

Combined Arboricultural Impact Assessment/ Method Statement Land Between 2-11 Neath Road Fforestgoch SA8 3JB



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Introduction

This assessment was undertaken by Ben Clark, Arboricultural Consultant, and Director at Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd. with over 9 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.

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 by Richard Banks of Evans Banks Planning to carry out an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement at Land Between 2 and 11 Neath Road, Fforestgoch. The purpose of this report is as follows:

- To quantify any tree losses required to make way for the proposed development.
- To quantify and prescribe any pruning works required to make way for the proposed development.
- To assess the impact that the proposed development may have on retained trees on site and to provide control measures to prevent or minimize damage to retained trees.
- To consider whether design changes could prevent or reduce tree losses on site, and whether such changes are reasonable and proportional to the retention value of affected trees.
- To provide recommendations for mitigating tree losses where appropriate.

Baseline

This report was based on the findings outlined in our baseline report: BS5837 Tree Survey and Categorisation Report at Land Between 2-11 Neath Rad Tree Check 2024.

The following information was available:

- 543- 2 Neath Road Topographical Survey- Davies Land Surveyors (2024)
- A101- Site Layout Plan- N E Designs (2024)

It should be noted that this assessment is based on tree locations as recorded in the base line survey relative to the proposed design layout. These tree locations were plotted using tree locations on the topo if available, and GPS, satellite and known features on site. In any case there exists potential for inaccuracies in the locations of trees relative to the development.

The site was visited on the 19-Oct-2024 during overcast but dry weather conditions considered favourable for this type of survey.

Interpretation

See [appendix v](#) for a glossary of the terms commonly used in tree reports.

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 [Table 1](#) in the appendices of this report 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.

Root protections areas are shown as orange circles or polygons for all trees except those with a retention category of U in the Tree Constraints Plan. In the Tree Loss/Retention and Protection Plan, RPA's are not shown for trees proposed for removal to make way for development.

Tree and Group Prefixes

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,

Arboricultural Impact Assessment/Method Statement

1. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

The site is not within a Conservation Area, as indicated by the Neath Port Talbot County Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) mapping data ^[2]. However, in the absence of available Tree Preservation Order (TPO) information the client is advised to verify this with the council before proceeding with any tree-related works.

2. Project Arboriculturalist

A project arboriculturalist must be appointed to oversee certain aspects of the work and to provide consultation should the design or site conditions change in a way that produces unexpected conflict between retained trees and the development.

The project arboriculturalist must sign off the following before works can begin on site:

- The correct installation of tree protective fencing and its positioning relative to retained trees.

3. Tree Removal

No removal of trees with a stem diameter >75mm at 1.5m above ground level (the minimum size for consideration as per BS5837) are to be removed to make way for the proposed design layout.

4. Pruning Works

No pruning works are proposed to make way for the proposed design layout.

5. Construction Exclusion Zones

All trees on site can be segregated from the proposed works within construction exclusion zones for the entirety of the development, with no requirement for access into their root protection or crown areas, and no conflict between the proposed layout of site and their above or below ground structures:

All trees will be segregated, from the development area by the installation of physical barriers as outlined below:

5.1. Method for Establishing Construction Exclusion Zones

- By maintaining a construction exclusion zone, with tree protective barrier fencing segregating retained trees from the rest of site, physical damage, both mechanical and related to soil compaction can be avoided.
- Tree protective barrier fencing must be installed in the configuration outlined in the [Tree Protection Plan](#).
- The crowns and root protection areas (having been measured and marked out on site) of all trees must be enclosed within the tree protective fencing. If more space is needed than the current crown extents allow, the project arboriculturalist must be consulted in order to arrange appropriate pruning measures.
- The alternative, lightweight level of tree protective fencing is recommended for this project as prescribed in BS5837 and shown in [Appendix iv](#) due to the lower volumes of expected site traffic, tight nature of the site and the small scale of the proposed works.
- Machine operators are to be briefed on positioning their equipment to avoid contact with branches from retained trees and the root protection zones.
- No materials are to be stored within the RPAs of trees for any period of time, including in areas of caution.
- All RPAs are to be checked on site and marked out, measured based on the RPA radius shown in the tree schedule.

