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**BS5837:2012 Tree Survey & Arboricultural
Constraints Report**

**Visitor Arrival Centre
Margam Country Park**

**W3W : rebounder.wing.plump
(Centre of existing building)**

January 2026

**Client: Wayne Curtis, Operations Manager,
Margam Country Park**

Consultant / Surveyor: Nick Thomas - The Arb Team

Tree Survey &
Arboricultural Constraints Report
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Site plan(s) showing the position of the schedule trees with their colour coded BS category and the root protection areas.

Images / Photographic evidence (3)

Terms & Conditions

Section 1. Introduction

1.1 On the instructions of Mr Wayne Curtis the following tree report has been prepared for the redevelopment of the country parks main gatehouse. The instructions were to survey the trees in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction and provide a report on the impact of the development on the trees. As shown on the attached site and tree location plan a total of fourteen individual trees were the only trees that were inspected for this report.

1.2 The details of the trees are listed in the tree schedule and the terms used in the schedule with their definitions are listed in Appendix 1. Further information is available via the Tree Terms website which can be accessed via the www address listed in the references section.

1.3 Only the features apparent at the time of the inspection could be considered and no liability can be accepted regarding trees or their parts that were inaccessible or obscured in part or in whole. It has to be emphasised that although the health and safety of the trees is part of the assessment methodology used, this report is only intended for planning purposes, therefore it should not be construed as an assessment of tree safety. As part of this study faults may be identified and recorded but it remains the land owners / clients responsibility to take the appropriate action. The assessor / surveyor can accept no liability for damage or injury sustained as a result of the failure of any tree or its parts.

1.4 The following documents and plans were provided by the client.

- A - 1333-01 Location plan
- A - 1333-02 Existing site
- A- 1333-03 Proposed site
- A - 1333-04 Existing plan and elevations
- A - 1333-05 Proposed plan and elevations
- A - 1333-06 Proposed sections
- A - 1333-07 3D Images
- A - 1333-08 Biodiversity
- F09 Drawing register sheet

1.5 This report does not provide information on any conflicts between existing tree roots and buildings or infrastructure.

1.6 This report has been issued as a single PDF file. The tree location and root protection plan may need to be printed independently to evaluate and consider any difference in its size and orientation to the report's standard A4 format.

Section 2. Inspection and General Observations.

2.1 The tree survey was completed on the 22nd January 2026 and was undertaken from ground level with no climbing inspections involved. The weather conditions during the survey were overcast with frequent showers of rain.

2.2 The proposed development involves the demolition of the existing gatehouse building and the construction of a new visitor arrival centre. The site is relatively level and in addition to the existing building there are tarmac access roads, consolidated crushed stone footpaths and grass areas.

2.3 The only influencing factor on the trees root expansion and morphology is from the car parking area, tarmac access road and crushed stone footpaths. Due to the inhospitable rooting zone beneath the crushed stone footpaths and limited work of regrading the infringement into the root protection areas of trees 162 and 169 will not have a major effect on their future health.

2.4 No information has been received regarding any legal constraints on the trees such as tree preservation orders.

2.5 For identification purposes the trees are plotted on the site plan as 161 to 174.

2.6 The fourteen trees have been individually tagged. The tags have been fixed on the main stems southern side at approximately two metres above ground level

2.7 The quality rating for the trees affecting this site are summarised as follows.

TABLE A

BS5837 Quality category	Total number of individual trees surveyed	Total number of tree groups surveyed	Total number of woodlands surveyed	Total number of hedges surveyed	Total
A	1	0	0	0	1
B	9	0	0	0	9
C	3	0	0	0	3

U	1	0	0	0	1
Total A,B,C,U	14	0	0	0	14

2.8 Soil assessment. The site's soil was assessed by desktop analysis using the Soilsclapes website, www.landis.org.uk/soilsclapes/, which identified freely draining, slightly acidic, loamy soils.

