

Preliminary Tree Survey

Bassetlaw Local Plan, Ordsall.

Tree Survey Date: 11th November 2019.

Consultant: Conrad Daniels, FdSc (Arb).

Tree Survey Scope: To assess on the ground, the proposed area for housing allocation.

Report Scope: A single sheet, brief, outline to determine;

- If access from the public highway would be constrained.
- Future management requirements/implications.
- Potential for mitigation (if necessary)

Supporting Documents: Ordsall map from Bassetlaw District Council.

Forestry Commission, Grants and Regulations Operations Note 037;

Public open space and felling license requirements.

SUMMARY: No major tree constraints present

- Marked as woodland on Ordnance Survey map, yet with relatively small areas of tree cover. Consultation with the Forestry Commission will be necessary to determine whether a felling license & subsequent restocking would be required. If replanting is required in the same location in order to develop, it may be preferable to retain existing trees to be incorporated into the development layout.
- There is good access present already, with good potential for additional access points, without tree constraints, to the Northern edge of the site. With potential for an entrance to the South also. There is a constraint regarding the oak trees in the wooded area that will require further consideration.
- The majority of the trees are very young and are the result of natural regeneration. Relatively few larger trees populate the site, these are mainly early mature oak trees in the wooded area to the East. These have minimal management costs while young but where retained, would require safety inspections and any recommendations acted upon. Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has significant implications for a future residential housing area, which could mean remove and replant or allow adequate space. Remedial measures exist but are relatively labour intensive per tree for nest removal once identified.

- In mitigation of development, trees could be retained where suitable, and included in a landscaping layout, or replanting and additional planting could be carried out. This would require consultation with the Forestry Commission.

Findings: From the North, the site has good existing access opposite the junction of Silver Street and Jubilee Road. There is good potential for existing access to be improved from Ordsall Park Drive and Manvers Road. To the South of the site Northumbria Drive may be a possibility where there are presently garages and access to several houses. There are no tree constraints in these areas.

Much of the site is scrubland with numerous pathways and plentiful natural regeneration in the form of very young and juvenile trees. It is very unlikely these would be considered of value in terms of including in any future development, as protection measures would outweigh their value at present. However, it is worth noting that natural regeneration is more viable in the longer term as it is already established; as opposed to buying in and replanting, which will incur costs and need aftercare to ensure becoming established. Younger trees have little in the way of management costs apart from formative pruning and or clearance pruning above access ways and property.

There is a more wooded area to the East accessed when entering the site from Silver Street. There are larger trees here, of varying ages, again from natural regeneration. The oldest trees are early mature English oak. These could be incorporated into open spaces, or the layout of the development.

However, this would need careful consideration with the continued spread of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). OPM is no longer contained to the south of the country, which means that these could pose a public health issue in the future. Forestry Commission advice is to not remove oak trees as a control measure as this would be ecologically damaging. Adequate spacing of housing or facilities should be a consideration so people are not placed in close proximity if a solution to combat exposure to OPM takes more time to be reached. As the risk to public health is potentially high,

there would be merit in considering alternative species if restocking is required as part of Forestry Commission felling license – if applicable. Even removal and replanting as part of any landscaping scheme has some merit with these relatively young trees.