



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Relating to trees at

Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.



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Arboricultural Report

Client: Gascoyne Holdings Ltd.
Site: Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.
Arboricultural Consultant: Peter Harding *Tech Cert Arbor A, AIEMA, Dip For.*
Date: 13/06/11

REPORT SUMMARY

A proposed new development providing new housing and commercial premises will require the removal of all trees currently on the site. Whilst several of the trees are of acceptable quality, their loss is outweighed by the regeneration potential of the new development and can be remediated by planting new specimen trees.

1.0 Introduction

Salisbury Square is a business area in Old Hatfield. Plans are being submitted to regenerate this area by building five new houses, five new commercial units (one with flats above) and a two storey car park.

2.0 Instructions

I have received instructions from Gascoyne Holdings Ltd to carry out an Arboricultural Survey and Implications Assessment of the site, to advise on suitability of trees to be retained and removed and to comment on the likely impact on retained trees.

3.0 Date of Visit

The site was visited on Friday 20th May 2011 at approximately 08.00. I carried out the survey unaccompanied.

4.0 Qualifications and Experience

This report is based on observations and conclusions derived from my experience and technical knowledge. Details of my qualifications and experience are listed in Appendix 1.

5.0 Site Description

Salisbury Square is a business area located in Old Hatfield. A number of shops and other businesses surround a central square. The square contains a number of trees as do the adjoining car parks.

6.0 Constraints

I have not been informed of any constraints applying to the site. Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Area status may exist. It is important to check this with the Local Authority before carrying out all but emergency tree work.

7.0 The Tree Cover

The tree cover on the area of the site which would be affected by development comprises a number of trees all estimated to be under 30 years old. They are mainly planted in raised areas and around the car parks. The site contains a total of 20 trees. None are of exceptional quality. Those of greatest arboricultural significance are a Norway maple (T10), two Golden rain Trees (T15 & T16) and a Silver Birch (T20). The Cedar located by the southern entrance is also of reasonable quality.

8.0 Scope of Survey

- 8.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 8.2 The planning status of the trees was not investigated in detail.
- 8.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 8.4 The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer in 'The Body Language of Trees', Department for Transport, Local government and the Regions book Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994).
- 8.5 The survey was undertaken in accordance with British Standard 5837: 2005 Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations [BS5837].

- 8.6 Pruning works will be required to be in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.
- 8.7 Underground services near to trees will need to be installed in accordance with the guidance given in BS5837 together with the National Joint Utilities Group Booklet 4 (2007): Guidelines For The Planning, Installation And Maintenance Of Utility Apparatus In Proximity To Trees (Issue 2) – Operatives Handbook.

9.0 **Survey Method**

- 9.1 Only trees likely to be impacted by development were surveyed.
- 9.2 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars where necessary.
- 9.3 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.
- 9.4 No soil samples were taken.
- 9.5 The height of each subject tree was estimated using a laser measuring device.
- 9.6 The stem diameters [SD] were measured in millimetres at 1.5 metres above ground level for single stems, and just above the root flare for multi-stemmed trees. Where access was difficult the diameters were estimated and marked as such on the tree table. [Trees with a diameter less than 75mm at 1.5m have not been included in the Survey.]
- 9.7 The crown spreads were measured with a tape measure. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted in the tree table (Appendix 1).
- 9.8 All trees inspected during the site visit are detailed on the plan at [Appendix 3](#). Please note that the attached plan is for indicative purposes only. The trees on this plan are categorised and shown in the following format: COLOUR CODING AND RATING OF TREES:

Category A – Those of a high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested). Colour = light green crown outline on plan.

Category B – Those of a moderate quality and value: those in a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested). Colour = mid blue crown outline on plan.

Category C – 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 150mm. Colour = black crown outline on plan.

Category R – 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. Colour = red crown outline on plan.

All crown outlines are indicative and more detailed information of the precise measurements can be seen in the tree table at [Appendix 2](#).

All references to tree rating are made in accordance with British Standard 5837 'Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations' 2005, Table 1 (section 4.3. 1).

