Merewood
Arboricultural Consultancy Services

Arboricultural survey to British Standard B.S. 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' at 42 Dene Road Northwood

Prepared by
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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Summary	3
Site Description	3
Observations	4
Appraisal	5
Conclusions	6
Appendix 1: Key to Tree Survey Data	7
Appendix 2: Tree Survey Data Sheets	10
Appendix 3: Tree Protection Plan	13
Appendix 4: Qualifications and Experience	15

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Brief

1.1.1. I am instructed by Hawkins Eades Associates to carry out an arboricultural survey at 42 Dene Road Northwood. I am to assess the health and condition of the trees, provide an estimate as to their longevity and to provide recommendations for tree work or other operation to ensure the trees are kept in safe a condition as can be reasonably expected.

1.1.2. I am to advise on the likely impact of development proposals to the trees on and adjacent to the site. I am to provide recommendations for tree retention and protection, including appropriate measures that are to be undertaken in order to minimize the impact of development.

1.1.3. I have carried out the survey, collecting data in accordance with the recommendations of British Standard B.S. 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' and in line with best practice procedures.

1.2 Report Limitations

1.2.1 This survey is conducted with a view to gathering data about the overall dimensions of the trees and their relative value in the local landscape. The British Standard B.S. 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' requires this information to assess the constraints placed on a site by the trees for the purposes of evaluating the potential impact of development on those trees.

1.2.2 This survey has been carried out at ground level and has not involved tree climbing or any assessment beyond what was visible from ground level. As such it should not be viewed as a risk assessment. If a comprehensive tree condition assessment is required this should be undertaken separately from this survey.

1.2.3 Trees are dynamic living organisms that are subjected constantly to external stresses and to biological and non-biological influences. As such the structure of trees can change at any given time and it is therefore recommended that trees are inspected regularly and assessed for risk. It is normally recommended that such inspections are undertaken every five years, unless otherwise advised.

1.2.4 The assessment of the trees made in this report may be considered valid for a period of twelve months, after which a

further assessment is normally recommended.

1.2.5 This report is restricted to those trees shown on the plans and described in the schedule.

1.3 Legal considerations

1.3.1 It has been established at the time of the survey that the trees at the front of the property are covered by a Tree Preservation Order. If any works to protected trees are proposed, other than the removal of dead wood or the implementation of operations agreed as part of a formal planning consent, a formal application must be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority before such works can be carried out.

1.3.2 It has also been established that part of the property is located within the Northwood Conservation Area. Under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Tree Regulations 2012) Section 211, any tree in excess of 75mm diameter (measured 1m from ground level) not already protected by the tree preservation order, is protected. Prior to working any such tree in a Conservation Area (including pruning or felling), it is necessary to give a six week notice of intent to carry out the work to the Local Planning Authority.

1.3.3 The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) makes provision for the protection of wild birds, bats and other wildlife. Land owners have a duty of care to consider nesting birds and bats (and any other wildlife that may be affected) when proposing tree management, especially felling.

1.4 Survey Date

I surveyed the trees at 42 Dene Road Northwood on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

2.0 Summary

2.1 The trees on the site present constraints to the site and will need to be taken into account when considering any proposals to re-develop the property.

3.0 Site Description

3.1 42 Dene Road is a detached dwelling positioned on the north side of Dene Road. The house is served by a single entrance driveway that leads off Dene Road. The property has a front and rear garden planted with mature trees and shrubs.

3.2 The site is located to the north-west of Northwood village centre in a residential area. Surrounding houses here are typically detached with front and rear gardens, with trees and shrubs featuring strongly in the local landscape.

3.3 The topography of the site is uneven, rising up from road level to a higher level where the house and parking are. Levels drop back down again in the rear garden. I have not formally assessed the soil at the site, although the National Soil Resources Institute 'soilscapes' viewer indicates this is a slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soil.

4.0 Observations

4.1 The site is stocked with a number of mature trees. The trees on and around the site are important features of the local landscape, contributing positively to the visual amenity of the area.

