



**Merewood**  
*Arboricultural Consultancy Services*

**Arboricultural survey to British  
Standard B.S. 5837: 2012 'Trees in  
relation to design, demolition and  
construction - Recommendations'  
at  
59 Ham Street  
Richmond**

**Prepared by**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Brief**

- 1.1.1. I am instructed by Gilbert Homes to carry out an arboricultural survey at 59 Ham Street Richmond. I am to assess the health and condition of the trees, provide an estimate as to their longevity and to provide recommendations for tree work or other operation to ensure the trees are kept in safe a condition as can be reasonably expected.
- 1.1.2. I am to advise on the likely impact of development proposals to the trees on and adjacent to the site. I am to provide recommendations for tree retention and protection, including appropriate measures that are to be undertaken in order to minimize the impact of development.
- 1.1.3. I have carried out the survey, collecting data in accordance with the recommendations of British Standard B.S. 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' and in line with best practice procedures.

### **1.2 Report Limitations**

- 1.2.1 This survey assesses the condition of the trees based on a visual inspection made at ground level, including the use of binoculars. Typically, instruments such as a nylon hammer or a simple core sampler may be used if necessary. If further inspection of any specific tree is required, including the use of more sophisticated decay detection equipment, the recommendation to do so is made clear, both in the report and as a note to the tree survey sheets.
- 1.2.2 Trees are dynamic living organisms that are subjected constantly to external stresses and to biological and non-biological influences. As such the structure of trees can change at any given time and it is therefore recommended that trees are inspected regularly and assessed for risk. It is normally recommended that such inspections are undertaken every five years, unless otherwise advised.
- 1.2.3 The assessment of the trees made in this report may be considered valid for a period of twelve months, after which a further assessment is normally recommended.
- 1.2.4 This report is restricted to those trees shown on the plans and described in the schedule.

1.2.5 It has been established that the property is situated within a designated Conservation Area. Under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Tree Regulations 2012) Section 211, any tree in excess of 75mm diameter (measured 1m from ground level) not already protected by the tree preservation order, is protected. Prior to working any such tree in a Conservation Area (including pruning or felling), it is necessary to give a six week notice of intent to carry out the work to the Local Planning Authority.

### 1.3 Survey Date

I surveyed the trees at 59 Ham Street Richmond on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The weather was dry and visibility was good.

## 2.0 Summary

2.1 The property has significant mature trees growing adjacent to the garden, located on public land. These are important trees that will need to be taken into account when considering any potential to re-develop the site.

