



## **Chartwell Tree Consultants Ltd**

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# **Arboricultural Report**

**BS5837 Tree Survey**

**At**

**Land to East of Harmers Way  
Egerton  
Kent  
TN27 9DN**

**Client**

**Jarvis Homes Ltd**

**By**

**Sam Bateson**

**Date**

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2021**



*Site* Land to East of Harmers Way  
*Inspection Date* 10.03.2021  
*Inspected By* Sam Bateson

### Terms of Reference

- I received instructions from Jarvis Homes to undertake a survey of the trees with regards a proposed development at the above address.
- The tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment are to be produced with relevant measurements in line with British Standard BS5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' for all the trees within the boundary of the proposed development.
- An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has not been requested at this stage.
- To make any other observations or recommendations as required based on the survey.
- The tree plans have been overlaid onto the topographical survey supplied by Jarvis Homes, some of the trees were plotted by eye using site features as reference. The sites designs have been supplied in pdf version only – this has been overlaid onto the tree survey.

### Scope of Report

- This preliminary assessment did not include a detailed examination of tree root systems, aerial access, or the use of internal decay detection equipment. A further supplementary Detailed Report may be advised as a result of the findings herein.
- The inspection was carried out with the aid of the following equipment:
  - Sounding mallet
  - Metal probe
  - 30m measuring tape
  - Rounded down diameter tape (Stem diameter measured at 1.5m)
  - Compass
  - TruPulse 200 Laser Clinometer
- The tree data gathered is for the purposes of a development site survey in accordance with BS5837: 2012 and is **not** a detailed tree safety inspection.
- A tree owner is advised to have all trees in their ownership regularly inspected; trees are to be re-inspected after strong winds.
- The information contained in this report should be considered valid for a period of 12 months from date of issue.

- Estimated measurements have been taken for private or inaccessible trees.
- Shrubs have not been included.
- Only trees potentially affected by the proposed building have been included in this survey.
- If noted during the site survey the presence of a visible Invasive Weed will be highlighted, however this report is in no way considered an Ecological or Invasive Weed survey and CTC does not offer any advice in regards identification, 'Duty of Care' and or treatment and in all such cases a recommendation to seek specialist advice will be given.
- The information contained in this report is provided without prejudice and is based upon the authors knowledge, experience, qualifications and public research. The author cannot be held responsible for the consequences of a difference of opinion for example, from the Local Planning Authority or the Planning Inspectorate.

### **Third Party Disclaimer**

Any disclosure of this report to a third party is subject to this disclaimer. The report was prepared by Chartwell Tree Consultants Ltd at the instruction of, and for the use by, our client named within the report, the architect of the proposed development and the Local Authority Planning Department. This report does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. Chartwell Tree Consultants Ltd excludes to the fullest extent lawfully permitted all liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising from reliance on the content of this report.

### **Site Information**

- Consists of a field used for grazing with a public footpath running along the rear.
- Access can be gained from Harmers Way.
- The DBH (Diameter measured at 1.5m off the ground) for trees within hedgerows or private properties has been estimated and these trees have not been inspected for defects.

### **Rooting Zone**

- The soil level has remained the same throughout the area so the root flares on all the trees are exposed.
- There is no evidence of any recent root disturbance or radial trenching having recently taken place.

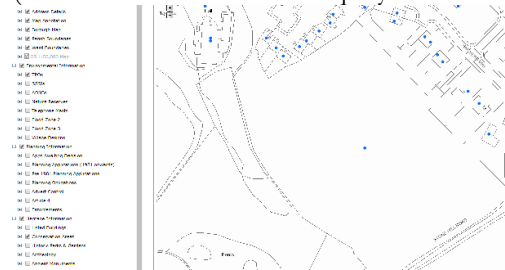
## Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

- **Description of the Proposed Development**

It is proposed to construct 13 new dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping.

- **Legal Constraints**

The site is not within a Conservation Area and there are no Tree Preservation Orders (Ashford Council website enquiry 11.03.2021).



