



Tree Check
Arboriculture Ltd.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment
62 Main Road
Bryncoch
SA10 7TL



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Brief.....	4
Scope	4
Section 1: Interpretation.....	6
BS Categories	6
Tree Age Ratings.....	6
Root Protection Areas (RPA's)	6
Remaining Contribution.....	7
Terminology.....	7
Tree Schedule	9
Section 2: Impact Assessment	10
1. Reference.....	10
2. TPO's and Conservation Areas	10
3. Trees Selected for Retention	10
4. Trees Proposed for Removal	10
5. Trees to be Pruned.....	10
6. Impact from Proposed Structures.....	10
Shading issues	10
7. Impact from Construction Activity	10
Physical Damage	10
Chemical Damage	10
Soil Compaction	10
8. Root Protection Areas (RPA's).....	11
9. RPA Incursions.....	11
Construction Within the RPA's of Retained Trees.....	11
Installation of Services Within the RPA's of Retained Trees	11
Hard Surfacing Within the RPA's of Retained Trees	11
10. Drainage and SUDS	11
11. Conflict from Boundary Walls and Fences.....	11
12. Level Changes	12
13. Impact on Proposed Structures from Retained and New Trees.....	12
Indirect Damage through Shrinkable Clay Soils	12
Displacement of Lightweight Structures through Secondary Root Thickening.....	12
Potential Damage Through Branch Contact.....	12
Nuisance Caused by Detritus.....	12
14. Conflict with Proposed Landscaping and Retained Trees.....	12
15. Scope for Preventing Tree Losses through Design Change	12
16. Mitigation of Tree Losses	12

Appendix	13
Appendix i: Photographs	14
Appendix ii: Tree Protection Plan.....	16
Appendix iii: Cascade Table for the Categorisation of Trees (BS5837)	17
Appendix iv: Recommended Configuration for Tree Protective Fencing (BS5837).....	18
Appendix v: Glossary	19
Appendix vi: References.....	21
Terms and conditions.....	22
Limitations	22
Legal Constraints	22

Introduction

This survey was carried out by Ben Clark, Arboricultural Consultant, and Director at Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. with over 8 years' experience in the arboriculture industry and holding the following qualifications:

- Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture
- BSc. Geology (University of Southampton)
- LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection Certificate (PTI)
- Various NPTC qualifications in tree surgery.

Currently an MSC. Student in Arboriculture and Urban forestry, Ben is a technician member of the arboricultural association and attends regular training and seminars to remain up to date with current arboricultural practices.

The methodology of this report is based on the recommendations provided by the British Standards Institute document BS5837: Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations, as well as other recommendations provided by institutions such as the Arboral Association.

Brief

Tree Check has been instructed to carry out a tree survey and categorisation at 62, Main road, Bryncoch. Based on the findings, we were also instructed to carry out an impact assessment to consider proposed development on site.

The following information was available:

- Block plans provided by Mr Eamonn Davies.

The site was visited on the 05 of October 2023 during overcast weather conditions considered favourable for this type of survey.

Scope

- The purpose of this report is to analyse the proposed development plans and their expected impact upon current tree constraints on site.
- This assessment is based on tree data recorded in: 5837 Tree Survey and Categorization of 62 Main road. Treecheck 2023 and should be read in conjunction with that document.
- Trees have only received a cursory inspection and this report does not constitute a full tree condition/safety survey. Ongoing inspection should proceed as per the landowner's tree management plan.
- A tree constraints plan has been produced to indicate the locations of trees and the BS5837 calculated rooting areas. in relation to the site.
- A tree loss/retention plan is also included in this document.
- The intended purpose of this report is that it is used as an aid to assess impact on, and constraints caused by trees when designing the layout of the site.
- Where trees have been noted to be hazardous in terms of unacceptable third-party risk this has been noted and recommendations given.
- General management recommendations have been given where appropriate.
- The inspection was carried out at ground level from inside the site and along adjacent public roads trees were not climbed and no internal decay detection was used. It is our policy to recommend further investigation with decay detection equipment where features observed during visual inspection warrant such action.
- All heights of trees were estimated from ground level.
- Branch spread was measured from the base of the trees in four cardinal directions using a laser tape measure.
- Stem Diameter was measured at 1.5m above ground level using a diameter tape measure.