This soil assessment should only be used as a general guide and the project engineer should undertake a detailed on site soil analysis for the foundation calculations and specifications.

Section 3. Tree and root protection area schedules.

TABLE B

Tree no.	Species	Ht. (m)	Stem dia. (cms)	Age	Crown spread (m)				Low branches	Cat.	Notes
					N	E	S	W			
161	Oak	15.0	87	EM	9.0	9.8	9.1	7.7	2.0	B1	An open grown spreading form with numerous cavities on the main stem and scaffold branches. Deadwood in the inner crown.
162	Oak	8.0	30	SM	4.7	5.1	4.6	4.1	2.0	A1	A well balanced form.
163	Cherry	10.0	41	EM	3.0	5.0	4.3	4.4	2.5	B2	This tree is bordering the B / C category with a poor form and a fork with included bark at 3 metres above ground level. There is also a girdling root at the base of the main stem.
164	Cherry	11.0	37	EM	6.4	3.2	5.1	4.8	2.5	B2	A well balanced form.
165	Cherry	10.0	38	EM	4.2	8.1	2.2	2.6	2.5	B2	An asymmetric form with a lean to the east.
166	Cherry	13.0	41	EM	3.4	4.5	2.7	3.0	4.0	B2	Numerous girdling roots on the buttress roots.
167	Cherry	13.0	49	EM	7.5	7.4	2.9	2.6	2.5	B2	Poor form.
168	Cherry	10.0	41	EM	6.4	3.0	3.6	3.0	2.5	B2	A well balanced form.
169	Rowan	9.0	17	SM	3.8	1.0	1.0	3.5	2.5	C2	An asymmetric crown due to suppression from tree 170.

170	Field Maple	8.0	27	SM	5.6	3.7	3.4	6.0	2.0	B2	NC
171	Ash	10.0	28	SM	4.2	0.0	5.2	6.0	1.6	C2	A poor form with an asymmetric crown. Monitor annually for Chalara Ash dieback disease.
172	Ash	12.0	23	SM	1.9	1.5	2.6	3.0	3.5	C2	Monitor annually for Chalara Ash dieback disease.
173	Ash	13.0	40	EM	6.2	6.1	1.6	2.9	2.5	U	Infected with Chalara dieback disease. Remove tree.
174	Ash	13.0	54	EM	1.8	8.8	8.0	2.8	1.5	B2	A poor form with an asymmetric crown. Deadwood in the lower crown. Monitor annually for Chalara Ash dieback disease.

TABLE C

Tree no.	Species	Mean stem dia. (cms)	RPA 1 (m2)	Minimum radial protection (m)		Justification for RPA modification	Position of protective barrier
				RPA 2	Modified		
161	Oak	87	346	10.5	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
162*	Oak	30	41	3.6	Yes	Regrading of the existing consolidated gravel path.	As shown on the tree survey plan. Offset to the south and significantly below the recommended maximum infringement of 20% of the total root protection area.
163	Cherry	41	75	4.9	Yes	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan. Offset to the north.
164	Cherry	37	64	4.5	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
165	Cherry	38	66	4.6	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.

166	Cherry	41	75	4.9	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
167	Cherry	49	109	5.9	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
168	Cherry	41	75	4.9	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
169*	Rowan	17	14	2.1	No	Regrading of the existing consolidated gravel path.	As shown on the tree survey plan. Offset to the south and significantly below the recommended maximum infringement of 20% of the total root protection area.
170*	Field Maple	27	34	3.3	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan. Offset to the south and significantly below the recommended maximum infringement of 20% of the total root protection area.
171	Ash	28	36	3.4	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
172	Ash	23	25	2.8	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.
173	Ash	40	72	4.8	No	NA	Due to its condition this tree requires removal.
174	Ash	54	133	6.5	No	NA	As shown on the tree survey plan.

NA - Not applicable NC - No comment

Section 4. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

4.1 This section will assess the implications, if any, that the proposed development will have on the fourteen individual trees listed in the tree schedule and provide advice on arboricultural actions that will mitigate any impact resulting from the proposed development.