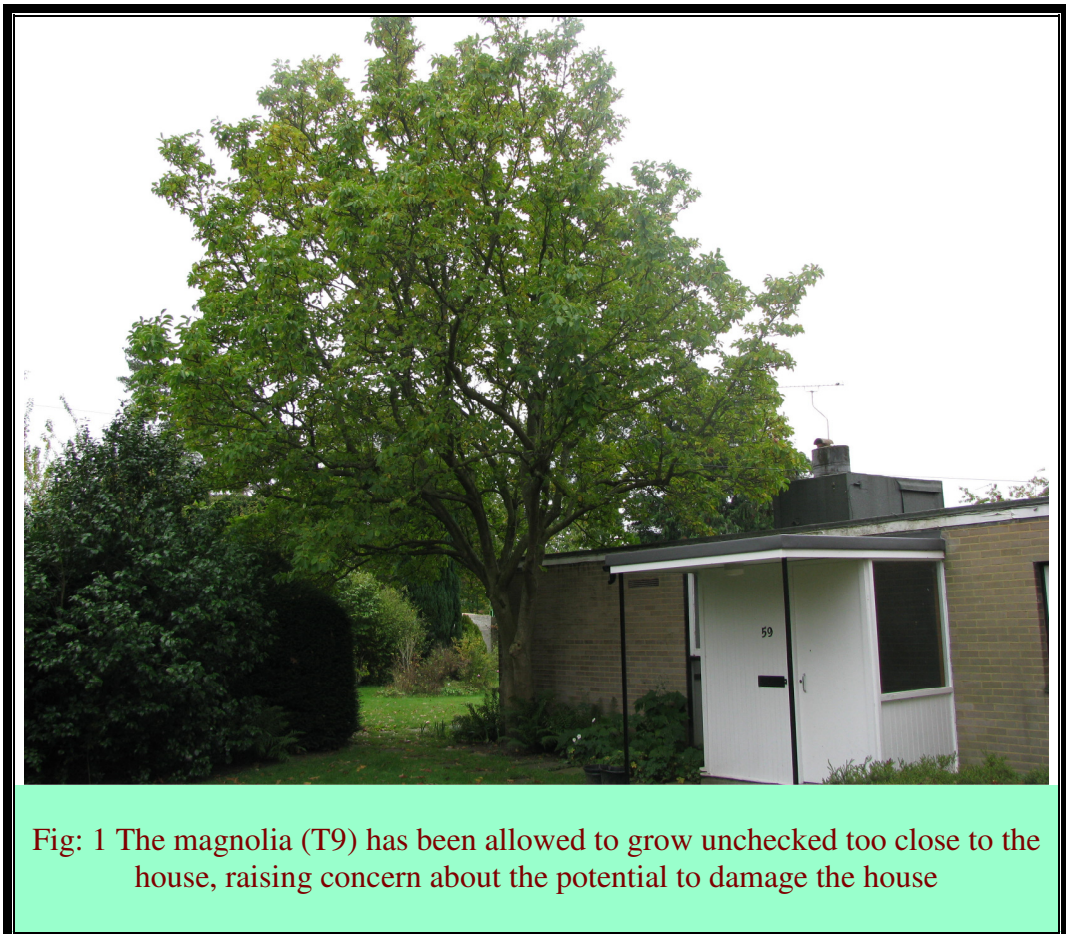
## 3.0 Site Description

- 3.1 59 is a detached house on the west side of Ham Street Richmond. The property has a front and rear garden with the front partly given over to parking and is served by a single entrance driveway. To the north side of the property is public land.
- 3.2 The site is located to the south of Richmond town centre, to the west of Richmond Park with the River Thames over to the east in a medium-high density residential area. The surrounding neighbourhood has a suburban feel about it.
- 3.3 The topography of the site is more or less level. I have not formally assessed the soil at the site, although the National Soil Resources Institute 'soilscapes' viewer indicates this is a free draining slightly acid loam soil.

## 4.0 Observations

4.1 The property is populated by a few small ornamental trees, with more significant trees growing outside of the property boundaries. The lime (T1) for example is growing in the neighbouring garden to the south-west.

- 4.2 The western red cedar trees (T2 and T3) have the potential to grow into large trees if allowed to do so and in time it may be considered neighbourly to keep them pruned down to maintain them more as a screening feature.
- 4.3 The apple (T6) at the back of the house has some fungal fruit bodies at the base and although partly decomposed, these had a strong resemblance to honey fungus (*Armillaria sp.*).
- 4.4 The largest specimen in the garden is the magnolia (T9), although magnolia is commonly regarded as a shrub species that can reach tree like proportions. This particular magnolia has been left to grow quite large in very close proximity to the house (fig.1) and creating an unfavourable juxtaposition and raising concern about direct and indirect structural damage. It is very unlikely that this tree could be retained in this position.



- 4.5 The hedgerow (G1) fronting Ham Street to the east has also been left to grow unchecked. For the most part this is an untidy random mixture of common species, including weeds such as bramble and the self-sown sycamore (T10).

- 4.6 The trees to the north of the site on public land include the red oak (T11), the sycamore (T12) and the copper beech (T13). These trees have been given the dignity of sufficient space around them, allowing them to grow without the need for pruning and they now make a valuable contribution to the visual amenity of the conservation area.
- 4.7 The tree survey has shown that of the 13 trees and 1 group of trees surveyed, 2 are category 'A' 5 are category 'B'; 5 are category 'C' plus 1 category 'C' group and there are 1 is a category 'U' tree.

## **5.0 Implications Assessment**

- 5.1 I have been asked to comment on proposals to re-develop the site including the construction of two pairs of semi-detached houses in place of the existing house. I refer specifically to the proposed site layout plan (ref. 15 – P1021 - 01) and to the Arboricultural Implications plan (appendix 3).
- 5.2 The Arboricultural Implications plan (appendix 3) shows that the significant trees off site, both to the south west and to the north would be unaffected by the development. The root protection areas of these trees remains outside of the footprint of the proposed houses and the boundary fencing already in place will provide a physical barrier to development spilling over onto the public land.
- 5.3 The new houses at plots 3 and 4 will result in the loss of the magnolia (T9). The magnolia has hitherto been allowed to grow very large for its position and in reality its removal is necessary anyway because of its proximity to the existing house.
- 5.4 The new houses will also result in the loss of the apple (T6), but as this is infected with honey fungus anyway, its loss is inevitable regardless of the proposed development. It is also likely that the apple (T8) also be lost. This is a tree largely obscured by the dense ivy growth smothering it and is not a tree that would be missed. The Lawson cypress (T7) is to go as well, but this is of little importance.
- 5.5 The new access drive will require the removal of the hedgerow (G1) and the self-sown sycamore (T10). There is no great loss to visual amenity here. The hedge is a rather unkempt feature that includes weeds and invasive species and the new development gives rise to the opportunity to plant a hedge more in keeping with the sub-urban environment.
- 5.6 There are otherwise no issues arising from the proposal to develop the site in accordance with the site layout plan.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 The site includes a number of significant mature trees adjacent to its boundaries. These are important trees in the local landscape and have been taken into account in setting out the proposals to develop the site.
- 6.2 The development will result in the loss of some trees and the hedgerow at the front, but overall the loss of these particular features will not have a very great impact on the visual amenity of the Conservation Area. More importantly, the new development offers the opportunity to provide landscaping including the planting of new trees and a new hedge along Ham Street.

