# **Arboricultural Report**

Assessment of trees in relation to development for planning purposes

Bedford Square London WC1B 3HH

March 2018

180309-PD-11



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Report Type	Arboricultural Report for Planning
Checked by	ТМ
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#### 1 SUMMARY REPORT

- 1.1 The proposal is for the installation of an irrigation tank below ground-level and an associated pump house station atop, within the bounds of Bedford Square Gardens
- 1.2 Trees relevant to these proposals have been assessed in accordance with bestpractice guidance and planning policy at national and local level.
- 1.3 Relevant impacts and potential issues relating to trees have been considered within this report and factual information is contained in the appendices.
- 1.4 This report concludes that the proposal is acceptable and will not unreasonably impact upon retained trees.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

#### Instructions

- 2.1 My name is Christopher Wright. I am an arboricultural consultant dealing with trees in relation to all forms of human activity including the built development. I am a Technician Member of the Arboricultural Association, a member of the Royal Forestry Society, hold the Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture (ABC), and received a BSc (Hons) Conservation and Environment (2:1) from Writtle University College.
- 2.2 This arboricultural report has been commissioned, to provide information to assist all parties involved in the planning process to make balanced judgements with regards to arboricultural features in relation to the proposal.

#### Scope and limitations

- 2.3 The survey is not an assessment of health and safety of trees and no recommendations for works have been provided. However, trees identified as imminently dangerous will have been highlighted in the tree schedule at Appendix B, where appropriate.
- 2.4 The contents of this report are copyright of Tim Moya Associates (TMA) and may not be distributed or copied without TMA's explicit permission. Tim Moya Associates Standard Limitations of Service apply to this report and all associated work relating to this site.

#### Methodology and guidance

- 2.5 This report refers to *British Standard* 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*, which provides a methodology for the assessment of trees and other significant vegetation on development sites.
- 2.6 BS 5837:2012 is intended to assist decision making, with regards to existing and proposed trees, and sets out the principles and procedures to be applied to achieve a harmonious relationship between existing and new trees and structures that can be sustained for the long term.

## 3 OBSERVATIONS AND CONTEXT

#### Site visit

3.1 The site was visited during March 2018 by Tim Moya, to survey on and off-site trees and vegetation, which may be of significance to the proposal.

#### Policy context

- 3.2 Planning policy at national level is set out in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3.3 The NPPF sets out overarching planning policy and at its core is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainable development is defined in the NPPF as having economic, social and environmental strands that are interdependent and in these areas planning should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.4 The NPPF states that planning should be "not only about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives." And should "always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;" Also that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution."
- 3.5 The NPPF identifies thirteen aspects contributing to the delivery of sustainable development, including:
  - establishing a strong sense of place;
  - responding to local character and history; and
  - providing developments that are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping
- 3.6 Paragraph 61 of the NPPF states "planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment."

## **Spatial Planning Policy**

3.7 Spatial planning policy consists of the London Plan adopted 2011 (with minor amendments up to 2017) and associated policy documents including the Climate

Change Adaptation Strategy (*Managing Risks and Increasing Resilience – October 2011*).

- 3.8 The London Plan (amendment 2015) defines "green infrastructure" as "an overarching term for a number of discreet elements (parks, street trees, green roofs etc.) that go to make up a functional network of green spaces and green features."
- 3.9 In relation to climate change adaptation the London Plan calls for the use of trees and other shading to *"increase green areas in the envelope of the building, including its roof and environs."*
- 3.10 The London Plan sets a target of a 5% increase in trees in parks, gardens and green spaces by 2025.
- 3.11 Policy 7.21 of the London Plan 2011 calls for trees and woodlands to be protected, maintained and enhanced. The policy requires that existing trees of value should be retained and that any loss as a result of development should be replaced in sustainable locations. The policy suggests that, where appropriate, large canopied species should be planted (rather than smaller ornamental species).

### Local Plan and Supplementary Documents

3.12 The London Borough of Camden Local Plan (adopted July 2017) contains saved policies relating to trees and landscaping.

