

Tree Survey

Land off Lindridge Lane, Desford, Leicestershire, LE9 9FD

Produced for:
Slam Developments Ltd

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Ref: TS-Lind/01

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Written instructions were received from Slam Developments Ltd (the client) to appraise the trees at Land off Lindridge Lane, Desford, Leicestershire, LE9 9FD (the site) in respect of a potential development.

1.2 Qualifications of the Surveyor & Indemnity

- 1.2.1 Richard Jones carried out the survey. He is the sole Director at RJ Tree Services Ltd. Richard is a Chartered Arboriculturist (MICFor) and Environmentalist (CEnv), and Fellow of the Arboricultural Association (F Arbor A). Richard is an Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) Registered Consultant. Richard holds the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Arboriculture, a National Certificate (NC) in Horticulture and a City and Guilds Certificate in Amenity Horticulture.
- 1.2.2 RJ Tree Services Ltd holds professional indemnity and public liability insurance which is limited to £1000000. Please contact us should you require any more information relating to this matter.

2. Brief

- 2.1 A scheme is proposed to acquire planning permission to develop the site. The purpose of this survey is therefore:
- To provide an objective assessment of the trees in direct proximity to the development area to the BS5837 (2012) 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations'. The survey is based on current site conditions and is intended to inform and guide the layout.
 - To provide enough data to calculate tree Root Protection Areas.
 - To Produce a Tree Survey and Constraints Plan.

3. Survey Data Collection Information

- 3.1 Richard Jones carried out a brief visual check of the trees on the 04 May 2022 in accordance with the guidelines in the BS5837 (2012) Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations. He was unaccompanied while carrying out the survey work.
- 3.2 The trees are given a Retention Classification in line with the guidelines in the BS5837 (2012) Table 1 (see appendix 1). Shrubs and hedgerows are not classified but are recorded as landscape features as recommended in the BS5837.
- 3.3 The trees, groups, hedgerows, and woodlands are described on the Tree Survey and Constraints Plans as T1 and so on. The survey is based on a topographical survey plan provided by the client. Additional trees are not plotted to scale.
- 3.4 The survey was carried out from ground level. It is for planning purposes only and is not a detailed individual tree risk assessment. Obvious defects are, however, highlighted and a general condition rating is given, and mitigating recommendations submitted where appropriate. In the case of groups of trees and woodlands, only a very general assessment has been made and the recorded condition and retention categories awarded are based on what is typical of the group. No digging or drilling was carried out. The weather conditions were sufficiently clear for carrying out tree surveys for planning purposes.
- 3.5 The survey was carried out from within the site. The trees growing outside the site are the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. They must not be pruned or worked on in any way without the express written consent of the owners.

4. Conditions & Limitations

- 4.1 Trees are dynamic organisms whose health and condition can be subject to changes. Thus, it is recommended that they should be assessed by a competent and qualified person on a regular basis. It is proposed that the trees discussed in this survey be assessed every two years or more often where stated and/or immediately following stormy/extreme weather conditions. This survey is valid for a maximum of two years.
- 4.2 While every effort has been made to identify defects within the trees inspected, no absolute guarantee can be given or is intended to the safety or otherwise of any tree or trees discussed in this survey or report. Extreme climatic conditions can on occasions cause damage to what appear to be healthy trees.

5. Legal Considerations

- 5.1 **Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) & Conservation Areas:** We do not know if the trees at the site are subject to a TPO or if it is a conservation area. You should contact the local authority to confirm the status of the trees before carrying out work on them. Written consent must be obtained from the local authority to work on protected trees. Unauthorised work or damage, deliberate or otherwise, could result in prosecution and a substantial fine.
- 5.2 **Felling Licenses:** A felling licence is required for certain tree felling operations. They are administered by the Forestry Commission. If you are felling more than five cubic metres of timber in one calendar quarter, then a license may be required. There are exceptions, which are in the Forestry Act that include trees in cemeteries, gardens, and public open spaces, felling trees to prevent an immediate danger and to facilitate full planning permission issued by a local planning authority.
- 5.3 **Trees and Wildlife:** Trees are hosts to nesting birds, many of which are protected by law. Investigations should be carried out by professionally trained operatives for signs of bats (all of which are protected by law) and nesting birds and advice sought from appropriate agencies such as Natural England, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) following any positive sightings. Tree works should be planned carefully to avoid disturbing nesting birds and roosting bats. The disturbance of protected species is an offence and could result in prosecution, a criminal record and a substantial fine.

