

ECUS

Barnsley Metropolitan
Borough Council

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Corporate Mail Room

Tree Survey

Helensburgh Close, Pogmoor, Barnsley

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 ECUS Limited were commissioned by Beaumont & Cowling Chartered Architects to undertake a tree survey on land at Helensburgh Close, Pogmoor. The site location is shown in Figure A1, Appendix A.
- 1.2 The survey has been undertaken as part of an application for planning consent for development of the site to a car park. This report sets out the findings of the survey and relates these to the development proposals with recommendations for mitigation measures for potential impacts to trees.

2 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The survey was carried out by Rodney Helliwell (a Chartered Biologist and Chartered Forester) on 17th April 2008. Figure A2, Appendix A, shows the location of the trees on the site which have been individually numbered.
- 2.1.2 A close visual inspection of all trees was possible, with the exception of tree numbers 13 and 14 in the northeastern corner of the site where access was unavailable. These were observed from the north and south at a distance of 10m to 15m and an assessment has been made from there.
- 2.1.3 Trees within other properties which are close to, but outside the site were inspected from within the site.
- 2.1.4 The following characteristics were recorded and the results are presented in the table in Appendix B.
- Species;
 - Diameter at 1.5m above ground level (cm);
 - Height (m, estimated);
 - Lower branch height;
 - Condition class and BS5837:2005 category.
- 2.1.5 An estimated safe useable life expectancy (SULE) is also indicated where appropriate.
- 2.1.6 A topographic survey of the site was provided by the client. This was used as the basis for producing the tree survey plan. Some additional trees that were not included on this plan were noted during the site survey and these have been added onto the survey plans with an approximation of their location.
- 2.1.7 The survey also included identification of any existing designations affecting trees on site such as Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area status by consulting with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
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3 Survey Results

3.1 General Site Description

- 3.1.1 The site is located at Helensburgh Close, Barnsley. The site currently comprises a residential cul-de-sac with houses and maisonettes.
- 3.1.2 Trees are distributed mainly along the boundaries of the site and also within landscaped areas in the centre of the site.

3.2 Results of Tree Survey

- 3.2.1 Most of the trees within and near the site appear to have been planted within the last 40 years; there are no large mature trees.
- 3.2.2 Some trees have been pruned to some extent.
- 3.2.3 Trees within or immediately outside the northern boundary of the site are prominent from Pogmoor Road and Summer Lane. Other trees are less prominent from outside the site.
- 3.2.4 A full description of all the trees recorded on the site is given in Appendix B1.

3.3 Tree Designations

- 3.3.1 The Development Control section of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council was consulted on 21st April 2008. They stated in a telephone conversation that the site was currently not affected by any Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Areas. However, they stated that it was possible that this could change in the future.

3.4 Tree Retention and Protection

- 3.4.1 It is not known whether it is intended to retain any of the existing trees as part of the proposed development.
- 3.4.2 If it is the intention to retain some of the trees, the guidance within British Standard BS5837:2005 - Trees in relation to Construction should be followed.
- 3.4.3 Care should be taken to protect trees during preparation for construction works (site clearance) and during construction works themselves to minimise the potential for damage to the trees during construction from site machinery and inappropriate storage of materials. To limit the likelihood of damage occurring during construction, we recommend that locations for the site compound and storage of materials should be specified away from retained trees.
- 3.4.4 In addition, protective fencing should be erected outside the root protection area prior to construction commencing and retained throughout the construction period to physically separate the trees from the development works. The protected area should not be used for the storage of building materials and vehicles should be prevented from running over this area.

- 3.4.5 Any excavations or alterations in ground levels within the root protection area of a tree may cause damage to tree roots and impact the health and stability of that tree. Any excavations which have to be undertaken within the root protection area should be carried out carefully by hand and any roots that are exposed that are smaller than 25mm diameter should be carefully pruned. Roots greater than 25mm should only be severed *after consultation with an arboriculturalist, as this could affect the trees health and stability.*

3.5 Tree Removal and Pruning

- 3.5.1 It is not known whether the development will require the removal of any of the trees. Should trees be retained, recommendations for removal of specific trees, generally due to crowding, are limited to No.6 (silver maple), No.10 (cherry) and No.26 (one of two sycamores).
- 3.5.2 All tree management work should be carried out by a suitably qualified and insured arboriculturalist to the guidance detailed within British Standard BS3998:1989 *Recommendations for Tree Work.*

3.6 Tree Planting

- 3.6.1 Removal of trees on site could be compensated for by planting trees as part of the development proposals. Suitable species could include native Ash, Willow and Oak. The advice of a qualified landscape architect should be sought if new tree planting is to be considered.

3.7 Ecology

- 3.7.1 The tree survey did not include an ecological assessment, but the following general recommendations can be made with respect to protected species and trees to be felled or pruned.
- 3.7.2 Trees may be used by breeding birds and felling and pruning activities could disturb nesting birds nesting. The Wildlife and Countryside act, 1981 (as amended) protects all species of bird, their nests, eggs and young against death, injury and taking. If possible tree removal should take place outside of the bird breeding season (early March to late August inclusive). ~~If disturbance to potential bird nesting habitat cannot~~ be reasonably avoided during the breeding season, a nesting bird survey should be undertaken by an appropriately trained and experienced ecologist prior to tree works to determine whether any nests are present. If nesting birds are found at any time during this survey or subsequent site clearance then tree works in that immediate area must cease. The nest should then be monitored by an ecologist until fledglings have left the nest.
- 3.7.3 All species of bat are protected under the EC Habitats Directive 1992 (EC 1992), as implemented by the Habitat Regulations 1994. These regulations amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which provides protection to certain animals under Section 9 and listed in Schedule 5 of the Act. Under the Act (As Amended) it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly to kill, injure, capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection. This is irrespective of whether the animals are present.

3.7.4 It should be appreciated that almost any crack or crevice may be used by an individual or transient bat from time to time. Bats require very limited cavity space and only very small roost entry gaps. Should bats be discovered on site at any time works should be halted in the immediate area and an appropriately trained, qualified and licensed ecologist consulted immediately.

Appendix A – Figures

Appendix B – Tree Survey Results Table