6. Tree Locations

Consideration of the potential impact of development on proposed trees is based on the location of trees (as plotted in the baseline survey) relative to the proposed layout provided by the clients. Due to the potential for inaccuracies and discrepancies between drawings and realities on site, the site manager or project

arboriculturalist must mark out root protection areas and the extents of proposed structures on site to verify the following:

- Unless otherwise accounted for in this report, there is sufficient space on site for the crowns and RPAs of all trees on site (based on their RPA radius shown in the tree schedule) to be fenced off for the duration of works.
- Where this report specifies that RPAs or tree crowns will be encroached upon, the actual on-site distances between trees and the conflicting features must be measured and verified to ensure they match the figures stated in this report.

If discrepancies exist, the project arboriculturalist is to be informed, so that updated assessments can be made.

7. Impact Through Chemical Damage

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

The following trees are at significant risk of chemical damage during development works and the methodology outlined below must be followed in order to prevent such incidents from occurring:

- | | |
|------|------|
| • G2 | • T1 |
| • G3 | • T2 |
| • H1 | |

7.1. Method for the Control of Chemicals Potentially Harmful to Trees

- Materials that may have an adverse effect on the health of trees will not be stored or transported within the RPA. E.g., oil, bitumen, cement, and concrete.
- Concrete and cement will not be mixed within 10m of the base of trees.
- Cement and concrete will be mixed downhill from the base of trees or watercourses to avoid the risk of contamination to runoff.
- Where it is not possible to mix and store concrete downhill from trees and watercourses, sediment barriers will be used to prevent runoff from storage and mixing areas.

8. Impact of Retained Trees on the Proposed Structure

8.1. Shading Issues

The frontage and the rear of the properties face the west and east respectively, the west is clear of trees that may cause shading on living spaces, while trees to the east are >50m away from the rear of the proposed properties, therefore unlikely to lead to morning shading severe enough to increase pressure for the removal of these trees.

The main source of shading is likely to come from the T2 and G1 to the south of the proposed properties, with the other trees in this area being below 8m in height. These trees have the potential to cause intermittent shading during mid-morning, though this effect is likely to be negligible during the summertime to minor in the winter months.

8.2. Method for Minimizing the Effects of Shading on Proposed Living Spaces

- The internal layout of the proposed houses should be designed so that high use living spaces face the eastern and western sides of the plots in order to maximise sunlight penetration during the winter months.
- Outdoor seating areas such as patios and decking (if proposed) should be placed to the north of the garden plots.

8.3. Perceived Threat of Damage to Property Through Tree Failure

The threat of tree failure causing injury or damage to property can cause anxiety for residents and increase pressure for removal of trees in close proximity to living spaces or other high use areas.

Most trees on site are unlikely to cause a perceived threat of damage to the property or site users due to their distance from the proposed living spaces or small size, with T2 being the only notable exception.

- Detailed tree inspections to be carried out on all trees within striking distance of living areas to be carried out every 18-24 months.
- Findings and recommendations of all tree inspections to be communicated clearly to residents and site users.
- All recommendations provided in tree safety inspections are to be carried out, with an emphasis on proactive tree management.

8.4. 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.
- If soil testing reveals a high level of plasticity, consult a suitably qualified arboriculturalist to work alongside project engineers to determine necessary foundation depths in accordance with NHBC Chapter 4.2.
- The removal of mature trees prior to development in an attempt to prevent subsidence issues is not generally advisable as it may lead to heave, causing damage to built structures.

9. Drainage and SUDS

Soakaways are proposed to accommodate runoff from the proposed structures to the east of site. Due to the topography of site, this water is likely to flow southwest towards the following trees:

- T3
- T4
- T5
- T6
- Parts of G2

The above trees and groups include the following species:

- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) – intolerant of waterlogged soils.
- Common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)- intolerant of waterlogged soil.
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)- intolerant of waterlogged soil.
- Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)- relatively tolerant of damper soils.
- Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) -relatively tolerant of damper soils.