4.2 This information can then be used to evaluate the impact of the development on the tree(s) and if any remedial measures are required.

4.3 Please note that Table D of the AIA has been evaluated for the design, construction and post development phases and on the site layout that has been provided at the time that this report was drafted. Any design changes after this time may require an amendment of the AIA.

TABLE D	Issues	Observations	Impact
<i>Design phase</i>	Category A	There is one tree - 162 in this category. If the root protection barrier is erected in the recommended position it will be adequately protected.	
	Category B	There are nine trees - 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170 and 174 in this category. If the root protection barrier is erected in the recommended position all nine trees will be adequately protected. Due to the existing footpath the root protection areas of trees 163 and 170 will require offsetting.	
	Category C	There are three trees - 169, 171 and 172 in this category. The root protection area of 169 will require offsetting but if the root protection barrier is erected in the recommended position the three trees will be adequately protected.	
	Category U	There is one Ash tree - 173 in this category which due to disease infection and the resulting crown dieback will require removal.	
	Structures in RPA	There are no structures within the trees RPA's.	
	Services in RPA	At the present time there is no information on any services within the RPA's of the retained trees. Any incursions into the RPA's will be avoided.	
	Changes to existing ground levels	Any changes to the existing ground levels within the standard or offset RPA's will be avoided. As shown in Table C the root protection areas of trees 169 and 170 will require offsetting but are within acceptable limits.	
<i>Construction phase</i>	Demolition	Any incursions into the RPA's during the demolition of the existing building will be	

		avoided.	
	Site access	Existing site access is to be used.	
	Working areas	There are adequate working areas.	
	Site office, storage and welfare unit.	There is adequate space for these facilities.	
	Vehicle parking	Site parking is available.	
<i>Post development</i>	Tree pruning / maintenance	Standard periodic maintenance will be required on the retained trees.	
	Tree roots	Root growth is a low risk to the new property and associated infrastructure.	
	Shading / periodic nuisance	Due to the location of the new building and the location and size of the trees there will be very little shading from the adjacent trees. Falling leaves and debris have the potential to be a nuisance but general maintenance will prevent it from becoming a major issue.	

KEY - Prior to any mitigation measures

	No impact from development and no mitigation measures required.
	Some impact which will require mitigation measures.
	Low impact which may require mitigation measures.
	High impact which will require an amended design or tree removal.

4.4 Where there is any RPA infringement by the proposed development the trees in Table C have been marked with an asterisk (*). To prevent any soil compaction and root damage to the retained trees the ground protection guidance in Appendix 3 must be followed. It should be noted that any offsetting of the RPA should only be undertaken if there are no alternatives and any offsetting must be limited to one side of the RPA and not exceed 20% of the total RPA radius. Where offsetting is proposed the square metres shown in the column RPA 1 in Table C should be increased.

In addition to the required working practices in Appendix 3 any excessive infringement into a RPA will need to be constructed on a cellular confinement system as specified in the Arboricultural Associations Guidance Note 12 - *The use of cellular confinement systems near trees*. Further information on the installation of cellular confinement systems is available in Appendix 3 of this report.

Section 5. Recommendations.

5.1 To protect the trees root protection areas prior to any ground or construction work protective fencing as shown in Appendix 2 must be erected at an adequate distance from the trees. The minimum distances between the base of the main stem and the fencing are shown in Section 3, Table C under the RPA 2 column.

After consultation and agreement with the local planning authority if the fence cannot be erected at the recommended distance from the tree it should be erected at the maximum distance possible and ground protection measures as stated in Appendix 3 must be implemented. When the protective fencing and ground protection has been installed weather resistant signs displaying wording such as **TREE PROTECTION AREA - NO UNAUTHORISED ACCESS** should be attached to the protective fencing. To ensure their prominence and visibility these signs must be adequate in number and spaced at suitable and regular locations.