Policy Ref	Wording
A3 Biodiversity	The Council will protect, and seek to secure additional, trees and vegetation.
	We will:
	cultural or ecological value including proposals which may threaten the continued wellbeing of such trees and vegetation;
	k. require trees and vegetation which are to be retained to be satisfactorily protected during the demolition and construction phase of development in line with BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' and positively integrated as part of the site layout;
	I. expect replacement trees or vegetation to be provided where the loss of significant trees or vegetation or harm to the wellbeing of these

	trees and vegetation has been justified in the context of the proposed development; m. expect developments to incorporate additional trees and vegetation wherever possible.					
D2 Heritage	Conservation areas are designated heritage assets and this section should be read in conjunction with the section above headed 'designated heritage assets'. In order to maintain the character of Camden's conservation areas, the Council will take account of conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies when assessing applications within conservation areas. The Council will:					
	<ul><li>e. require that development within conservation areas preserves or, where possible, enhances the character or appearance of the area;</li><li>f. resist the total or substantial demolition of an unlisted building that makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area;</li></ul>					
	g. resist development outside of a conservation area that causes harm to the character or appearance of that conservation area; and h. preserve trees and garden spaces which contribute to the character and appearance of a conservation area or which provide a setting for Camden's architectural heritage.					

## 4 TECHNICAL INFORMATION

#### **Tree Data**

4.1 The location of trees and groups of trees are shown on the tree survey drawing at Appendix A. This plan illustrates the location of trees and the extent of the spread of their crowns. Dimensions, comments and information for each tree are given in the tree schedule at Appendix B.

## Life Stage Analysis

4.2 Unlike age in numerical terms (years), this description is used to describe the physical form of a tree in relation to its typical life expectancy and varies between species.



## BS5837 (2012) category breakdown

4.3 The trees surveyed were assessed as being of good to low quality. Further details of the trees surveyed can be found in the schedule at Appendix B and the tree survey plan at Appendix A.



## 5 ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSAL IN RESPECT OF TREES

#### Arboricultural Impacts

5.1 The following arboricultural impacts have been considered in relation to the proposed development:

Impact	Analysis
Loss of trees	While some tree loss is required, in order to facilitate the proposed development, these losses have been confined to one low-quality tree on site (T135), while better quality trees have been retained. By seeking arboricultural advice and designing for tree retention, the proposals have provided the best possible chance of successfully retaining better quality trees. A schedule of all proposed tree works with reasons for the works is attached at Appendix B.



	special construction methods are proposed that shall minimise the damage to important roots and ensure the protection of the soil environment in which tree roots are growing.
	Specifically, the perimeter of the pit to be dug for the tank shall be dug manually down to a depth of 1000mm and 500mm across. This shall allow for any tree roots that will be within the footprint to be cut with a clean and sharp blade*. The remainder of the pit can then be excavated with a 3-tonne mini-digger placed upon suitable ground protection (such as TrakMat Ground Guards) and from existing hard-standing where feasible. Where the pit is to be left open for more than two hours, the sides shall be covered with hessian and kept moist, down to a depth of at least 1000mm, to prevent soil desiccation.
	*Due to the nature of the pit, which is 7.5m away from the stem of T88, runs radially from T88, and occupies no more than 5% of the total RPA of T88, the total potential root loss is likely to be far less than if the pit ran tangentially, because roots typically radiate out from the base of the tree. Incursions into the RPA of T136 and T145 are very minimal.
	The concrete to be back-filled into the tank pit shall be pumped from off- site in to the pit, which shall be sleeved with an impermeable membrane (high-density polyethylene) to prevent cement leeching.
	As regards bringing the plastic tank and mini-digger into the site, this shall be achieved via existing vehicular access routes with hard- standing. A trailer shall be used to bring these items on to the site and these items shall be stored outside of RPAs when not in use. The tank shall be lowered in to the pit manually.
	Pictorial details of the measures proposed are included in the Tree Protection Plan at Appendix A.
Changes in soil levels	No significant changes in soil levels are proposed.
Installation of drainage	We do not currently have details of the condition of existing drainage runs or any information which suggests that there will be a requirement to install new drains. However, if new drainage runs are required, they should be located outside the RPAs of retained trees. If it is found to be necessary to locate new drainage runs within the RPAs of retained trees it is recommended that these works are carried out under arboricultural supervision. Methods of work should follow the recommendations in the NJUG guidance. BS5837 (2012) recommends the NJUG guidance as a normative reference to be used in these circumstances. See <a href="http://www.njug.org.uk/">http://www.njug.org.uk/</a>
Installation of services	New service runs (if required) will, where possible, be located outside the RPAs of retained trees. However, if it is necessary to locate services runs within the RPAs, BS5837 (2012) recommends the NJUG guidance as a normative reference to be used in these circumstances. See <a href="http://www.njug.org.uk/">http://www.njug.org.uk/</a> .
Pump house construction	The above-ground pump house shall be constructed manually. All materials for the pump house shall be stored outside of RPAs. Work operations within RPAs shall take place upon suitable ground protection that will be relevant to the sustained load (i.e. foot / vehicular traffic).

