



Cwmnantllwyd Road Woodland

Tree Condition Survey 12th July 2024

Membership No: TE03654



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12th July 2024

Cwmnantllwyd Road

Site Location: Cwmnantllwyd Road, Gelli-nudd	Report Reference: 07.24/CNL/V2
Client: Bill Sandbrook	Date of Report: 12 th July 2024 Date of Site Visit(s): 11 th July 2024
Report Prepared By: Liz Phillips	Survey Carried Out By: Liz Phillips

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1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 Site Address: Woodland opposite junction of Cwmnantllwyd Road and Ashwood Drive, Cilybebyll, Gelli-nudd, Pontardawe, SA8 3DT (nearest).

1.1.2 Ordnance Survey grid reference: SN737040.

1.2 Instructions

1.2.1 RTAC has been instructed to carry out a tree condition survey on the woodland trees within falling distance of Cwmnantllwyd Road and the private road to the west of the site. The instruction was given by Bill Sandbrook, the site owner.

1.3 Statutory Designations

1.3.1 Amanda Holmes, Senior Land Charges Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has confirmed that this woodland is covered by a Woodland Tree Preservation Order which covers all trees of any age or condition, including saplings, within the area covered by the Order.

1.3.2 No works may be carried out to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order or a Conservation Area Order without the consent of the Local Planning Authority, with the exception of the removal of dead, dying or dangerous trees, works to abate a nuisance and works in accordance with full planning consent.

1.4 Protected Wildlife

1.4.1 Before any treeworks are carried out, the trees should be inspected for any evidence of bats or nesting birds.

1.4.2 It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to intentionally:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage, or destroy the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1;
- take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird,

1.4.3 It is also an offence to:

- deliberately capture, injure, or kill a bat;
- damage or destroy any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection;
- disturb any bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
- obstruct access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection.

1.5 Survey Methodology and Limitations

1.5.1 The site visit was carried out on Thursday 11th July 2024. The weather was overcast and dry and visibility was good. The area surveyed is outlined on the aerial photo below.



1.5.2 All dimensions of trees recorded have been estimated.

1.5.3 Trees recorded have been tagged with two-inch diameter aluminium tags numbered from 0933 to 0960 inclusive. One group of trees has been plotted as T960 on the east boundary. Only trees with a stem diameter above approximately 200mm at 1.5m above ground level have been recorded; smaller trees have been inspected but not recorded unless remedial works are required.

1.5.4 Observations were made using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology (Mattheck 1994). The data was recorded using Pear Technology Pocket GIS on a Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1. The tree survey was carried out by Liz Phillips TechArborA of RTAC. Liz has worked in the arboricultural industry for 18 years as a tree surgeon, surveyor, local authority tree officer and consultant.

1.5.5 All observations were made from the ground. No climbing surveys were carried out. No vegetation has been removed to inspect trees other than small amounts of epicormic shoots or brambles, and where trees are not visible or accessible because of vegetation, fences, ditches or other obstructions a limited assessment has been carried out. The east boundary of the site is not accessible.

1.5.6 No soil samples were taken.

1.5.7 No invasive decay detection techniques have been used.

1.5.8 This report is valid for one year from the date of inspection. Trees are living organisms, and no responsibility can be accepted by the surveyor for the failure of a tree or part of a tree due to adverse weather conditions, *force majeure*, or other unpredictable occurrences. It is the responsibility of the tree owner to inspect and maintain his or her trees on a regular basis.

2. Site Description

2.1 The woodland measures approximately 0.85 hectares. Historic maps (National Library of Scotland archive) show this area as open ground until approximately 60 years ago with a colliery to the south and a railway line running parallel to the east boundary. It has been assumed that the large mounds in the eastern part of the site are colliery spoil and the trees now growing on the site are naturally regenerated regrowth. All trees inspected are native species, no non-natives were observed during this survey and all trees observed during this survey appeared to be less than 100 years old. The goat willows (*Salix caprea*) and common alders (*Alnus glutinosa*)

growing adjacent to Cwmnantllwyd Road appear to be the remains of an outgrown boundary hedgerow.

