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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1.1 This report is required at Meadow Road, Mirehouse, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28
 9TF to provide detailed, independent, arboricultural advice on the trees present, in the context of potential development.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings of an arboricultural assessment of the existing vegetation at the above site; conducted in accordance with the guidelines contained within BS5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations'.
- 1.1.3 Where necessary, this report will outline any tree works which are required within the current context of the site. It will also grade the trees in accordance with the British Standard; which will guide the design in terms of which trees should be retained and which trees could be removed.

1.2 Terms of Reference

- 1.2.1 JCA Ltd has been instructed by **Home Group Developments Ltd** to survey the site and prepare the findings in a report.
- 1.2.2 For this purpose, a topographical survey has been supplied (**Drawing No. 3508P01**), which forms the basis for the Tree Constraints Plan at **Appendix 6**. The topographical survey, along with all other documents supplied to JCA, is assumed to be correct. No checking of such documents will be undertaken and JCA cannot be held responsible for incorrect data supplied by other parties.

1.3 Scope of the Report

- 1.3.1 This report is compiled in accordance with BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction Recommendations' and is based on an independent and objective assessment of the existing vegetation.
- 1.3.2 All trees within the site boundary with a stem diameter above 75mm are included.
- 1.3.3 Where applicable trees outside the site boundary, but close enough to be affected by the proposed development, are included.
- 1.3.4 The specific designs of the proposed development are not generally considered at this stage or detailed within this report. This is to be detailed in an Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

1.4 Survey Details

- 1.4.1 The survey took place during the month of February 2019 and was conducted by Paul Hodgson Cert Arb (RFS), FdSc Arb, MArborA.
- 1.4.2 During this survey, all trees were inspected from ground level. Further investigations, such as a climbed inspection or a decay detection survey, have not been undertaken but may be recommended where deemed appropriate.
- 1.4.3 Measurements were obtained using clinometers, specialist tapes or electronic distometers. Where this was not possible, measurements were estimated to the best ability of the surveyor. JCA endeavour to provide accurate information and will always take measurements unless inhibited by restricted access or other mitigating circumstances. Where measurements have been estimated, they are clearly highlighted at Appendix 1.

2. Site Description

2.1 Land Use

2.1.1 The site is currently unused and was previously a car garage which has been demolished.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is approximately level with a minor slope down towards Meadow Road to the east.

2.3 Treescape

- 2.3.1 To the south of the site is a residential area containing no mature garden trees and no mature street trees. To the west is a semi-mature woodland and to the east is a mix of woodland and scrubland. To the north is a cemetery containing numerous mature trees.
- 2.3.2 The trees present on site are self seeded saplings, with the groups of trees surveyed located on the woodland edge to the west.

2.4 Visual Amenity Value

2.4.1 The trees to the west of the site collectively provide a reasonable visual amenity to the surrounding area.

2.5 Age Class Mix

2.5.1 The trees surveyed ranged in age from young to semi mature. However, the trees were predominantly semi-mature.

2.6 Species Diversity

2.6.1 Species surveyed include Sycamore, Hazel, Scots Pine, Dogwood and Elder. The predominant species was Sycamore.

3. Status of the Trees

- 3.1 A check was made on 6th February 2019 with Copeland Borough Council.
- 3.2 However, we are still awaiting the results of this investigation currently. We will therefore continue to pursue this matter and will inform you of the results as soon as we receive these.
- 3.3 In the meantime, we advise against undertaking any works until the protective status of the trees has been confirmed.
- 3.4 The presence of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) represents the Local Authority's desire to retain trees within the landscape. As such, trees covered by a TPO are generally more likely to require retention within a proposed scheme and this should be considered during the design process. In some cases, the removal of TPO trees may be agreed upon, providing the benefits of the proposed development are deemed greater than the material loss of the trees. The value of existing vegetation is just one factor in the decision-making process; all benefits of the proposed development will be taken into consideration in the usual manner.