6. The Site

- 6.1 ***The Site -Description:*** The proposed development area is located off Lindridge Lane to the north of Desford. It is flat with open fields to the east, the highway to the west and existing houses to the north and south. There are existing trees primarily on the peripheries. Easy access on foot or by vehicle is available from Lindridge Lane.
- 6.2 One tree is given a Moderate B Grade in respect of the guidelines in the BS5837 Table 1, and seven trees and groups a Low C. One hedgerow is identified as a landscape feature.

Layout Advice

- 6.3 ***Root Protection Areas:*** An RPA is an area described on the Tree Survey and Constraints Plan 01 as a yellow circle inside which development should only take place with special measures or justification. It describes the minimum root area around a tree required to maintain its vitality. An RPA is calculated according to the guidelines in the BS5837.
- 6.4 The BS5837 allows for limited development to take place inside the RPA of a tree with special measures such as pile and beam foundations or no-dig hard surfacing.
- 6.5 There is no formal calculation for RPAs in respect of hedgerows. Notwithstanding that, we would suggest that you maintain a safe distance from the canopy edge of roughly 1-2m.
- 6.6 ***Trees within & around a Development:*** Generic advice is provided below with respect to the trees at the site and development.
- 6.7 Trees are a material consideration in the development process. Certain trees are of such significance that they may be a constraint on development or justify its modification. There are none like that here.
- 6.8 Where possible, new structures should be placed outside the canopy radii to restrict the risk of future conflict between the retained trees and them. We would suggest that ideally a minimum of 2m be maintained from the canopy edge. You should allow for sufficient shaded and unshaded indoor and outdoor amenity space and new growth.

- 6.9 It is important to consider the conflicting requirements of the site layout and the trees. Thus, it is our advice that in this case the low C Category trees should not be retained at the expense of what might otherwise be acceptable development. They may, however, be incorporated into the new layout where necessary and appropriate with other higher-grade trees subject to protection measures, the detail of which would need to be shown on a tree protection plan and in a site-specific method statement. An impact assessment should be developed to consider the trees in the context of the development and vice versa.
- 6.10 **Dead Wood:** Dead wood is important to the biodiversity of the area and can be a habitat. However, dead wood is sometimes fragile which can fall from canopies and cause damage or injury. Hence, it is recommended in the survey that loose dead branches be removed from the crowns of trees particularly over the road, structures and parking areas even when the size and amount is relatively small. Dead wood may be retained in piles within woodlands or groups to provide habitats for small mammals, insects etc.
- 6.11 **Ivy Growth:** Ivy has conservation and wildlife habitat benefits. If left unchecked, however, it can overgrow a trees canopy and ground flora. Ivy also hampers inspections as it can prevent an adequate view of the stem and crown. While we would not suggest that ivy be eradicated from the site, we would recommend that it be controlled and prevented from growing very densely in the canopies of the trees and on the ground.
- 6.12 **Biosecurity:** There are signs of Chalara ash dieback disease at the site. We would suggest that biosecurity measures be put in place when felling or pruning trees and disposing of brash and timber. Contractors can help to restrict the spread diseases like Chalara ash dieback. They can do this by clearing soil, mud, twigs, leaves and other plant debris off their footwear, clothing, tools, and vehicles. They should then wash/disinfect these items before visiting other similar sites. Ideally, work to ash and oak trees should be done outside the summer months as the disease can spread via microscopic fungal spores. Further information is available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk.
- 6.13 **Future Appraisals:** It is recommended that any retained trees are re-assessed immediately post construction prior to occupation.