- 9.9 The Root Protection Area for each retained tree (as per table 2 of BS5837) has been included with the Tree Survey table for reference.

10.0 Arboricultural Implications Assessment

10.1 General Comments.

The trees on site create a pleasant atmosphere and provide shade for users of the various business premises. Some species (particularly the Norway Maple, Lawson Cypress and Cedar) do have significant potential for future growth and may require major pruning in the next few years if they are to be retained. It may also be difficult to maintain the integrity of the brickwork around the raised areas as the tree roots develop. Some damage is indeed already occurring (see photograph 5). The proposed development would require the removal of all trees. Although this may appear drastic, it could be remediated by planting large new specimen trees once the development is complete. These would quickly replace those trees which were removed, thus creating a green environment once more.

10.2 Affects of new buildings on amenity value on or near the site.

The new buildings would generally not be visible from outside the site. Those which were could be screened by sensitive tree and shrub planting.

10.3 Above and below ground constraints.

The proposal to remove all trees prior to development would avoid any conflict with tree roots or canopies. It would also avoid infrastructure and shading issues.

10.4 New planting

New tree and shrub planting will be an integral part of the new development. It is important that a landscape plan is submitted once the final design is agreed.

11.0 **The Tree Survey**

Results of the survey are attached in Appendix 2.

12.0 **Tree Constraints Plan**

A site plan of the area of proposed development showing Tree Constraints is attached in Appendix 3.

13.0 **Photographs**

A selection of photographs relating to the site is attached in Appendix 4.

14.0 **Recommendations**

A summary of the recommendations made in the Tree Survey is as follows:-

1. Fell all trees on site prior to construction
2. New planting with large semi-mature trees should take place once development is complete.

15.0 **Conclusions**

The design of the development prevents the retention of any existing trees on site. There are no mature trees or any of exceptional arboricultural merit. A well designed, sensitive

planting scheme would ensure that the site remains attractive and of high amenity value.

Appendix 1 – Qualifications

Qualifications and experience of Arboricultural Consultant

I have been practising forestry since 1974 and the related discipline of arboriculture since 1997. I have worked on a number of private estates and carried out work for large companies and private individuals. I have been involved in practical tree work, project management, tree inspections & reports, Tree Preservation Orders and woodland management. I have prepared reports relating to development sites, health and safety and mortgage issues.

My clients include:-

- Gascoyne Cecil Estates
- Carington Estates
- Strutt & Parker
- The Portman Estate
- Buckingham Town Council
- Gorhambury Estate
- Canopy Land Use
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- Babcock International
- Lafarge Aggregates
- Crown Estate Management

I am a member of Professional Member of The Consulting Arborist Society, an Associate Member of The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and a Technician Member of the Arboricultural Association. I also hold memberships of The Royal Forestry Society and the Small Woods Association. I have attended a LANTRA 'Arboriculture and Bats' course.

My qualifications include:-

- Technicians Certificate (Arboricultural Association)
- Diploma in Forest Management
- IEMA Associate Certificate in Environmental Management
- ISA Certified Arborist
- City & Guilds Forestry Stages 1 & 2
- Lantra Professional Tree Inspection Award
- RHS Certificate in Horticulture

I am licensed to carry out AMUIG Mortgage Reports and a licensed user of the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment and CAVAT methods.

Appendix 3 TREE SURVEY: BS5837													
Location:		Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire							Date:		13 th June 2011		
Tree No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Crown Spread	Diameter at 1.5m (mm)	M/S	Age Class	Height of Crown Clearance (m)	Remaining Useful Life (Yrs)	Conditions	Recommendations	Category Grading	Root Protection Area - Radius (m)	Root Protection Area - Area (m ²)
T1	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	2.5	1.5	160		Y	1.2	20-40	Main leader lost, areas of cankered timber, significant crown dieback	Remove to facilitate development	C1	1.92	11.58
S2	Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus Laurocerasus</i>)	3	1	100	m	M	0	20-40	Managed hedge	Remove to facilitate development	C2	1.00	3.14
T3	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	5	2	130		Y	2	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	C1	1.56	7.65
T4	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	9.1	3.3	230		MA	2.5	40+	Growing in hedge, forks @ 1.5m	Remove to facilitate development	B1	2.76	23.93
T5	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	8.9	2.5	220		MA	2.5	40+	Growing in hedge, forks @ 2m	Remove to facilitate development	B1	2.64	21.90