4. Tree Descriptions and Recommendations

4.1 Full details of all individual trees surveyed are recorded in the tables at **Appendix 1.** A full explanation of the tables can be found at **Appendix 2**. Please refer also to the Tree Constraints Plan at **Appendix 6** for tree locations.

5. Discussion Relating to the Existing Treescape

5.1 Tree Condition & Recommended Works

5.1.1 The tree survey revealed a total of 2 items of vegetation (2 groups of trees). Of these, 1 group was identified as retention category 'B' and 1 group as retention category 'C'. Please refer to Appendix 2 for retention category and definition criteria.

5.2 Tree Removals for Arboricultural Purposes

5.2.1 On this occasion, no trees have been identified as category 'U' and as such no trees are recommended for removal in the current context of the site.

5.3 Remedial Tree Works

5.3.1 On this occasion, no remedial works were deemed necessary at this time. However, those trees which overhang public footpaths or public highways shall require future maintenance in order to maintain clearance heights for vehicular or pedestrian traffic. These heights should be 5.6m above a road and 2.5m above a footpath.

5.4 Monitoring / Further Investigation

5.4.1 In this case, no specific monitoring (re-inspecting and re-assessing) or further investigation works are considered necessary. However, all trees to be retained within the proposed development should be inspected on a regular basis in the interests of risk management.

5.5 Existing Site Constraints and General Design Advice

- 5.5.1 The following is an overview of the constraints on this site to development, along with general design considerations relating to the tree cover. The precise details of a proposed development are not known at present. The specific implications of a proposed design should be assessed within an Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA).
- 5.5.2 The retention categories of the trees surveyed are an indication of their overall values. The category of each item is listed at Appendix 1 and an explanation of the retention categories is included at Appendix 2. As a rule, those trees listed as retention category 'A' or 'B' are the most valuable items and as such the removal of these is likely to be met with resistance by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Those items listed as retention category 'C' is of lesser value and the removal of these is less likely to be met with resistance by the LPA. The above information should guide the design in terms of which trees are to be removed and which are to be retained. However, it should be noted that the retention of trees is just one consideration in the design process and each development will be taken for its merits.
- 5.5.3 The location of each tree is plotted on the associated Tree Constraints Plan at Appendix 6. This plan identifies the retention category of each tree (Retention A: green canopy, Retention B: blue canopy, Retention C: grey canopy, Retention U: red canopy), the crown spread, and the associated rooting zone (Root Protection Area or RPA shown in gold). In order to enable the survival of trees shown to be retained within any proposals, both the canopy of the tree and its RPA must be completely avoided wherever possible. This relates to not just the location of new buildings, but also to the location of new areas of hard standing, proposed utility routes and any ground level changes (both excavations and soil piling). Where this is not possible, specialist construction methods and materials will need to be used.
- 5.5.4 Where information is available, the water demand of each tree is provided at Appendix 1, in accordance with NHBC Standards 2014 chapter 4.2. 'Building near trees. The water demand of trees can affect adjacent structures, and this is therefore included to inform foundation design, depth and the proximity of proposed structures to trees.
- 5.5.5 The trees recommended for retention are situated on or close to the site boundary. This offers a potential window for development within the centre of the site.
- 5.5.6 Retained trees will require adequate protective measures during development. Such measures typically entail temporary protective fencing, installed to the full extent of the RPA. Where this is not entirely possible, ground protection may also comprise part of the protective measures. This includes a compaction reducing construction detail which enables a degree of construction traffic over/within the RPA.

