

94 Wood Walk
Wombwell
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S73 0NF

FAO: James Harte

27th July 2010

Our Ref: 8690/AW/9695/AW

Dear Mr Harte

SITE AT: Wood Walk, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire

Following your request I visited the above site and met with yourself to discuss several trees on site, in relation to our tree report and implications assessment dated 22nd January 2009 (Ref:8690/A/AW). I make the following comments below:

T71 is a mature Beech tree that is twin stemmed at 2.5m. Improved access allowed for a more detailed examination of the main tree fork. This revealed a cup like formation at the union that was collecting water and dirt. Examination with a metal probe revealed this cavity went down to a depth of approximately 25cm from the top of the stem union down to solid wood. The stem at this height also revealed reaction growth suggesting the tree is trying to adapt to a structural weak point. The crown is dominated by several long heavy limbs that extend out to the north and has significant rubbing and crossing branches throughout, including significant fissured bark formation at around 5m to 6m; which in conjunction with the other factors, and in light of the development proposals, mean that some form of crown management is required to safely retain the tree.
As such it is recommended to:

- Thin the crown by 20%, removing any crossing and misshapen secondary branches.
- Lift the crown to 5.5m, removing only the secondary branch structure.
- Crown reduce the northern section of the crown by 30% and selectively prune the remaining crown so as to create a well balanced crown form.

T73 is another mature Beech situated next to **T71.** Dense Ivy prevented detailed inspection of this tree and it is recommended to remove this so as to allow a full detailed assessment of this tree.

G82 consists of a line of mostly early-mature Beech trees situated along the boundary, to the north east of this group is situated a semi-mature Beech of approximately 10m in height. This tree has poor form and a significant lean, due to suppression from the other, more established and vigorous Beech trees within the group. Due to these factors it is a low value tree and has only limited long term prospects. Thus its retention, in light of the development proposals, would be unsuitable. It is recommended to remove this tree.

T80 and **T81** are both Horse Chestnuts situated by the site entrance, since our initial inspection these trees now show signs of Horse Chestnut Leaf Minor and their future condition should be closely monitored. It will also be necessary to crown lift these trees to approximately 5m to allow for site access. This crown lifting will only require the removal of smaller secondary branches and will not adversely affect the condition or amenity of the trees.

It was mentioned that the development would require the re-building of the existing boundary wall to the south of the site. Providing reasonable precautions and methods are used in this process there is no reason to suggest that this will negatively impact on the trees within influencing distance of this existing wall.

Attentions was also drawn to the group of 4 trees **T56** to **T59**, which when inspected in 2008 showed some signs of decline and were unable to be fully inspected due to ivy and were recommended for future monitoring. Since this time the trees have continued to decline as evidenced from increased deadwood in the crowns and increased die back. In particular **T56** and **T58** which were classed as retention category B in 2008 now, at the very least, are classed as retention category C. The trees still had Ivy on the stems and were thus unable to have a full detailed inspection of the stems. Whilst the trees are collectively of a size to be a significant landscape feature, the retention of these trees in light of the proposed development should be questioned, as their long term future is negligible. It may be prudent to remove the trees and replant now, prior to the construction of residential dwellings.

I hope this information of what was surveyed and discussed on site is useful. Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance with this project.

Yours sincerely

Adam Winson MSc, BSc (Hons) E Con, ND (Arboriculture).