3. The Trees

3.1 Twenty-seven individual trees and one small group of nine trees were recorded during this survey; the tables of species, age class and condition are below:-

3.2 Tree Species

Common Name	Botanical Name	Number of Trees
Group of ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	9
Common alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	8
Common ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	8
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	5
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	2
Common hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	1
Common hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	1
Common holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	1
Common oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	1

3.3 Age Classes

Age Class	Number of Trees
Young	2
Semi-mature	21
Mature	5
Over Mature	0

3.4 Tree Condition

Tree Condition	Number of Trees
Poor	7
Fair	10
Good	11
Dead	0

4. Treeworks Required

4.1

Tree Number	Species	Work Required	Priority
T936	Goat willow	Coppice to 2m stumps	1 Year
T939 T948	Goat willow Alder	Coppice to 1.5m stumps	1 Year
T950	Alder	Coppice to 1.5m stumps	6 Months
T960	Ash	Fell trees with ash dieback	6 Months

4.2 All treeworks must be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Recommendations for Treeworks.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 The trees at this site are generally in good condition. The roadside willows and alders which have been recommended for coppicing should be maintained periodically as coppice as these trees are multi-stemmed outgrown hedgerow trees which will form weak unions at the stem bases and may potentially collapse into Cwmnantllwyd Road if allowed to grow too large.

5.2 Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinea*) is present on the site. Trees colonised by ash dieback die from the tips of the branches down and only pose a risk if they are immediately adjacent to a highway or building. The group of ash on the east boundary (T960) should be removed as they are overhanging or immediately adjacent to the private access lane.



12th July 2024

Cwmnantllwyd Road

APPENDIX

I. Survey Data

Terms used in data tables

Tree Condition Survey

Tree Ref: corresponds to numbered metal tag attached to tree.

Species: common names are used for ease of reference.

Height: this is an estimated measurement to the nearest metre, unless otherwise stated.

Crown spread: this is an estimated measurement to the nearest metre, unless otherwise stated.

Maturity: NP – newly planted; Y – young, a tree in the first third of life expectancy; SM – semi-mature, a tree in the second half of life expectancy; M – mature, tree in final third of life expectancy; OM – over-mature, tree in decline; V – veteran, tree with major physiological decline, surviving beyond the typical age range for the species.

Condition – Poor, fair, good, dangerous, or dead. A tree in fair condition may have minor defects which may not necessarily require remedial action.

Action Recommendations – recommendations for work to rectify defects or hazards.

Priority – Urgent – tree is hazardous, and work should be carried out immediately. 3-6 months – safety issues that need to be dealt with swiftly. 1 year – works required for safety reasons or for the well being of the tree but not immediately urgent i.e. low target area. 3 years – minor works usually for aesthetic reasons i.e. reshaping crown.

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General Tree Assessment (Summary)

Tree Ref	Species	H (m)	Spr (m)	Maturity	Condition	Action Recommendations	Hours	Priority	Done	Inspected
T950	Common Alder	16	6	SM	Poor	Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps		6 Months	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Both stems large cavities at base.										
T960	Common Ash	9	4	SM	Poor	Fell :: Fell to ground level		6 Months	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Fell group of roadside ash with varying stages of ash dieback - approx. 9 trees 9-15m in height, including 1 ash leaning over road. This area is not accessible but other trees in this area are a minimum of 10 metres from the roadside.										

Age Classification:										
	NP	Newly planted	EM	Early Mature	Condition:			Overall unless specified as -	C	Crown
	Y	Young	M	Mature					S	Stem
	SM	Semi-mature	OM	Over Mature					B	Basal area

Report selection criteria.

Projects.

Cwmnantlwyd Road

Date Range.

Any Date

---->

----> 1 year

----> 6 Months

Work types.

----> Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps

----> Coppice :: To 2.0m stumps

----> Fell :: Fell to ground level

----> No action :: No action

Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.

----> Last survey for each selected tree.

Work Completed.

----> Work Completed

----> Work Not Completed

Number of trees in selected Project(s)

28

Number of trees in Report selection

2

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General Tree Assessment (Summary)

Tree Ref	Species	H (m)	Spr (m)	Maturity	Condition	Action Recommendations	Hours	Priority	Done	Inspected
T936	Goat Willow	11	4	SM	Fair	Coppice :: To 2.0m stumps		1 year	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Pronounced lean to north; leaning on roadside hazel; branch tips over roadside have incurred vehicle damage.										
T939	Goat Willow	15	7	M	Fair	Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps		1 year	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Outgrown hedgerow coppice; one stem has split and is leaning away from road; weak fork at stem break.										
T948	Common Alder	18	7	M	Fair	Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps		1 year	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Large cavity at base west side; small cavity at 1m in stem east side.										

Age Classification:		Condition:		Overall unless specified as -	Crown	Stem	Basal area
NP	Newly planted	EM	Early Mature				
Y	Young	M	Mature				
SM	Semi-mature	OM	Over Mature				

Report selection criteria.

Projects.

Cwmnantliwyd Road

Date Range.

Any Date

---->

----> 1 year

----> 6 Months

Work types.

----> Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps

----> Coppice :: To 2.0m stumps

----> Fell :: Fell to ground level

----> No action :: No action

Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.

----> Last survey for each selected tree.

Work Completed.

----> Work Completed

----> Work Not Completed

Number of trees in selected Project(s) 28

Number of trees in Report selection 3

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General Tree Assessment (Summary)

Tree Ref	Species	H (m)	Spr (m)	Maturity	Condition	Action Recommendations	Hours	Priority	Done	Inspected
T933	Common Ash	16	7	SM	Poor	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Minor bark wound at 1m north side; minor deadwood in lower crown; Stage 3 ash dieback (50-74% of crown dead).										
T934	Goat Willow	6	3	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Outgrown hedgerow coppice.										
T935	Common Ash	10	3	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T936	Goat Willow	11	4	SM	Fair	Coppice :: To 2.0m stumps		1 year	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Pronounced lean to north; leaning on roadside hazel; branch tips over roadside have incurred vehicle damage.										
T937	Goat Willow	11	5	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Large bark wound to 1m on west side of stem.										
T938	Sycamore	14	6	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stem bifurcated at 1.5m.										
Age Classification:										
NP Newly planted		EM Early Mature		Condition:		Overall unless specified as -		C Crown		
Y Young		M Mature						S Stem		
SM Semi-mature		OM Over Mature						B Basal area		

Tree Ref	Species	H (m)	Spr (m)	Maturity	Condition	Action Recommendations	Hours	Priority	Done	Inspected
T939	Goat Willow	15	7	M	Fair	Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps		1 year	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Outgrown hedgerow coppice; one stem has split and is leaning away from road; weak fork at stem break.										
T940	Goat Willow	12	7	M	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T941	Common Alder	16	6	SM	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: West stem split and leaning back into woodland.										
T942	Common Ash	12	4	SM	Poor	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stage 2 ash dieback (25-49% of crown dead).										
T943	Common Oak	10	7	Y	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Suppressed; asymmetrical crown weighted to north.										
T944	Common Ash	18	7	SM	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stage 2 ash dieback (25-49% of crown dead).										
T945	Common Hazel	7	4	M	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T946	Common Hawthorn	7	4	Y	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Suppressed; ivy covered; leaning to north.										
T947	Common Alder	12	5	SM	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
Age Classification: NP Newly planted EM Early Mature Y Young M Mature SM Semi-mature OM Over Mature										
Condition: Overall unless specified as - C Crown S Stem B Basal area										