- Data on the observed structural condition of the tree has been entered, e.g., collapsing, leaning and the presence of any observed decay or physical defect has been noted.

Section I: Interpretation

BS Categories

Trees have been assigned retention categories in accordance with BS5837. These are as follows:

Category A- Trees with a high retention value which are either arboriculturally important, important within the landscape, or culturally/ecologically important.

Category B- Trees with a moderate retention value i.e. they are good examples of their species, provide some notable amenity value to the area, or provide significant ecological or cultural value.

Category C- Trees with a low retention value. Including trees with defects which reduce their amenity value or expected lifespan but not to the extent that they cannot be realistically retained within the development.

Category U- Trees of which retention is considered unrealistic within the context of the development due to poor condition and low life expectancy.

See the Table I in the ([Appendix iii](#)) for more information on the allocation of categories and subcategories.

Tree Age Ratings

Y- Young trees in their early stage of growth, have undergone minimal secondary thickening and are still primarily composed of active tissue.

EM- Early mature trees that have started to show characteristics of maturity such more developed crowns and increased stem thickness.

M- Mature fully developed trees.

OM- Over mature trees that are starting to show signs of decline.

A- Ancient trees that have reached a notably old age for their species and are therefore considered to be important.

V- Veteran trees with notable features such as wounds, cavities, cracks, etc. that provide significant habitat value. These are usually older trees.

Root Protection Areas (RPA's)

Root Protection areas have been calculated according to BS5837 and represent the estimated minimum rooting area required by the tree to carry out its functions.

Excavation in this area can cause physiological or structural harm to a tree and the movement of machinery or personnel over this area can cause soil compaction and in turn, physiological harm to the tree.

These areas may need to be segregated from the rest of this site using tree protective fencing and if excavations in these areas are unavoidable in the context of the design, then they should be carried out in accordance with an arboricultural method statement produced by a suitably trained and qualified arboriculturalist.

Remaining Contribution

Remaining contribution has been estimated based on the trees overall condition, approximate age, and the life expectancy of the species in question. This is based on the assumption that new factors are not introduced that will affect the trees life expectancy, such as pathogens, climate factors or other biotic or abiotic influences.

Terminology

See appendix v for a glossary of the terms commonly used in tree reports.

Trees and groups are numbered with the following prefixes:

- **T-** individual trees.
- **G-** groups of trees with similar characteristics and rooting areas.
- **H-** Hedgerows.
- **W-** woodland groups, designated as such due to the presence of woodland features such as natural regeneration,

Tree Schedule

Ref	Tag	Species	Height (m)	Stem Diam (mm)	Crown Spread (m)				Crown Clearance (m)	Lowest Branch (m)	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Life Stage	Life Expectancy (years)	Retention Category	RPA Area (m ²)	RPA Radius (m)	Photo
					N	E	S	W										
T1	N/A	Cherry Plum (Prunus cerasifera)	8	230	2	2	2	2	2	2	Tree of average form in raised bed set 300mm above ground level. Rooting area restricted outside of the raised bed by a tarmacked pavement to the east and the properties block paved driveway to the west.	No action required.	EM	20-40	C2	23	2.8	1, 2, 3

Section 2: Impact Assessment

1. Reference

This assessment is based on the tree survey and site plan that makes up the first part of this document.

2. TPO's and Conservation Areas

There are no Tree Preservation Orders at this property.

3. Trees Selected for Retention

All trees on site have been selected for retention with some small shrubs under 75mm stem diameter to be removed.

4. Trees Proposed for Removal

No trees on this property have been proposed for removal apart from the small shrubs under 75mm stem diameter.

5. Trees to be Pruned.

No Pruning works will be carried for the proposed works.