7. Tree Work Standards

- 7.1 Where appropriate and possible, any bough agreed to be removed or shortened shall be cut back to a suitable point such as the branch collar or suitably positioned secondary branch. The branch collar shall be left intact. Climbing irons or 'spikes' shall not be used.
- 7.2 The safety of operatives and the public should be paramount. The integrity of the remaining trees is also important. Machinery should be used in a proper and safe manner and must always be fit for purpose. Power saws, wood chipping machines etc should be maintained and fuelled outside the site to prevent damage by spillages.
- 7.3 The appropriate signage should be used and footpaths, roads etc closed and or managed in line with current guidelines for best practice and the law.
- 7.4 It is our advice that contracting companies employed to carry out the recommended works be appropriately trained, insured and qualified. Certificates should be requested where there is uncertainty.
- 7.5 All tree pruning works should be carried out to the BS3998 (2010) Tree Works-Recommendations guidelines for best practice. Works should be carried out as soon as possible subject to statutory constraints.
- 7.6 On undertaking the recommended works, the arborist/tree surgeon must without delay report any defects that become apparent while climbing or working on the tree/s in question. Those defects must be reported immediately to the project manager, landowner and or the author of this report to enable the appropriate remedial action.
- 7.7 **Power Cables:** There are power cables at/or near the site. Working on trees near to power cables is dangerous. We would recommend that you obtain expert advice in respect to this matter.

References:

BS5837 (2012) Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction-Recommendations

BS3998 (2010) Tree Works-Recommendations

Plans:

Tree Survey & Constraints Plans 01

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule (Based on current site conditions)

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Spread	Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T1	Flowering Cherry (<i>Prunus Serrulata</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 6 Stem Diam (mm): 230 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 1 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:3 E:3 S:3 W:3	Located internally within site Climbing plants on stem & in canopy	C1	Radius: 2.8m. Area: 25 sq m.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair Structural Cond: Fair Amenity Value: Low	None
T2	Sweet Gum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 6 Stem Diam (mm): 140 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 1.5 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 40+ Years	N:2 E:2 S:2 W:2	Located internally within site	C1	Radius: 1.7m. Area: 9 sq m.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Good Amenity Value: Low	None
G3	Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>) Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) Spruce (<i>Picea sp.</i>) Elm (<i>Ulmus sp.</i>) Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>) Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	Group	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam (mm): 260 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 1 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:4 E:4 S:4 W:4	Dense plantation of mainly Norway spruce that are in decline due lack of thinning & maintenance Collective landscape feature Fallen, falling & dead trees within group Overgrown by very dense ivy Access restricted as a result of dense undergrowth Cherries on inside of group opposite to road with very asymmetric form Not plotted individually on topographical survey plan	C2	Area: 615 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair-poor Structural Cond: Fair-poor Amenity Value: High	Thin group by removing dead, dying, falling & fallen trees & re-plant Control ivy

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule (Based on current site conditions)

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Spread	Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
G4	Lime (<i>Tilia sp.</i>) Cedar (<i>Cedrus sp.</i>) Larch (<i>Larix sp.</i>) Elm (<i>Ulmus sp.</i>) Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>) Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>) Western Red Cedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)	Group	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam (mm): 350 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:3 E:3 S:3 W:3	Dense plantation of mainly drawn upright ash trees that are lacking maintenance, & likely infected by dieback disease Collective landscape feature Not plotted individually on topographical survey plan Fallen, falling & dead trees within group Access restricted as a result of dense undergrowth Dense ivy on stems & branch frameworks restricted assessment	C2	Area: 742 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair-poor Structural Cond: Fair-poor Amenity Value: High	Thin group by removing dead, dying, diseased, falling & fallen trees & re-plant Control ivy
H5	Elm (<i>Ulmus sp.</i>) Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>) Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus sp.</i>)	Hedge	Height (m): 3 Stem Diam (mm): 100 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 0 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:2 E:2 S:2 W:2	Fragmented unmanaged hedgerow on rear site boundary next to brook	NotRecorded	Area: 211 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair Structural Cond: Poor Amenity Value: Low	None

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule (Based on current site conditions)

