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**Tree Survey  
and  
Arboricultural Implications Assessment  
at  
Birchmore Cottages ,  
Birchmore Lane,  
Blackwater,  
Isle of Wight,  
PO30 3BN.**

**by  
Mick Jones RFS CERT ARB**

*Client: Mr. A. Bishop.  
AC-TS-BCB2  
Revised December 2023.*

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## INFORMATION.

### DAMAGE TO TREES.

#### A. General:

1. Trees that have good health and stability are well adapted to their surroundings. Any development activity which affects the adaptation of trees to a site could be detrimental to their health, further growth and safety. Tree species differ in their ability to tolerate change but all tend to become less tolerant after they have reached maturity or suffered previous damage or stress.
2. The part of a tree most susceptible to damage is the root system, which, because it is not immediately visible, is frequently ignored. Damage to, or death of the root system affects the health, growth, life expectancy and safety of the entire tree. The effects of such damage may only become evident several years later. Damage may be the result of a number of insignificant but compounding factors that can accumulate over time.

#### B. Extent and Form of the Root System.

1. **The root system is typically concentrated within the uppermost 600mm of the soil** although it may be deeper within the dense mass of roots and soil close to the base of the tree. Within a short distance of the stem the roots are highly branched, so as to form a network of small diameter woody roots, which typically extend radially for a distance much greater than the height of the tree, except when impeded by unfavorable conditions. All parts of this system bear a mass of fine, non-woody absorptive roots.
2. The root system does not generally show the symmetry seen in the branch system. The development of all roots is influenced by the availability of water, nutrients, oxygen, and soil penetrability. As far as these conditions allow, the root system tends to develop sufficient volume and area to provide physical stability.
3. **The uptake of water and nutrients by the root system takes place via the fine roots, typically less than 0.5mm in diameter. Their survival and functioning – which are essential for the health of the tree as a whole – depend on the maintenance of favorable soil conditions.** The fine roots are short – lived, with the majority dying each winter and with fresh ones developing in response to the needs of the tree.
4. **All parts of the root system, but especially the fine roots, are vulnerable to damage.** Once roots are damaged, water and nutrient uptake is restricted until new ones have grown. Depending on the time this may take, if at all, and the volume of roots able to grow back due to changed soil conditions, such damage may result in decline or ultimately the death of the tree. Mature and over-mature trees respond slowly, if at all, to damage to their woody roots.
5. Damage to the stem and branches of a tree is not usually sufficient to kill the tree directly but may make it unsafe by affecting the weight distribution of the crown or by facilitating decay in the long term. Such damage may also be disfiguring.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. **Brief:** I am instructed by Ben Vernon Designs, to survey trees within and adjacent to a proposed development site at `Birchmore Cottages`, Birchmore Lane, Blackwater, Isle of Wight, in anticipation of a planning application for the proposed development of a detached dwelling. This will provide a report in accordance with the specification in BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations* indicating the possible constraints which may be associated with the trees.

1.2. **Purpose of this report:** The primary purpose of this report is for the architect and council to review the tree information pertaining to the site so as to inform and support both the development design and the planning application process. The report can be used as the basis for issuing a planning consent or engaging in further discussions towards that end. Within this planning process, it will be available for inspection by people other than tree experts so the information is presented in a way to be understood and helpful to those without a detailed knowledge of the subject.

1.3. **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 40+ years arboricultural experience. I hold the Royal Forestry Society's certificate in Arboriculture and the LANTRA Professional Certificate for Tree Inspection.

1.4. **Documents and information provided:** I was provided with site plans: Survey as existing planning proposal. These were supplied as a DWG and PDF electronic format by Ben Vernon designs. These plans have been utilized with permission to produce the plan for this survey. A tree survey is required to support the planning process.

1.5. **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with the trees which may have an effect on or be affected by the proposed development. This will also include any trees in surrounding areas or properties which may be relevant to a proposed development.

1.6. **Ecological constraints:** 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 or nest in trees. Although the presence or relevance of such wildlife may be noted within this report these issues are beyond my area of expertise, so advice from an ecologist must be sought to check if any relevant constraints may apply to this site.

1.7. **Limitations of use and copyright:** All rights in this report are reserved. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature without our written permission. Its contents and format are for the exclusive use of the addressee in dealing with this site. It may not be sold, lent, hired out or divulged to any third party not directly involved in this site without the written consent of M Jones Arborist Consultancy IW. This report is valid for one year from the date of inspection.

## **2 SITE VISIT and OBSERVATIONS**

2.1. **Site visit:** I carried out a site visits in July 2016 to assess the site and trees and I have since made additional site visits, the latter being in September 2023 for both tree recording purposes and to re-evaluate the trees.