6. Impact from Proposed Structures

Shading issues

The proposed works will create no shading issues and will introduce no pressure for the removal of trees in the future.

7. Impact from Construction Activity

Physical Damage

Due to the nature of the works and the fact that the tree is the other side of the wall, there is no real risk of physical damage to T1

Chemical Damage

There is a risk of chemical damage to trees from the mixing and storage of cement and other damaging chemicals.

The areas where this is a particular concern are the root protection zone of T1

The impacts associated with this activity can be controlled with the production of and adherence to an Arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan.

Soil Compaction

Movement of workers and plant will be restricted to existing hard surfacing, eliminating the risk of soil compaction.

8. Root Protection Areas (RPA's)

Root Protection areas have been calculated according to BS5837. These represent the below ground constraints for a given tree, the radius of which is included in the tree schedule and represented as an orange circle or polygon on the tree constraints plan.

9. RPA Incursions

Construction Within the RPA's of Retained Trees

Construction within the RPA of retained trees can cause damage through root severance and negatively impact the health of the tree by removing potential rooting medium.

There are no conflicts between the RPA's of trees on site with the current proposed layout of buildings.

Demolition Within the RPA's of Retained Trees

Demolition in close proximity to trees, particularly within the RPA can lead to physical damage and soil compaction, as well as damage to the rooting area due to root severance when digging up existing hard surfacing.

No demolition work is proposed within the root protection areas of retained trees for the dropped pavement works but the customer will be removing some of the wall and raised bed in order to widen his driveway, this takes place adjacent to the RPA of T1.

The risks of damage to T1 through this activity can be controlled by adherence to an arboricultural method statement.

Installation of Services Within the RPA's of Retained Trees

Excavation of trenches within the RPA can cause damage to the root structure and significantly impact the health of a tree. Conversely, root growth can cause damage to the installed services if they are installed too close to trees. It is therefore not advisable to install any underground services or infrastructure within or close to the RPA of retained trees.

There are no proposed services within the RPA of retained trees.

Hard Surfacing Within the RPA's of Retained Trees

Hard surfacing over the rooting areas of trees can limit the exchange of water and gases between the atmosphere and soil, reducing the viability of the rooting medium. Excavations within the RPA for installation of hard surfacing risks severing significant roots and causing long term damage to trees.

There is no Conflict between RPA's and proposed hard surfacing on this site.

10. Drainage and SUDS

The installation of traditional drainage as well as SUDS features can impact the water distribution on site and can potentially cause drought stress in trees by channelling water away.

Alternatively, drainage and SUDS features can cause a buildup of water in certain areas of site and create waterlogged conditions, to which certain trees may not be suitable.

None of the trees on this site are likely to be affected by the current proposed drainage layout.

11. Conflict from Boundary Walls and Fences

Not applicable on this site.

12. Level Changes

Not applicable on this site.

13. Impact on Proposed Structures from Retained and New Trees

Indirect Damage through Shrinkable Clay Soils

Larger trees can cause indirect damage to structures by removing water from clay rich soils, causing them to contract, which potentially leads to subsidence.

No soil analysis has been carried out but, geotechnical advice including soil testing should be taken when construction is taking place near large trees. For advice on avoiding subsidence related damage refer to NHBC Chapter 4.2.

Displacement of Lightweight Structures through Secondary Root Thickening

It is possible for light structures and hard surfaces such as footpaths, patios, outbuildings and porches. Recommended distances for new tree planting from these types of structure should be considered.

There is a risk that secondary root thickening from T1 will cause displacement of the new driveway in the long term. These effects can be mitigated by the installation of root barriers as outlined in the arboricultural method statement.

Potential Damage Through Branch Contact

Not applicable.

Nuisance Caused by Detritus

While falling detritus may cause nuisance on the new driveway, there is already a driveway existing adjacent to the tree, so the reconfiguration of the driveway is not expected to cause increased nuisance leading to pressure for removal. In fact, the new configuration takes the parking areas further away from the crown of the tree.