## **Impact of the Proposed Development on the Amenity Value of the Trees**

- **Direct Loss of Trees**

- I would recommend the removal of the Sorbus (T2) and Field Maple (T6) in order to incorporate the new design and allow for demolition of the existing property and as **Category C** trees should not therefore be considered as a constraint to the development.
- The poor physiological and structural condition of the Willow (T2) is such that its removal is recommended on purely arboricultural grounds regardless of whether the development is permitted or not. For the purposes of the survey, these trees have been recorded as **Category U** (BS5837: 2012, Table 1) being in a condition where they cannot be retained as living trees for longer than 10 years. These trees are extremely poor specimens with any remedial works considered unlikely to produce trees with any degree of longevity.
- Significant new planting of heavy standard, native trees has been proposed and therefore there will be no overall net loss of trees.
- It is my opinion that the loss of the above trees will not have a significant detrimental impact on visual amenity of the area.

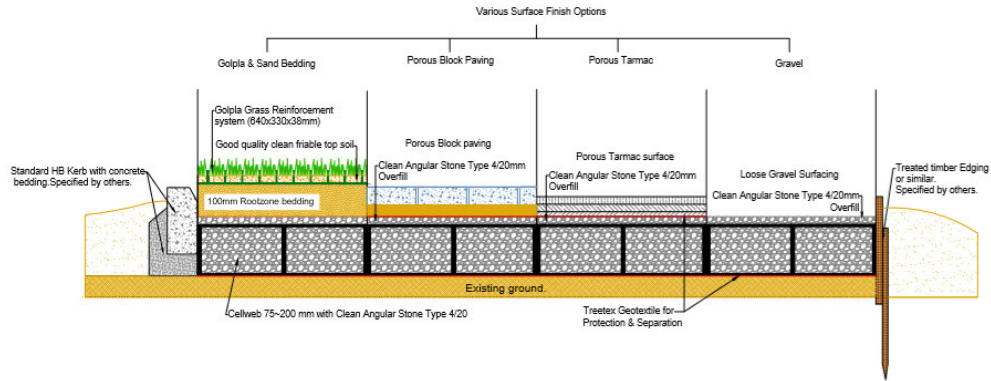
## **Retained Trees**

- Providing that adequate tree protection is implemented, the amenity value of the trees on the site will be preserved. Retained trees will be protected from soil compaction and impact damage where necessary by protective barriers and / or systems and methods of ground protection. Protective barriers will be fit for purpose, complying with BS5837: 2012 unless otherwise agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Such alternatives may include the use of temporary buildings or existing hard surfaces

as part of tree protection or alternative fencing specification for areas of lower risk e.g. areas for future planting.

### **Above and Below Ground Constraints**

- The British Geological Survey Map Sheet 289 (Solid & Drift Edition) indicates the underlying geology to be Hythe Formation which is not generally considered to contain any shrinkable soil. It is recommended that a geotechnical specialist / structural engineer undertake a detailed soil investigation to determine the actual underlying geology and Plasticity Index which may then inform the foundation design.
- The design of any new planting and landscape proposals should be based upon a soil analysis which considers the pH and any nutrient deficiencies or imbalances.
- The new dwellings will not require an incursion into the Root Protection Areas of the trees to be retained. The new access hard surfacing however will require a low-invasive surface solution – please see below.
- It is my professional opinion that the development will not result in the significant loss of rooting area and will not result in any significant root damage. This is based upon:
  - Precautions (e.g. manual excavation) and site supervision to ensure that any roots encountered are dealt with appropriately. Roots over 2.5cm diameter are only to be severed after consultation with an arboriculturist.
  - Leaf fall in the autumn months can be mitigated by the use of non-slip paving areas and guards/grilles on the gutters and gullies.
  - Shading is not a constraint to the proposal.
  - Site hoarding on the new access road is installed during the duration of the development.
  - Sufficient distances (in accordance with BS5837: 2012 Table A1) should be allowed between young trees / new planting and built structures to minimize the impact of future growth.
  - It is important that the foundation design of the new building gives consideration where relevant to the underlying soil type, retained and removed trees (heave potential) and new planting. Further information can be obtained from NHBC Chapter 4.2 'Building Near Trees'.
  - New surfacing within the RPA's of the retained trees (shown in **CYAN** on the draft TPP) is to be installed at the start of the build by hand under site supervision by an arboriculturist (existing surface removal etc). New hard surfaces are to be installed with low invasive techniques using hand tools and the utilization of a cellular confinement system as part of the sub-base. This surface must be fit-for-purpose with specialist advice obtained from an engineer to meet the above performance specification. Proprietary products such as 'Cellweb, CORE, Terram etc' are available that can help deliver the performance specification e.g. [www.geosyn.co.uk](http://www.geosyn.co.uk) or telephone 0870 850 1018 (Geosynthetics Ltd). **Example Below**



