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| Type of approval sought | Tree Preservation Order |
| Ward | Brockmoor & Pensnett |
| Applicant | London & Cambridge Properties Ltd |
| Location: | LAND ADJ. DUDLEY ROAD &, DREADNOUGHT ROAD, PENSNETT TRADING ESTATE, KINGSWINFORD, WEST MIDLANDS |
| Proposal | FELLING OF 31 TREES OF VARIOUS SPECIES. |
| Recommendation Summary: | APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS |

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D448 (1995) –A1 & D603 (2000) – A1

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are situated within the Pensnett Trading Estate. For the purpose of this report, they have been divided into three distinct areas; Compartment 1, Compartment 2 and the Woodland Screening adjacent to Dreadnought Road.
2. Compartment 1 – this group of trees is comprised of 85 birch trees that were planted as a group approximately 40 years ago and the tallest trees have attained a height of 18 metres with the average stem diameter at breast height (DBH) being 20 cm. these trees are planted directly behind 69 – 85 Dudley Road and provide a visual screen from the rear of these properties.
3. Compartment 2 – this is a group of 76 young trees that are planted directly behind Compartment one. The group is comprised of Sweet Chestnut, Scots Pine, Field Maple, English Oak, Paperbark Maple, Silver Birch, False Acacia, Red Oak, Beech and Crab Apple. On average the trees are approximately 6 metres tall, with an average DBH of 10 – 15cm.
4. Woodland Screening adjacent to Dreadnought Road – This is a strip of woodland that has grown up on the sloping bank that extends from the North Eastern side of Dreadnought Road down to the large area of currently unoccupied land. The woodland is comprised of Silver Birch, Sycamore, Goat Willow, Hawthorn, Elderberry and Ash. This group currently provides a good visual screen from the properties on the opposite side of Dreadnought Road, and also a number of properties on the southern side of Dudley Road and on The Plantation.

PROPOSAL

5. The applicant originally requested permission to fell 35 trees on the site; however the trees are divided between the distinct areas. The details are listed below.
6. Compartment 1 – The applicant has identified 19 individual birch trees that they propose to fell because of cavities, fungal decay, partial failure of the root plate or because the trees have developed poor forms that are likely to fail in the relatively near future.
7. Compartment 2 – a further 12 trees have been identified in this area to be felled. The rationale behind this felling is to allow more space for the other trees to develop. The trees to be removed have been chosen because they are already showing signs of defects. In this case the damage has mostly been caused by grass mowers and strimmers.
8. Woodland Screening adjacent to Dreadnought Road – Originally the applicant proposed the removal of four trees in this area as the report on the trees considered them to be in a poor state of health due to squirrel damage. However on inspection and following discussions with the applicant it is no considered that the damage is severe enough to warrant the removal of these four trees. As such the applicant has formally withdrawn the application for permission to fell these trees.
9. The trees have been marked on the attached plan.

HISTORY

10. There has been one previous Tree Preservation Order application on this site.

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| <i>Site History</i> | | |
| Application No | 99/50860 | 04/06/99 |
| Proposal | Removal of existing preserved trees and regarding / mounding of existing landscaped area and plating of new trees | Approved with conditions |

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. At the time of writing three objections have been received to this application. Two have been received from local residents, and an objection has been received from Ian Austin MP.
12. The grounds of the objections are that the proposed works will be detrimental to the amenity of the local area and in particular the value of the trees as a visual and sound barrier that obscure the views and activities of the land behind. Copies of the objections have been attached.