14. Conflict with Proposed Landscaping and Retained Trees

Not applicable for this site.

15. Scope for Preventing Tree Losses through Design Change

No trees are set to be lost on this site.

16. Mitigation of Tree Losses

No trees are set to be lost on this site.

Appendix

Appendix i: Photographs taken on site.

Appendix ii: Tree protection plan showing the location of trees and their root protection areas

Appendix iii: A cascade chart from BS5837: 2012- Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction– Recommendations explaining the categorisation of trees.

Appendix iv: A diagram showing the recommended configuration for tree protective fencing, from BS5837: 2012- Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction– Recommendations.

Appendix v: A Glossary of terms and phrases commonly used in tree reports.

Appendix vi: References.

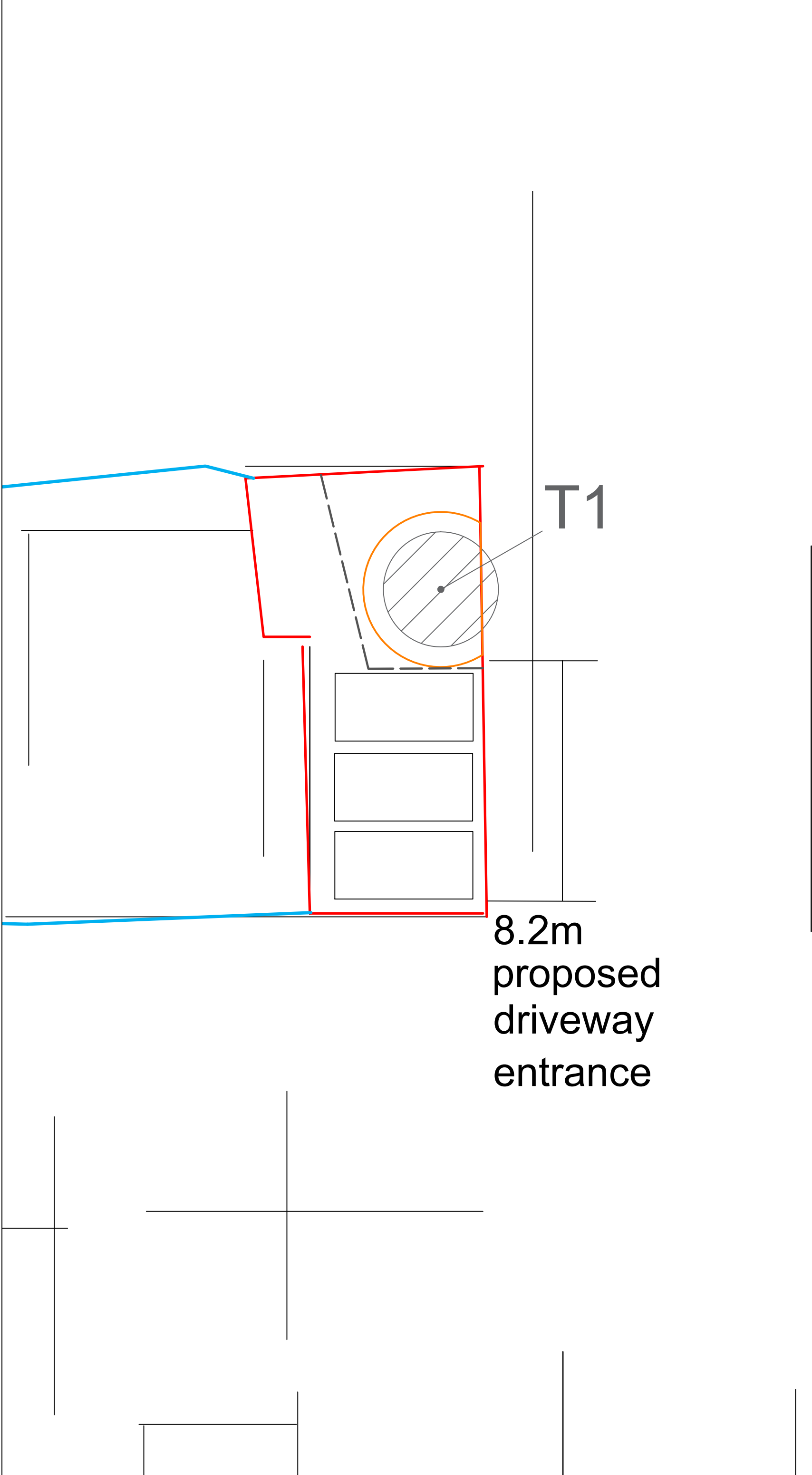
Appendix i: Photographs

Photo 1: T1 Cherry plum next to pavement where some of the proposed work are due to take place.



Photo 2. T2 on raised bed next to driveway.





Ref	Tag	Species	Height	Stem Diam (mm)	Life Stage	Life Expectancy	Retention Category	RPA Area (m²)	RPA Radius (m)
T1	N/A	Cherry Plum (Prunus cerasifera)	8	230	EM	20-40	B2	24	2.8

Drawing designed to be viewed in colour.
Indicative only, check all RPA's on site in accordance with table.

Key

- Category A. Trees with high retention value.
- Category B. Trees with moderate retention value.
- Category C. Trees with low retention value.
- Category U. Trees unsuitable for retention due to condition.
- Root Protection Area (RPA)

Tree Key

- Canopy extents, hatched area represents area within the canopy.
- Location of tree base, taken from position on TOPO or GPS.
- Reference number (T for trees, G for groups, W for woodlands, H for hedges).

RPA- an indication of the estimated minimum rooting area required by the tree.
Calculated in accordance with BS5837.

Tree Protective Fence

Tree Protection Plan- 62 Main Road
1:125 at A3

Client	Mr Eamonn Davies
Survey Code	2355
Drawn by	BC
Surveyed by	BC
Date	06/10/2023

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TechArborA, Dip Arb L4 (ABC)

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Appendix iii: Cascade Table for the Categorisation of Trees (BS5837)