4.2 At the front of the site and lining the edge of the driveway are a number of mature lime trees that have been kept pruned (fig 1).

Fig: 1 The lime trees at the front of the property and lining the driveway have been kept in shape by pruning

4.3 At the turning point towards the top of the driveway, and at the end of the line of lime trees, the lime (T8) is suffering from some root damage caused by vehicles turning into the parking area, especially larger wheel based vehicles.

4.4 The purple leaved plum (T9) is growing old and has decay appearing in the primary ascending branches.

4.5 At the back of the property the garden is well maintained and stocked with a variety of ornamental trees and shrubs.

4.6 The western red cedar (T10) has been lopped in the past and has been left one-sided. This is a misshapen tree with a low amenity value.

4.7 The tree survey has shown that of the 14 trees surveyed, there are 0 category 'A' trees; 7 are category 'B'; 7 are category 'C'. There are 0 category 'U' trees.

5.0 Appraisal

5.1 The property includes a number of valuable trees, particularly at the front which are being well managed, including a number of common lime trees lining the front verge and the driveway. In amongst these is the English elm (T3), which is unlikely to live to an old age due to Dutch elm disease.

5.2 The lime (T8) has developed a wide root plate at the made made up of reaction wood, a result of routinely being struck by vehicles. Whilst the tree has a normal external appearance, it may be that it is harbouring internal decay as a result of this damage.

5.3 The purple leaved plum (T9) has a limited life expectancy and can be expected to become more susceptible to decay as it continues to age. The establishment of decay in the primary ascending branches may result in branch failure at some time in the future and whilst this may not have serious consequences, consideration should be given to removing the tree.

5.4 The western red cedar (T10) is a poorly shaped tree, whose removal would not affect the visual amenity of the rear garden

5.5 The tree constraints plan sets out the detail of how the site is affected by the restrictions placed on it by the trees.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The site includes mature trees that make a useful contribution to the visual amenity of the area. The more significant trees are at the front of the property where they can be seen from Dene Road.

Simon Hawkins BTec ND Arbor M. Arbor A.

Appendix 1
Key to Tree Survey Data

Tree number:

Sequential reference number corresponding to the tree survey plan. Trees are recorded either as individuals (T1, T2, etc.) or as groups (G1, G2, etc.)

Species:

These are listed in the schedule by their common name. The botanical name of the species present is as follows:

- Common lime *(Tilia x europaea)*
- English elm *(Ulmus procera)*
- Purple leaved plum *(Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea')*
- Western red cedar *(Thuja plicata)*
- Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)
- Himalayan birch *(Betula utilis)*
- Leyland cypress (x *Cupressocyparis leylandii*)

Height

The height of the tree is measured using a 'Suunto' Height Meter or estimated to the nearest metre.

Stem diameter

Stem diameter as measured at 1.5m above ground level, or otherwise in accordance with Annex 'C' of the British Standard and expressed in millimetres to the nearest 10mm. Where access to the stem for measurement purposes was not possible, an estimated size is given with (est.) shown.

Crown spread (m):

Crown radius measured in metres (shown est. if estimated) to cardinal point

Height to 1st main branch:

The height from ground level of the first significant branch growth of the tree, with an indication of direction of that branch to inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading

Height of canopy:

The height from ground level of the lowest part of the main canopy to inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading

General observations:

A brief description summarising the form and condition of the tree, including physiological and structural defects (e.g. the presence of any decay) and preliminary management recommendations.

Life expectancy

Estimated safe useful life expectancy based on species, condition & context. The following age class bands are used: <10; 10-20; 20-40; 40+.

Category

A summary of the British Standard classification:

Trees for Removal

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 than 10 years.

Trees to be considered for retention where

Subcategory 1 concerns mainly arboricultural values

Subcategory 2 concerns mainly landscape values

Subcategory 3 concerns mainly cultural values including conservation

Category A = **Those trees of the highest quality and value**: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested).

