

**JOHN POINTON AND SONS LTD**

**PROPOSED ENERGY RESOURCE CENTRE**

**TREE SURVEY**

**JUNE 2008**

**Prepared by  
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1.1 The Appleton Group were commissioned in June 2008 to prepare a survey of trees on land in the ownership of John Pointon and Sons located south of Cheddleton, Staffordshire. The survey covered two sites, one a former depot known as the Berresford's site, immediately adjacent to Cheadle Road and the second consisting of two field units to the north east of the current works. The location of the trees in question are shown on plans 1521/5 and 6 attached to this report. The Berresford's site is currently disused and includes buildings, hardstandings and areas of grassland. The other site is currently used for animal grazing.

### **1.2 Methodology**

The survey was carried out in accordance with the recommendations contained within BS 5837:2005, 'Trees in relation to Construction' by David Appleton Dip Hort., NDH MA MLI, who is an experienced horticulturist and Chartered Landscape Architect and an Associate member of the Arboricultural Association. Survey plans identifying the locations and canopy spreads of the trees were prepared using a digital topographic base prepared by others and any trees not shown were plotted on site. Canopy spreads were checked. Tree species were identified, trunk diameters were measured, and an estimate of height was made. The trees were then assessed in terms of visual quality and amenity value and health. The age range characteristics of the trees were identified. The survey information is recorded in tabular form appended to this report.

## **2.0 OVERVIEW**

**2.1** 85 individual trees and groups were recorded. Most of the trees are located on property or field boundaries and the predominant species is Oak which are either mature or early mature. Other trees recorded were Birch and Sycamore with Goat Willow and Mountain Ash and a number of conifers. A number of dead trees were recorded.

### **2.2 The Berresford's Site**

The Berresford's site is becoming colonised by self-sown scrub willow and birch now between 2 to 3 metres high and a significant feature is a line of conifers presumably planted as a hedge, which have grown out and are now overmature. Some of these trees have suffered from wind throw and the removal of all the trees irrespective of any development proposals is recommended. Another grown out hedgerow of holly is also present on the site. The hollies have grown to a stature of between 6 to 8 metres and form an attractive landscape feature though their retention may prove to be a significant constraint on development. A number of individual goat willow and young birch are also present. These trees are young specimens, have no particular amenity value, and should not be considered a constraint to development. One notable tree is a mature beech (T14), which is an attractive specimen but should be monitored on an annual basis for signs of decay due to its age and proximity to a highway.

### **2.2 Land to the North East**

Most of the trees surveyed form a field boundary between two areas of grassland (Trees 45 to 67 inclusive). Although as a group they have amenity value when viewed from the public footpath to the east, a significant number of the trees are either over mature or are dying. A group of dead trees are also present on the western boundary. Tree group 84 and tree 85 form an attractive feature adjacent to the public footpath and have considerable amenity value, forming an avenue with other trees

to the east of the public footpath, though within the group there are a number of suppressed specimens, which are not of good quality.

### **3.0 DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Berresford's Site**

The current development proposals would involve the construction of amenity open space and community facilities with a new road access within the Berresford's Site. Direct tree loss would involve the removal of four groups of scrub willow and birch within the site, together with a group of young birch and willow and a holly and hawthorn hedge. Although it might be desirable to retain the hollies this would seriously constrain the development of the site and it would be possible to mitigate for the loss of the hollies by replacement planting. It may also be possible to move the trees and relocate them on site.

**3.2** In order to construct the new road as it joins Felthouse Lane there will be a need to remove five trees (T26, T27, T28, T36, T37) and there may an impact on a sixth (T29) depending on final levels. Of these trees, 2 are either C category (poor) or should be removed in any event (R category).

#### **3.3 Land to the North East**

Development within this land will involve the removal of trees 45 to 67 inclusive (25 trees) of which 10 fall within the R category (removal recommended) and 5 tree are considered to be C category trees (Poor quality). The remaining 8 trees are B category trees. In addition it may be necessary to remove trees 41 to 44 (1 C category and 3 B category trees), depending on final levels. There should be no impact on trees to the eastern boundary of the site G84 to T 87 but it is essential to exclude development work involving grading from within the root protection zone for the trees.

### **3.2 Tree Protection Measures**

It is important that tree protection fencing is erected at the commencement of development and maintained in situ during the construction phase. The location of such fencing should be based upon the recommendations contained within the current British Standard and that the fencing itself is appropriate. This would normally involve a 'Heras' type wire mesh fence, which will be secured by timber stakes in accordance with the British Standard. Such fencing could form part of the general site security fencing. No materials should be stored within the fencing and it should be inspected on a regular basis by a competent arborist.