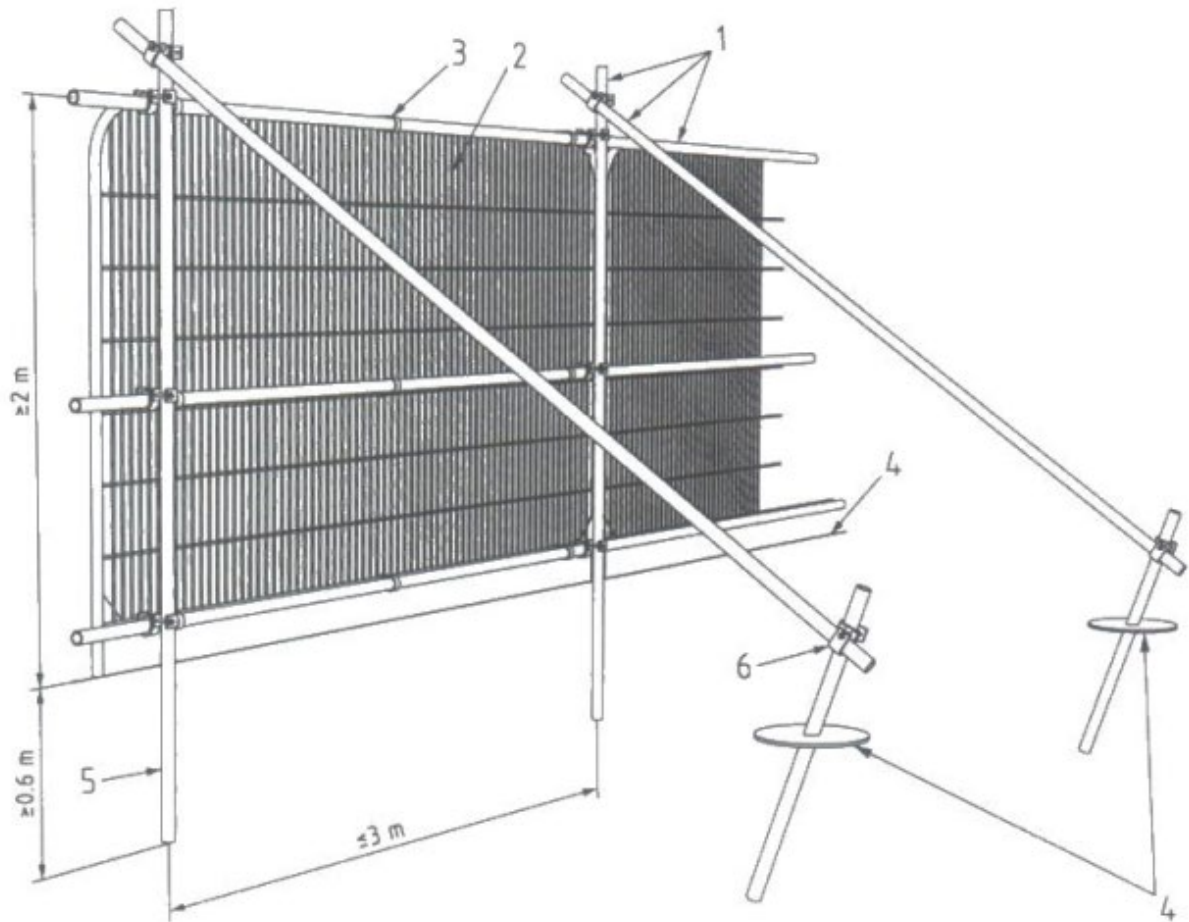
Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of 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 U 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, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7		
	1 Mainly Arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Category A Those of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	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)	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 Those 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 the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural benefits
Category C Those 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 very limited merit or such 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

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Appendix iv: Recommended Configuration for Tree Protective Fencing (BS5837)

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



Key

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
- 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
- 4 Ground level
- 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
- 6 Standard scaffold clamps

Appendix v: Glossary

Aerial Inspection: A close inspection of the aerial part of a tree, either by mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) or by a tree surgeon (climbing inspection). **Adaptive Growth;** The growth of new wood in response to a stress concentration in the structure of a tree

Adventitious; A shoot which arises from tissue other than a growing shoot apex or bud, for instance in callus associated with a wound.

Anchorage; The holding of the structural root system of a tree with in the soil,.

Architecture; the formation and distribution of a trees branch system.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment: That part of the BS 5837 (2012) procedure that evaluates the tree-related constraints to a development (loss of trees, encroachment into root protection areas etc.).

Arboricultural Method Statement: That part of the BS 5837 (2012) procedure that sets out how site works should be carried out near trees to avoid accidental damage.

Arboriculturalist: A person skilled or knowledgeable in the field of arboriculture. The alternative term 'arboriculturalist' is sometimes used. A Person trained and experienced in the management of trees, and trees in relation to construction.,

Assessment; The process of examining the variables involving a trees condition and location in order to assess the risk posed by an individual tree.

Bole (trunk): The main , vertical stem or trunk of a tree.

Branch: a limb extending from the main stem or parent branch of a tree

Canopy: the combined foliage of a group of trees or a woodland, i.e. the combined area of numerous crowns.

Construction Exclusion Zone; The part of a development site from which all pedestrian and vehicular movements are excluded by protective fencing, typically to ensure the wellbeing of trees, during site works. Usually determined by the RPA of a tree.

Crown: in arboriculture the main foliage-bearing portion of a tree containing the leaves and branches

Defect: Any feature of a tree that is likely to make it less safe (in the case of a structural defect) or otherwise to reduce its health, longevity, landscape prominence or conservation value for any other reason.

Dysfunction: The cessation of physiological function in woody material, especially vascular functions such as water and sap transportation.