5.2 Any required tree removal or pruning should be undertaken prior to the start of any ground or construction work.

5.3 The condition of the retained trees on this site are in the B and C category. When the development is completed it would be advisable if the trees are inspected and evaluated for their general health and condition and reinspected every two years thereafter.

5.4 All tree work must be completed by suitably qualified and competent arborists in accordance with the guidelines in BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations and current good practice.

5.5 No burning of waste products must be undertaken in the vicinity of retained trees. No fires should be lit where the heat could damage any part of the tree above or below ground level. If a fire is necessary wind direction and the size of the fire should be considered. The fire must not be left unattended at any time and must be fully extinguished prior to leaving the site.

5.6 No items such as site notices or service cables should be attached to any retained tree.

5.7 To minimise any ground disturbance the removal of all stumps within the RPA's of retained trees must be undertaken by a stump grinder. Adequate ground protection with the use of bog mats to prevent soil compaction is usually required.

5.8 Soil contamination from cement mixing and washing should be avoided across the entire site. The RPA must be adequately protected from any material such as cement washings and fuels that could contaminate the soil. If due to the topography of the land there is a risk of any contamination entering the RPA's and vicinity of retained trees adequate precautions to contain all pollution e.g. heavy duty plastic sheeting and sand bags, must be implemented. To prevent any harmful materials seeping towards the RPA the topography of the land should be evaluated and taken into consideration.

5.9 Prior to any tree work the structure of the individual trees and surrounding area should be checked by a suitably competent and qualified person for protected species such as nesting birds and bats. If possible all tree work operations should be undertaken when the minimum disturbance is caused to the local wildlife.

5.10 The construction of new footpaths, parking and/or turning areas within root protection zones should be avoided. If this is unavoidable any works within these zones will require the installation of a cellular confinement system. It would be advisable to obtain the advice of a suitably qualified arborist prior to this type of work.

5.11 During the installation of utilities the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Volume 4 guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees must be followed at all times.

5.12 To replace tree 173 on completion of the development it would be beneficial to the site and surrounding area if three new trees are planted. Suitable species would be two Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and one Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

Section 6. Arboricultural method statement

The following section provides the sequence for the required actions.

Phase 1: Preconstruction

- The site is designed around the retained trees. This design stage must include the identification for office and site storage during the construction work.
- All required tree work operations are undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010
- As in 5.1 and Appendix 2 of this report tree protection fencing is installed around all the retained trees.
- Site office, storage and welfare units are installed.
- The arboriculturist for the project inspects the site to confirm that all tree protection work has been undertaken in accordance with this report. All inspections will be adequately recorded e.g. date, time, observations.

Phase 2: Construction

- Site supervisor to be briefed by the project arboriculturist regarding the required tree protection measures e.g. tree protection plan, method statement.
- Prior to the start of any site work all site staff and subcontractors to be adequately briefed on the tree protection measures in particular the importance of the RPA and the protective fencing.
- Construction work commences.
- General working practices across the entire site should consider the risk of soil contamination, fires and the use of large machinery such as cranes in the vicinity of retained trees.
- Any unforeseen events that may affect retained trees are discussed with the project arborist and the local planning authority. Any alteration to the tree protection plan will require written authorisation from the LPA.

Phase 3: Post construction

- Tree protection fencing is removed.

- Hard and soft landscaping is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations in BS5837:2012
- Any required tree remedial work is undertaken e.g. application of mulches.

TABLE E - KEY CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
LPA Tree / Arboricultural Officer	Nick Timlin Neath Port Talbot CBC	01639 686868 (General enquiry number)
Arboricultural Consultant	Nick Thomas The Arb Team	01792 885184 nick@thearbteam.co.uk
Architect	Tim Edwards Neath Port Talbot CBC	07949 411502
Main Contractor	TBC	TBC

Section 7. Conclusion

7.1 One U category tree requires removal. The remaining thirteen trees can be retained. There is a large area of surrounding land that can be utilised for additional tree planting.