However, the proposed hedgerow and new trees between the soakaways and retained trees is likely to slow the flow of water in this direction, reducing the risk of waterlogging. Furthermore, the poor drainage characteristics of local soils, and the proximity of site to the river Clydach, means that current waterflow in this direction is already present, and these trees may already experience seasonal waterlogging, the risk of which won't be greatly increased by the addition of soakaways.

9.1. Method for Attenuation Areas and Soakaways with the Potential to Influence Moisture in RPA's

- Proposed tree planting must include species tolerant to wet ground conditions ([see section 10](#)).
- Tree condition surveys are to be carried out every 2 years for 4 years following development to check for signs of waterlogging damage such as physiological decline and surface root exposure.
- The project arboriculturalist is to devise mitigation measures such as intercepting drainage if evidence of waterlogging damage is observed in subsequent inspections.

10. Landscaping

10.1. Tree Planting

No tree losses are proposed on site and as such no mitigation planting is required, however the proposed design layout includes four new trees and approximately 50m of new hedgerow planting.

10.1.1. Method for Tree Planting

- The following native species are recommended based on location and soil type:
 - Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)
 - Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*)
 - Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)
 - Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
 - Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
 - Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Planting pits are to be excavated on the same day as planting, pre-preparing pits days before planting is not appropriate as this will lead to drying out of planting pits.
- Planting pits are to be excavated as a square, large enough to accommodate the entire root ball without distorting or compressing roots, but small enough so that the tree fits snugly, to encourage the roots to become established outside of the planting pit without encircling the outside of the pit.
- The edge of the planting pit is to be scarified, removing the smooth surface created by the spade during excavation, in order to encourage root establishment outside of the planting pit.
- Trees are to be placed in the pre-prepared planting pits, ensuring it is at the correct depth ensuring all roots are below ground level, but the root flares at the base of the tree are above ground.
- Planting pits are to be backfilled with soil, ensuring there are no air pockets. Water the tree to field capacity after planting.
- Stakes or guy wires are to be employed to stabilize the tree until it re-establishes, ensuring supports are not too tight and allow for some movement to allow development of stem taper.
- Mulch is to be applied to a depth of 50mm over an area 12 times the stem diameter of the transplanted tree, avoiding the accumulation of mulch on the base.
- Ground around the trees to be irrigated to field capacity weekly in the first year after translocation and throughout the summer months during periods of dry weather for 3 years after planting.
- Annual inspection schedule to be implemented to monitor the trees for signs of stress, disease, or pest infestation, enabling adjustments to the support and watering regimes as necessary as well as prescribing any necessary pruning or pest control measures.
- Continue regular inspections and maintenance. Remove supports once the tree is stable and well-established.

10.2. Turfing

Proposed turf in the rear garden is situated outside of the RPA and crown areas of retained trees, leaving a natural edge where the gardens interact with the peripheral tree cover. As such, impact from turfing on retained trees is expected to be negligible.

11. Conclusion

The proposed layout is designed in a way that avoids any conflict with the pre-existing trees on site, all of which can be retained and segregated from the construction zone for the duration. No pruning or tree removal is required to accommodate design and the impact of retained trees on the proposed properties is expected to be negligible. Despite the introduction of soakaways, pre-existing topography and proximity to the river mean there is unlikely to be a meaningful increase to the risk of waterlogging damage to retained trees.

