

ON BEHALF OF G.C.K TREEWORKS

# Bicester Heritage

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Report to highlight suitability of retaining  
specific trees around buildings undergoing  
further development.

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**9/1/2016**

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# Key to Explain Abbreviations

## Age Class

Y = Young, A tree less than ten years old.

SM = Semi Mature, A tree less than one third of its normal life expectancy.

M = Mature, A tree with ultimate crown proportions between one third and total life expectancy.

OM = Over Mature, A tree older than its natural life expectancy with crown proportions declining.

V = Veteran, A tree of biological, aesthetical and cultural importance.

## Dead Wood Classification

Minor = Dead wood with a diameter of 2cms or less.

Moderate = Dead wood with a diameter greater than 2cms, up to 5cms.

Major = Dead wood greater than 5cms in diameter.

## DBH

Diameter at Breast Height = The location at which the stem diameter is measured.  
(DBH = 1.3m)

**Condition** – Describes briefly that the physiological and structural form of the tree is . . . .

Poor = Significantly compromised.

Fair = Showing evidence of functional disruption.

Good = Functioning as would be expected in normal conditions.

## **1.0 - Introduction**

1.1 - I was approached by GCK Tree Works and asked to liaise with the Operations Manager regarding trees on the land that is Bicester Heritage.

1.2 - My contact on this site was Brian Pallett, Operations Manager. On meeting with him we discussed potential renovation works to existing out-buildings and whether it was viable to retain specific adjacent trees.

## **2.0 - Report Limitations**

2.1 - The trees within this report were viewed from ground level. Binoculars were used only when it was deemed that there was obvious reason to see into the crown for further investigation.

2.2 - No soil or root samples were taken from any of the areas visited within this report.

2.3 - This is not a report to determine any present or potential subsidence issues.

2.4 - The trees within this report were assessed using the VTA method (visual tree assessment). A soft mallet was used to aid investigation of any areas subject to obvious potential decay or differentiation in cambial density. No decay detection was carried out, neither was any probing or drilling to identify cavities or soft areas of timber.

2.5 - No investigative measures have been carried out to ascertain whether the trees fall within a Conservation Area or if they are protected by individual T.P.Os.

2.6 - No inspections have been undertaken to identify the presence of bats or other endangered species which may live/roost within or in close proximity of the trees.

2.7 - Information within this report is valid for a period of 12 months from the date it was carried out.

2.8 - It should be remembered that trees are natural living organisms which continually change their form having constantly changing effects on their surroundings.

2.9 - The findings of this report are discussed under what one would consider 'normal conditions'.

2.10 – This is not a BS5837 report (Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction).

### **3.0 - Observations**

3.1 – Tree 1227 is a mature *Thuja occidentalis* in good condition and is situated approximately 2 metres from the front elevation of Structure 104. (See Fig. 1)

3.2 – Tree 1225 is a semi-mature *Acer platanoides* in good condition but of poor form, and is situated approximately 2.5 metres from the left hand elevation of Structure 104. (See Fig. 2) It grows between a mature *Betula pendula* and *Acer psuedoplatanus*.

3.3 – Tree 1466 is a mature *Populus x canadensis* in relatively good condition, with some major dead wood present, and is situated approximately 25 centimetres from the rear elevation of Structure 101. (See Fig. 3) Due to the extremely close proximity of this tree to the building, (See Fig. 4) the roots – via direct damage – have caused significant cracks to the concrete floor internally.

3.4 – Tree 1211 is a mature *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* in good condition and is situated approximately 2.5 metres from the front porch entrance of Structure 101. (See Fig. 5)

### **4.0 – Conclusions**

4.1 - The trees mentioned in Observations – as is the case with all trees – have root systems which are vital to their health and longevity.

4.2 - All plants need water, oxygen, and nutrients. These are most readily available near the soil surface where precipitation infiltrates the soil and oxygen from the atmosphere diffuses into the porous soil. Most roots, therefore, especially the important, tiny, absorbing roots, proliferate near the soil surface.

4.3 - The majority of a large tree's roots are in the upper 45 to 60cms of soil. Changing the level - raising or lowering - by only a few centimeters, can upset the function of water uptake and respiration. This can take several years to have a visible negative effect on the tree which can often be irreversible.

4.4 – Typically the movement of plant machinery in close proximity to trees is a major factor in the above mentioned issues. Direct damage to branches and stem is also likely when such machinery has to operate close to trees when construction work is undertaken.

4.5 – It is possible in certain situations to create Root Protection Areas, RPA's. This is enforced by creating a 'no-go' perimeter around the tree taking into account the circumference of the root system.

4.6 – Anti-compaction matting can also be implemented, allowing the movement of plant machinery, minimising compressive forces on the soil surrounding the roots.

4.7 – In the case of trees 1227, 1466 and 1211, it is in my opinion, not viable to incorporate any of the above mentioned protection systems quite simply because the trees are so close to

each structure. Even with such systems implemented, the machinery required for construction work could not operate without the tree being damaged or being completely in the way.

4.8 – Tree 1225 is unsuitable in its location. It will always be suppressed by the two trees either side of it.

## **5.0 - Recommendations**

4.1 – Tree 1211 should be removed with the remaining stump ground out to below ground level.

4.2 – Tree 1225 should be removed with the remaining stump ground out to below ground level.

4.3 - Tree 1227 should be removed with the remaining stump ground out to below ground level.

4.4 - Tree 1466 should be removed with the remaining stump ground out to below ground level.

4.5 - Poisoning of any stumps on this site would NOT be advisable due to the close proximity to other trees.

4.6 - As excavation work continues on this site, particular care should be taken to minimise or prevent root disturbance and damage to other nearby trees.

## 6.0 - Appendix



Fig. 1



Fig. 2





Fig. 3



Fig. 4

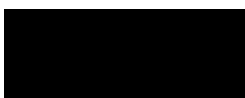


Fig. 5

All work should be carried out to BS3998 and by suitably qualified arborists.

Any questions about this report, do not hesitate to contact me at the number below.

Signed,



Phill Escritt

Mob