7.2 If the recommendations and guidance in BS5837:2012 and this report are followed due to the site's topography, existing surface and the location of the trees the development of the site should not have a detrimental or significant impact on the condition of the retained trees.

Section 8. References.

British Standard 5837 : 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

British Standard 3998 : 2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

Tree surveys – A guide to good practice (2005). N. Fay, D. Dowson & R. Helliwell.

Principles of tree hazard assessment and management (1999). D. Lonsdale.

National Joint Utilities Group Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees. Volume 4: Issue 2 - www.njug.org.uk

Arboricultural Guidance Note 12 - The use of cellular confinement systems near trees: A guide to good practice. (2020) B. Rose

Tree Terms website - <https://treeterms.co.uk>

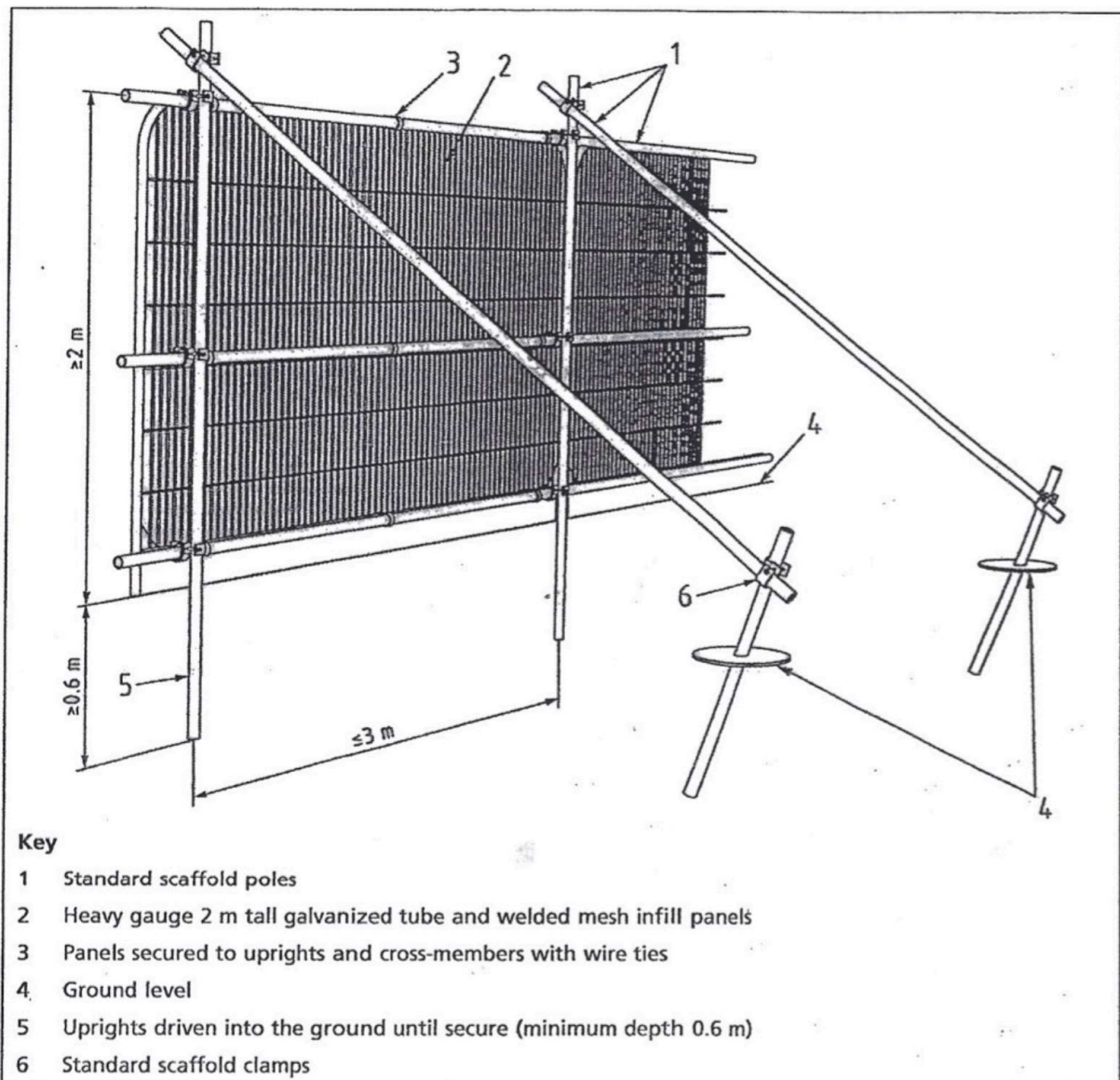
Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscales website - www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/