- 5.5.7 As the RPAs of the trees will require fencing off as a protection measure, this should be brought into consideration when planning such things as access routes and material storage during development. It is accepted that in some cases it is not entirely possible to completely avoid the RPA or canopy lines within a new development. The consulting arboriculturalist should therefore be made aware of any such incursions to make comment and, where possible, advise on mitigation actions. Such details should be contained within an Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA).
- 5.5.8 No material storage is permitted within the RPA of retained trees unless confirmed to be acceptable by the consulting arboriculturalist. The exact details and location of protective measures should be included within an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).
- 5.5.9 The position of the site compound is a major consideration. It is recommended that this, which typically includes the site office, facilities, toilets, storage of materials and parking, is located away from trees and outside the RPA.
- 5.5.10 Any shade that may be cast by the retained trees must also be considered. Where buildings are to be positioned within the shade cast area of trees, these should be designed in order to maximise light levels. If required, JCA can provide a shade cast prediction plan.
- 5.5.11 Many development sites contain areas of nature conservation interest. Trees and hedgerows can provide an important habitat for birds, bats, invertebrates and fungi and appropriate attention needs to be paid to preserving habitats throughout the development process. JCA can provide Ecological Surveys and Bat Surveys where required.
- 5.5.12 If a landscape planting scheme is proposed, consideration must be made at the planning stage as to where this is to be implemented on site. Such locations should be protected in order to prevent soil compaction and/or contamination and should therefore form part of the Construction Exclusion Zone. JCA can provide Tree Planting Schemes where required.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The trees surveyed were generally found to be in a reasonable condition.
- 6.2 We are still waiting for the results from the local authority regarding the protected status of the trees i.e. Tree Preservation Order or by virtue of them being in a Conservation Area.
- 6.3 Existing site constraints and general design advice has been provided in Section 5.5. Upon provision of specific proposals, site-specific advice can be given with regards to the impact on trees. In accordance with Section 5.4 of BS 5837: 2012, the next stage on this site should be the preparation of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), which will illustrate and discuss the impact of the proposals on the trees and vice versa, to help to inform good design.
- 6.4 The data gained during the survey provides an indication of the health of the trees. However, it does not enable a comprehensive assessment of their condition over time. Trees are living organisms which are affected by many factors including weather conditions, diseases/disorders, light levels and human activities. Because of this, this report is only valid for a period of 1 year from the date of issuing. Should an update or revision of this report be required outside of this time period, JCA may require a further site visit to ensure that the condition of the trees has not significantly changed. It is advised that the trees are inspected regularly, in the interests of risk management.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Tree Descriptions and Recommendations

Tree Ref.	Age Common Name Botanical Name	Height (m)	Crown Height (m)	Height (m) and Direction of the Lowest Branch	Diameter (cm)	THE REAL PROPERTY.	Crown Spread N W E	Observations	Recommendations Priority	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Amenity Value	NHBC Water Demand	liffe Expecimoy (yrs)	Retention Category
G l	Young to Semi- mature Mixed Indigenous Species	4*	0*	0 n/a	18	•	3 3 3	Group of multi-stemmed specimens inc. Dogwood, Hazel and Elder. Damage to specimens in the front row at the top of wall, specimens further back have widespread habit. Approximate individual crown spread is given.	None n/a	GOOD	FAIR	MOD	MOD	10+	C 2
G 2	Semi-mature Sycamore & Scots Pine Acer pseudoplatamus & Pinus sylvestris	9*	2*	Z n/a	30	*	2 2	Group of single-stemmed specimens forming edge of woodland to the west. Specimens with straight, slender main stems and high canopies, typical of woodland trees. Approximate individual crown spread is given.	None n/a	GOOD	GOOD	MOD	MOD	20+	В 2

