



Tree Condition Survey and Report carried out by:

ArbTS - Arboricultural Technician Services Ltd

(Tree Consultancy Services)

Stephen Lucocq *BSc (Hons), Tech Cert (Arbor.A), M.Arbor.A*

Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association

Web site: www.ArbTS.co.uk

Email: info@ArbTS.co.uk

Phone: (01639) 849 877

Mobile: 07789 551 591

Tree Condition Survey and Management Work Recommendations

Date – 24th May 2021

Site – 4 Blaenwern SA107AA

Project Reference – ArbTS_1122.1_4 Blaenwern

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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 4 Blaenwern SA107AA.
- 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.
- 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 14th April 2021.
- 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 24 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 Tree Preservation Officer from the Local Planning Authority should be consulted before any work 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-other-regulations/tree-felling-licences/?lang=en>

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The detailed Tree Management Work Recommendations as found in Appendix 2 should be conducted as the priority states. Urgent & Urgent to High work priority is recommended to be carried out as soon as practicable i.e. 7 days to 1 month and High & High to Medium work priority to be carried out within 3 to 6 months. Other lower priority works can be identified by the managers of the site to achieve their desired objectives.

6.0 Further Information and Qualifications

Stephen Lucocq has been involved in Arboriculture within South Wales for over 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:
 - **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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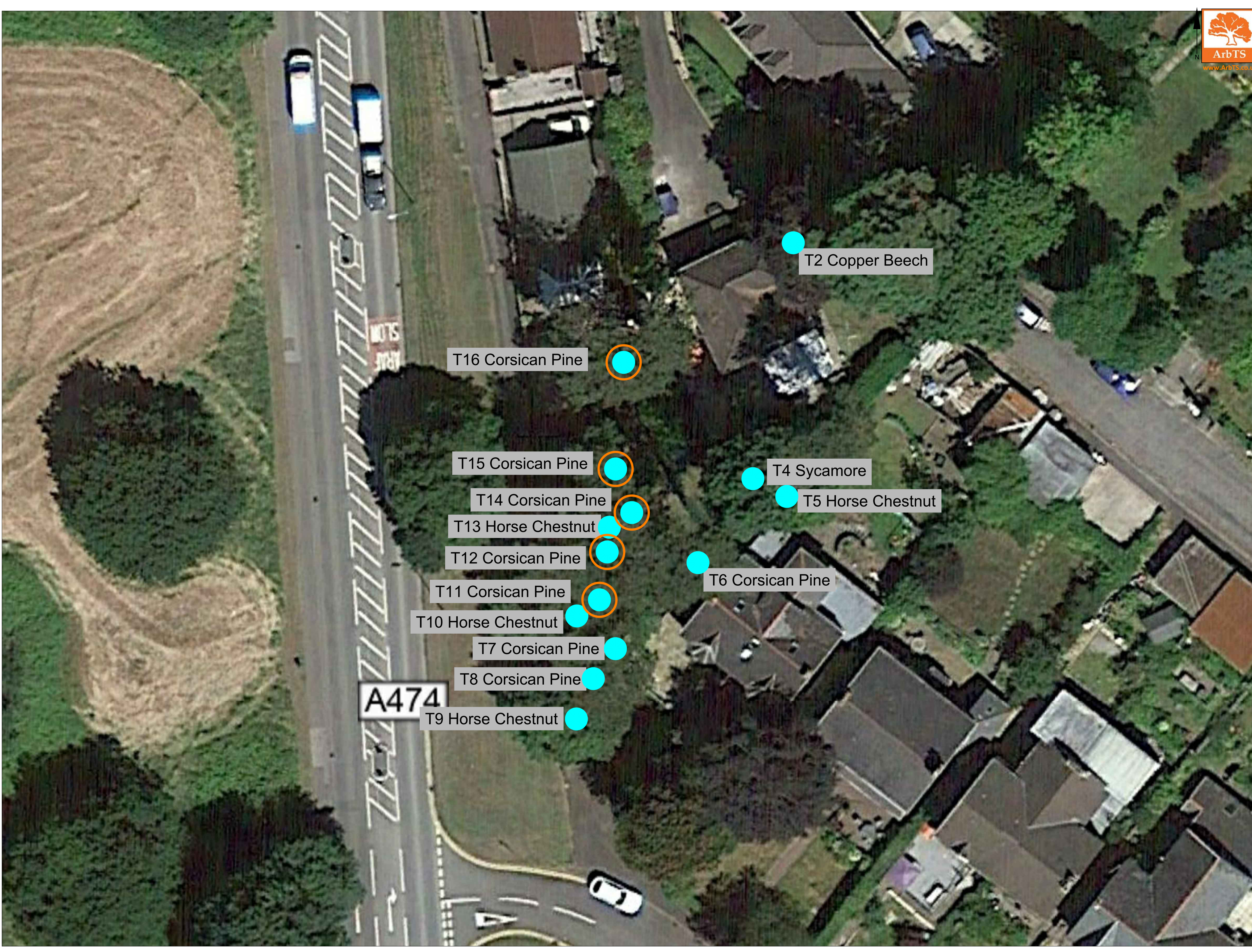
Appendix 2 Tree Data