All observations were from ground level and did not involve any climbing or detailed investigations beyond what was visible from accessible points at ground level. All dimensions were estimated unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of inspections was sunny, dry and calm.

2.2. **Brief site description:** The site is a neglected garden plot within the rural area of Blackwater. The primary trees are within and adjacent to the boundaries of the garden. The surrounding landscape is rural with farming countryside views. The site is generally level with existing driveway entrance, storage area, hard standing, sheds and out-buildings.

2.3. **Identification and location of the trees:** The trees in question are plotted as individuals on the site plans included as *appendices* with details recorded in the tree schedule. Dead trees, trees of below 75mm trunk diameter at 1.5m height or trees and large shrubs that have little or no landscape or amenity value either now or in the future have not been included within this survey.

2.4. **Restrictions:** A search of the Isle of Wight Council online web site in July 2016 indicated that the trees within the site area were not subject to any Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within a conservation Area.

## Explanatory Notes

- **Species:** I base the species identification on visual observations and list the common English name of what the tree appeared to be first, with the botanical name after in italics. In some instances, it may be difficult to quickly and accurately identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. If I am unsure of the precise species of tree, I indicate the botanical name followed by the abbreviation sp indicating only the genus is known, 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.
- **Measurements/estimates:** All height and branch spread measurements are estimates unless otherwise indicated. A diameter tape is used to calculate the stem diameter. In cases where the tree is inaccessible when the diameter is estimated. This will be indicated by a \* before the measurement. Any other measurements specific to a site or a particular tree will be indicated by \*\* and referred to as *additional observations*.
- **Height:** I estimate height to the nearest meter.
- **Stem diameter:** These figures relate to 1.5m above ground level and I record them in millimeters rounded up to the nearest five millimeters. Where a tree branches into two or more stems below 1.5m the measurement is taken immediately above the root flare. 'M' indicates trees or shrubs with multiple stems.
- **Branch spread:** I pace out to the measurement from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches to the four compass points.
- **Crown height:** This is the height of crown clearance from ground level to the lowest branches.
- **Age Class:** I estimate age from visual indicators and I assess the grades of maturity as follows. Young = less than one third life expectancy. Middle aged = one third to two thirds life expectancy. Mature = trees within their last third of normal life expectancy. Overmature = trees towards the end of their last third of normal life expectancy that are in an obvious state of decline. Veteran = notably old or ancient tree of a particular species that, by recognized criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving the typical age range for the species concerned.
- **Health:** This refers to the physiological condition of the tree and is categorized as follows. Poor = obviously in poor health. Fair = some visible evidence of decline or lack of vigor. Good = Appears to be healthy and vigorous.
- **Structural condition:** Poor = obviously in a dangerous, or potentially dangerous condition. Fair = some visible defects, but no significant hazards. Good = sound, healthy condition.
- **Remaining contribution:** Estimated remaining contribution in years (e.g. less than 10, 10-20, 20-40, more than 40).
- **Grading:** Category U = trees of very limited arboricultural value due to condition. Category A = trees of high quality and value. Category B = Trees of moderate quality and value. Category C = trees of low quality and value. *Trees are further graded into subcategories 1-3 in compliance with the cascade chart for quality assessment in BS 5837:2012.*

### 3 TREE SCHEDULE.

**Tree Survey:** The results of the survey are recorded in the table below. N.B. *This table should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes.*

Tree No.	Species	Height	Stem Dia.	Branch Spread	Crown Height	Age Class	Health	Structural Condition	Preliminary Recommendations	Remaining Contribution	Grade
T1	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	14M	M x3 stems 490mm 465mm 320mm	N=7m S=6m E=6m W=6m	2m In to the site	Mature	Good	Fair Old hedge pollard @1.5m and re-grown	Requires a Root Protection Area (RPA) radius from the trees centre of 7.5m	>20yrs	B1/2
T2	Monterey Cypress <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	13M	X4 stems 830mm 520mm 420mm 270mm	N=9m S=9m E=10m W=9m	4m In to the site	Mature	Fair Starting to decline and is infected with Corinium Canker	Fair	Requires a Root Protection Area (RPA) radius from the trees centre of 13.75m Will continue to decline both structurally and in health - consider removal.	>10yrs	B1
T3	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	13M	X3 stems 310mm 310mm 320mm	N=6m S=4m E=8m W=8m	6m In to the site	Middle	Good	Good	Requires a Root Protection Area (RPA) radius from the trees centre of 6.4m	>20yrs	B2