## Arboricultural mitigation

5.2 Landscape proposals have not yet been formulated but there is sufficient space on site to plant new trees, which can contribute significantly to the amenities of the local area.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

## **General Change**

6.1 The proposed development has minimal impacts upon trees within Bedford Square Gardens. Appropriate re-landscaping can easily off-set the loss of the single tree being removed.

Policy Ref	Compliance				
NPPF	The proposals do not impact upon ancient woodland or veteran trees. The proposals are sustainable in landscape terms and therefore meet the criteria for sustainability in this respect.				
	The proposals have been designed to retain a good standard of amenity within the Bedford Square Garden area.				
	Landscaping, whilst not yet considered formally, can readily be designed to respond to local character and to contribute towards a strong sense of place, while integrating the proposed development into the natural environment.				
Spatial policy (The London Plan)	The London Plan emphasises the importance of trees, green infrastructure and climate change resilience. By retaining existing trees of good quality and proposing tree replacement to off-set losses, the proposals have responded to the London Plan.				
Local policy	The proposals accord with 'A3 Biodiversity', by retaining good-quality trees and minimising the overall arboricultural impact from the proposal.				
	The site resides within a Conservation Area (Bloomsbury). 'D2 Heritage' has been followed, by retaining the character of the CA as provided by trees.				

## How do the changes relate to planning policy?

#### Conclusions

- 6.2 The design of the proposal has properly considered the tree constraints.
- 6.3 The proposal complies with planning policies referenced within the report
- 6.4 All retained trees can be adequately protected by following the recommendations in the method statement at Appendix A (and within section 5) and controlled by suitablyworded planning conditions.

## **APPENDIX A - PLANS**

- Tree Survey 180309-P-10
- Proposed Works Location and Tree Removals 180309-P-11
  - Tree Protection Plan 180309-P-12



TIM MOYA ASSOCIATES DO NOT SCALE Use only figured dimensions DO NOT SCALE Use only figured dimensions TIM MOYA ASSOCIATES ARBORICULTURE • LANDSCAPE • ECOLOGY The Barn, Feltimores Park Harlow Essex CM17 0PF Tel: 0845 094 3268 www.timmoyaassociates.co.uk	Title   Iree Survey   Client   Bedford Estates Bloomsbury Ltd   Project   Bedford Square Development   Project, London, WC1B   Date   March 2018   Rev   Scale	-     xxxxxx     -     xx       REV     DATE     DESCRIPTION     DRAWN       180309     -     5392-01-U     DRAWN	In the context of the current land use for langer that 10 years.     BS5837 Root Protection Areas Precautionary areas within which tree roots and soil structure must be protected. All works of work     Site boundary     Site boundary	Category B       Category B         Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.         Category B         Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.         Category C         Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years.         Category D         Category C         Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years.         Category D         Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years.         Category D         Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years.         Category U         Those in such a condition that the tree below is proper realistically be retrined as living trees.





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## **APPENDIX B - SCHEDULES**

Tree Schedule 180309-PD-10

Tree Work Schedule 180309-PD-12

Printed on 28/03/18 (BS5837 Tree Schedule (with recs) - tables)

Stem Stem Stem L.B.

COM Combined stem diameter in accordance with BS5837

Height of lowest branch attachment (m) - where relevant

AVE Average stem diameter for tree groups

green Estimated value

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The survey information in this schedule has been gathered following a BS5837 survey for planning purposes. Where hazardous trees have been noted recommendations for works may have been made but this survey cannot be relied upon as a full health and safety assessment of the trees.