Tree Ref	Species	H (m)	Spr (m)	Maturity	Condition	Action Recommendations	Hours	Priority	Done	Inspected
T948	Common Alder	18	7	M	Fair	Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps		1 year	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Large cavity at base west side; small cavity at 1m in stem east side.										
T949	Common Alder	17	6	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T950	Common Alder	16	6	SM	Poor	Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps	6 Months		No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Both stems large cavities at base.										
T951	Common Alder	12	6	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T952	Common Ash	11	5	SM	Poor	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stage 3 ash dieback (50-74% of crown dead) - not within falling distance of road.										
T953	Common Holly	11	3	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T954	Common Alder	9	5	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T955	Common Ash	17	7	SM	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stage 1 ash dieback (1-24% of crown dead).										
T956	Common Ash	10	3	SM	Poor	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stage 1 ash dieback (1-24% of crown dead); suppressed.										
Age Classification: NP Newly planted EM Early Mature Y Young M Mature SM Semi-mature OM Over Mature Condition: Overall unless specified as - C Crown S Stem B Basal area										

Tree Ref	Species	H (m)	Spr (m)	Maturity	Condition	Action Recommendations	Hours	Priority	Done	Inspected
T957	Sycamore	13	5	SM	Good	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment:										
T958	Common Alder	15	6	M	Fair	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Fence wire embedded in stem; minor dieback in crown.										
T959	Common Ash	18	7	SM	Poor	No action :: No action			No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Stage 2 ash dieback (25-49% of crown dead).										
T960	Common Ash	9	4	SM	Poor	Fell :: Fell to ground level		6 Months	No	11-Jul-24
Comment: Fell group of roadside ash with varying stages of ash dieback - approx. 9 trees 9-15m in height, including 1 ash leaning over road. This area is not accessible but other trees in this area are a minimum of 10 metres from the roadside.										

Report selection criteria.

Projects.

Cwmnantliwyd Road

Date Range.

Any Date

--->
---> 1 year
---> 6 Months

Work types.

---> Coppice :: To 1.5m stumps
---> Coppice :: To 2.0m stumps
---> Fell :: Fell to ground level
---> No action :: No action

Latest Survey.

All surveys for the selected trees.
---> Last survey for each selected tree.

Work Completed.

---> Work Completed
---> Work Not Completed

Number of trees in selected Project(s)