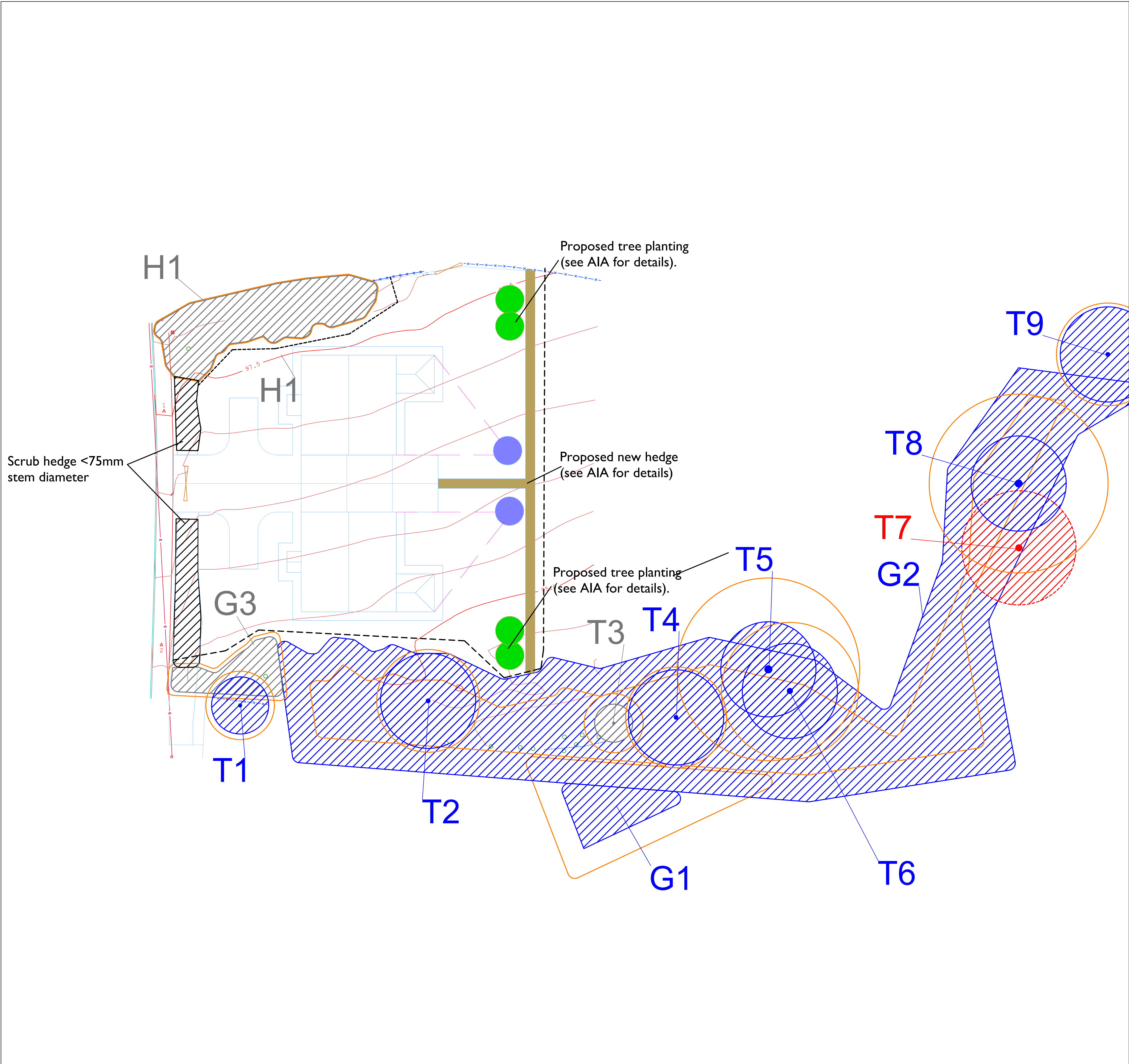
Appendix

Appendix i: Tree protection/loss/retention plan showing the location of trees, their root protection areas and their retention category in relation to the proposed development.

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

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

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



Ref	Tag	Species	Height	Stem Diam (mm)	Life Stage	Life Expectancy	Retention Category	RPA Area (m²)	RPA Radius (m)
G1	N/A	Western red cedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)	15	460	M	10-20	B2	96	5.5
G2	N/A	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), Common hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Common holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	6	100	M	10-20	B2	4.5	1.2
G3	704	Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)	5	200	Y	10-20	C2	18	2.4
H1	N/A	Common holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), Common hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)	4	90	EM	10-20	C2	3.7	1.1
T1	N/A	Paper birch (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>)	6	300	EM	10-20	B2	41	3.6
T2	716	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	13	450	M	20-40	B2	92	5.4
T3	717	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	11	260	M	10-20	C2	31	3.1
T4	718	Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.)	13	440	M	20-40	B2	88	5.3
T5	719	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	15	800	M	20-40	B2	290	9.6
T6	710	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	14	600	M	20-40	B2	163	7.2
T7	702	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	15	700	M	<10	U	0	0
T8	703	Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	13	780	M	20-40	B2	275	9.4
T9	N/A	Common alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)	10	450	M	10-20	B2	92	5.4

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 Retention and Protection Plan	
2 Neath Road	
1:400 at A4	
Client	Mr Jeffrey Bevan
Survey Code	24159
Drawn by	BC
Surveyed by	JC
Date	06/03/2025



Tree Check
Arboriculture Ltd.

