

## WE LISTEN, WE PLAN, WE DELIVER

Geotechnical Engineering and Environmental Services across the UK.

## TREE / ARBORICULTURAL REPORTS

JOMAS ASSOCIATES has been offering arboricultural consultancy services for a number of years now. This type of service encompasses a number of purposes and formats, although the main focus of our offering is to smooth the passage of planning applications where trees are proving to be an obstacle.

This would typically involve a site survey using your topographical survey drawing to accurately locate and plot the trees on and around your site. This would include all of the elements required by BS5837:2012 (Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction). The information gathered on site, can then be used to inform a suitable design scheme that will allow the retention of the appropriate trees, and keep the LPA tree officer happy. An impact assessment and method statement can then be written around the scheme.



From time to time, a developer or builder may make a mistake where trees on their site are concerned, and this can carry some rather draconian penalties from local planning authorities.

One such situation was at a site in north London where a developer had made the mistake of trusting an external contractor to carry out some tree work on trees that were protected under law. There were four trees that may have attracted a fine of £20,000 each due to the extreme work that had been carried out on them.

◀ *What was once a full canopy.*

Of course, there are other arboricultural services that are useful to clients wishing to develop a site. There are accurate proximity surveys that allow structural engineers to design the correct type of foundations as well. This is of particular use in the southern part of the country where there is a predominance of shrinkable soils, and although our arboricultural consultant can't design foundations, he can, and does make some innovative suggestions that have allowed structural engineers to retain trees that offer a significant contribution to the surrounding areas.



Another contractor had also installed an underground service run within 1m of one of the trees and severed the roots. This had all effectively destroyed all four trees.

Jomas Associates were able to negotiate with the councils tree officer and this meant that the developer avoided a significant fine and just had to replant with new trees.

At Jomas Associates, we believe that our arboricultural consultancy services add value to the world of construction in most instances, as well as representing great value for money.

## CONTACT US TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR TREE PROBLEMS

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