Appendix 2: Explanation of Tree Descriptions

A2.1 Measurements/ Reference Information

- A2.1.1 REF NUMBER. All items surveyed are allocated a reference number preceded with a letter, identifying the type of vegetation surveyed: T = an individual tree, G = a group of trees or an area of vegetation, W = woodland, H = a hedgerow.
- A2.1.2 SPECIES: COMMON AND BOTANICAL NAME. The common and botanical names of the species present are noted. If the species is not clear or identifiable, then a general common name and genus will be noted.
- A2.1.3 AGE CLASS of the tree is described as young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, over-mature, veteran or dead.
- A2.1.4 HEIGHT of the tree is measured in metres from the stem base to the top of the crown.
- A2.1.5 *CROWN HEIGHT* is an indication of the height above ground level at which the crown begins.
- A2.1.6 STEM DIAMETER is measured at 1.5 metres above (higher) ground level. Where the tree is multi-stemmed at this point; diameter measurements are taken for each stem. If more than five stems are present, an average stem diameter is taken. If for whatever reason it is not practical to measure multiple-stemmed trees in this way, the diameter is measured close to ground level, just above the root buttress.
- A2.1.7 CROWN SPREAD is measured from the centre of the stem base to the tips of the branches to all four cardinal points.
- A2.1.8 HEIGHT AND DIRECTION OF LOWEST BRANCH. The height and direction of the lowest significant branch is noted because of potential issues relating to clearances and the need for tree pruning.
- A2.1.9 NHBC WATER DEMAND. The water demand of each tree, as listed in NHBC Standards 2010 Chapter 4.2 'Building near trees. This is included to aid structural engineers, architects and other members of the design team as it determines foundation depth and other considerations regarding trees.

A2.2 Evaluations

- A2.2.1 PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION is classed as good, fair, poor, or dead. This is an indication of the health and vitality of the tree and considers vigour, presence of disease and dieback.
- A2.2.2 STRUCTURAL CONDITION is classed as good, fair or poor. This is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree and considers significant wounds, decay and quality of branch junctions.
- A2.2.3 LIFE EXPECTANCY is classed as; Dead, less than 10 years, 10+ years, 20+ years, or 40 + years. This is an indication of the minimum number of years before removal of the tree is likely to be required.
- A2.2.4 AMENITY VALUE. A general indication is given in respect to the amenity/landscape value of the tree/group within the surrounding area.
- A2.2.5 PRIORITIES. A priority rating is given concerning the time periods in which the recommended works should be undertaken. LOW priority works should be undertaken within 12 months of the survey, MOD (moderate) priority works should be undertaken within 6 months and HIGH priority works should be completed as soon as practically possible. If no works are recommended, N/A (not applicable) will be used.

A2.3 Retention Categories

A2.3.1 A (marked green on the plan) = Trees of high quality.

These trees are of high quality and value with a good life expectancy (usually with an estimated remaining life expectancy of 40 years).

A2.3.2 B (marked in blue on the plan) = Trees of moderate quality.

These trees are of moderate quality and value with a reasonable life expectancy (usually with an estimated life expectancy of at least 20 years).

A2.3.3 C (marked in grey on the plan) = Trees of low quality.

These trees are of low quality and value, but which are in adequate condition to remain or are young trees with a stem diameter below 15cm (usually with an estimated life expectancy of at least 10 years).

- A2.3.4 Trees categorised as retention category 'A', 'B' or 'C' are then justified by being further divided into 3 subcategories:
 - 1 = Mainly arboricultural qualities.
 - 2 = Mainly landscape qualities.
 - 3 = Mainly cultural values, including conservation value.

A2.3.5 U (marked in red on the plan) = Trees usually unsuitable for retention due to poor condition.

These trees are in such a condition that they cannot be realistically retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. This may be due to any of the following:

- 1) Failure is likely due to serious, irredeemable, structural defects.
- 2) Removal of other category U trees will render them exposed and unstable.
- 3) They are in serious, overall decline or are dead.
- 4) They are of low quality and suppressing adjacent trees of better quality.
- 5) Diseases are present which may affect the health of adjacent trees.

These trees should be removed or treated in such a way as to make them safe where they have high ecological value, such as in a woodland setting.

Appendix 3: General Guidelines

- A3.1 All tree work should be undertaken to BS 3998: 2010 'Recommendations for tree work' or other recognised industry practice.
- A3.2 Staff carrying out the work must be qualified, experienced and ideally be Arboricultural Association approved contractors. They should be covered by adequate public liability insurance.
- A3.3 This report is based upon a visual inspection. The consultant shall not be responsible for events which happen after this time due to factors which were not apparent at the time, and the acceptance of this report constitutes an agreement with the guidelines and the terms listed therein.
- A3.4 Any defects seen by a contractor or the employer that were not apparent to the consultant must be brought to the consultant's attention immediately.
- A3.5 No liability can be accepted by JCA in respect of the trees unless the recommendations of this report are carried out under the supervision of JCA and within JCA's timescale.
- A3.6 It is advisable to have trees inspected by an arboricultural consultant on a regular basis.