ASSESSMENT

| Criteria | Tree 1 | Tree 2 | Tree 3 | Tree 4 | Tree5 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Species | Oak | Birch | Sweet Chestnut | Red Oak | Red Oak |
| Height | 6m | 5m | 5m | 6m | 6m |
| Spread | 3.5m | 3m | 3m | 3m | 2m |
| Diameter | 100mm | 75mm | 100mm | 90mm | 70mm |
| Form | Good | Moderate | Poor – Twin leader | Good | Moderate – one sided |
| Vigour | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Approx Age | Young | Young | Young | Young | Young |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. | None evident. | None evident | None evident. | None evident |
| Canopy | Good | Moderate | Poor – Twin leader | Moderate | Poor – one sided |
| % Deadwood | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Cavities | None Evident | Basal wound | Basal damage | Severe basal wound | Severe Basal wound |
| Bark | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Roots | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Overall Health | Good | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate / Poor | Poor |
| Visibility | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Amenity Value | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

| Criteria | Tree 6 | Tree 7 | Tree 8 | Tree 9 | Tree10 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Species | Red Oak | Field Maple | Field Maple | Sweet Chestnut | Field Maple |
| Height | 7m | 5m | 5m | 6m | 4m |
| Spread | 2m | 3m | 2.5m | 3m | 2m |
| Diameter | 100mm | 100mm | 75mm | 100mm | 60mm |
| Form | Moderate / Good | Moderate / Poor | Moderate | Good | Poor |
| Vigour | Good | Good | Good | Good | Moderate |
| Approx Age | Young | Young | Young | Young | Young |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. | None evident. | None evident | None evident. | None evident |
| Canopy | Good | Moderate / Poor | Moderate | Good | Moderate |
| % Deadwood | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Cavities | None Evident | Basal wound | Basal damage / Included tree tie | Basal wound | Severe Basal wound |
| Bark | Good | Good | Moderate | Good | Good |
| Roots | Good | Good | Moderate | Good | Good |
| Overall Health | Good | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Poor |
| Visibility | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Poor |
| Amenity Value | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Poor |

| Criteria | Tree 11 | Tree 12 | Tree 13 | Tree 14 | Tree 15 |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Species | Oak | Sweet Chestnut | Birch | Birch | Birch |
| Height | 5m | 3m | 10m | 10m | 3m |
| Spread | 2m | 2m | 3m | 2m | 2m |
| Diameter | 90mm | 70mm | 120mm | 150mm | 150mm |
| Form | Moderate | Poor | Poor – Drawn up | Poor – leaning | Poor Suppressed |
| Vigour | Moderate | Moderate | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| Approx Age | Young | Young | Early mature | Early Mature | Early Mature |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. | None evident. | None evident | None evident. | None evident |
| Canopy | Moderate | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| % Deadwood | 1% | 1% | 15% | 10% | 10% |
| Cavities | Basal Wound | Extreme Basal wound | Basal decay | Basal and Stem wounding | None Evident |
| Bark | Good | Good | Moderate | Good | Good |
| Roots | Good | Moderate | Good | Good | Good |
| Overall Health | Moderate / Poor | Poor | Very Poor | Very Poor | Very Poor |
| Visibility | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Amenity Value | Moderate | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor |

| Criteria | Tree 16 | Tree 17 | Tree 18 | Tree 19 | Tree 20 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Species | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch |
| Height | 10m | 8m | 9m | 11m | 10m |
| Spread | 4m | 4m | 3m | 4m | 3m |
| Diameter | 200mm | 150mm | 120mm | 170mm | 150mm |
| Form | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| Vigour | Moderate / Poor | Poor | Moderate | Poor | Poor |
| Approx Age | Early Mature | Early Mature | Early mature | Early Mature | Early Mature |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. | None evident. | None evident | None evident. | None evident |
| Canopy | Poor – suppressed | Poor - suppressed | Poor - suppressed | Poor – Suppressed | Poor – Suppressed |
| % Deadwood | 10% | 7% | 15% | 25% | 5% |
| Cavities | At old pruning wounds | Basal wound | Decay up stem | Basal and Stem wounding | Decay up stem |
| Bark | Good | Moderate | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| Roots | Good | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Overall Health | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| Visibility | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Amenity Value | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

