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Mr. Andrew Cooper Nicholas Pearson Associates 30 Brock Street Bath BA1 2LN

4th January 2012

Outline Arboricultural Assessment for land adjacent MOD Ensleigh, Bath

Dear Andy,

Further to my recent site survey of the MOD Foxhill facility, please find below an outline assessment of the off-site compartment of land to the west, currently comprising sports pitches and changing facilities used by Kingswood School.

The arboricultural components of this parcel of land are relatively sparse, confined to three main units of trees, plus some scattered individuals and small groups to the north.

- 1. Lansdown Road: There is a group of mature trees, mostly Ash, Lime, Sycamore and Norway Maple, growing in the road verge adjacent to a stone boundary wall from the south western corner of the MOD Foxhill facility north to the road access to the Kingswood School sports centre. These trees are mostly fully mature at heights between 16 and 19m, and of varying quality (BS5837-2005 Category C2 or B1).
- 2. Within the site frontage of the sports facility complex is an aggregation of semi-mature and mature trees comprising Sycamore, Ash, Norway Maple, Sycamore, Larch and Pine with some thorn understory. Again, 16 18, in height this group would be categorised as B2 under Table 1 BS5837-2005.
- 3. North of this where the public right of way breaches the stone wall and leads north is situated a dense group of semi-mature Scots Pine, off the road verge to the north of the wall. This group comprises a planted shelter belt feature scoring Category B2 for its screening effect.
- 4. Another amenity panted screen of mixed conifers, Larch, Pine and Cypress cultivars is located adjacent south of the running track. Category B2 for screening, although individual trees would score less intrinsically.
- 5. Along the north boundary marked by a partially collapsed dry stone wall are several clumps of amenity planted trees across the open expanse of football, cricket and rugby pitches, comprising Sycamore and Hawthorn, aggregated in discrete units, all Category B2. These are well formed and managed specimens and help to break up the sparse, open views north over Langridge and Wooley towards the A46 and Charmy Down.

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6. Three long shelter belt plating compartments are located, north east and west of the westernmost plating field, immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the MOD Foxhill facility. These were recorded as G37 and G42 of the recently completed tree survey and comprise mature Beech and Sycamore with occasional Lime of poorer quality within. As boundary features they both would score between A2 and B2 Categories and should be retained and considered within future development. In addition active management is recommended to selectively thin poorer specimens and carry out good arboricultural management.

To summarise, the three main groupings, i.e the aggregation of verge and other trees along the Lansdown Road frontage and the two mature shelter belt planting would all be material consideration to design and layout of future design, despite some management being required as part of good arboricultural practices. The remaining scattered individuals and groups are of sufficiently good quality with significant safe useful contributory life remaining that they should be retained within any future development design. However they occupy an insignificant percentage of land and it would be anticipated that any design, to conform to national and local development plan policy objectives, would look to enhance the tree cover on the site overall.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Regards

Jonathon

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Jonathon Price

Arboricultural Surveyor

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