Appendix 4: Glossary of Terms & Abbreviations

Arboriculture The cultivation of trees in order to produce individual specimens of the

greatest ornament, for shelter or any primary purpose other than the

production of timber or fruit.

Canker Disease damaged area of a tree, usually caused by fungus or bacteria

affecting the bark.

Co-dominant stem A stem which has grown in direct competition to the main stem and which

has formed a substantial size influencing the appearance of the tree.

Crown lift The removal of the lowest branches, usually to a given height. It allows

more residual light and greater clearance underneath for vehicles etc.

Crown reduction The reduction of a tree's height and spread while preserving its natural

shape.

Crown thin The removal of some of the density of a tree's crown, usually 5-15%

allowing more light through its canopy and reducing wind resistance.

Deadwood Either dead branches, or a procedure involving the removal of dead, dying

and diseased branches.

Dieback Where branches are beginning to show signs of death usually at the tips in

the crown.

Epicormic shoots Small branches that grow in clusters around the base of the stem of a tree or

within the crown. This is usually as a result of bad pruning or some other stress factor, although can be a natural growth pattern for some species of

tree (eg Lime species).

Formative pruning The pruning of a tree to remove weaknesses and irregularities which may

lead to future problems. The formative pruning operation is aimed at reducing the potential for future weaknesses or problems within the tree's

crown and to encourage an optimal canopy shape.

Included bark Where the bark on two adjoining branches or stems is growing tight

together, forming a joint with limited physical strength.

Pollarding A method of tree management in which the main trunk and principle

branches of the tree are cut to the same height, and the resulting branches

are then cropped on a regular basis.

Remedial pruning The removal of old stubs, deadwood, epicormic growth, rubbing or crossing

branches and other unwanted items from the tree's crown. Sometimes

referred to as crown cleaning.

RPA

Root Protection Area – Theoretical rooting area of a tree as defined in BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'.

Topping

Topping is a form of pruning that removes terminal growth leaving a 'stub' cut end. Topping can cause serious health problems to a tree.

Appendix 5: Author Qualifications

Principal Consultant and Managing Director

Jonathan Cocking F.R.E.S., Tech. Cert. (Arbor.A), PDipArb (RFS) FArborA CBiol MSB. MICFor. Jonathan is a Registered Consultant and Fellow of the Arboricultural Association and sits on its Professional Committee. He has 31 years experience in the Arboricultural profession and served for eight years as Senior Arboriculturist with a large local authority before establishing JCA in 1997. Jonathan has since developed JCA's portfolio of services and its extensive client base. He is a Chartered Biologist, a Chartered Arboriculturalist and an Expert Witness with much experience of litigation work.

Technical Director

Toby Thwaites BSc (Hons), HND (Arboriculture). Toby joined JCA in 1998 after graduating in Ecology at the University of Huddersfield and has since graduated in Arboriculture at the University of Central Lancashire. A former JCA team leader and Consulting Arboriculturist, Toby is now Technical Director and oversees all office and on-site activities at JCA and is on hand to offer technical support and advice.

Consulting Staff: Arboriculture

Toby Parsons Cert. Arb. (RFS), Tech. Cert. (Arbor.A). Toby joined JCA after spending 6 years working as a senior climber for various Arboricultural contractors in the East Midlands and the South-West. He has gained the Level 2 Certificate in Arboriculture (RFS) and an Arboricultural Technicians Certificate. Toby is LANTRA certified in Professional Tree Inspection.

Scott Reid ND (Arboriculture and Forestry). Scott joined JCA after working with other consultancy companies in the south of England. He specialises in trees in relation to development and holds a National Diploma, various NPTC qualifications and is currently studying for his Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture.

Andrew Bussey. Andrew joined JCA having spent 12 years working as a tree surgeon for various private companies and a Local Authority. He has various NPTC qualifications, is QTRA qualified and is currently studying for his Arboricultural Technicians Certificate.