Tree No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Crown Spread	Diameter at 1.5m (mm)	M/S	Age Class	Height of Crown Clearance (m)	Remaining Useful Life (Yrs)	Conditions	Recommendations	Category Grading	Root Protection Area - Radius (m)	Root Protection Area - Area (m ²)
T6	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	8	3.8	310		MA	2.5	40+	Growing in hedge	Remove to facilitate development	C2	3.72	43.48
T7	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	8.2	3.5	320		MA	2.5	40+	Forks @ 2m	Remove to facilitate development	C2	3.84	46.33
T8	Common Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	5	2	300	m	Y	2	40+	Coppice regrowth	Remove to facilitate development	C1	3.00	28.28
T9	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	12.1	6.4	340		MA	2	20-40	60% bark removal on main stem up to 1.2m	Remove to facilitate development	C1	4.08	52.30
T10	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	13.1	5.5	420		MA	2.2	40+	Minor deadwood throughout crown	Remove to facilitate development	B1	5.04	79.81
T11	False Acacia (<i>Robinia psuedoacacia</i>)	11.1	6	300		MA	3	40+	Moderate ivy cover on main stem	Remove to facilitate development	B2	3.60	
T12	False Acacia (<i>Robinia psuedoacacia</i>)	11.1	4.4	230		MA	3	40+	Moderate ivy cover on main stem	Remove to facilitate development	B2	2.76	23.93

Tree No.	Tree Species	Height (m)	Crown Spread	Diameter at 1.5m (mm)	M/S	Age Class	Height of Crown Clearance (m)	Remaining Useful Life (Yrs)	Conditions	Recommendations	Category Grading	Root Protection Area - Radius (m)	Root Protection Area - Area (m ²)
T13	False Acacia (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	11.1	4.2	300		MA	3	40+	Moderate ivy cover on main stem	Remove to facilitate development	B2	3.60	40.72
T14	Magnolia (<i>Magnolia</i> sp.)	3	2	280	m	Y	0	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	C1	2.80	24.63
T15	Golden Rain Tree (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>)	4	3.5	330		MA	1	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	B2	3.96	49.27
T16	Golden Rain Tree (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>)	4	4	320	m	MA	1.5	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	B2	3.20	32.17
T17	Lawson Cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	9.6	1.8	280		MA	2	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	B2	3.36	35.47
T18	Lawson Cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	9.9	2	310		MA	2	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	C1	3.72	43.48
T19	Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	10.1	4.4	240		MA	3	10-20	Large canker @ 2.5m, minor crown dieback, roots damaging wall structure	Remove to facilitate development	C1	2.88	26.06

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T20	Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	10.8	4.8	350		MA	2	40+	No significant features	Remove to facilitate development	B1	4.20	55.42
T21	Deodar Cedar (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>)	11	3	280		MA	3	40+	Significant ivy cover on main stem	Remove to facilitate development	B1 (P)	3.36	35.47

Key:

Crown Spread: If not measured NSEW, measurement refers either to average measurement or measurement which will most affect development
 Age Class: Y = Young; MA = Early Middle Aged, M = Mature, OM = Over Mature
 M/S 'm' denotes multi-stemmed tree
 Retention Category: A,B, C or R as per BS5837 (2005) Table 1
 Root Protection Area: Radius according to BS5837 (2005)

Appendix 4 – Photographs



1/ Parking area to North Where New Houses will be Built



2/ T10 Viewed from East



3/ Salisbury Square Viewed from South East



4/ T19 Showing Large Canker



5/ Damage Caused by Roots of T19