| Criteria | Tree 21 | Tree 22 | Tree 23 | Tree 24 | Tree 25 |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Species | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch |
| Height | 12m | 10m | 12m | 10m | 11m |
| Spread | 2m | 5m | 3m | 4m | 2m |
| Diameter | 150mm | 250mm | 150mm | 250mm | 150mm |
| Form | Poor | Moderate / Poor | Moderate | Moderate | Poor |
| Vigour | Moderate | Poor | Poor | Very Poor | Poor |
| Approx Age | Early Mature | Early Mature | Early mature | Early Mature | Early Mature |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. | None evident. | Birch polypore evident on stem | None evident. | None evident |
| Canopy | Poor – suppressed | Poor – crossing stem | Moderate – drawn up | Poor | Poor – Drawn up |
| % Deadwood | 3% | 7% | 10% | 5% | 5% |
| Cavities | Damage to stem | Basal wound | Basal Wound | Basal wounding | Basal decay |
| Bark | Poor | Poor | Moderate | Moderate | Poor |
| Roots | Good | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate – partial root plate failure | Moderate |
| Overall Health | Moderate | Moderate | Very Poor | Very Poor | Poor |
| Visibility | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Amenity Value | Moderate | Poor | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

| Criteria | Tree 26 | Tree 27 | Tree 28 | Tree 29 | Tree 30 | Tree 31 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Species | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch | Birch |
| Height | 6m | 12m | 10m | 10m | 7m | 4m - Stump |
| Spread | 4m | 5m | 4m | 3m | 4m | |
| Diameter | 150mm | 250mm | 150mm | 130mm | 300mm | |
| Form | Poor – snapped out | Moderate / Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor – 1 Side is dead | |
| Vigour | Poor | Moderate | Poor | Very Poor | Poor | |
| Approx Age | Early Mature | Early Mature | Early mature | Early Mature | Early Mature | |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. | None evident. | None evident | None evident. | None evident | |
| Canopy | Poor | Moderate | Poor | Very Poor | Poor – Crossing Stems | |
| % Deadwood | 15% | 10% | 10% | 40% | 40% | 100% |
| Cavities | Numerous | Basal wound | Massive Basal Decay | Basal wounding | Basal decay | |
| Bark | Good | Moderate | Poor | Poor | Poor | |
| Roots | Good | Poor – partial root plate failure | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | |
| Overall Health | Very Poor | Poor | Very Poor | Very Poor | Very Poor | Dead |
| Visibility | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | |
| Amenity Value | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | |

Further Assessment

13. The trees subject to this application are all planted with larger groups of trees. The trees listed as 1- 12 in the above table are located within compartment 2 and the remainder are located within compartment 1

14. The trees within compartment two are all young trees that have out grown their initial spacing. As such there is a requirement to thin the group of trees out to ensure that they are allowed to develop in to healthy mature trees. Where possible the trees to be felled have been chosen due to defects present within the trees, such as basal wounding. However, number of the trees have no defects but would serve the group better if they were removed.

15. The trees to be removed in compartment one all have defects present within them. Most of the trees are in a poor state of health, and at least nine out of the nineteen are considered to be exempt from the tree preservation order as they are either dead dying or dangerous.
16. The proposed thinning of the groups is in accordance with good arboricultural and silvicultural practice, as they will thin out the wooded area to allow for the healthy development of the remaining trees; and in time will serve to improve the amenity of the area.

CONCLUSION

17. The trees subject to this application are divided into two distinct groups. The trees within the mixed species group of compartment two and the mono-specie group of birches in compartment one.
18. Both of these groups need thinning to ensure the healthy development of the trees on the site. As such the applicant has identified trees which by nature of their condition or location would best serve the two groups by being removed.
19. Following discussions with the applicant, it is clear that there are plans to underplant the trees with smaller species to develop a shrub layer. However it is recommended that any planting in this area contains a number of trees for successional plating that will hopefully in time lead to the natural regeneration of the wooded areas.

RECOMMENDATION

20. It is recommended that application is approved subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 Recommendations for Tree work.
2. The tree is to be inspected for bird nests and any crevices for bats. If any nests are present and disturbance to nesting or fledgling birds are present then works shall not be undertaken between 1st March and 30th August in any year. If bats are present then advice should be sought from English Nature or the local Wildlife Trust.
3. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.
4. Prior to the commencement of the works hereby approved details of proposed replanting for the site shall be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