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Spread	Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
G6	Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>)	Group	Height (m): 14 Stem Diam (mm): 400 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	N:4 E:4 S:4 W:4	Group of off site trees located on edge of brook/small pond Located away from site frontage Stem diameter estimated Not plotted on topographical survey plan - position estimated	B2	Area: 113 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Good Structural Cond: Assessment not carried out Amenity Value: High	None
T7	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 6 Stem Diam (mm): 180 Spread (m): 1N, 1E, 1S, 1W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:1 E:1 S:1 W:1	Vigorous shoot growth on stem & branch framework that is a stress reaction consistent with infection by ash dieback disease Located on/or just outside site boundary	C2	Radius: 2.2m. Area: 15 sq m.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair-poor Structural Cond: Poor Amenity Value: Low	Remove tree
T8	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 10 Stem Diam (mm): 300 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Young Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:3 E:3 S:3 W:3	Vigorous shoot growth on stem & branch framework that is a stress reaction consistent with infection by ash dieback disease Located on/or just outside site boundary	C2	Radius: 3.6m. Area: 41 sq m.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair-poor Structural Cond: Poor Amenity Value: Low	Remove tree

Appendix 1

Tree Survey Schedule (Based on current site conditions)

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Spread	Observations	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
G9	Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> <i>sp.</i>) Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i> <i>sp.</i>)	Group	Height (m): 14 Stem Diam (mm): 400 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	N:4 E:4 S:4 W:4	Located on site frontage Collective landscape feature Not plotted individually on topographical survey plan Dense ivy on stem & branch framework restricted assessment Access restricted as a result of dense undergrowth Vulnerable to infection by ash dieback disease	C2	Area: 74 sq m, plus a 1m buffer.	Other Reference: Physiological Cond: Fair Structural Cond: Assessment not carried out Amenity Value: High	Clear ivy & re-assess Remove dead wood

Survey Data Collection Methodology & Constraints

The trees are identified by their common and botanical names. The identification is based on visual observations and the common name is listed first, with the botanical name in brackets. In some instances, it may be difficult to identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, a sp is shown after the genus. The species shown for groups represents the main constituent and there may be other minor species not listed. Common names are sometimes regional and may therefore vary in terms of the locality.

BS5837 (2012) suggests the following **age classifications** which have been supplemented to assist the reader:

Yng- *Young tree/s of less than 1/3 life expectancy*

SM- *Semi-mature tree/s between young & middle aged*

EM- *Early-mature tree/s of 1/3-2/3 life expectancy*

Mat- *Mature tree/s of more or less full height, but with potential to increase in girth*

O/M- *Over Mature tree/s declining in health & stature*

Vet- *Veteran tree/s of significant & identifiable historical, ecological & conservation value*

Tree Survey Schedule

(Based on current site conditions)

A **retention category** (Ret Cat) is given as follows to correspond with table 1 of BS5837 (2012):

Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
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	- 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 category U trees (e.g. 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 <i>NOTE: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i>			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or 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	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing 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 value	See Table 2
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	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 collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

Hedgerows are not given a retention classification.

The trees are given a supplementary **structural condition** (Con Cat) and **physiological condition category** (Phys Cat) thus: Good, Fair, Poor, Very-poor/Dead.

Trunk diameters are recorded in millimetres at 1.5m from ground level and at the narrowest point below any out of the ordinary swelling as recommended in BS5837 (2012). They are measured on the up-slope side of the tree base on sloping-ground as recommended in BS5837 (2012). Trees with irregular bulging stems are measured at the narrowest point below the bulge. Trees with low branching are measured at the narrowest point below the fork. A current maximum stem diameter is given to trees considered as a group. Stem diameters for multi-stemmed trees with up to 5 trunks are taken individually. The stem diameters for trees with more than 5 stems is recorded with a single average measurement.

Tree heights are estimated in metres. As recommended in BS5837 (2012) **Crown radii** (Spread) are measured at the four cardinal points in meters: *N-North, E-East, S-South, W-West* and a lowest crown clearance from ground level is given at the lowest of the four cardinal points or all four when the crown clearance is roughly level. The crown radius and level measurements are as accurate as possible, but in some instances, are estimated (est) due to difficult ground conditions or restricted access. In the case of tree groups, the maximum peripheral spread is given.

Brief observations are made on the overall health and condition of the trees, obvious defects identified, and recommendations are given for any management works considered appropriate on the date of inspection in relation to the current site conditions.



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