Category B = **Trees of moderate to high quality and value**: in such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested).

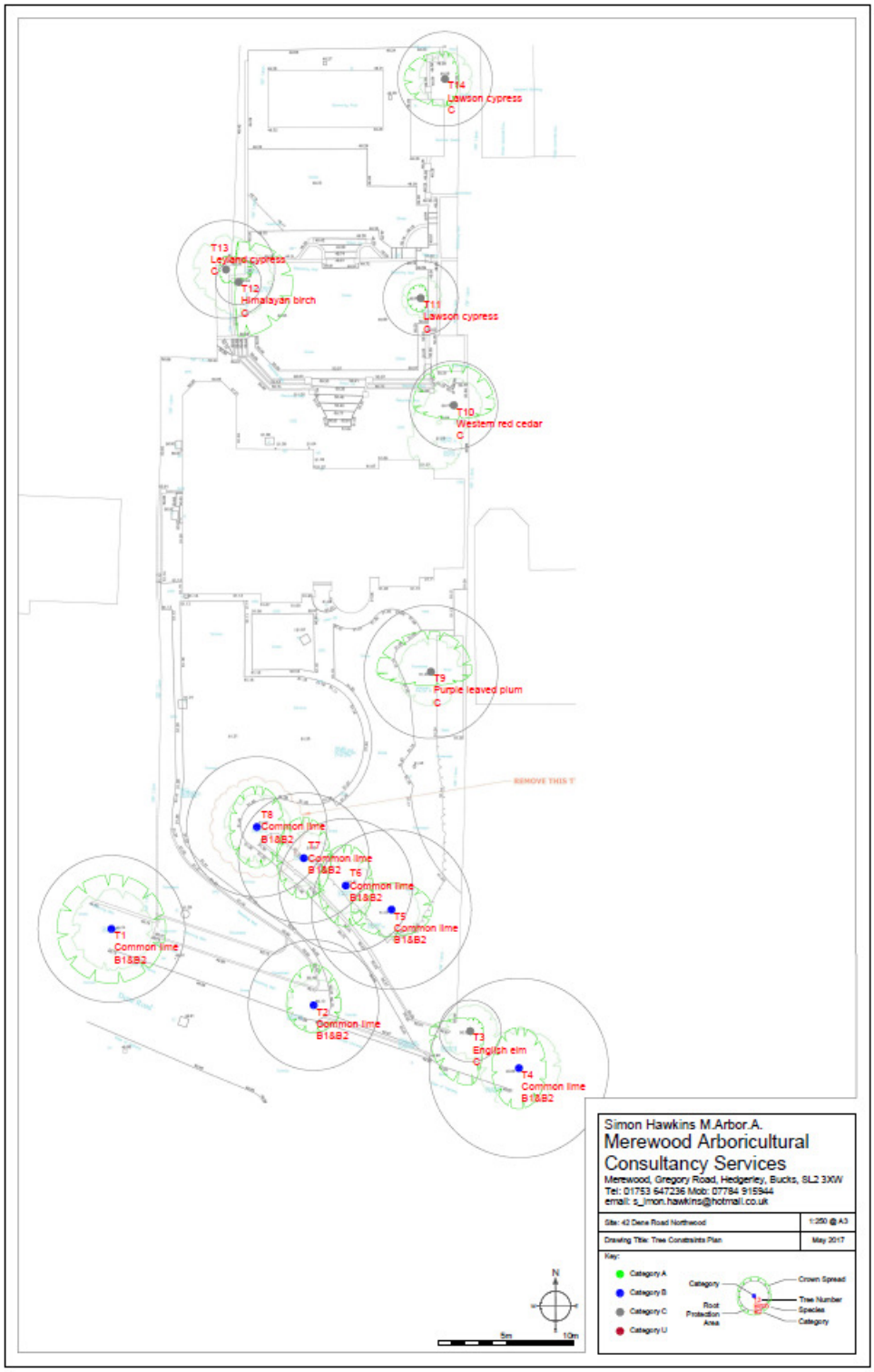
Category C = **Trees of low quality and value**: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm

Appendix 2
Tree survey data sheets

Tree no	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Crown spread				Height to1st main branch	Height of canopy	Age	General observations	Life expectancy	Category
				North	South	East	West						
T1	Common lime	19	450	4	4	4	4			M	Cavity at base of main stem showing good wound response	40+	B1 + B2
T2	Common lime	16	400	3	2	2	2			M	Previously lopped	40+	B1 + B2
T3	English elm	17	190	1	4	1	3			Y	Likely to be struck by Dutch elm disease	<10	C
T4	Common lime	15	550	3	3	2	2			M	Cavity at base Previously lopped	40+	B1 + B2
T5	Common lime	18	490	2	2	3	3			M		40+	B1 + B2
T6	Common lime	17	410	3	3	2	2			M		40+	B1 + B2
T7	Common lime	17	400	3	3	2	2			M		40+	B1 + B2
T8	Common lime	15	430	3	3	2	2			M		40+	B1 + B2
T9	Purple leaved plum	7	410	3	1	3	4			M	Decay appearing in primary branches	10 - 20	C
T10	Western red cedar	8	270	3	1	3	3			M	Lopped and left one sided following loss of adjacent tree	20 - 40	C
T11	Lawson cypress	7	230	1	1	0.5	1			M		40+	C
T12	Himalayan birch	9	140	3	4	4	0			M		40+	C

Tree no	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Crown spread				Height to1st main branch	Height of canopy	Age	General observations	Life expectancy	Category
				North	South	East	West						
T13	Leyland cypress	9	300	1	1	2	0.5			M		40+	C
T14	Lawson cypress	8	290	2	2	1	3			M		40+	C

Appendix 3
Tree constraints plan


T14
Lawson cypress
C
T13
Leyland cypress
C
T12
Himalayan birch
C
T11
Lawson cypress
C
T10
Western red cedar
C
T9
Purple leaved plum
C
REMOVE THIS T
T8
Common lime
B1&B2
T7
Common lime
B1&B2
T6
Common lime
B1&B2
T5
Common lime
B1&B2
T1
Common lime
B1&B2
T2
Common lime
B1&B2
T3
English elm
C
T4
Common lime
B1&B2
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Site: 42 Dene Road Northwood
1:250 @ A3
Drawing Title: Tree Constraints Plan
May 2017
Key:
Category A
Category B
Category C
Category U
Category
Root Protection Area
Crown Spread
Tree Number
Species
Category
N
5m
10m

Appendix 4
Qualifications and experience

- I am Simon Hawkins, proprietor of Merewood Arboricultural Consultancy Services.

- I hold the National Diploma in Arboriculture which I attained in 1987. I have studied and practised Arboriculture for 30 years, during which time I have been involved with both the private and public sector.

- I hold professional member status of the Arboricultural Association (M. Arbor A.), recognised as a higher vocational level within the industry.

- I have undertaken an intensive course in the principles and application of VTA Visual Tree Assessment. I have been assessed and found to have attained the advanced level of technical competence of a VTA Practitioner with Elite Training.

- I hold the LANTRA award for professional tree inspections

- I have attended a Masterclass in the use of the use of the IML Microdrill

- I have run a successful tree surgery business in which I was involved with the hands-on aspect of organising and running the day to day operations and carrying out contract work, including Local Authority contract work to a high professional standard.

- I have over 18 years experience working in the public sector, during which time I have dealt with all aspects of trees and development in the town planning context, within the inner city; in a greater London Borough; and in the Green Belt. Typically, I have worked with planners, developers, architects and other professionals in the construction industry in which I provide advice and assistance in dealing with arboricultural matters.

- I have appeared at numerous appeals, informal hearings and public enquiries to make formal representations. I have also appeared as an expert witness in court with regard to breaches of Tree Preservations Orders.