



Tree Condition Survey and Report carried out by:

ArbTS - Arboricultural Technician Services Ltd

(Tree Consultancy Services)

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Tree Condition Survey and Management Work Recommendations

Date – 31st October 2020

Site – 20 Wenallt Rd , Tonna , Neath Sa113hz

Project Reference – ArbTS_980.1_20 Wenallt Rd

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give a tree condition assessment of the trees located at 20 Wenallt Rd , Tonna , Neath Sa113hz.

1.2 The findings of this report provide management work recommendations with the order of work priority given to primarily address any hazardous trees but also include arboricultural and conservation related recommended tree works.

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- 1.3 The following management work recommendations have been identified as found in Appendix 2 Tree Data. Urgent & Urgent to High work priority are colour coded in red (suggested to be carried out as soon as practicable i.e. 7 days to 1 month) and High & High to Medium work priority are colour coded in yellow (suggested to be carried out within 3 to 6 months).
- 1.4 All tree work should be carried out in accordance with the *British Standard BS3998: 2010 Tree Work – Recommendations*.

2.0 The Tree Condition Survey

- 2.1 The tree condition survey was conducted by Stephen Lucocq BSc (Hons), Tech Cert (Arbor.A), M.Arbor.A. on 15th September 2020.
- 2.2 All tree inspections were conducted from ground level with the use of an acoustic sounding hammer and probe. No invasive decay detective instruments were used.
- 2.3 All tree inspections were carried out in accordance with current best practise (Visual Tree Assessment) to give a systematic, consistent and transparent evaluation method to tree inspecting.
- 2.4 **Limitations of the Tree Condition Survey/Scope of works:** *Whilst every effort is made to ensure an accurate assessment of the trees condition is made during survey no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snap shot of what is visible, not obscured or accessible on the day of survey. Please note that the findings of this report are only valid for 30 months from the date of the tree inspection. This report does not constitute to a full tree safety policy for the site.*

3.0 Tree Inspection Scope

- 3.1 The main scope of this tree inspection is to identify hazardous trees in a poor physiological or structural condition and the required work management recommendations to reduce the risk of these hazards to an acceptable level.
- 3.2 The areas around main paths, features, car parks etc. were identified as a priority for the tree inspection.
- 3.3 Where required trees may be grouped as a whole. Any trees of note within these groups will be individually identified and included in the tree survey.
- 3.4 The level of detail of the tree inspection may vary depending on the target occupation and the size of the tree or groups of trees. For example large trees in high target occupation areas may be inspected in much greater detail than small trees in low target occupation areas.

4.0 The Trees

- 4.1 **Tree Data** - All data regarding the trees inspected for this report can be found in Appendix 2 Tree Data.

4.2 Tree Management Work Recommendations

Within Appendix 2 the Tree Management Work Recommendations are colour coded for work priority. Urgent & Urgent to High work priority are colour coded in red (suggested to be carried out as soon as practicable i.e. 7 days to 1 month) and High & High to Medium work priority are colour coded in yellow (suggested to be carried out within 3 to 6 months). Other works can be identified from this list to achieve desired management objectives and timescale given for the completion of this work. **Please note** that all work must be carried out to the *British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Works Recommendation*.

4.3 **Tree Location Plan** - A Tree Location Plan can be found in Appendix 3. Trees that require priority hazard work will be circled in colour. Urgent to Urgent/High priority work will be circled in red and High to High/Medium priority work circled in orange.

4.4 Legal Constraints

- **TPO (Tree Preservation Orders)/Conservation Areas** – The trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order, therefore a TPO tree works application must be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any tree works is carried out on site.
- **Protected Wildlife** – Before any tree work is carried out on site the trees should be inspected and written records taken of the activity of any protected species on site. This is to prevent the damage to any wildlife. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to destroy or disturb nesting birds, if nesting birds are discovered or suspected no works can proceed and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Local Wildlife Trust must be notified for advice as to how to proceed. Further to this wildlife such as Bats are protected under European legislation (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Habitat Regulation 2009) it is an offence to recklessly, or intentionally, kill, injure or capture bats, to disturb them, or destroy, obstruct or damage any bat roosts found. If any bat activity is found then the bat conservation trust should be contacted as soon as possible (<http://www.bats.org.uk/> or 0845 1300 228). Further guidance relating to the protection of wildlife within development design is given in Welsh Assembly Government Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009).
- **Tree Felling Licence** – Depend on the designation of the land where the trees are located a Tree Felling Licence may be required if more than 5 cubic metres of timber are being extracted per one quarter a felling license must be obtained from Natural Resources Wales. <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/tree-felling-and-otherregulations/tree-felling-licences/?lang=en>

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The trees on this site have grown together as a collective group and were previously surrounded by other similar sized trees prior to the construction of the adjacent dwellings. Birch trees are a fast-growing short-lived species and these trees on this site are spindly, upright in form due to the surrounding group pressures and are of mature age with a limited future. Four of the trees in the group are of poor form and are required to be removed due to the future risk of failure. With the removal of these trees the remaining group of trees will be further compromised and the long term retention of this group will be limited. Therefore, it is recommended that all the birch trees on this site are felled and replanted with a mixture of larger when mature native oak and smaller field maple and rowan (As detailed in the Tree Management Work Recommendations as found in Appendix 2). The removal and replanting of these birch trees as recommended will provide a longer term arboricultural amenity feature to the surrounding area.