Failure: Fracture or deformation in any load bearing part of the tree, compromising stability or causing loss of support for part of, or all of the tree structure,

Group: More than one tree in close proximity that possess sufficient similarity or cohesiveness that they can be treated as a single entity for the purpose of this report.

Heave: deformation of shrinkable clay soil related to the expansion caused by rehydration.

Leader: the dominant, vertical shoot or stem of a tree.

Pruning: The cutting off or cutting back of tree branches or foliage to direct growth, remove an obstructing part, mitigate a nuisance, make safe, remove a diseased part, increase longevity, simulate natural damage, enhance habitat for wildlife etc.

Retained Tree: a tree that has been considered suitable for retention and therefore selected to remain as part of the final site layout.

Risk: the likelihood of a hazard to cause actual harm to people or property,

Root Protection Area (RPA); The area around the base of a tree that contains sufficient root volume to ensure the future well-being of the tree in the event of nearby soil disturbance (as on a development site). It is calculated according to guidelines in BS 5837 (2012).

Subsidence (branch): Branches, especially if spreading, tend gradually to subside under their own weight, and may eventually reach ground level in large open-grown trees. Rapid subsidence may result in crown separation or congested bark and can lead to branch failure where there is no support within the elastic limit of a given branch.

Subsidence (soil): Broadly, the downward movement of ground and an affected foundation influenced by soil properties, weather, foundation depth and nearby vegetation.

Targets: An element of tree risk: the subject of injury or damage within range of a hazard.

Tree: The definition of 'tree' is a composite of tree species, tree form and tree size. The blue book offers the following: A perennial plant with a self-supporting woody main stem, usually developing woody branches at some distance from the ground and growing to a considerable height and size. This definition has the three main elements in general form. **For the purposes of 5837 surveys, only plants with a stem diameter of 75mm or above are considered trees.**

Tree Constraint Plan (TCP): Site plan showing the tree-related constraints to development as envisaged in BS 5837 (2012). Common constraints are the loss of trees, encroachment into a tree's root protection area.

Tree Condition Inspection/Survey: A procedure to inspect a tree or trees. Variables used to describe a tree include position (if not already plotted on a topographical survey), species identity, maturity, various dimensions (main stem diameter, height, crown radius etc.), aspects of form, vigour, condition, incidence of pests, diseases, damage and defects, evidence of past management etc. Site factors, position in the landscape and site usage may also be relevant, usually including its position, species identity, dimensions, age class, condition, conservation value etc. as appropriate, and to identify and evaluate defects. It is also common to make management recommendations (see schedule of works). Tree inspection is a fundamental of tree management and advisory practice in arboriculture.

Tree Preservation Order: (UK) an order made by a local authority or other planning authority to protect a tree, group of trees, area of (scattered) trees or woodland under Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. There have been several amendments, the latest being the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012. An order is generally made on the grounds of amenity and expediency. Anyone proposing works to a TPO tree must seek prior consent from the authority using the form IAPP. With the advent of the 2012 regulations, some of the detail in existing TPOs in England has been revoked.

Tree Protection Plan: scale drawing prepared by an arboriculturalist showing the final layout proposals, tree retention and tree and landscape protection measures detailed within the arboricultural method statement (AMS), which can be shown graphically.

Trunk: see bole.

Vigour: The health and resilience of a tree (from the Latin 'to be strong'), reflected in the capacity of the whole tree to grow (see growth rate). The term is often used as a description of overall condition on a qualitative scale from 'high' to 'low'.

Visual Tree Assessment (VTA): The standard approach to tree risk assessment consisting of the diagnosis of structural defects and the evaluation of their significance from visible signs and the application of biomechanical criteria. Simple equipment such as a sounding mallet, probe and binoculars are commonly used.

Wind exposure: the degree to which a tree or other object is exposed to wind, with regard both to duration and velocity, often taking into account prevailing wind directions.

Windthrow: the blowing over of a tree at its roots.