**Simon Hawkins BTec ND Arbor M. Arbor A.**

**Appendix 1**  
**Key to Tree Survey Data**



**Tree number:**

Sequential reference number corresponding to the tree survey plan. Trees are recorded either as individuals (T1, T2, etc.) or as groups (G1, G2, etc.)

**Species:**

These are listed in the schedule by their common name. The botanical name of the species present is as follows:

- Common lime (*Tilia x europaea*)
- Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)
- Willow leaved pear (*Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula'*)
- Plum (*Prunus domestica*)
- Apple (*Malus spp.*)
- Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)
- Magnolia (*Magnolia spp.*)
- Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
- Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica 'atropurpurea'*)
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)

**Height**

The height of the tree is measured using a 'Suunto' Height Meter or estimated to the nearest metre.

**Stem diameter**

Stem diameter as measured at 1.5m above ground level, or otherwise in accordance with Annex 'C' of the British Standard and expressed in millimetres to the nearest 10mm. Where access to the stem for measurement purposes was not possible, an estimated size is given with (est.) shown.

**Crown spread (m):**

Crown radius measured in metres (shown est. if estimated) to cardinal points

**Height to 1st main branch:**

The height from ground level of the first significant branch growth of the tree, with an indication of direction of that branch to inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading

**Height of canopy:**

The height from ground level of the lowest part of the main canopy to inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading

### **General observations:**

A brief description summarising the form and condition of the tree, including physiological and structural defects (e.g. the presence of any decay) and preliminary management recommendations.

### **Life expectancy**

Estimated safe useful life expectancy based on species, condition & context. The following age class bands are used: <10; 10-20; 20-40; 40+

### **Category**

A summary of the British Standard classification:

### **Trees for Removal**

Category U = Trees 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 to be considered for retention where**

Subcategory 1 concerns mainly arboricultural values

Subcategory 2 concerns mainly landscape values

Subcategory 3 concerns mainly cultural values including conservation

Category A = **Those trees of the highest quality and value:** in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested).

Category B = **Trees of moderate to high quality and value:** in such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested).

Category C = **Trees of low quality and value:** currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm

**Appendix 2**  
**Tree survey data sheets**

Tree no	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Crown spread				Height to 1st main branch	Height of canopy	Age	General observations	Life expectancy	Category
				North	South	East	West						
T1	Common lime	12	310	3	3	3	3			M/A	Neighbouring tree	40+	B1 + B2
T2	Western red cedar	12	320	3	2	3	1			M		40+	B2
T3	Western red cedar	12	290	3	2	1	3			M		40+	B2
T4	Willow leaved pear	4	150	1	1	1	1			M		40+	C
T5	Plum	3	120	2	2	1	1			M		20 - 40	C
T6	Apple	5	280	5	2	4	4			M	Suspect honey fungus at base	<10	C
T7	Lawson cypress	6	190	1	1	1	1			M		20 - 40	C
T8	Apple	6	350	2	2	2	4			M	Thick ivy obscuring the stem	10 - 20	C
T9	Magnolia	7	300 250	5	5	5	3			M	Tree up against existing building	40+	C
T10	Sycamore	8	180	2	3	2	2			Y		40+	C
T11	Red oak	14	780	11	5	9	9			M	Tree on public land	40+	B1 + A2
T12	Sycamore	13	420	4	5	5	7			M	Tree on public land	40+	B1 + B2

Tree no	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Crown spread				Height to 1st main branch	Height of canopy	Age	General observations	Life expectancy	Category
				North	South	East	West						
T13	Copper beech	13	590	6	5	5	6			M	Tree on public land	40+	B1 + A2
G1	Hawthorn Holly Blackthorn Sycamore	6	250 (avg)	2	2	2	2			M	An untidy selection of hedging species that could be pruned	40+	C

**Appendix 3**  
**Arboricultural Implications plan**



**Appendix 4**  
**Qualifications and experience**



- I am Simon Hawkins, proprietor of Merewood Arboricultural Consultancy Services.
- I hold the National Diploma in Arboriculture which I attained in 1987. I have studied and practised Arboriculture for 30 years, during which time I have been involved with both the private and public sector.
- I hold professional member status of the Arboricultural Association (M. Arbor A.), recognised as a higher vocational level within the industry.
- I have undertaken an intensive course in the principles and application of VTA Visual Tree Assessment. I have been assessed and found to have attained the advanced level of technical competence of a VTA Practitioner with Elite Training.
- I hold the LANTRA award for professional tree inspections
- I have run a successful tree surgery business in which I was involved with the hands-on aspect of organising and running the day to day operations and carrying out contract work, including Local Authority contract work to a high professional standard.
- I have over 18 years experience working in the public sector, during which time I have dealt with all aspects of trees and development in the town planning context, within the inner city; in a greater London Borough; and in the Green Belt. Typically, I have worked with planners, developers, architects and other professionals in the construction industry in which I provide advice and assistance in dealing with arboricultural matters.
- I have appeared at numerous appeals, informal hearings and public enquiries to make formal representations. I have also appeared as an expert witness in court with regard to breaches of Tree Preservations Orders.