<b>Tree No.</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Stem Dia.</b>	<b>Branch Spread</b>	<b>Crown Height</b>	<b>Age Class</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Structural Condition</b>	<b>Preliminary Recommendations</b>	<b>Remaining Contribution</b>	<b>Grade</b>
T4	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	14M	650mm	N=2.5m S=6m E=9m W=3.5m	2m In to the site	Middle	Good	Good/ Fair	Requires a Root Protection Area (RPA) radius from the trees centre of 7.8m	>20yrs	B2
T5	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poor 50% trunk tear out to the base and decaying	Remove Or pollard down to a 1.8m high trunk to retain fence screening.	N/A	U
T6 Off site	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	12M	*No access X3 stems 320mm 250mm 220mm	N=5m S=N/A E=5m W=5m	2m In to the site	Middle	Good	Good/ Fair	Requires an estimated Root Protection Area (RPA) radius from the trees centre of 6.1m	>20yrs	B1/2



## 4. ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT (AIA)

A study was carried out to consider, identify, evaluate and possibly mitigate the extent of direct and indirect impact on or from the trees that may occur as a result of any proposed new development being constructed on the site.

### 4.1 Tree Constraints.

- **Tree Categorizing:** The trees have been categorized using the BS 5837:2012 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment and these are given in the Tree Schedule and are shown on the plan included in the *appendix* and represented as a colour.
  - Light Green = Category A trees: trees of high quality and value.
  - ◆ Mid Blue= Category B trees: trees of moderate quality and value.
  - Grey = Category C trees: trees of low quality and value.
  - U Red = Category U trees: trees unsuitable for retention.

Subcategory Criteria: 1. Mainly arboricultural values.

2. Mainly landscape values.

3. Mainly cultural values including conservation.

1. The trees on the site have been categorized as individuals and hedgerows, however it is recognized that if considered as a group the categorizing rating may be higher but still containing individual trees of a lower category.

- **Root protection areas:**

1. The root protection areas (RPA) for the surveyed trees have been calculated and determined using the formulae provided in BS 5837:2012 and shown graphically on the *Tree Constraints Plans*. In its simplest representation it indicates this as a circle with a radius from the trees' centre, however BS 5837 also recognizes that a RPA is influenced by other on site factors and states in **5.2.4** that it *'may change shape but not reduce its area whilst still providing adequate protection for the root system'*. This can be due to, *'b) The morphology and disposition of the roots, when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions (e.g. the presence of roads, structures and underground services)*.

- **Tree shadow/ shade:**

1. The proposed development has shade bearing trees to the south east and the north west that will give a shadow range that may be considered as a constraint towards the proposed dwelling.
2. This has been assessed further within this report.

- **Crown Spreads:**

1. The indicative crown spreads of the tree surveyed are shown on the *Tree Constraints Plans* included in the *appendix*. Any proposed development design must consider the proximity, dominance and possible nuisance to the building and its use from the crowns and branching system. The future crown spreads of the tree surveyed has also been considered in relation to the proposed development.

## 4.2 Tree Constraint Considerations: *General*;

On measuring and plotting the constraints of these trees, any development design and construction will need to consider any tree constraints. Any implications of this, from or to the trees must be considered and addressed. Possible solutions for this within BS 5873 may be:

A) Removal of the tree. This may be acceptable for category 'C' trees as BS 5837 states that "C category trees will not usually be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development," however this may not be reasonable for higher category trees or 'C' grade trees or groups which may be retained for other reasons e.g. screening.

B) The re-positioning of the proposed development to outside the constraint.

C) To use construction methods which minimize the impact to the rooting system, this may be in the form of footings more radial to the tree roots, or sheathed micro-pile with footings- beams, slabs, suspended floors laid at or above ground level and cantilevered as necessary to avoid major tree roots.

These conditions should also applied to kerb edges, driveways and hard landscaping, by using a three dimensional cellular confinement system, e.g. 'Cellweb' to minimize compaction and maintain porosity to both water and gasses. Any impervious surface or covering (construction) to be installed over a RPA must cover no more than 20% of any tree total RPA area and in a tangential strip no wider than 3 meters. If this is exceeded then a system of irrigation to the covered area is to be provided, to compensate for the loss of 'open' root feeding area.

Any trenching for underground services will need to comply with National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG). *Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility services in proximity to trees.*

Soil level changes, both lowering, or raising within a RPA should be kept to a minimum with any infill generally kept light and un-compacted.

D) To include within the development design elements which will minimize the affects of a current or future tree constraint, which may put future pressure on the tree to either be removed or pruned beyond what would be considered reasonable to maintain its amenity value and health, for example, to position windows or areas of high occupancy away from heavy shade or long periods of shadow.

**NOTE i).** With all the given current information and considering the longer term prospects of a tree in conjunction with the development the Planning Authorities may agree it suitable to remove a tree and replant with a species more suited or in a position more acceptable to the development.

