Fawler Copse
Fawler
Oxfordshire

**BS:5837 Trees in Relation to Construction Report**

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## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Page number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Limitations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tree Survey Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Site and General Tree Description</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tree Protection Phase</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tree Survey Schedule – Separate sheets attached</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tree Constraints &amp; Protection Plans – Separate sheets attached</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Introduction

1.1 Following telephoned instruction Boward Tree Management (Oxford) carried out an initial site inspection and took notes as required to produce a tree survey, tree constraints plan, and tree protection plan that would comply with the requirements of BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to construction.

1.2 The specific design of any proposed development is not generally taken into account at this stage. A Tree Constraints Plan will also be produced that complies with the above. Where applicable smaller trees and significant shrub masses are included. Where applicable trees outside the site boundary, but close enough to be affected by development are included.

2.0 Limitations

2.1 My survey report is based on external visual examination from ground level of primary, secondary and tertiary stems, together with supported crown system. Internal decay detection equipment was not used and no samples removed for further analysis.

2.2 Any recommendations contained in this report are based on the above inspection and the conditions prevalent at the time of inspection. Future changes or site development may render this report and recommendations invalid. It cannot be inferred that, where no recommendations are given, a tree is completely safe.

2.3 As dynamic structures, trees are constantly in a state of flux. No large tree can be assessed as 100% safe even in average weather conditions.

2.4 It is recommended that all trees retained on this site be reassessed following any significant occurrence such as a severe storm and that the site be subject to annual inspections thereafter. Such inspections substantially reduce the hazards associated with large trees in close proximity to dwellings when the recommendations contained in such reports are suitably carried out.

3.0 Tree Survey Methodology

3.1 Species is given as common names. Latin names in italics

3.2 All tree dimensions are given in meters.

3.3 Age Class is given as:
   - Young
   - Semi-mature
   - Early mature
   - Mature
   - In senescence

3.4 Physiological condition is an assessment of the health and vigour of the tree and will include an assessment of the size, colour and density of the foliage. Trees in good physiological condition are better able to cope with disturbance or stress.

3.5 Structural condition is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree. This is given as good, average or poor. More details will be given in the observations column of the data tables if appropriate.

3.6 The useful life expectancy is an estimate of the number of years a tree is expected to survive in a structurally sound condition, or before the removal of the tree is likely to be required.

3.7 The comments column will include further information as relevant.

3.8 BS5837 Planning Category rating:

   Category ratings are allocated based on the current condition of a tree in its current surroundings assuming the recommendations of this report are carried out. No consideration is given to any specific development proposal when allocating category ratings. For a full break down of tree categorisation see appendix 1.

3.9 Root Protection Area (R.P.A):
The RPA is the minimum area to be left undisturbed during development in accordance with BS5837:2012. Its area is equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter (dbh) for single stem trees.

Generally the RPA is shown as a circle. In some circumstances it is more appropriate to show the RPA as an irregular shape due to existing site features.

The RPA is provided to assist during the design and layout stage. It is also an essential component of any BS5837:2012 arboricultural implication assessment and arboricultural method statement.

4.0 Site & General Tree Description

4.1 The site was found to be of open space and clear of any buildings other than a garage building adjacent to an off-road parking area and site entrance. The site is situated in the quiet South Oxfordshire hamlet of Fawler approx. 6 miles to the West of Wantage in the Vale of White Horse Local Planning Area. The site is entered via an existing hard standing parking area beside Fawler Road and was found to be bounded on the roadside by a group of semi ornamental trees as well as a mature Beech hedge. Eight of the hedge plants have been allowed to develop into semi-mature standards. The south-east section of the site was found to contain a mature apple tree as well as various semi-mature and early mature semi ornamental garden species all adjacent to the boundary fence. The most interesting tree was designated as T2 on the attached tree survey schedule and was found to be a Weeping Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* ‘Pendula’) of generally good condition and the only tree worthy of B category. The site was found to be fairly level and the subsoil make up is not known to the author of this report. Seven separate trees were surveyed and one hedge line for the purpose of this report.


5.1 Within the area proposed for development all trees have been surveyed in accordance with BS 5837(2012): Trees in relation to construction. Root Protection Area (RPA) is usually the main constraint when developing around mature trees.

5.2 The proposed development will require the removal of T1, T4, and T7, all designated as C category. Access to the site will require the widening of the existing entrance once T1 has been removed and will potentially infringe the RPA of T2. Approximately 2.5m of the north westerly section of H1 will be required for removal to facilitate the widening of the entrance.

6.0 Tree Protection Phase (see attached plan)

6.1 Once the final site development layout is known an Arboricultural Method Statement will be required to address the potential negative impact resulting from the proposed widening of the site entrance within the RPA of T2 designated as B category.

6.2 Please see separate attached documents for Tree Protection Fencing specifications and ground protection matting recommendations.
Appendix 1

**Category A** trees are those which have high visual amenity value, are in good structural and physiological condition and are expected to contribute for at least another 40 years.

**Category B** trees are those which would be considered as category A trees but which are of lower value, poorer structural condition, or which are expected to contribute for less than 40 years.

**Category C** trees are those which have low amenity value, are in poor condition, or are expected to contribute for less than 20 years.

**Category R** trees are those which are expected to contribute for less than 10 years due to serious defects. As is common in risk management, where there is doubt, the precautionary principal may be applied.

In certain circumstances trees may be considered of higher value due to cultural or ecological reasons. If this is the case it will be made clear in the tree data tables.

**Sub-categories:**

Sub-categories of 1, 2 or 3 are included in the tree data tables and are defined as follows:
- Sub-category 1 trees are those with ‘other arboricultural value’
- Sub-category 2 trees are those with ‘landscape value’
- Sub-category 3 trees are those with ‘cultural or conservation value’

These subcategories do not infer any hierarchy of value. For example a category B1 tree should not necessarily be considered any more valuable than a category B3 tree. Most trees will simultaneously fall into all three sub-categories.