



Rainier Developments

Northampton Road, Bromham

Arboricultural Topic Paper

March 2018

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH

Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [F] 01509 674565 [E] mail@fpcr.co.uk [W] www.fpcr.co.uk

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared / Date	Approved/Date
-	Draft	EC / 19.03.18	DJS / 19.03.18
A	Final	EC / 27.03.18	DJS / 27.03.18

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This topic paper has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Limited on behalf of Rainier Developments to present the findings of an Arboricultural Survey of trees located at Northampton Road, Bromham (hereafter referred to as the site), OS Grid Ref SP 996 509.
- 1.2 This summary is based on the existing Arboricultural Assessment (November 2017) carried out in accordance with guidance contained within British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations' (hereafter referred to as BS5837).
- 1.3 The site comprises two fields to the west of the village of Bromham. The larger western field had been ploughed and at the time of the survey was being used for arable crop production with the eastern field being pasture and used to graze horses. Northampton Road formed the northern boundary of the site and the A428 the western boundary.

Development Proposals

- 1.4 There are currently two development options at the site, a 345 residential dwelling scheme with a community building and playing field, and a 345 dwelling scheme with a 1FE primary school. Both schemes have associated green space and infrastructure.

2.0 BASELINE CONDITION

- 2.1 Tree cover is restricted to the field boundaries and includes; a maintained hedgerow which separates the site into two field parcels; a small number of individual trees within this internal hedgerow; and tree groups and hedgerows along the site boundaries. Dense tree cover was recorded along the boundary with Northampton Road. This provided moderate screening from the road into the site and the majority of the tree cover was considered to be of moderate quality from an arboricultural perspective.
- 2.2 Individual trees recorded internally to the site within the internal hedgerow displayed defects which reduced their future safe life expectancies and resulting in them being considered of low quality from an arboricultural perspective and of little constraint to the development. Hedgerows forming the site's southern and western boundaries were considered to be of moderate quality for their landscape value from an arboricultural perspective, however would benefit from some future management.
- 2.3 An area of tree cover recorded in the North West corner of the site contained mature specimens of English oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and silver birch *Betula pendula*. The group was considered to be of moderate quality from an arboricultural perspective but defects including large pieces of dead wood were recorded and the group would require some future management.

3.0 KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- 3.1 By virtue of the existing tree cover being restricted to the site boundaries the development should allow the retention of the majority of trees and hedgerows. Residential parcels should be positioned centrally within the two fields and landscaped buffers should be provided along the boundaries to provide a stand of from any build development to retained trees.
- 3.2 The root protection areas and shade influence of trees would need to be given due consideration in any designs / layouts where the development would potentially have an impact. Where lower quality trees would be within close proximity to residential areas these should be removed where they would present a risk to people or property.
- 3.3 Tree removal is likely to be required to facilitate the widening of Northampton Road and provide vehicular access from Northampton Road into the site. Existing field access points should be used to minimize hedgerow removal and the removal of individual trees should be avoided where possible.

4.0 NECESSARY MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT

- 4.1 New tree and hedgerow planting within areas of informal amenity green space and landscape buffers should be provided to suitably mitigate any tree removal required to facilitate the development. New tree planting should be appropriate for the future use of the site and be planted with due care and consideration.
- 4.2 A review of the relationship between the layout and the retained trees should also be undertaken to assess the existing tree cover and prepare an arboricultural management plan and schedule of tree works. Numerous defects were noted within the existing trees and future management would improve the condition of the existing trees and hedgerows.

5.0 SUMMARY

- 5.1 The site comprises two fields to the west of the village of Bromham. Tree cover was restricted to the boundaries which included maintained hedgerows, tree groups and a small number of individual trees recorded within these hedgerows and tree groups.
- 5.2 The development should allow for the retention of the majority of the existing trees and hedgerows by positioning residential parcels centrally within the two fields and showing landscape buffers along the boundaries.
- 5.3 Where tree and hedgerow removal is required, new tree planting should mitigate for this tree removal and would ideally increase the amount of overall tree cover on the site.