### 4.3 Tree Considerations: *Items*;

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 requires trees on or near development sites to be part

of the material considerations within the planning process. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is also **obliged**, to take steps, through the use of TPO's and Planning Conditions, and where it is considered appropriate, to retain and protect trees on development sites and to ensure the planting of new trees if considered necessary.

- **Tree Removals:**

1. The development will not directly require the removal of any of the trees surveyed.
2. It is recommended to remove (or low pollard) the Field Maple tree indicated as T5 and given a U (unsuitable for retention) grade, due to its structural condition and basal decay
3. This work should be considered as normal garden maintenance and improvement works which could be carried out regardless of the proposed development.
4. Tree removals will not be considered as a material constraint towards the development.

- **Crown Spreads:**

1. The current crown spread of the trees are suitably away from and of a crown height from the dwelling position that they will not conflict with the structure of the dwelling.
2. The crown spread of the trees will not be a constraint towards the development.

- **Root Protection Areas:**

1. The root protection area (RPA) for the surveyed trees has been calculated and determined using the formulae provided in BS 5837; 2012.
2. The main development building has been positioned to the outside of the PRA of any of the retained trees and shown only a minimal encroachment into the outside edge of T1.
3. The cess pit to the south of the dwelling and the bin and bike stores to the north have been positioned to the outside of any RPA and the service runs to the cess pit can be routed to the west and south of the dwelling, also out of the way of any RPA.
4. The new driveway is shown to cross a segment of the RPA of T1, T2 and T4.
5. This new driveway position is partially on the existing driveway and hard standing and it is likely that the minor intrusion over the RPA of these trees will be no greater than already exists, which has had no detriment towards the trees.
6. Any upgrading of the existing driveway entrance and construction of the new driveway will be carried out using a three dimensional cellular confinement system, e.g. 'Celweb' to minimize compaction and with a porous surface and sub-base to maintain porosity to both water and gasses and constructed on the existing ground level.

**Three dimensional cellular confinement general specification :**

- The ground levels will be retained with only the top turf or existing landscape layer (50mm) being prepared for the system.
  - A porous geotextile membrane will be laid over the area and pinned in place.
  - The Celweb `grid` will be laid out over this membrane. The depth of the grid will be fit for the purpose of its` intended use. (manufactures guidance).
  - Clean, salt free and low in fines angular stone – 40/20mm will be used to fill the grid cells.
  - The edges will be of a retaining board and peg / or an integral edging system or using local top soil haunching.
  - The top surface finish will remain porous.
7. The PRA of the adjacent trees will not be considered as a material constraint towards this development.

• **Tree shadow/ shade:**

1. Although the site has the largest retained trees to the north and south east of the dwelling the shade range cast from these trees is only over the front driveway and primarily away from the dwelling and its use.
2. There will be some shading from trees within the neighboring garden to the south of the site, but these trees are small, mature and openly spaced, so what shade that may be cast from these trees will be negligible and only over parts of the southern corner of the rear garden, a lot less shading, in comparison, to a more wooded or tree planted garden, with trees to the same aspect.
3. Some shading from these trees will also be of benefit towards the occupants within the dwelling and garden area during the hotter periods of the year.
4. Shade and shadow from these trees shall not be considered as a material constraint towards this development

## **5. CONCLUSIONS:**

1. After considering the constraints of these trees and the area available for the development design, I consider it is feasible to construct the development within this area whilst adequately providing for the wellbeing of the retained trees
2. If adequate precautions to protect and manage the tree are further detailed and specified within an Arboricultural Method Statement and implemented in conjunction with the construction of the development, the development will have no adverse impact to the local landscape amenity in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mick Jones', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mick Jones. Cert Arb. RFS.

## **Appendices**

### **TREE CONSTRAINTS PLANS 1:200@A2**

**Tree Categories, Root Protection Areas,  
Crown Spreads, Shade & Shadow**

### **PROPOSED SITE PLAN**

NOTES.

- 1, This drawing should be read in conjunction with the written Tree Report and associated Schedules
- 2, Information has been added to drawing as supplied.

**KEY.**

- GRADE "A" TREE (HIGH GRADE TREES)
- ◆ GRADE "B" TREE (MEDIUM GRADE TREES)
- GRADE "C" TREE (LOW GRADE TREES)
- U<sup>o</sup> TREE UNSUITABLE FOR RETENTION
- ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)
- ▨ INDICATIVE SHADE RANGE
- INDICATIVE CROWN SPREAD



Issue	Amendment	Date
Contractors must verify all Dimensions on site before commencing any works or making any shop drawings.		
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Contract		
Blackwater Cottage Blackwater Isle of Wight		
Title		
TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED LAYOUT		
Scale	Dwg No	
1:200	TCP/S/02.	
Date	Dec	2023

This drawing as 1:200 at A2