**Diagram 2:** Example of low-invasive surfacing with alternative surface treatments and no-dig edging

- In order to minimise the impact on the rooting area and tree root function within the RPA's the design of any new surface should adequately consider and allow for the following factors:
  - Allows gaseous exchange (horizontally and vertically)
  - Water permeable while preventing contaminants entering the soil
  - Preserves the soil structure at a suitable bulk density
  - Prevents contaminants entering the rooting area
  - Prevents damage to the roots during demolition or construction
  - Recognises the fact that the majority of roots are found in the top 600mm of soil.

Practical measures that can achieve this include:

- No significant changes in ground level
  - No soil capping
  - No excavation / minimal excavation e.g. removal of turf layer or organic material
  - Avoiding soil compaction methods e.g. when constructing a sub base
- As long as the above is followed then the overall rooting environment will not be significantly altered from that already encountered.

### **Construction of the Proposed Development**

- **Ground Level Changes**

There are no significant ground level changes within the RPA's of the trees to be retained.

- **Planning of Construction Operations**

The proposed design layout makes allowance for the following:

- Access for underground utilities without the need to enter any RPA's
- Location for delivery and storage of materials, welfare facilities and contractors' car parking
- A moderate intensity, moderate impact build programme.

- **End Use of the Space**

The proposed layout offers a good degree of space for the intended use of the site.

- **Conclusion**

The adoption of a detailed Arboricultural Method Statement should ensure there are no adverse effects as the result of any excavations and construction operations.

- **Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)**

- **Purpose**

An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) will be required where any demolition or construction operations, including access, are proposed within the RPA (or crown spread where this is greater) of any retained trees. This applies to trees within the scope of the proposed development.

The intention of the method statement is to minimise the risk of any adverse impact on the trees to be retained (especially damage caused by excavation and soil compaction) and to clearly demonstrate how relevant operations will be undertaken. It should also specify appropriate tree and ground protection measures in accordance with BS5837 which will be detailed on a Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

- **Heads of Terms**

Areas of relevance to the proposed development to be addressed in the detailed Arboricultural Method Statement include:

**Pre-development tree works**

All works will be carried out in accordance with BS3998: 2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work' and in line with a schedule of works agreed by the Local Planning Authority as part of any approved planning permission.

**Tree protective barriers and ground protection measures (specification, location and dimensions)**

Protective fencing will be fit for purpose, complying with Figures 2-4 in BS5837:2012 or any other specification agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. For example, site huts or temporary buildings may be used as part of the protective barriers (BS5837 section 6.2.2.3). They shall be erected prior to any demolition or construction (excluding pre-development tree works) taking place at distances specified within the approved plans and remain in place until completion of the construction phase. Removal is only to take place following the approval of the Local Planning Authority / Local Authority Tree Officer.

**Site access, parking and site facilities**

To be in accordance with the plans agreed by the Local Planning Authority and outside of the Root Protection Areas of any retained trees unless appropriate ground protection measures are in place and approved by the LPA.

**Works programme / phasing**

The phasing and timing of any works likely to impact on the Root Protection Area of any retained trees is to be clearly identified to ensure that adequate protection, precautions and supervision are in place.

**Storage of spoil and building materials**

No spoil or building materials are to be stored within the Root Protection Areas of any retained tree unless specifically agreed by the Local Planning Authority. Details of the Construction Exclusion Zones can be seen on the Tree Protection Plan.