Phil Humeniuk FdSc (Arboriculture). Phil joined JCA having spent 3 years working for various tree surgery companies and as a Tree Officer for a Local Authority. He also has several years experience working as a consultant both for JCA and for another consultancy. Phil obtained his foundation degree in Arboriculture at the University of Central Lancashire and has various NPTC's and is LANTRA certified in Professional Tree Inspection.

Emily Wilde FdSc (Arboriculture). Emily joined JCA having previously worked for various private tree surgery and consultancy companies over the past 8 years. She initially obtained a ND in Forestry & Arboriculture, followed by a FdSc in Arboriculture at Askham Bryan College, York. Emily has various NPTC certificates and is QTRA qualified.

Mick Eltringham ND (Forestry). Mick joined JCA after spending 12 years working in the industry for various private companies in the north and south of England. He has also spent the last five years working as a consultant for two canopy research projects in the Amazon Rainforest, working with Oxford University and the University of Arizona, He has various NPTC Qualifications.

Charles Cocking (FdSc Arboriculture). Charles joined JCA in January 2014 as an Apprentice having previously worked for the company on a part time basis during 2013. Charles obtained his Foundation Degree in Arboriculture at Askham Bryan College, York, and is now part of our qualified Arboricultural consultancy team.

Paul Hodgson Cert Arb (RFS), FdSc Arb, Marbor A. Paul joined JCA after spending 11 years working in the industry and for various organisations, which included practical tree work, surveying, lecturing at Myerscough College, Arb team leader at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and a number of senior management positions. Paul is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and a member of the Kew Guild.

Consulting Staff: Ecology

David Bodenham BSc Ind (Hons) Zoology, MSc Biodiversity and Conservation. David joined JCA as an addition to the expanding ecology department. An advocate of evidence based conservation, he studied Zoology (Ind) at University and moved onto an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation where he gained the myriad of skills needed as an ecologist. With over 7 years of experience, David specialises in bat and amphibian ecology.

Jenny Butler Bsc (Hons) Environmental Science. Jenny joined JCA's ecology department in 2017, bringing with her a bachelor degree in Environmental Science from Bangor University. Jenny has previously worked as an Environmental Consultant for an Agri-Environment company and as a freelance ecological consultant. Jenny specialises in great crested newt and bat ecology.

Amanda Beck Cert He in Field Ecology Amanda joined JCA's ecology department in 2018, previously working as a freelance Ecological Consultant in North Wales and Liverpool and as a trainee Ecologist in South Wales. Amanda has extensive practical experience in surveying for botanical, amphibians, terrestrial and marine mammals along with invertebrate research work. She has practical experience in habitat management and creation and is a CIEEM student member.

Administrative Staff

Sue Guest Administrative Team Leader. Catherine Cocking Accounts Manager. Lisa Hampson Marketing Manager. Simeon Haigh BSc (Hons). IT Director. Lorraine Spink Administrative Assistant.

Appendix 6: Tree Constraints Plan

I hope that this report provides all the necessary information, but should any further advice be needed please do not hesitate to contact the author.

Signed

P. Hodgson

Paul Hodgson Cert Arb (RFS), FdSc Arb, MArborA.

7th February 2019

For and on behalf of JCA Ltd

Registered Office:

Unit 80
Bowers Mill
Branch Road
Barkisland
Halifax
HX4 0AD

Tel. 01422 376335 Fax. 01422 376232 Email: jon@jcaac.com

www.jcaac.com

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- Invasive Species Surveys
- Code for Sustainable Homes

Ecological Post-Planning Services

Biodiversity Enhancement Plans

 Protected Species Mitigation Ecological Management (Bat and Bird box installation and inspection)



HEAD QUARTERS;

Unit 80 Bowers Mill, Branch Road. Barkisland, Halifax, HX10AD.

Tel: 01422 376335 Mobile: 07778 391986 Email: jon@jcaac.com Website: www.jeaac.com

