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By Alan Webster, MArborA
Our Ref: ARW 1119 AIA

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Drawings

1	Tree Constraints Plan	ARW1119.01
2	Arboricultural Impact Plan	ARW1119:02

1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Instruction:** I am instructed by Mr Bowen of Robert Bowen Planning & Development LTD to provide a tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment in accordance with BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*, to support a planning application on land adjacent to Baglan Boys Club, Baglan.
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information. I have come to conclusions in the light of my qualifications and experience in arboriculture summarised in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** Pembroke Design Ltd provided me with copies of the following documents:
- Existing site layout in DWG
 - Proposed Site Layout in DWG
- 1.4 **Scope of this report:** This report concerns the trees and their environment on and adjacent to the proposed development site, in accordance with British Standards Institute, BS 5837: British Standard for trees in relation to design, demolition and construction- Recommendations (2012).
- 1.5 **Report limitations:** This report is valid at the time of the inspection; deliberate or accidental harm, severe weather conditions, pests and diseases can all effect change in the condition of trees.
- 1.5.1 The positions of the trees are plotted approximately using site features apart from trees T1 to T5 that were included on the original topographic survey.
- 1.6 **Copyright:** All rights in this report are reserved. Its content and format are for the exclusive use of Robert Bowen and their Clients for the purpose of developing the site. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means without our written consent.

2 Site visit

- 2.1 **Site visit:** I carried out my unaccompanied site visit on the 25th of January 2022. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigation and I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of my inspection was dry and clear allowing good visibility.
- 2.2 **Site description:** Fenbrook Close is located just off the A4241 / Baglan Way in Baglan, Port Talbot.
- 2.2.1 The site is located to the north of Baglan Way and south of Fenbrook Close near to the roundabout linking the two roads. The site has a Boys Club with parking to the rear and overlooks Port Talbot Town Cricket Club.
- 2.2.2 A group of early mature trees shields the club and cricket pitch from the road.
- 2.2.3 The trees consist of similarly aged specimens with the faster growing species such as alder and Norway maple being the dominant specimens with other species acting as an understory.
- 2.3 **Identification and location of the trees:** The trees in question are shown on the tree location plan included as Drawing ARW 1119:01. This plan is for illustrative purposes only and it should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information on it is contained within this report and the provided documents.
- 2.3.1 Note that G2 is descriptive of the understory and extends throughout the eastern end of the copse.
- 2.4 The Local Authority has not been approached to check for statutory tree protection. Before doing any work to trees on site the protection status should be checked.

3 Observations

- 3.1 **Development plan:** The proposal is for a new parking area to the front and side of the Boys Club.
- 3.2 **Trees:** The surveyed trees were assessed either as individuals or as groups where appropriate.
- 3.3 **Root morphology:** *Tree roots will exploit the most suitable conditions that they can find, migrating to ideal conditions i.e. nutrient levels and available water. Obstructions or poor conditions will force roots to grow alongside, around, under or over.*
- 3.3.1 The generic circular root protection area is considered a suitable depiction of trees on this site.
- 3.4 **Branch spread:** Generally symmetric with some mutual canopy shaping.

4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

The following impact assessment is based on the provided Proposed Site Plan.

- 4.1 **Tree removal:** Trees in the table below should be removed for reasons of good arboricultural management and their removal should not be considered when determining the proposal.

Tree	Reason for removal
T1	Norway maple, poor condition.
T3	Norway maple, poor condition.
T8	Norway maple, poor condition.

- 4.1.1 The following trees will be removed to facilitate the development.

Tree	Reason for removal	Category
T2	Norway maple	C
T4	Norway maple	C
T5	Norway maple	C
T6	Silver birch	C
T7	Scots pine	C
G1	Ash	C
G2	Mixed species	C
G3	Alder (8 trees)	B
G4	Norway maple (2 of 4 trees)	C

- 4.2 **Effects of new development on amenity value on or near the site:** The removal of the trees listed above will have a **noticeable impact** on visual amenity.

4.3 Direct impact to retained trees

- 4.3.1 There are no direct above ground impacts to the retained trees.

- 4.3.2 The direct below ground impacts to the trees are listed below.

Trees	Below ground Constraint	Impact
G4	The root systems of these trees prevent excavation for car park surfacing.	Excavation will sever roots and cause compaction of the ground reducing water and nutrient uptake which in turn reduces photosynthesis and potential energy production. However, there the risks can be mitigated by suitable construction techniques and taking into account the species of tree involved.

