construction companies and local authorities to estate managers and large-property owners – as well as other arboriculturists and contractors – to solve problems and give specialist advice.

Tree Protection Plan