6.0 Further Information and Qualifications

Stephen Lucocq has been involved in Arboriculture within South Wales for nearly twenty years. He has worked as an Arborist for many of these years and has a good working knowledge of the practical side of the profession. He has always taken an active interest in all areas of Arboriculture and kept up to date with current research and developments.

Qualifications

- First Class BSc (Hons) Degree
- Arboricultural Association Technicians Certificate (Merit)
- PTI - Professional Tree Inspection (Lantra Awards)
- 2D Computer Aided Design (City and Guilds - Level 3)
- Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) – Mike Ellison
- Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) – Mike Ellison
- Arboriculture and Bats (Lantra)
- Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA)
- Practical Arboriculture Qualifications (NPTC)

Membership

- Arboricultural Association Professional Member (M.Arbor.A)

7.0 Web Information & Bibliography web Information

- Arboricultural Association <http://www.trees.org.uk/index.php>

Bibliography

- British Standards 3998 (2010) *Tree Work - Recommendations UK*; British Standards Institution
- British Standards 5837 (2012) *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations*; British Standards Institution
- Lonsdale, D (1999) *Principle of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management* Edinburgh; Forestry Commission
- Mattheck, C (2007) *Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment* Germany; Karlsruhe Research Centre
- Shigo, A.L (1991) *Modern Arboriculture* USA; Shigo and Trees, Association
- Sterry, P (2007) *Collins Complete British Trees* London; Collins
- Strouts, R.G (2000) *Diagnosis of ill-health in trees* Edinburgh; Forestry Commission
- Weber, K & Mattheck, C (2003) *Manual of wood decay* UK; Arboricultural Association

8.0 Appendices Appendix 1 Tree Survey Key

- **Type - T** – Individual Tree, **G** – Group of tree (Used were a group of similar trees of similar condition are identified), **R** – Row of trees, **H** – Hedgerow, **S** - Stump, **W** – Woodland
- **ID #** - Identifies the tree, group, row, hedgerow or woodland with a unique identification number. For individual tree metal identification tags are located at 1.5 metres above ground level on their trunk.
- **Tree Name** - Scientific tree name and common tree name in brackets.
- **Age -**
 - **Y** - Young – First 10 years of growth
 - **SM** - Semi Mature - Less than 1/5 of life completed
 - **EM** – Early Mature – Less than 2/5 of life completed
 - **M** - Mature – 2/5 – 5/5 of life completed
 - **OM** - Over Mature - more than 5/5 of life completed and declining
 - **V** - Veteran – Veteran trees have no precise definition but are trees considered to be of biological aesthetic or ecological value because of their age
- **Size** – A general indication of the size of the tree/s in terms of height and width.
 - **S** – Small
 - **M** – Medium
 - **L** – Large
 - **VL** – Very Large
- **Physiological Condition** - The physiological condition of the tree/s. -
 - **G** - Good
 - **F** - Fair
 - **P** - Poor
 - **D** - Dead
- **Structural Condition** - The structural condition of the tree/s -
 - **G** - Good
 - **F** - Fair
 - **P** - Poor
 - **VP** – Very poor
- **Comments** – Observations and comments
- **Management Work Recommendations** – Required tree surgery operations including further investigation of suspected defects that require more detailed assessment
- **Target Occupation** – An approximate site specific guide from High to Low as assessed on the day of the tree inspection of the risk relating to the potential for damage to a person, property or item, within an area around the tree if failure of the tree or part of the tree were to occur. It is recommended that the re-inspection of tree or groups of trees should be carried out as follows:

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- **High** – Re-inspect in 12 months or less if stated
 - **H/Medium** – Re-inspect in 24 months or as stated
 - **Medium** – Re-inspect in 30 months or as stated
 - **M/Low** – Re-inspect in 3 years or as stated
 - **Low** - Re-inspect in 5 years or as stated

Further to this the level of detail of the tree inspection will vary depending on the target occupation and the size of the tree or groups of trees. For example large trees in high target occupation areas will be inspected in much greater detail than small trees in low target occupation areas.