- 4.4 **Construction processes of the proposed development:** *Development processes that lead to soil compaction in tree rooting zones and physical damage to trees can adversely affect long-term tree health. This can lead to unnecessary tree loss if not controlled properly on site during the construction.*
- 4.4.1 Ground compaction caused by movements of construction traffic and indiscriminate storage of materials could have a **high impact** on the retained trees and areas for mitigation planting.
- 4.4.2 Compaction to the soil and direct damage to the trees can be prevented by using protective fencing and ground protection in accordance with industry guidance.
- 4.5 **Modifications proposed to accommodate trees:** None proposed.
- 4.6 **Infrastructure requirements:** Not applicable.
- 4.7 **Proximity of trees to structures / change of use:** Few mature trees retained.
- 4.8 **Services:** Any services are assumed to follow existing lines.

The potential impacts of the development on the local visual amenity can be ,mitigated by replacement planting in the longer term.

5 Contacts

Consultant Arboriculturist: A. Webster. 07974 303558

Written by:

Alan Webster, MArborA
for and on behalf of The Arb Team

Date: 01/02/2022

Appendices

Appendix 1

Qualifications and experience of Alan Webster

1. Academic qualifications:

Level 3 **Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture**: ABC

Level 6 **Professional Diploma in Arboriculture**, units:

- Tree risk management
- Tree and hedge management
- Selection, planting and design with hardy nursery stock for amenity and landscape purposes
- Arboricultural plant health
- Planning and development in arboriculture
- Management of special trees
- Woodland management
- Independent research project

2. Practical experience:

2003 – 2005

Freelance Chainsaw Operator. Mainly working as a Groundsman for TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd. Duties including woodland felling and ground based arboricultural operations, in the private and commercial sector.

2005 - 2009.

Groundsman progressing to Lead Climber and Arboricultural Contracts Manager in 2007. Employed by TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd. Continue to lead arboricultural team and control all chainsaw related operations within countryside teams. Made responsible for management and implementation of company Health and Safety systems.

2009- 2014.

Consultant Arboriculturist and Technical Director. Employed by TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd, undertaking Tree Surveys and Health & Safety Management.

2014 – Present

Independent Arboricultural Consultant. Trading as ARW Tree Consultancy. Providing advice on risk assessment, development site issues and boundary disputes.

2015 – 2016

Tree Officer for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Responsible for risk assessing Council trees, advising Development Control on trees in relation to planning, maintenance of TPO's and applications, managing project work where trees were identified as a problem.

2016 – Present

Tree Officer (Planning) City and County of Swansea Council. Advising Development Control on trees in planning context, representing the Council in planning appeals and hearings, TPO review, creation and determination.

3. Professional qualifications and continuing professional development:

2007 **Certified Arborist**- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
2008 **Arboriculture and Bats**- LANTRA.
2008 **Managing Safely**- Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).
2009 **Thorough Examination of Arboricultural Equipment** (LOLER '98 regs.)- NPTC.
2010 **Level 2 Computer Aided Design**. – City and Guilds.
2010 Recertification, **Certified Arborist**- (ISA).
2010 **VTA Update Seminar** - Prof. Claus Mattheck/Symbiosis Consulting
2010 **Quantified Tree Risk Assessment** – Mike Ellison
2011 **Professional Tree Inspection** – Arboricultural Association/Lantra
2011 **AA Getting to Grips with Subsidence** – Dr. P.G. Biddle and Dr. M. Dobson
2012 **AA Arboricultural Consultancy** – Jim Quaife and Jeremy Barrell
2012 **46th AA Amenity Conference** – Reading University
2013 **AA Pests and Diseases Road Show** – Guy Watson and Ben Abbatt
2013 **C.A.S. Experts Question Time- Tree Safety** – Jeremy Barrell and Dr. David Lonsdale.
2013 Recertification, **Certified Arborist**- (ISA).
2015 **PACE training** - PHF Training, Kevin Hall
2015 **4th Big Barn Conference** – Barchams
2015 **AA Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees** – Simon Cox
2015 **Green Blue Urban Seminar**
2015 **HTOF Subsidence Seminar** – Dr. P.G. Biddle
2015 **Tree Preservation Orders, Effective Application** - CAS
2016 **Trees in development** – AA –Barrell Tree Consultancy
2016 **Role of the Tree Officer** – AA – Richard Nicholson
2016 **Habitat Regulations in the Planning Process**
2016 **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** – Natural Resources Wales
2017 **Assessment of Tree Forks** – AA – Dr. Duncan Slater
2018 **Aspiring Registered Consultants Day** – AA
2018 **Tree Officer Conference** - MTOA
2018 **Wales Conference** - ICF
2019 **Becoming Chartered Workshop** - ICF
2019 **Ash Dieback Toolkit Launch** - Tree Council
2019 **CAVAT Training** – ICF - Chris Neilan
2019 **Tree Risk** – Jeremy Barrell

4. Relevant experience:

Since 2003 I have been pursuing my natural interest in trees, broadening my knowledge and the required skill range. These acquired skills and knowledge have been applied to projects for private customers, larger agencies and local authorities. I have inspected thousands of trees using accepted VTA methodology and have experience with the most up to date invasive decay detection devices. In the planning arena, I have experience of providing evidence for appeals and at planning hearings. I have recently authored Supplementary Planning Guidance and drafted tree policies for a local authority.

