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1. Instruction

Mrs Zita Bell asked me Jack Nicholls-Sames (LANTRA professional tree inspector) to carry out arboricultural report for the planned development (extension) at the rear of their property. The purpose to identify arboricultural requirements that may need to be consider due to the extension. As requested by the Reading borough council (RBC) trees within 15 metres of the planned development have been included and assessed.

2. Site conditions

The site is a residential back garden extending east, backing onto a Kensington park. The weather was bright and sunny with light wind.

3. Limitations

The inspections were carried out from ground level with basic tools (optics, probe, nylon hammer, handsaw, DBH tape, clinometer and compass). All vegetation was view from the rear garden of 105 Wantage Rd – Every effort has been made to carry out a thorough inspection of the Tree/Group/Shrub as far as practicable however, where access and/or view has been restricted or obscured approximations have been made to the best of my knowledge.

There are no Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or conservation area restrictions on site.

4. Recommendations

I found the site to have no trees present within the rear garden of 105 Wantage rd.

A line of Mixed species deciduous trees flank the North boundary with 103 Wantage rd – These are relatively young trees/shrubs that look to have been neglected and are in poor-reasonable condition with ivy swamping the crown. Recent poor, untargeted pruning has been carried out leaving undesirable wounds. All trees outside of the property would not have their root protection areas (RPA) infringed by the planned development and considering their current condition and age I would not foresee any significant impact created by the development. None of the trees heights exceed 8m.

On the south boundary of 107 Wantage Rd there is a reasonable nice Bay that is well beyond any significant impact that the development may pose.

Access to the garden for machinery is restricted and I have seen no information to suggest excavating machinery will be used therefor the assumption that hand tools only are to be used for the development.

5. Images from the site



Image 1



Image2



Image 3



Image 4

6. Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

BS5837:2012 Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)			
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see [BS5837:2012] 4.5.7.</i>		
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Trees to be considered for retention			
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value