**Demolition of the existing building(s) and removal of hard surfacing**

In accordance with detailed method statement to avoid unauthorised incursions into the Root Protection Areas of any retained trees.

**Changes to ground levels**

Changes to ground levels are only to be made in accordance with the approved plans and where a detailed method statement has been produced to minimise the impact on the rooting systems of the retained trees. Where this necessitates the lowering of existing ground levels then this should only be undertaken with the use of hand tools and care taken not to damage any structural roots. Treatment of any exposed roots is to be in accordance with BS5837:2012.

**Details of construction works within the Root Protection Areas**

As per 'Changes to ground levels'.

**Details of 'Special Engineering' methods**

Where relevant, specifications relating to special engineering methods will be included as an annex to the Arboricultural Method Statement.

**Location and installation method for drainage and other utilities**

The use of overhead utilities is not anticipated for this development. Where possible, existing underground utility runs will be re-used. Where new services runs are required, these will be routed outside of the Root Protection Area of any retained trees unless specifically agreed by the Local Planning Authority and subject to a detailed method statement.

**Upgrade or installation of new hard surfacing within Root Protection Areas**

In order to minimise the impact on the rooting area and tree root function the design and construction of a new surface should adequately consider and allow for the following factors:

- Allow gaseous exchange (horizontally and vertically)
- Water permeable
- Preserves the soil structure at a suitable bulk density
- Prevention of contaminants entering the rooting area
- Allows for future growth of the root system
- Prevents damage to the roots during demolition or construction
- Recognises that the majority of roots are found in the top 600mm of soil

New surfaces should be installed with 'low invasive' techniques using hand tools and the utilization of a cellular confinement system as part of the sub-base.

**Removal of boundary / retaining walls and installation of new fencing within Root Protection Areas**

To be accompanied by a detailed method statement to ensure minimal damage to existing roots.

**Site responsibilities and the role of the pre-commencement meeting**

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, it will be the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure that the content of the Arboricultural Method Statement is adhered to. The main contractor and any sub-contractors are to be briefed by the Site Manager on the relevant sections of this prior to commencing any work. The Site Manager is responsible for contacting the LPA at any time issues relating to the trees on site are raised.

**Prohibited activities and general precautions**

In line with BS5837:2012.

**Arboricultural Supervision, reporting and audit process**

Day-to-day supervision will be the responsibility of the Site Manager. Supervision by a qualified arboriculturist at key stages of the development is to be coordinated by the Site Manager and comments forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.

**Emergency procedures**

Clearly defined emergency procedures e.g. for fuel spillages or unauthorised incursions into Construction Exclusion Zones to be prepared and communicated to all site personnel.

## TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Client: Jarvis Homes  
 Site: Land to East of Harmers Way, Egerton  
 Date of Survey: 10th March 2021  
 Arboricultural Consultant / Surveyor: S Bateson  
 Weather: Clear  
 Tagged: No

**Notes:**  
 See attached KEY

Tree ID #	Species	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)				Diameter at breast height (mm)	Root Protection Area Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Age class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Remaining Contribution (Years)	Category Grading
			N	S	E	W									
T1	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	6	4	4	4	4	250,250,150	4.61	66.8	MA	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required.	20+	B
T2	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	5	1	1	1	1	50	0.6	1.1	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	Remove tree and grind stump.	10+	C
G3	Tilia X europaea (Common Lime)	3.5	1	1	1	1	150	1.8	10.2	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required.	20+	B
T4	Salix caprea (Goat Willow)	3					150	1.8	10.2	Y	Poor	Fallen/hung up tree.	Remove tree and grind stump.	<10	U
T6	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	5	1	1	1	1	100	1.2	4.5	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	Remove tree and grind stump.	10+	C
T7	Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)	11	5	5	5	5	350	4.2	55.4	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T8	Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder)	17	4	4	4	4	350	4.2	55.4	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T9	Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder)	17	4	4	4	4	350	4.2	55.4	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T10	Salix fragilis (Crack Willow)	17	6	6	6	6	300,250,250	5.57	97.5	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T11	Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder)	17	4	4	4	4	350	4.2	55.4	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B