28

Number of trees in Report selection

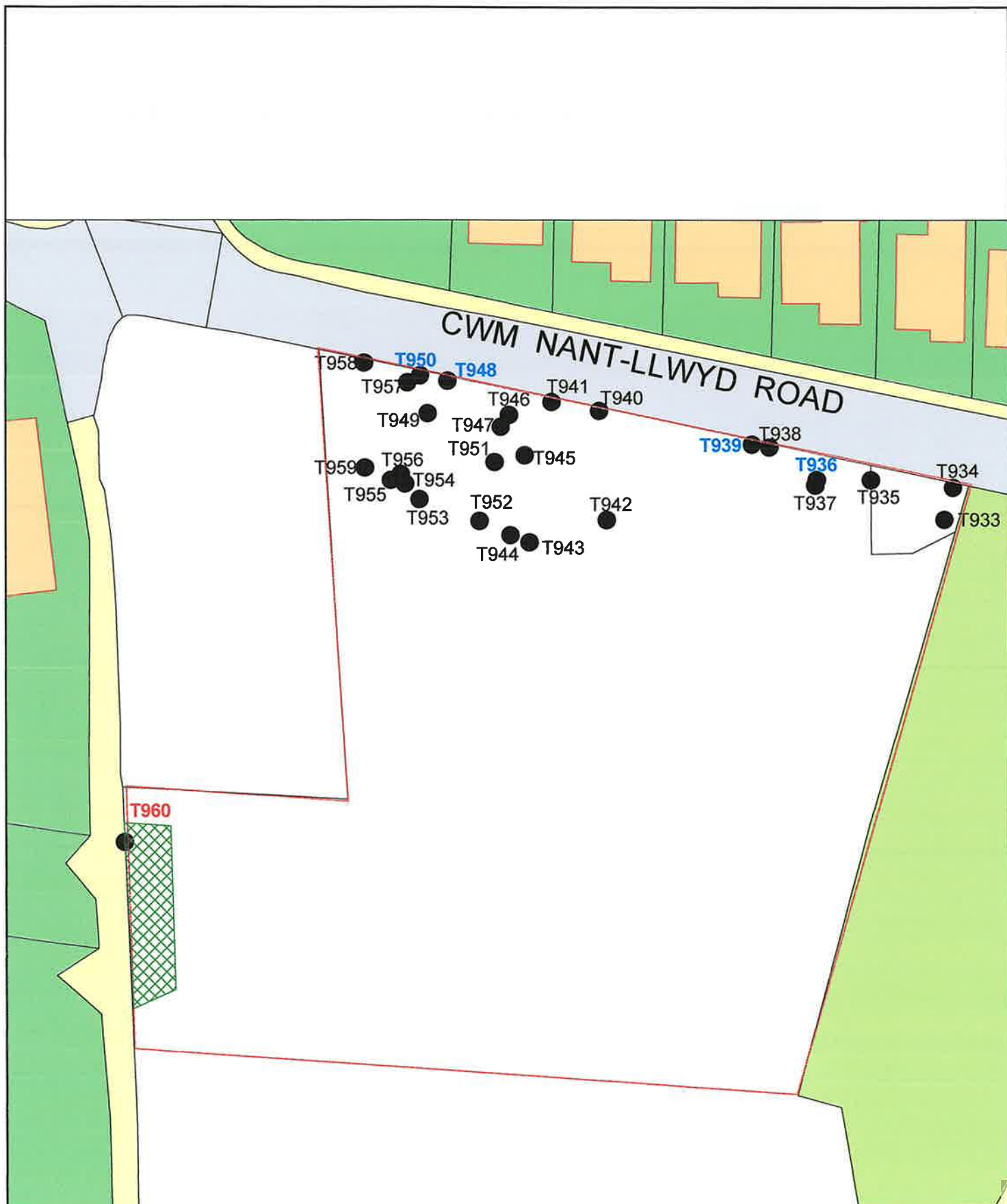
28



12th July 2024

Cwmnantllwyd Road

II. Site Plan



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RTAC

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 07823332279 info@rtactrees.co.uk

Cwmnantllwyd Road Trees

SCALE :
 1 : 500 @ A4

DATE :
 12/07/2024

MAP FILENAME :
 [Filename]



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III. Photographs



Cwmnantllwyd Road looking east



T936



T939



T948

12th July 2024

Cwmnantllwyd Road



T950



Ash group T960

IV. Qualifications

Qualifications:

AA Technicians Certificate 2009
BSc. Heritage Conservation 2ii
Professional Tree Inspection 2024
Electrical Arboriculture Units 1 and 2a
NVQ Level 2 Environmental Conservation
NPTC CS 30, 31, 39, climb trees and perform aerial rescue

CPD:

Bats and Arboriculture: A Practitioner's guide
BS 5837:2012. Tree Surveying and Categorisation
Subsidence 1-day workshop
Assessment of Tree Forks: Assessment of Junctions for Risk Management

V. Bibliography

Manual of Wood Decays in Trees (2003) Weber & Mattheck; The Arboricultural Association.

The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedgerows (2002) Mynors; Sweet and Maxwell, London.

Diagnosis of Ill-health in Trees (1994) Strouts and Winter; TSO.

British Standard 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work UK; British Standards Institution.

The body language of trees (1994) Mattheck & Breloer; TSO.

Principles of tree hazard assessment and management (1999) Lonsdale; Forestry Commission.

Complete field guide to the Trees of Britain & Europe (2004) Johnson & More; Collins.

Assessment of Tree Forks: Assessment of Junctions for Risk Management (2016) Slater in association with Myerscough College; The Arboricultural Association.