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

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

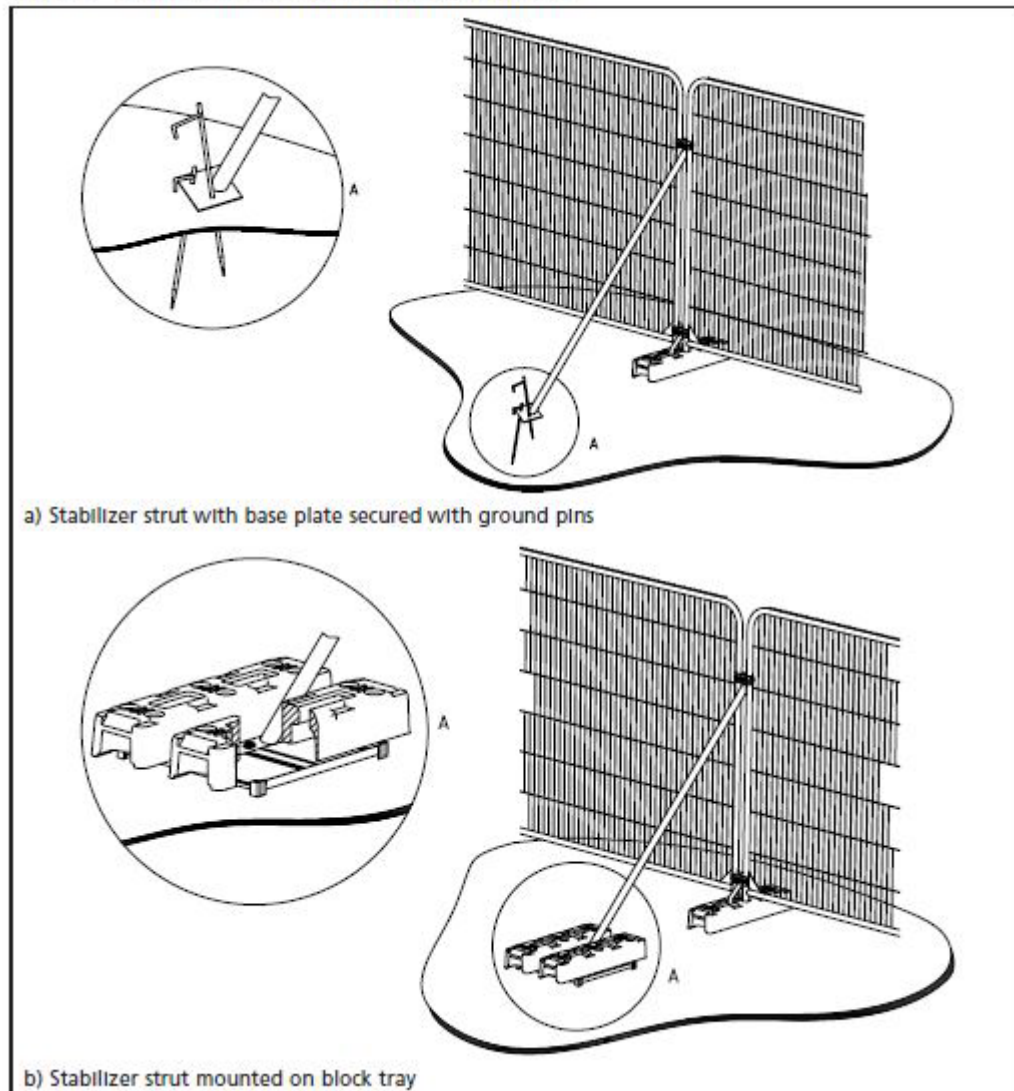
Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

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 iii: Recommended Configuration for Tree Protective Fencing (BS5837)

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



Appendix iv: 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.

Anchorages; 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.

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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 04/10/2023. 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