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			N	S	E	W									
T12	Salix fragilis (Crack Willow)	20	6	6	6	6	300,250,250	5.57	97.5	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth. Included bark present in fork. Co-dominant stems.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T13	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	11	5	5	4	5	250,250,200	4.87	74.5	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T14	Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry Laurel)	4	2	2	2	2	150	1.8	10.2	M	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required.	10+	C
T15	Corylus avellana (Hazel)	5	3	3	3	3	50,50,50,50,50	1.34	5.6	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Coppice.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	10+	C
T16	Corylus avellana (Hazel)	6	1	4	3	3	50,50,50,50,50	1.34	5.6	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Coppice.	No works required.	10+	C
T17	Corylus avellana (Hazel)	6	1	4	3	3	50,50,50,50,50	1.34	5.6	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Coppice.	No works required.	10+	C
T18	Corylus avellana (Hazel)	6	1	4	3	3	50,50,50,50,50	1.34	5.6	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Coppice.	No works required.	10+	C
T19	Picea abies (Norway Spruce)	15	3	3	3	3	300	3.6	40.7	MA	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T20	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	14	5	5	5	5	400	4.8	72.4	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	40+	A
T21	Acer campestre (Field Maple)	13	5	5	5	5	300,250,200	5.27	87.3	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	40+	A
T22	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	18	6	6	6	6	450	5.4	91.6	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	10+	C

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Weather: Clear

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See attached KEY

Tree ID #	Species	Height (m)	Branch spread (m)				Diameter at breast height (mm)	Root Protection Area Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Age class	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Preliminary Management Recommendations	Remaining Contribution (Years)	Category Grading
			N	S	E	W									
G23	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> (Blackthorn)	5	2	2	2	2	100	1.2	4.5	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Multiple stems at ground level.	No works required.	20+	B
T24	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (Hawthorn)	6	3	3	3	3	250	3	28.3	M	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T25	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (Hawthorn)	6	3	3	3	3	250	3	28.3	M	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T26	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (Hawthorn)	6	3	3	3	3	250	3	28.3	M	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T27	<i>Larix decidua</i> (European Larch)	14	5	5	5	5	400	4.8	72.4	M	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T28	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> (Scots Pine)	17	5	5	5	5	500	6	113.1	M	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T29	<i>Salix caprea</i> (Goat Willow)	15	6	3	6	6	500	6	113.1	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to Ivy. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T30	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> (Horse Chestnut)	6	2	2	2	2	200	2.4	18.1	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required.	20+	B
T31	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash)	8	6	5	4	4	250,250,250,250	6	113.1	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth. Coppice. Ash Die Back ( <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> ).	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	10+	C
T32	<i>Acer campestre</i> (Field Maple)	10	4	4	4	4	250,250	4.25	56.8	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T33	<i>Acer campestre</i> (Field Maple)	9	4	4	4	4	200,100	2.69	22.7	MA	Good	No significant defects visible. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B

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			N	S	E	W									
G34	Ulmus procera (English Elm)	9	2	2	2	2	150	1.8	10.2	Y	Poor	Low vitality. Declining. Unable to inspect stem due to undergrowth. Dieback in crown. Broken branches in crown. Dutch Elm Disease.	No works required for proposal. Owner should arrange inspection. Removal recommended.	<10	U
H1	Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn), Acer campestre (Field Maple), Corylus avellana (Hazel)	2.5	3	1	1	1	150	1.8	10.2	M	Good	No significant defects visible. Multiple stems at ground level.	No works required.	20+	B
T35	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	9	3	3	3	3	200,150,150	3.5	38.5	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T36	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	6	3	3	3	3	150,150	2.54	20.3	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required. Owner should arrange inspection.	20+	B
T37	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	5	2	2	2	2	250	3	28.3	Y	Good	No significant defects visible.	No works required.	20+	B

