

Arboriculture Report

Proposed new Grainstore, Implement Store, Cattle Shed and Yard

at

Holt Farm
Holt End Lane
Bentworth
GU34 5LF

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A ground level, visual assessment of the trees that could be affected by the development proposal in accordance with BS5837 2012 and following best practice was undertaken to enable this report to be prepared to accompany the proposed planning submission:
- A schedule of the relevant trees including survey data and a condition assessment.
 - An appraisal of the impact of the proposal on the trees and the consequences for the local amenity.
 - A preliminary arboricultural method statement setting out appropriate protective measures and management for trees to be retained.
- 1.2 A local search has revealed that none of the trees effected by the development are subject to any local authority protection orders.
- 1.3 The proposed site prepared by Freeborough & Co Surveyors was updated prior to submission to show tree locations, root protection areas (RPAs) and approximate crown spreads (See Appendix B).
- 1.4 Each tree has been given a class rating and RPA (Root Protection Area) measurement worked out using the recognised method detailed within BS5837 2012. BS5837 2012 Tree Quality Assessment Definitions are given in Appendix C.
- 1.5 This information, along with recommendations for necessary tree works, if any, are listed in the tree schedule in Appendix A. Tree locations and root protection areas are shown on the Tree Plan in Appendix B, and the specification for the root protection area fencing is shown in Appendix D.
- 1.6 Guidelines for protecting the RPAs of trees and working within the RPAs of trees are given in section 4 of this report.

2.0 Site Visit

- 2.1 The site was visited on the Friday 8th March 2024. All observations were from ground level without detailed investigations and all dimensions estimated unless otherwise indicated. The weather at time of each inspection was raining but visibility was good nonetheless.
- 2.2 In order to aid the identification of trees, a tree number was allocated to correlate with plans showing tree locations. (See Appendix B).
- 2.3 All trees with the potential to impact on the development were recorded and the condition, form and any work required has been assessed and recorded in Appendix A of this report.

3.0 Impact Assessment on Trees (BS5837) and Hedges

3.1 The impact of the proposal on trees has been assessed. All the trees that may be affected by the development are listed in table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of trees that may be affected by development

Impact	Reason	Important /High value A class Trees	Moderate Value B classed Trees	Low Value C Class Trees	Trees for Removal R Class Trees
Trees to be removed	Necessary for development or disease				T1 & Part of hedge
Trees that may be damaged through disturbance to RPAs	Excavations / Installation of new surface structures/landscaping		T2		
Retain Trees to be pruned	Protective pruning				

3.2 The minimum safe distances that excavations/soil level changes can be carried out adjacent to the surveyed trees have been calculated by measuring the DBH (diameter at breast height), and the RPA (Root Protection Area) then calculated using the recognised method detailed within BS5837 2012.

3.3 The development does not encroach into the Root Protection Areas of T1, T2, or the hedge that runs alongside the site, save for the new entrance, where the hedge is due to be removed.

3.4 T1, an immature *Fraxinus Excelsior* (common name European Ash), is showing early signs of *Chalara Fraxinea* (commonly known as Ash Dieback). Given the tree's position adjacent to a public right of way, it would be recommended the tree should be felled in any event on safety grounds due to the infection, which will likely cause death. Accordingly, it is proposed the tree should be removed prior to the commencement of the proposed development. Accordingly, no root protection is required, although a root protection zone is shown on the plan in case the applicant decides to retain the tree in any event.

3.5 T2, a *Quercus Rober* (common name European Oak), is in good health, and the root protection is required.

3.6 A section of hedge is required to be removed to facilitate access to the new yard area. The root of the remaining sections of hedge require root protection.

4.0 Arboricultural Method Statement

- 4.1 Although no significant tree or hedge roots have been identified within the development area, care should still be taken to protect the trees' root systems from being damaged by plant movement, storage of materials, spillages etc. during the building process.
- 4.2 Protective fencing to protect tree T2 and the hedge, and their respective roots is required. Protective fencing shall be installed as per the specification detailed in Appendix 4 prior to commencement of the development.
- 4.3 Care should also be taken not to damage overhanging tree branches during the building process. Pruning does not appear to be required for the construction of the development, including the associated movement of plant, but if it turns out it is required, branches should be sensitively pruned to standards set out in BS3998: 2010 Tree Work Recommendations in order to allow adequate space. This sort of protective pruning would prevent direct damage/torn branches etc. which may cause long term health or structural problems with these trees.
- 4.4 All personnel working in the root protection areas (RPAs) will be properly briefed about their responsibilities towards important trees based on this guidance.
- 4.5 Should any roots greater than 25mm be uncovered by excavations, advice should be sought from an appropriately qualified Arboriculturalist in order to identify any required management solutions before works can continue in that area.
- 4.6 Site storage, cement washing and washing points: All these areas must be outside RPAs unless otherwise agreed with the planning department. Where there is a risk of polluted water runoff in RPAs heavy duty plastic sheeting and sandbags must be used to contain spillages and prevent contamination.
- 4.7 No new service runs are needed within the RPAs of any protected trees. If services do need to be installed within the RPAs a method statement should be prepared and written approval obtained from the planning department before any works are carried out.