5. Professional affiliations:

Arboricultural Association (AA)- Professional Member

Appendix 2

Tree Schedule

Explanatory notes:

- **Tree no:** Refers to the tree number shown on any included drawings.
- **Species:** The species identification based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first, with the botanical name after in brackets. In some instances, it may be difficult to quickly and accurately identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, it is indicated with a '?' after the name in order to avoid delay in the production of the report. The botanical name is followed by the abbreviation sp if only the genus is known. The species listed for groups and hedges represent the main component and there may be other minor species not listed.
- **Tree Height:** Height is an estimate to the nearest metre. Figures in brackets indicate lowest branch height.
- **Stem Diameter:** These figures relate to 1.5m above ground level and are recorded in millimetres. If appropriate, diameter is measured with a diameter tape.
- **Crown Spread:** The crown spread visually estimated to the nearest metre from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches, N= north, S= south, E= east and W=west.
- **Height & direction of 1st branch:** Height in meters of first significant branch and direction expressed as a cardinal point.
- **Min. Crown clearance:** Clear height in metres of ground clearance at the four cardinal points measured in metres
- **Life stage:** Age is an estimated range based on visual indicators and should only be taken as a provisional guide. Y=**Young**: obviously planted/self seeded within the last three years (unless as a heavy or extra-heavy standard). SM=**Semi-mature**: recently planted and yet to attain mature stature; up to 25% of attainable age. EM=**Early mature**: almost full height, crown still developing and seed bearing; up to 50% of attainable age. M=**Mature**: full height, crown spread, seed bearing; over 50% of attainable age. OM=**Over mature**: full size, die-back, small leaf size, poor growth extension.
- **Physiological condition:** Physiological health G=good; F= fair; P= poor; D= dead or moribund
- **General observations/management recommendations:** Information based on visual observations that may influence management proposals or BS 5837 categorisation, where appropriate recommendations are offered.
- **Remaining contribution:** Estimated remaining contribution in years
- **Retention category:** The category awarded in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to construction- Recommendations, it is an indication of a trees condition and value.
- **RPA-R:** Radius of circle (measured from centre of trunk) required to achieve RPA-A, in metres
- **Text colour:** BS 5837 Category, Green=A, Blue=B, Grey=C, Red=U

Report on trees in relation to construction.

Tree no	Species	Tree Height (m)	Stem Dia. (mm)	Crown spread (m)				Life Stage	General observations Management recommendation	Remaining Contribution	Retention Category	RPA R (m)	RPA A (m ²)
				N	S	E	W						
T1	Norway Maple	14	200 200	3	5	2	4	EM	Stem divides below 1.5m. Included bark present in main fork.	<10	U	-	-
T2	Norway Maple	14	240	3	7	1	4	EM.		20+	C2	2.9	26
T3	Norway Maple	14	190 180 x 2	3	5	1	4	EM.	Stem divides below 1.5m. Included bark present in main fork	20+	U	-	-
T4	Norway Maple	15	250	1	5	3	4	EM		20+	C2	3.0	28
T5	Norway Maple	15	290 310	5	7	5	3	EM	Stem divides below 1.5m. Cupping of main union.	10+	C2	5.1	81
T6	Silver Birch	14	180	1	2	3	3	EM		20+	C2	2.2	15
T7	Scots Pine	13	280 200	3	2	1	5	EM	Leaning North-West. Ivy on stem. Stem divides below 1.5m.	10+	C2	4.1	54
T8	Norway Maple	13	290 300	5	7	5	3	EM	Stem divides below 1.5m. Included bark present in main fork. Cavity at base.	<10	U	-	-
G1	Ash	16	300	3	4	3	6	SM	Ash die back 2, largest tree badly cankered.	<10	C2 / U	3.6	41
G2	Silver Birch, Scots Pine, Hazel	6	100	2	1	2	4	SM	Under storey and smaller trees. Larger trees in group vandalised / cut through.	10+	C2	1.2	5
G3	Common Alder	17	360	3	3	3	4	EM		20+	B2	4.3	59
G4	Norway Maple, Ash	15	260	3	3	3	3	EM	Ash die back 2.	10+	C2	3.1	31

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Trees unsuitable for retention			
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context or the current land use for longer than 10 years	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 category U trees (e.g. 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, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality Note: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it may be desirable to preserve		
Trees to be considered for retention	1. Mainly arboricultural qualities	2. Mainly landscape qualities	3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual: or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to a wider locality	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood - pasture)
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	Unremarkable trees of a very limited merit or such an impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value