(*Please note that this report is a tree condition survey with management recommendations and does not equate to a full tree safety policy for the site*)

- **Work Type** – Type of management work recommendation.
- **Hazard** – Hazard Management - A risk to person or property from a tree with a defect or in poor condition
- **Arb** – Arboricultural Management
- **Landscape** – Landscape design/Management • **Conservation** – Wildlife/Habitat/Historic Management.
- **Woodland** – Woodland Management
- **Work Priority** – A priority rating for management work recommendations. This is determined from an assessment on the day taking into account the target occupation around the tree, the size/part of the tree affected by the defect, the probability and foreseeable nature of the defect failing, the quality and value of the tree and other arboricultural factors. A suggested timescale for the work to be carried out is provided below:
 - **Urgent** - Work to be carried out as soon as practically possible. I.e. less than 7 days
 - **U/High** – Work to be carried out within 1 month
 - **High** – Work to be carried out within 3 months
 - **H/Medium** - Work to be carried within 6 months
 - **Medium** – Work to be carried out in 12/18 months
 - **M/Low** - Work to be carried out in 18/24 months if budget allows
 - **Low** - After consideration of management objectives

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Appendix 2 Tree Data

Tree ID #	Tree Species	Age	Size	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments	Management Work Recommendations	Target Occupation	Work Type	Work Priority
T968	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	M/L	Fair	Fair	tree of fair form, slightly suppressed in crown form, twisted reactive growth noted on trunk, forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees	Fell and Replant - Tree with a limited future, forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees, consideration given to fell and replant with native oak in the same area	H/Medium	Arb	Medium
T969	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	M	Fair	F/Poor	suppressed in crown form from adjacent birch tree, spindly in form, mostly easterly formed crown, tree within a limited future, some damage and callus growth noted on southern tension side of tree of minor to moderate concern, some historic excavation on north side of base, forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees	Fell and Replant - Tree of poor form and limited future, fell and replant with rowan in the same area	H/Medium	Hazard	H/Medium
T970	Quercus petraea (Sessile Oak)	EM	M	Fair	Fair	short and suppressed in form crown from surrounding group pressures of taller spindly birch trees	Pruning - Due to unbalanced crown form from surrounding birch trees, reduce overextended branches to form a more compact crown, reduction of branches by no greater than 2 metres in branch length to suitable pruning points	Medium	Arb	Medium
T971	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	S/M	Fair	Fair	suppressed crown form, spindly and upright in form growing over short suppressed in form oak tree, forms small part of surrounding tree group, tree within a limited future	Fell and Replant - Tree with a limited future as forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees, consideration given to fell and replant with field maple in same area, additional space for adjacent oak tree to develop provided	H/Medium	Arb	H/Medium
T972	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	M	Fair	Fair	suppressed crown form, spindly and upright in form with slight predominant growth to the north, forms part of surrounding tree group, Tree with a limited future, forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees	Fell and Replant - Tree with a limited future as forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees, consideration given to fell and replant with native oak in the same area	H/Medium	Arb	Medium

T973	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	EM	S/M	Fair	F/Poor	suppressed in form from surrounding tree group pressures, spindly birch trees which has grown with a strong northly lean	Fell and Replant - Tree of poor form and very limited future, fell and replant with field maple in the same area	Medium	Hazard	H/Medium
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Project Ref : ArbTS_980.1_20WenalltRoad

Please See Appendix 1 for Tree Survey Data Key

Tree ID #	Tree Species	Age	Size	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments	Management Work Recommendations	Target Occupation	Work Type	Work Priority
T974	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	S/M	G/Fair	Fair	suppressed in crown form, spindly in form with slightly predominant growth to the north, forms part of surrounding tree group, tree within a limited future	Fell and Replant - Tree with a limited future as forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees, consideration given to fell and replant with field maple in the same area	H/Medium	Arb	Medium
T975	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	S/M	G/Fair	Fair	suppressed crown form, spindly and upright in form, forms part of surrounding tree group, tree within a relatively limited future	Fell and Replant - Tree with a limited future as forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees, consideration given to fell and replant with rowan in the same area	H/Medium	Arb	Medium
T976	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	M	M	Fair	Fair	suppressed crown form, spindly and upright in form, forms part of surrounding tree group, tree within a relatively limited future	Fell and Replant - Tree with a limited future as forms part of tightly grown upright in form group of birch trees, consideration given to fell and replant with rowan in the same area	Medium	Arb	Medium
T977	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	EM	S/M	Fair	F/Poor	suppressed in form from surrounding group pressures, spindly birch trees which has grown with a northly lean, outer tree in group, a tree with a limited future	Fell and Replant - Tree of poor form and limited future, fell and replant with rowan in the same area	Medium	Hazard	H/Medium
T978	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	EM	S/M	Fair	F/Poor	suppressed in form from surrounding tree group pressures, spindly upright birch trees, outer tree in group, a tree with a limited future	Fell and Replant - Tree of poor form and limited future, fell and replant with rowan in the same area	Medium	Hazard	H/Medium

