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Preliminary Arboricultural Report

Site address: 125 Chatham Street, Reading

Client: Zain (Reading) Ltd

Date of survey: September 2021

Report Reference: 2021099 (supplementary)

Surveyor: Jon Harper

Planting In Mitigation Of Tree Loss At The Front Of The Site

The proposed development discussed in my report (2021099 v1.0 Arb Report) from October 2021 involves the loss of two Freeman's Maples at the front of the site due to an unsustainable relationship with the building.

Of course, tree cover is important for many reasons, and these are no exception so new trees need to be planted in mitigation of their loss. The trees at the front of 125 Chatham Street were simply not practical regardless of any development proposals, and although there is often a reaction that trees must be retained at all costs, this is wrong. It must be remembered that humans have to live alongside trees in harmony and the existing situation was never going to achieve that.

However, the loss of the two Maples does present an issue in that their replacements must be sustainable so that they can be allowed to flourish and provide the amenity value that the area deserves rather than a dark and overgrown look. With this in mind, I am suggesting trees that fit the following criteria: -

- They must be deciduous so that they allow light into the front of the building in the winter when it is needed.
- They must be fastigate so that there is a minimum of crown spread (again, helping with the light aspect).
- They would ideally be native to the UK.
- They would provide autumn colour to help with the amenity value aspect.

Consulting the Hillier Designer's Guide I find that there is a tree that fits all of the criteria above very well. This is the Acer Campestre "William Caldwell". A fastigate field maple that the designers guide describes in the following way: -

*"An unusual fastigate tree. Leaves in the summer are the same as A. Campestre, but produce orange and red unlike the usual yellow produced by the species.
Good street tree for narrow paved spaces, specify as standard tree".*

The designer's guid states that the crown spread will be 2m with a height of 7m after 25 years. I would suggest that there will be three replacement trees planted as far away from the building as the official site boundary will allow. These will make the most practical replacement for the two Freeman's Maples that are on the front of the site at the present time.

This concludes the advice given in this report

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Proprietor
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