Appendix vi: References

1. Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute (2023). Soilsclapes soil types viewer - National Soil Resources Institute. Cranfield University. [online] www.landis.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilsclapes/>.
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Terms and conditions

The Client is the party commissioning and funding the survey. The Consultant is any person(s) employed by Tree Check Arboriculture LTD to carry out any related works, as well as Tree Check Arboriculture LTD as an entity.

Limitations

1. This survey reflects the condition of the trees as they were observed on 05/10/2023. The condition of trees can change quickly and if any significant change is observed then a qualified arboriculturist should be consulted regardless of the recommended reinspection period.
2. While every attempt has been made to provide accurate recommendations based on the condition of the observed trees, Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. can accept no liability for damage, injury, or loss of property caused by faults that were not apparent at the time of inspection. These include but are not limited to faults that may only be visible seasonally such as fungal fruiting bodies, or faults that were obscured or inaccessible to the surveyor such as those high up in the crown or obscured by ivy.
3. During adverse weather conditions such as storms, otherwise healthy trees can fail. Trees should be visually inspected after any high winds.
4. This report cannot predict the reaction of inspected trees to external factors such as extreme climate events, accidents, or vandalism.
5. The author(s) can accept no liability for damages if the recommended works are not carried out as per this report in line with BS:3998.
6. Operational recommendations (e.g.) climb and dismantle, are for loose guidance only. It remains the responsibility of the assigned contractor to decide on the safest work method. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD. accepts no responsibility for damages occurring during the carrying out of recommended works.
7. This report does not cover any underground part of trees, nor does it consider any affect inspected trees may have on shrinkable clay soils since these issues are almost entirely restricted to areas of shrinkable clay soils and soil analysis was not specified in the brief.
8. **Recommendations made in this report do not override any legislation covering the affected trees. Trees in a conservation area, trees subject to preservation orders and groups of trees requiring felling licenses still require relevant permissions before work can be carried out. Unless otherwise agreed the Tree Check Arboriculture LTD will not be checking for the presence of this legislation or be applying for these permissions. The Client must contact the consultant if they are unsure on this matter.**
9. Certain areas of the site were inaccessible in the time scale of this survey due to dense vegetation cover. Areas and trees where this has been an issue are described in certain trees and groups in the survey table.
10. **The findings of this report cannot be relied upon after 12 months from the time of inspection or the recommended reinspection date (if sooner).**

Legal Constraints

1. The report is for use by the client and any reasonably involved third party advisors only. Rights to reproduce, publish, or broadcast the contents of this reports are reserved.
2. It is prohibited to make any amendments or omissions to this report under any circumstances. This report should be provided unaltered and in full to any third-party advisors, contractors or other involved parties to ensure that the hazards highlighted are understood and the necessary remedial works are commissioned. Failure to comply will invalidate the report and Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. will accept no liability for damages occurring.
3. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD retains full title on this, and all subsequent reports until the relevant invoices are settled. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD accepts no liability relating to the contents of reports that have not been fully paid for.
4. This report only covers the scope described in the introduction of this report, as discussed with the client, Trees, and methods of inspection not described in the scope were not included, and it is the client's responsibility to bring it to the attention of Tree Check Arboriculture LTD if they feel the scope doesn't fully meet their requirements.
5. The consultant is under no obligation to inspect trees in areas that are not freely accessible. It is the client's responsibility to ensure that all relevant areas of site are legally and practically accessible to the consultant.
6. In some instances, the consultant may recommend that further professional opinions are sought. For example, structural engineers, geotechnical engineers, drain engineers etc. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD accepts no responsibility for losses occurring from the advice sought from these third parties, nor from damages caused from acting without the consultation of the recommended professionals.
7. Tree Check Arboriculture LTD. accepts no responsibility for losses occurring between the time of commissioning and the delivery of a written report. No responsibility is accepted for losses occurring where delays or failure to deliver a report on the agreed date where delays or failures occurred due to circumstances out of the control of Tree Check Arboriculture LTD.
8. Each provision of these conditions limiting or excluding liability operates and survives independently of the others