



Arboricultural
Technician
Services Ltd

5 Weavers Road
Ystradgynlais
Powys
SA9 1PQ

www.ArbTS.co.uk ✉ info@ArbTS.co.uk ☎ 01639 849 877 ☎ 07789 551 591

11th October 2023

(Project Reference: ArbTS_1750.1_Dream Fields)

RE: Tree Assessment - Dream Fields, Llandarcy, Neath, SA10 6JU

1.1 - Introduction - I have been instructed to estimate the arboricultural impact of works carried out to create a new access at Dream Fields, Llandarcy, Neath, SA10 6JU. To aid with this assessment, a tree constraints plan has been drawn and is attached to the end of this report. This plan illustrates the arboricultural impact of this work from historical aerial and street view Google images.

1.2 - The Trees – A BS5837:2012 tree survey assessment of the remaining trees was carried out of the access area of the site by myself on 9th October 2023. ***Limitations of the tree survey:*** *Whilst every effort is made to ensure an accurate assessment of the tree's condition during the survey, no responsibility can be taken for resultant damage or injury that occurred by a failing tree. The survey only gives a snapshot of what is visible and is not obscured on the day of the survey. The survey identifies trees of varying quality and their above-ground/below-ground constraints. This survey does not constitute a full tree condition/tree risk assessment of the site.*

1.3.1 - Arb Impact Assessment to the remaining trees - Of note was the root damage to one remaining turkey oak T812 - image below. Due to this level of root damage and the unbalanced form of the tree's crown from the removal of the adjacent trees, this tree is recommended to be removed within three months of the date of this assessment. Other lesser localised soil disturbance and piling up of gravel/soil around retained tree's root protection areas was also noted.



1.3.2 - Estimated Arb Impact Assessment of the trees removed - From old aerial and Google Street View images, it appears some 525m² of tree loss (Approximately 20 trees) have been removed of either B or C quality (Bs5837:2012) that formed a part of the boundary tree group.

1.4 - Arboricultural Recommendation for remaining construction works – The remaining work to finish the construction of the new access is minimal. Contractors are to be briefed by an arboriculturist regarding tree-safe construction and safe disposal of building materials before any further work is carried out on site. After construction work has been completed, soil remediation action will be taken, such as carefully removing piled gravel and soil around retained trees and then 100mm depth of leaf mulch applied. These methods will reduce the adverse impact on the retained trees from the previously carried out construction work.

1.5 - Tree Planting Mitigation - To provide proportional compensation for the tree loss on this site. It is recommended that the Mitigative tree planting of 22 standard-sized native oak trees (*Quercus Robur*) be planted at the end of the construction phase after soil remediation has taken place. Planting to be carried out from October to March in the areas as detailed on the tree constraints plan over a leaf. Any tree failures within the first five years after planting to be replanted during the following tree planting season.

1.6 - Arboricultural Conclusion - Whilst some trees have been removed and some localised damage to the remaining trees has occurred from construction work, complying with the recommended arboricultural works and tree planting mitigation within this report, the long-term arboricultural value of the the site will not be significantly adversely affected.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Lucocq', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Lucocq – ArbTS - Arboricultural Technician Services Ltd
BSc (Hons), Tech Cert (ArborA), MArborA

2020 Aerial Plan - Prior to the tree removal

2022 Aerial Plan - After tree removal

Mitigative tree planting of 22 standard sized native oak trees (*Quercus Robur*) be planted at the end of the construction phase after soil remediation has taken place. Planting to be carried out from October to March

Tree Loss - some 530m2 of tree loss (Approximately 20 trees) have been removed of either B or C quality that form a part of the boundary tree group

- Category A (High)
(*Highly desirable for retention*)
- Category B (Moderate)
(*Desirable for retention*)
- Category C (Low)
(*Optional for retention*)
- Category U (Poor)
(*Unsuitable for retention*)

- Tree Key - Individual Trees
 - Branch Spread (Measured on the North side, South and West side of tree)
 - Tree Species (Common Tree Name Shown)
 - Tree ID# (1- Individual Tree)

Root Protection Area (RPA) (A layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority)

- Tree Key - Group/Area/Woodland/Hedgerow
 - Tree ID# (G-Tree Group, A-Tree Area, W-Woodland, H-Hedgerow)
 - Tree Species (Common Tree Name Shown)

- BS5837:2012 Tree Quality (Colour Coded as for individual trees)
- Average Branch Spread

Shade Pattern - shade pattern not shown on plan (early morning shade starting South West through to evening shade to the East)

Definitions of BS5837:2012 Categories for Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows (Colour Coded):
A - Those of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. (*Highly desirable for retention*)
B - Those of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. (*Desirable for retention*)
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. (*Optional for retention*)
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. (*Unsuitable for retention unless provides high conservation value*)

Please Note:
Barriers and Ground Protection must be designed by an arboriculturist, installed before materials or machinery is brought onto site and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences. Once erected, barriers and ground protection should be regarded as sacrosanct, and should not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by an Arboriculturist and approval of the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

2021 Google Street View

2012 Google Street View

2023 Google Street View

2023 ArbTS Site photograph

2023/10/06