Tree ID #	Tree Species	Age	Size	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments		Management Work Recommendations		Target Occupation	Work Type	Work Priority
T2	Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' (Copper Beech)	M	L	G/Fair	G/Fair		contorted branch union at 3 metres, slightly suppressed crown form from adjacent large redwood tree, leaf bud cover appears normal, some surface root mower damage noted, some small easterly branch growth over roof of dwelling		reduce western branches by 1.5 metres in branch length to suitable pruning points, increase mower height around exposed surface roots	H/Medium	Arb	Medium
T4	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	M	M/L	G/Fair	G/Fair		tree of fair form and fair to good health, lower northern branches overhanging patio area		reduce northern side of crown by up to 1.5metres in branch length to suitable pruning points	H/Medium	Arb	Medium
T5	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	M	M/L	G/Fair	G/Fair		tree of fair form and fair to good health forms pair with adjacent sycamore tree			H/Medium		
T6	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	L	Fair	Fair		some parts of crown appear sparse in needle cover, tree of fair to good form, recently constructed shed noted close to tree, land owner informs me that the shed was built using beam foundation and hand dig to minimise root / soil disturbance, small amounts of deadwood up to 50mm noted in crown		remove deadwood in crown over 25mm diameter	H/Medium	Hazard	Medium
T7	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	L	Fair	Fair		large twin stem pine, north western stem slightly contorted in form			H/Medium		
T8	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	L	Fair	Fair		slightly sparse needle cover, ivy growing up trunk, contorted and suppressed in crown form from adjacent trees			H/Medium		
T9	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	M	L	Fair	Fair		short fairly broad tree located on the corner boundary of the site, some surrounding wooden pallets noted, large stem pruning wound noted with some surrounding callus growth			H/Medium		
T10	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	M	M/L	Fair	Fair		short fairly broad tree located on the boundary of the site, some construction material piled up near base of tree, overhangs adjacent footpath		remove surrounding building waste	H/Medium	Arb	Medium
T11	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	EM	M/L	Poor	F/Poor	Unbalanced crown shape.	small contorted pine struggling for space, very small amounts of sparse needle cover noted		fell	Medium	Hazard	H/Medium

Tree ID #	Tree Species	Age	Size	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Comments	Management Work Recommendations	Target Occupation	Work Type	Work Priority
T12	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	L	Fair	Fair	slightly sparse needle cover, larger pine in group, small amounts of deadwood up to 50mm in diameter noted	remove deadwood over 25mm in diameter	H/Medium	Hazard	H/Medium
T13	Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)	M	S/M	Fair	Fair	contorted tree suppressed in form from surrounding larger trees, old failed lower branch wound noted with surrounding callus growth		Medium		
T14	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	L	F/Poor	Fair	sparse needle cover compared to other pine trees, dead branches up to 60mm in diameter	remove deadwood over 25mm in diameter, home owner to monitor health of needle cover till next inspection, if significant reduction in needle cover is noted consult with an arboriculturist	H/Medium	Hazard	H/Medium
T15	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	M/L	Fair	Fair	Slender in form, unbalanced crown and suppressed in form from removal of adjacent pine, slightly sparse needle cover, some dead branches up to 50mm diameter noted over adjacent properties shed	remove dead branches over 25mm diameter	H/Medium	Hazard	H/Medium
T16	Pinus nigra 'maritima' (Corsican Pine)	M	L	Fair	G/Fair	slightly sparse needle over, tree of fair form, some previous branch reduction noted, slightly over extended eastern branches noted over the roof of the dwelling, small light weight shed built in close proximity to side of tree trunk on wooden posts, small areas of dry resin exudation noted on eastern trunk	reduce lower eastern lateral branches by up to 2 to 2.5 metres in branch length to suitable pruning points	H/Medium	Arb	H/Medium

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Appendix 3 Tree Location Plan



Tree Location Plan
Site - 4 Blaenwern
Project Ref - 1122.1
Scale - 200 @ A2

Individual Tree
● T2 Beech
↑ Tree ID#
(T - Individual Tree)

Tree Species
(Common Tree Name Shown)

Tree Work Priority
Individual Trees
● Urgent (Within 7 days) to Urgent/High (Within 31 days) Work Priority
● High (Within 3 Months) to High/Medium (Within 6 Months) Work Priority
(*Please see Appendix 2 - Tree data for all tree survey details including all management recommendations*)

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Appendix 4 Tree Photographs

Tree ID#T2



Tree ID#T16



Tree ID#T16



Tree ID#T15



Tree ID#T15



Tree ID#T6



Tree ID#T4 + T5



Tree ID#T11 + T10 + T6



