

2014/451

MA Tree Surveys



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P2014/0451
Development Control
Application Documents - DC
Supporting Information
Other
Tree Survey

Tree Survey Report	
Date of survey: 11.03.2014	Site: Land opposite 103 to 107 Taillwyd Road, Neath Abbey
Client: Ron Bagshaw	Surveyor: Martin Appleby
Weather: Sunny	Tag No's: 0001 to 0007

Notes:

1. The actual survey represents the condition of the trees in their present situation, and does not take into account the proposed changes to the site or surrounding area which may affect their health and life expectancy.
2. Where trees have more than one main stem each stem is noted and diameter for each shown.
3. Groups of young trees and large shrubs are shown as a single unit
4. Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order are indicated by their TPO Ref. No. in brackets.

Category and definition Criteria Identification on plan

TREES TO BE REMOVED

Category R (DARK RED)

Those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management

- Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other R category trees (i.e. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)
- Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline
- Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality

NOTE Habitat reinstatement may be appropriate (e.g. R category tree used as a bat roost: installation of bat box in nearby tree).



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TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION

Category A (LIGHT GREEN)

Those of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)

Sub-categories

1 Mainly arboricultural values

Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual, or essential components of groups, or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)

2 Mainly landscape values

Trees, groups or woodlands which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance (e.g. avenues or other arboricultural features assessed as groups)

3 Mainly cultural values, plan including conservation

Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)

Category B (MID BLUE)

Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)

Sub-categories

1 Mainly arboricultural value

Trees that might be included in the high category, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage)

2 Mainly landscape value

Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better, 'A' category specimens), or trees situated mainly internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality.

3 Mainly cultural values, plan including conservation

Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits

Category C (GREY)

Those of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm

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Sub-categories

1 Mainly arboricultural values

Trees not qualifying in higher categories

2 Mainly landscape values

Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit

3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation

Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits

NOTE: Whilst 'C' category trees will usually not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150 mm should be considered for relocation.

Tree report: General description and recommendations.

The Site:

The site, situated opposite 103 and 105 Taillywyd Road Neath Abbey is rectangular in shape, some 38 metres deep and 20 metres wide covering an area of approximately 760 square metres. The land slopes down steeply to the north from the road and slightly to the east. The surface is mainly grass and scrub vegetation.

The Trees:

There are 5 small immature trees within the site and 2 mature trees outside the site but close to the western boundary.

T1 Black poplar. *Populus nigra*

Height: 18 metres (Approx)

Stem diameter: 700mm and 350mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 7.0m, S 6.0 m, E 10.0m, W 9.0m

Height to main canopy: 1.0m

Appraisal.

Twin trunks, the largest of which divides into 4 large stems at 1.3 metres. One of these is growing near horizontally over the site to the east for approximately 10 metres.

The main trunk and lower parts of the stems are heavily fluted and contain some pockets of decay. There are numerous dead and damaged branches in the crown. The tree has a limited life expectancy, in the region of 10 to 20 years.

Category: C2

Recommendation: Preferably fell due to present condition, its limited life expectancy and its location close to a busy residential road. Alternatively remove low horizontal limb, and reduce the crown by some 5 to 6 metres

T2 Sycamore. *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

Please note - T2 is no longer in existence on the site

Height: 7 metres (Approx)

Stem diameter: 120mm

Spread : (to nearest half metre): N 1.0m, S 2.5m, E 2.0m, W 2.0m

Height to canopy: 2.3m

Appraisal. The small trunk is angled sharply at the base to a height of 0.3 metres where it then grows upright to form an open and fairly symmetric crown

Category: C1

Recommendations. The tree is of little landscape or conservation value.

T3 Goat willow. *Salix caprea*.

Height: 12.5metres

Stem diameter: 9 stems of between 50mm and 180mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 2.5m, S 3.0, E 5.0, W 3.5m

Height to canopy: 1.5m

Appraisal: A multi stemmed tree with a wide spreading form.

Category: C3

Recommendations: Of little landscape value.

T4 Goat willow. *Salix caprea*.

Height: 11.5metres

Stem diameter: 150mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 2.0m, S 1.0, E 2.5, W 1.5m

Height to canopy: 0.5m

Appraisal: A single stemmed with an open irregular shaped and damaged canopy. One side limb has split from the main trunk exposing the heartwood.

Category: R

Recommendations: Of poor quality with damaged main stem. Fell

T5 Ash. *Fraxinus excelsior*

Height: 15.0metres

Stem diameter: 100mm and 140mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 2.0m, S 3.0, E 4.5, W 1.5m

Height to canopy: 2.5m

Appraisal: A twin stemmed tree from just above ground level with an open asymmetric crown with a bias towards the east.

Category: C3

Recommendations: Of poor form and only limited amenity value.

T6 White willow: *Salix alba*

Height: 8.0metres

Stem diameter: 200mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 1.0m, S 2.5, E 3.0, W 1.0m

Height to canopy: 0.5m

Appraisal: A twin stemmed tree from 1.0 metre with an open asymmetric crown with a bias towards the east and south. Heavy ivy infestation

Category: C3

Recommendations: Of some conservation value. Remove the ivy

T7: Black poplar. *Populus nigra*

Height: 20metres

Stem diameter: 5 x 310mm to 500mm

Spread (to nearest half metre): N 8.0m, S 10.0, E 15.0, W 14.0m

Height to canopy: 3.0m

Appraisal: A multi-stemmed tree with 4 upright stems and one leaning at 45 degrees over the north west corner of the plot. The trunk is heavily fluted. There is some decay and damaged branches in the wide spreading crown. Heavy ivy infestation

Category: C3

Recommendations: Of some conservation value. Remove the ivy and the low eastern facing limb.

Apart from the above trees there are two hazel coppices and privet growing in the bank on the southern half of the site within the building line of the adjoining new property to the east. These are multi-stemmed shrubs with all stems below 50mm diameter.

Relationship between the trees and the proposed development.

It is my opinion that none of the trees within the site are of sufficient amenity value to warrant protection. However these are all well outside the existing building line and would not therefore be directly affected by any construction works. They obviously may be affected by any ground level alteration to the rear of the site.

The only tree to have any impact on any proposed dwelling would therefore be the Poplar (T1) on the land to the west of the site. Given the size and root spread of this tree it is likely that there would be some root loss on the eastern section of the root zone. The roots in this area are likely to be small in diameter, certainly less than 50mm and would be unlikely to affect the stability of the tree. However the tree is of a species which is prone to decay and when mature are often structurally unsound. This particular tree has one limb which is growing over the site which needs to be removed, but due to its condition and position close to the road I would recommend felling.