

MA Tree Surveys

Tree Survey Report	
Date of survey: 25.08.2013	Site: Land adjacent to 35 New Road, Ynysmeudy, Pontardawe
Client: (Agent: Dave Gill)	Surveyor: Martin Appleby
Weather: Sunny	Tag No's: None

05 SEP 2013

Notes:

1. The actual survey represents the condition of the trees in their present situation, and does not take into account the proposed changes to the site or surrounding area which may affect their health and life expectancy.
2. Where trees have more than one main stem each stem is noted and diameter for each shown.
3. Groups of young trees and large shrubs are shown as a single unit
4. Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order are indicated by their TPO Ref. No. in brackets.

Category and definition Criteria Identification on plan

TREES TO BE REMOVED

Category R (DARK RED)

Those 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

- 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 R 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 (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality

NOTE Habitat reinstatement may be appropriate (e.g. R category tree used as a bat roost: installation of bat box in nearby tree).

TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION

Category A (LIGHT GREEN)

Those of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)

Sub-categories

1 Mainly arboricultural values

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)

2 Mainly landscape values

Trees, groups or woodlands which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance (e.g. avenues or other arboricultural features assessed as groups)

3 Mainly cultural values, plan including conservation

Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)

Category B (MID BLUE)

Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)

Sub-categories

1 Mainly arboricultural values

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)

2 Mainly landscape values

Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better, 'A' category specimens), or trees situated mainly internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality.

3 Mainly cultural values, plan including conservation

Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits

Category C (GREY)

Those of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm

Sub-categories

1 Mainly arboricultural values

Trees not qualifying in higher categories

2 Mainly landscape values

Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit

3 Mainly cultural values, plan including conservation

Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits

NOTE: Whilst 'C' category trees will usually not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150 mm should be considered for relocation.

Tree report: General description and recommendations.

The Site:

The site, situated between No 35 New Road to the east, and a nursery school to the west is a long rectangular shaped piece of land of some 420sq metres measuring 35 metres long and 12 metres wide. The surface is tarmac with an unmade track connecting to an area of scrub and woodland to the south. The site has a slight decline from the north to the south.

The Trees:

Two trees, a beech and an oak are situated within the nursery school grounds to the west of the site, on a slightly raised mound running along the boundary with the dividing iron fence. The beech is some 5 metres from the road and 40mm west of the fence, and the oak 8.75 metres from the road and 35mm west of the fence. The ground to the west of the grassed mound is tarmac as is the ground within the site itself.

T1 Beech

Height: 15 metres (Approx)

Stem diameter: 475mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 5.0m, S 3.5 m, E 5.5m, W 5.5m

Height to main canopy: 3.8m

Appraisal: Single upright trunk pollarded at 1.8 metres, with 4 medium sized and 3 smaller stems growing vertically from the pollard, forming a dense mass of secondary stems. The lateral branches are for the most part small diameter of up to 10mm to 15mm diameter.

The crown is reasonably symmetric, with a spread of up to 5.5 metres, though slightly less to the south due to competition with the adjacent oak tree.

The condition of the tree appears to be good with no evidence of decay or die back in the trunk, old pollards, or crown.

Category: B1

Recommendation: Thin out dense inner crown and reduce some of the longer lateral branches by up to 2 metres.

T2 Oak

Height: 16 metres (Approx)

Stem diameter: 560mm

Spread (to nearest metre): N 5.0m, S 7.5, E 8.0, W 7.5

Height to canopy: 3.1m

Appraisal. A single upright trunk clear to just above 3.0 metres where it appears to have been pollarded. Five stems are growing from the pollard at a

wide angle for approximately 2 to 3 metres and then growing at a narrow angle to the vertical to form a wide crown with a spread of up to 8.0 metres to the south, east and west and 5.0 metres to the north towards the above beech. The condition of the tree appears to be good, with a few old pruning wounds which appear to be well calloused, but no signs of weakness or decay in the trunk crown or pollarded areas.

Category: B1

Recommendations. There are a number of long narrow laterals growing both into the nursery grounds and the site itself which need to be reduced back to secondary branch junctions by up to a maximum of 4 metres.

Relationship between the trees and the proposed development.

I have calculated that the RPA (root protection area) of the oak is an ovoid of some 152 square metres extending outwards from the area covered by the crown canopy, but extending proportionately more to the south, east and west, and less to the north due to the close proximity of the beech. This would therefore extend by some 25sq metres into the proposed north west corner of the proposed house footprint, and would obviously extend over the whole of two of the car parking areas and part of the driveway.

As the site is presently covered with tarmac it is likely that there will be some roots beneath this close to the surface, therefore the removal of the existing tarmac should be carried out with care, and a 'no dig' technique used for the construction of the new porous surface material for the car park.

The loss of roots for the house foundations if using normal strip foundations would be about 17% at the maximum. The 2012 B.S. 5837 (Trees in relation to design demolition and construction) guidelines do make allowances for up to 20% incursion into the RPA. The loss of roots does therefore come within the above guidelines. The reduction of the crown as recommended above would also go some way to mitigating the loss of roots in this area.

The Beech tree being further away from the proposed dwelling has no bearing on that but its RPA of 100 sq metres would impact on the parking area. Therefore the above comments as regards the removal of tarmac and construction of the parking areas would apply here also.

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