5.0 Glossary of commonly used terms

Group/Tree No: Reference number given for individuals and small groups. Letter given for woodlands, shelterbelt, large young group planting and large linear groups.

Species: Common and scientific names given.

Approximate Height: In metres from ground level.

Crown Spread: In metres.

D.B.H: Diameter at Breast Height. Diameter of tree at approximately 1.3m from ground level.

Group of: More than one tree in close proximity, including woodlands, shelterbelts and larger linear plantings.

Group effect: Canopies of trees in close proximity/touching. These trees often have uneven crowns and are more effective as part of a tree group than they would be as a single specimen.

No Visual Defect: No visible outward signs of stress, disease, decay and no characteristics felt to be unusual of the species.

Increase in Soil Level: Raised ground above original level around the base of the tree.

Trenching/Excavations: Subterranean works potentially causing root severance.

Pruning Wounds: Scars left from previous tree surgery work.

Weak Fork: Stem and branch unions exhibiting potential structural weakness such as a tight V shaped fork and/or included bark.

Multi-Stemmed: Many stems.

Apical Die Back: Necrosis of branch tips.

Minor Dead Wood: Small dead twigs and branches within the crown.

Major Dead Wood: Large dead branches and stubs within the crown.

Low Hanging Branches: Branches, which obstruct passage underneath them.

Overall Condition: Condition of the tree assessed from ground level, inspecting for outward signs of stress, disease and decay on the day of surveying. Physical condition and outward symptoms may change rapidly with climate and season. All trees should be inspected regularly and expert advice sought if damage and/or decline is detected.

Good: Showing excellent health and vigour for its species, age and site conditions.

Fair: Showing normal vigour and health for its species, age and site conditions.

Poor: Of low vigour and health but not yet considered dangerous.

Dangerous: Structurally unsound or dead, dying and decayed. Dangerous trees must be felled.

Varied: Varied condition is used for groups of trees where the individuals within the group may have different outward signs of stress, disease and decay but do not warrant individual surveying. Recommendations:

Remove: Take out a tree by felling or dismantling and also remove bulk of root system.

Reduce Crown: Reduction of height and/or spread by judicious pruning, cutting back to appropriate live side shoots, retaining shape where possible.

Lift Crown: Raising of lower crowns and creating greater ground clearance either by the removal of whole lower branches, or by the removal of parts of lower branches. A clearance height may be given as necessary. This operation should be carried out so as not to leave large wounds on tree trunk.

Prune back: Reduce length of branches to clear targets, buildings, lamp columns etc. Branches should be reduced to appropriate growing points.

Clear Services: Reduce length of branches to provide a safe clearance from overhead power cables etc. back to an appropriate growing point (observing all current safety regulations).

Monitor: Trees identified as needing regular observation to ensure condition or consider other actions (time period specified).

APPENDIX A - SCHEDULE OF TREES

Ref	Species	Measurements	Physiological and structural condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Rem. Contrib. (years)	Category
T1	Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior)	Height(m): (8) Diam(mm): 310 Branch Spread (m): 3(N), 4(S), 5(E), 5(W) Lowest Branch(m): 2 Life Stage: Semi Mature	Fair overall structural condition. Poor Physiological condition - Apical die back indicative of Chalara	Fell due to Chalara	<10	U
		Physical Condition: Good Amenity Value: Medium				
T2	Oak (Quercus Rober)	Height(m): 11.5 (8) Stem Diam(mm): 500 Branch Spread (m): 5(N), 5(S), 4(E), 4(W) Lowest Branch(m): 2.7 Life Stage: Semi Mature	Good overall structural condition Good Physiological condition.	No action required	50	B2
		Physical Condition: Good Amenity Value: Medium				
Hedge		Height(m): 2 Diam(mm): 50 Branch Spread(m): 1 (E), 1 (W) Lowest Branch(m): 0.1 Life Stage: Mature	Fair overall Physiological and Structural condition.	No action required	50	B2
		Physical Condition: Good Amenity Value: Medium				T3

Note: Two further ash tree, DBH 12cm and 14cm, are located on the bank adjacent to the existing grainstore, and will be removed as part of the proposals, but outside of the site area and are of a sufficiently small size that they did not feature on the commissioned topographical survey, so are not features on the plan or on the table above. One of these trees has already died, and the other is suffering from Apical die back indicative of Chalara, so removal is required in any event.

APPENDIX C - BS5837 2012 TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT DEFINITIONS

TREES FOR REMOVAL				
Category & Definition	Criteria			Identification on Plan
Category U Those 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees that have a serious, irremediable structural defect such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (i.e. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and or safety of other trees nearby or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality 			DARK RED
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
Category & Identification	Criteria - Subcategories			Identification on plan
	1. Mainly arboricultural values	2. Mainly landscape values	3. Mainly cultural values including conservation	
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least of 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or essential components of groups or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Tree groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood pasture)	LIGHT GREEN
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least of 20 years	Trees that might be included in the high category. But are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage)	Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural benefits	MID BLUE
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least of 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural benefits	GREY

APPENDIX D - BS5837 2012 ROOT PROTECTION ZONE FENCING

