SW/092093/F

A REPORT
CARRIED OUT ON
TREES
AT

BRINSTONE FARM
ST WEONARDS
HEREFORDSHIRE
HR2 8NZ

PREPARED FOR

MR D THORNLEY

BY

DAVID TUGWELL
TECH CERT ARBOR A

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 1.1 I have been instructed by Mr Thornley to carry out a Tree Report on four trees at Brinstone Farm.

1.2 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this Report on my site observations and I have come to conclusions in the light of my experience. I have experience and qualifications in arboriculture and list the details in Appendix 1.

1.3 1.3 **Documents provided:** Plans of the site and back page of previous planning permission for existing building dated 1 August 2006.

1.4 **Relevant background information:** I was asked by Mr Thornley to provide a tree report on four trees adjacent to the cattle yard at Brinstone Farm as he is seeking permission to erect a new cattle building on the site of the said trees and wanted my opinion on them. I have agreed to give him my impartial opinion on the trees.

1.5 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with the four trees that lie adjacent to the farm buildings and fall within the footprint of the proposed building.

1.6 **Limitations of use and copyright:**

2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATION AND COLLECTION OF DATA:

2.1 2.1 **Site visit:** I carried out an accompanied site visit on the morning of Tuesday, 6 January 2009. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigations and I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of the inspection was clear and cold with good visibility.

2.2 2.2 **Brief site description:** Brinstone Farm is a working dairy farm on the outskirts of the

village of St Weonards. The site lies adjacent to the access road to the farm and alongside the existing milk storage barns and the new farm building lies to the rear of the site.

2.3 **Identification and location of the trees:** The trees in question are located at the front and left hand side of the proposed development site and adjacent to the access road to the farm and the new cattle shed.

2.4 **Tree observations:** I visually inspected the trees in question and their approximate dimensions are included in the Table below.

Table 1: Tree dimensions

Height: T1 Norway Maple	10m '?'
Diameter (at 1.3 m)	38cm '*'
Crown Spread	11m '?'
Height: T2 Field Maple	10m '?'
Diameter (at 1.3m)	50cm '*'
Crown Spread	12m '?'
Height: T3 Field Maple	6m '?'
Diameter (at 1.3m)	40cm '*'
Crown Spread	6 m '?'
Height: T4 Field Maple	6m '?'
Diameter (at 1.3m)	30cm '*'
Crown Spread	6m '?'

3 3 **APPRAISAL:** T1 Norway Maple: Mature specimen of Norway Maple (Acer platanoides) of approximately >30 years, which has extending laterals over both the road and the milk storage shed. Its bole stands 2m 50cm '*' from the milk storage shed and 10m from the existing new building at the rear. Beginnings of ivy infestation, crown irregular due to proximity to T2. Good extension growth. No excessive amounts of deadwood or dieback.

T2 Field Maple: Mature specimen of Field Maple (Acer campestre), which stands 11m from the new building at the rear. Specimen's age is approximately >30 years. It is suffering from heavy ivy infestation and has a basal wound at approximately 1m on the roadside. Infestation too heavy to illicit detailed stem inspection.

T3 Field Maple: Mature specimen of Field Maple (Acer campestre), which stands 18m from new building, 24m from milk storage shed and 55cm from existing wooden stock fence. This example is again heavily infested with ivy and has an uneven crown. Infestation too heavy to illicit detailed stem inspection. Age approximately 30 years.

T4 Field Maple: Mature specimen of Field Maple (Acer campestre), standing 25m from the milk storage shed and 3.5m from new stock control gate. Good crown shape and extension growth. Age approximately 30 years.

3.1 3.1 **Relevant references:**
Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management – Lonsdale.

4 **CONCLUSIONS & OVERVIEW:** After inspection I am of the opinion that all four examples are generally speaking in a good state of health, the exception being T3 with its poor crown shape and slow growth rate. T4 has a pleasing crown shape and good extension growth, showing good vigour. Although I would point out that T3 and T4 will undoubtedly have suffered some root disturbance after the laying of the concrete slab for cattle access immediately to the front of the cattle shed. All four trees are average examples of the species and type and in my opinion have no strong merits. They are not particularly attractive and have a questionable amenity and wildlife value.

5 **RECOMMENDATIONS & OVERVIEW:** Mr Thornley's application for a new building on the small grassed area at the front of the new cattle building and part of the field will necessitate the removal of these four trees, as they will be inside the proposed buildings footprint. My views on this proposition are that the trees in question, although having no major defects necessitating their removal, or indeed shortening their lifespan, are nevertheless trees of very little merit. It may also be argued that TI has a reasonable proximity to the milk storage shed and that over a period of time there may be conflict between the tree and the structural integrerity of the said building. If the conclusion is that these four trees should be removed, I would be far more concerned that an equal number of trees should be planted in an appropriate area with good quality stock.

6 **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:** I would like to re-emphasise that replanting should take place and I recommend the adjoining field on the left hand side of the new building. I would strongly suggest suitable specimen trees such as Hornbeam, Oak, Lime and Sweet Chestnut as examples. It is also imperative that good quality stock be planted, protected from animals sufficiently, and maintained for at least two years afterwards. This will include watering during dry periods in the growing season and

keeping down the sward around the base of the trees. If a correct location is picked, with correct planting distances we would hope to have several substantial trees for the future. It would be best to avoid small and short-lived species such as Cherry, Birch, Mountain Ash etc.

7 **Trees subject to statutory controls:** If these trees are covered by a tree preservation order or located in a conservation area it will be necessary to consult the Local Authority before any pruning works other than certain exemptions can be carried out. The works specified above are necessary for reasonable management and should be acceptable to the local authority. However, tree owners should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.

DAVID TUGWELL TECH CERT ARBOR A
For TUGWELL TREE SERVICES

Appendix 1

Brief qualifications and experience of David Tugwell

1. **Qualifications: Technicians Certificate awarded by the Arboricultural Association**
   NVQ Level 1 Arboriculture
   NVQ Level 2 Arboriculture

2. 2. **Arboricultural experience:** Chargehand Arborist for London Borough of Sutton

   Self employed tree specialist since 1988.

3. **Continuing professional development:** Attend seminars and meetings held by The Arboricultural Association.

Explanatory Notes

- **Mathematical abbreviations:** > = Greater than; < = Less than.
- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are estimates unless otherwise indicated. Measurements taken with a tape or clinometer are indicated with a '*'. Less reliable estimated dimensions are indicated with a '?'.
- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first, with the botanical name after in brackets. In some instances, it may be difficult to quickly and accurately identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, it is indicate it with a '?' after the name in order to avoid delay in the production of the report. The botanical name is followed by the abbreviation sp if only the genus is known. The species listed for groups and hedges represent the main component and there may be other minor species not listed.
- **Height:** Height is estimate height to the nearest metre.
- **Spread:** The maximum crown spread is visually estimate to the nearest metre from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches.
- **Diameter:** These figures relate to 1.3m above ground level and are recorded in centimetres. If appropriate, diameter is measure with a diameter tape. 'M' indicates trees or shrubs with multiple stems.
- **Maturity:** Maturity is assessed as mature (last one third of life expectancy), maturing (one third to two thirds life expectancy) and young (less than one third life expectancy).
- **Vigour:** Low = low vigour and declining growth: Average = average vigour and growth; High = high vigour and strong growth.
- **Estimated Age:** Age is estimated from visual indicators and it should only be taken as a provisional guide. Age estimates often need to be modified based on further information such as historical records or local knowledge.
- **Distance to Structures:** This is estimated to the nearest metre and intended it as an indication rather than a precise