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Appendix 3 Tree Location Plan



Tree Location Plan

Site - 20 Wenallt Rd

Project Ref - 980.1

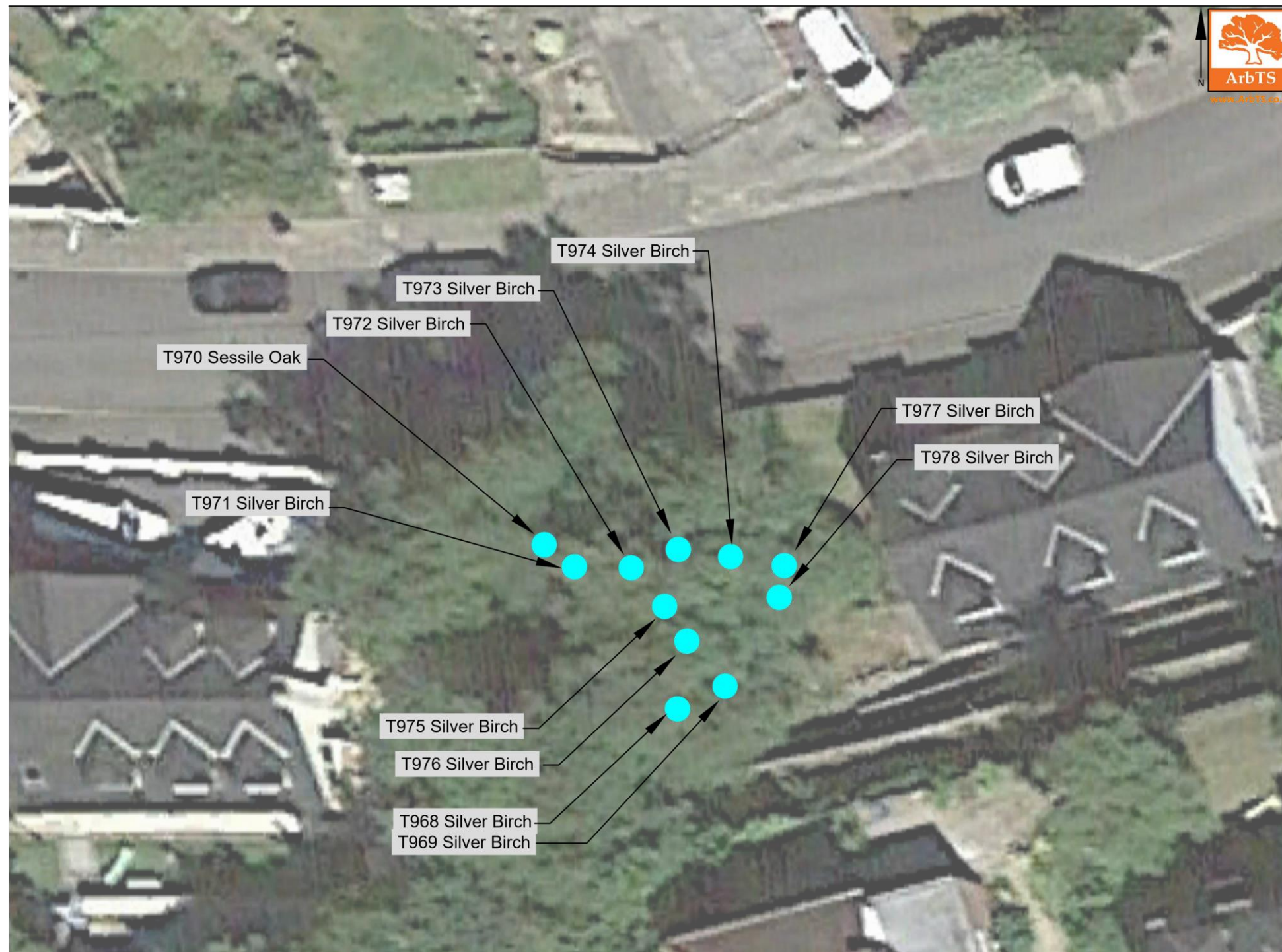
Scale - 1:200 @ A4

Key

Tree Label

 T3-Birch  Tree Species
(Common Tree Name Shown)

 Tree ID# (T- Individual Tree, G-Tree Group, A-Tree Area, W-Woodland, H- Hedgerow)



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Appendix 4 Tree Photographs

Tree Group



Tree ID#T969, TT968



Tree ID#T977, T978

Tree ID#T970 – T972



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Appendix

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31st October 2020