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Tree T138	Tree T137	Tree T136	Tree T135	Tree T92	Tree T88	Tree ID
<u>د</u>	<u>د</u>		<u>د</u>	<u>د</u>	د	No.
llex aquifolium (Holly)	llex aquifolium (Holly)	llex aquifolium (Holly)	Ulmus glabra (Wych Elm)	Platanus x hispanica (London Plane)	Platanus x hispanica (London Plane)	. Species
11.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	32.0	30.0	Height (m)
17	24	COM 33	19 COM	169	131	Stem diameter (cm)
-	-	N	N	د	د	No. of Stems
3.0	2.5 2.5	2.0	2.0	9.0 11.0	9. O	Z Z Z R C R O V
2.0	2.5	2.0	4.0	9.0	9.0	N SPREAD
1.0 2.	2.5	3.0 2.	3.0 3.	9.0	0.0 13	5 (m)
0	- <u>1</u> .5	0 1.0	0 1.0	9.0	.0 11.	<pre>Crown clearance (m)</pre>
		0.5	1.5	4	2.5	L.B. (m)
Early Mature	Mature	Mature	Semi Mature	Mature	Mature	Life stag
Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Arboricultural work - Historic. Leaning trunk - Minor. Suppressed crown - Minor.	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. No significant faults observed.	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Deadwood - Minor. Decay / structural defect - Open cavity / cavities. Epicormic growth - Base. Fork - Suspected structurally sound. Fused limb / limbs. Fused stems. Natural bracing - branches fused across stems must be retained	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Good. Fork - Suspected structurally sound.	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Arboricultural work - Historic. Branch weight - Heavy. Decay / structural defect in crown limb / limbs - Localised. Epicormic growth - Crown. End-loaded limb / limbs. Form - Spreading crown. Foreign object - Ingrown metal. Pruning wounds - Historic. tree growing over railings	Structural condition Fair. Physiological condition Fair. Base / stems obscured - Vegetation. Branch weight - Heavy. Decay / structural defect - Localised. Decay / structural defect - Open cavity / cavities. Epicormic growth - Crown. Fork - Suspected structurally sound. Foreign object. Leaning trunk - Minor.	e Condition Notes
05/03/2018	05/03/2018	05/03/2018	05/03/2018	05/03/2018	05/03/2018	Survey date
13.1	26.1	51.1	17.7	706.(	706.(	RPA (m <sup>2</sup> )
2.0	2.9	4.0	2.4	9 15.0	9 15.0	RPR (m)
10-20	20-40	10-20	10-20	20-40	40+	Life expectancy (yrs)
C1/C2	B1	C2	C1	B1/B2	R	BS Category

**Bedford Square Gardens** 

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The survey information in this schedule has been gathered following a BS5837 survey for planning purposes. Where hazardous trees have been noted recommendations for works may have been made but this survey cannot be relied upon as a full health and safety assessment of the trees.

Printed on 28/03/18 (BS5837 Tree Schedule (with recs) - tables)

StemAVEAverage stem diameter for tree groupsStemCOMCombined stem diameter in accordance with BS5837L.B.Height of lowest branch attachment (m) - where relevant

Stem green Estimated value

Tree T145	Tree ID
1 Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii' (Camperdown Elm)	No. Species
	Height (m)
81	Stem diameter (cm)
ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	No. of Stems
	z
ଚ୍ଚ	CROV
7.0	VN SPRE
<u>ල</u> ල	AD (m)
4.0	Z V
4. 0	Crown clearance (m)
د ذ	L.B. (m)
Late Mature	Life stage
Structural condition Poor. Physiological condition Fair. Coalesced decay seam - Suspected. Decline - Suspected. Decay / structural defect in crown limb / limbs - Localised. Deadwood - Minor. Decay / structural defect - Extensive. Decay / structural defect - Open cavity / cavities. Decay / structural defect - Bole. Epicormic growth - Base / bole / principal stems. Fungal fruiting body - structural decay suspected. Habitat - High value. Pruning wounds - Historic. Rigidoporus ulmarius bracket at base on north side of stem.	Condition Notes
05/03/2018	Survey date
296.8	RPA (m <sup>2</sup> )
9.7	RPR (m)
0-10	Life expectancy (yrs)
C1/C2	BS Category

180309 - Bedford Square

Table 1 of BS5837 (2012) Cascade	chart for tree quality assessment			
Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories whe	re appropriate)	Identification on	plan
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	<ul> <li>* Trees that have a serious, irremediat including those that will become unvi- loss of companion shelter cannot be</li> <li>* Trees that are dead or are showing s</li> <li>* Trees infected with pathogens of sign suppressing adjacent trees of better of the series of the serie</li></ul>	ble, structural defect, such that their early loss is iable after removal of other category U trees (e.g mitigated by pruning) signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible o nificance to health and/or safety of other trees ne quality	expected due to collapse, 3. where, for whatever reason, the verall decline earby, or very low quality trees	RED
	NOTE Category U trees can have ex	disting or potential conservation value which it mi	ight be desirable to preserve; see 4.!	5.7
	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	Tree that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricutural and/or landscape features.	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical,	REEN
with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue).		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.	BLUE
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.	GREY

## 180309-PD-12 - Tree Works Schedule

## **Bedford Square**

Deuloiu Squale			BS5837		
ID	No. / Species		Category	Recommended works	Status
T135	1	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> Wych Elm	C1	Fell to ground level.	Proposed
T136	1	<i>llex aquifolium</i> Holly	C2	Reduce crown back by a sufficient lateral spread (no more than 1m), to facilitate the effective construction of the tank pit with pump house atop, where necessary.	Proposed
				Lift low canopy up to 3m from ground level.	Proposed