**Early signs of Ash Die Back on T11, the other Ash trees have been downgraded to C Category due to this fungus which is widespread in Kent.**

**Some grouped trees have been upgraded to B Category due to their screening benefits.**

## KEY TO SURVEY

**T1, T2 etc.** = Individual tree identification numbers (not TPO reference numbers)

**G1, H1, W1, A1 etc** = Grouped trees, hedges, woodland, avenues or shrub areas.

### **Age Class:**

Y = Young (<1/3 life expectancy)

MA = Middle Aged (1/3 – 2/3 life expectancy)

M = Mature (2/3 – full life expectancy)

V = Veteran (High value amenity tree)

**Work Priority:** (informed by *risk rating* based on observed defect(s), probability of failure, severity of impact and targets)

Urgent = <1 Month (unless stated otherwise)

High = <3 Months

Medium = < 6 Months

Low = < 12 Months

Routine = As part of regular grounds maintenance

### Other Comments:

- **NESW** = North, East, South, West
- **Physiological Condition** = based upon the performance of the biological processes of the tree and its overall 'health'. Good = normal vigour, Fair = moderately reduced vigour, Poor = low vigour/decline.
- **Occluded wound** = where a wound has been progressively closed by the formation of new wood and bark around it.
- **Non-occluded wound** = where a wound has not closed (or is in the process of being closed) by the formation of new wood and bark.
- **Est.** = estimated measurement.
- **Av.** = average measurement.
- **Basal** = in or around the base of the trunk.
- **Epicormic** = growth arising from adventitious or dormant buds. In the case of European Lime trees this frequently occurs around the base of the tree.
- **Deadwood** = Minor (<25mm), Moderate (25mm-150mm) and Major (>150mm).
- **Self-set** = naturally established i.e. not intentionally planted tree.

### Survey Range & Limitations:

1. The survey was carried out in the form of a visual assessment from ground level; a rubber mallet and simple probe were used to assess the extent of any decay found. Defects (including potential severity of impact), targets and potential ('likelihood') of failure have been considered and used to inform the risk rating and thereby the recommendations and priorities along with appropriate timescales.
2. Only the trees potentially affected by the proposal have been inspected as per instructions received. It is recommended that the owners of any adjacent trees likely to affect the site have their trees inspected by a qualified and competent arborist.

3. This survey expressly excludes any liability for indirect or direct structural damage that the trees may cause to property including any structural movement, subsidence and heave. Where necessary, the opinion of a structural engineer should be sought e.g. where trees are in close proximity to built structures or have been recommended for removal. With regards drains, the advice of a drainage engineer should be sought.
4. As this survey is preliminary in nature, should any further investigation be required (e.g. using specialist decay detection equipment) then this will be highlighted in the recommendations.
5. All measurements are estimated and tree locations on the maps are approximate.
6. It should be noted that trees are dynamic, living organisms that are subject to an ever-changing environment and that there is no such thing as a 'safe tree' i.e. "...there can be no absolute guarantee of safety" (Mattheck 'The Body Language of Trees', p. 197) where failure can occur without defect or in excessive weather conditions.
7. The Local Planning Authority (Ashford Council) must be consulted prior to any works being carried out to establish whether any Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) or Conservation Areas apply to the site. No works should be carried out until any necessary permissions have been obtained. Trees marked as 'TPO' on any maps are for information purposes only and should not be considered authoritative. It is the responsibility of the land owner to ensure compliance with any restrictive Covenants that may apply to the land/trees that may be applicable.
8. Full consideration must be given to current legislation by anyone proposing to carry out works to trees, particularly with regards to the presence of European Protected Species (including bats). Arboricultural ('tree surgery') contractors should be adequately trained, experienced and carry adequate insurance. All works should be carried out to the current edition of British Standard BS3998 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.
9. The information contained in this report should be considered valid for a period of 1 year from date of issue (unless otherwise specified in the survey) assuming that any recommendations are carried out. Additional inspection is recommended following exposure to extreme weather, significant wounding or damage (e.g. incursion into rooting zones, impacts, new fungal fruiting bodies, etc.) or any other event giving cause for concern.