Appendix 1: Terms used in tree and root protection area schedules

BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction tree survey.

Tree no.	- tree tag / plan numbers
Tree name	- Common English name
Height	- Height in metres
Stem diameter	- Stem diameters measured as per BS5837:2012 recommendations. If due to climbing plants, dense vegetation or restricted access a direct measurement is not possible the diameter will be estimated. With multi stemmed trees the stem diameters are shown in square brackets.
Age class	- SM - Semi mature EM - Early mature M - Mature OM - Over mature
Crown spread	- Crown radius in metres to North, South, East and West
Low branches	- Distance to the lowest branch from ground level. - N/A - not applicable due to tree form.
RPA 1	- Recommended root protection area in square metres.
RPA 2	- Recommended root protection area radius measured from the base of the tree.
BS category	- refer Table 1 for classification and further information.

Appendix 2



Appendix 3

Ground protection

Where the construction working area or temporary access for the construction work within the RPA is justified the protective fencing should be positioned accordingly. If there is existing hard surfacing that is not going to be utilised in the finished design it should not be removed at the ground work or demolition phase but should be retained as temporary ground protection.

If there is no existing hard surfacing the exposed RPA will require temporary ground protection which must be installed before any site work begins. This temporary ground protection must be adequate and capable of supporting any vehicle or pedestrian traffic without any distortion and compaction of the underlying ground.

The following specifications can be utilised for the different scenarios.

- (i) For pedestrian traffic only and to provide a suspended walkway a single thickness of scaffolding boards can be placed above a scaffold frame or alternatively the scaffold boards can be laid on a 100mm depth of compression resistant material such as wood chippings. Prior to the spreading of the wood chippings a geotextile membrane should be laid on the original ground surface.
- (ii) For pedestrian operated plant / machinery up to a maximum weight of 2 tonnes inter linked ground protection boards should be placed on a 150mm depth of compression resistant material such as wood chippings. As in (i) above prior to the spreading of the wood chippings a geotextile membrane should be laid on the original ground surface.
- (iii) For construction machinery in excess of 2 tonnes a system which utilises precast reinforced concrete slabs or similar material will be required. In conjunction with arboricultural advice this system will need an engineering specification to ensure that the maximum loading is taken into consideration.

The objective of every system should be to prevent any ground compaction which will ensure that tree roots have suitable soil conditions for healthy and active growth.

Installation of roads, driveways and footpaths

Tree roots are vital to a tree's health and anchorage and are usually located in the upper metre of the ground with the majority in the upper 600mm. The nutrient and water absorbing roots can be near the surface and are small and difficult to see but are very easily damaged.

Any ground disturbance and excavations can have an adverse effect on these roots. Any conventional work to install roads, driveways and footpaths in the vicinity of retained trees should be outside the RPA's of trees. If this is not possible a no dig cellular confinement system or similar installation must be used. This system must be correctly designed and planned and all work must be undertaken by contractors who have the necessary experience and expertise. The work should also be supervised by a suitably qualified arboriculturist.

If required and prior to any work surface vegetation can be treated with an appropriate herbicide that will not leach into the soil and affect the tree roots. All herbicides must be applied in accordance with the manufacturers guidance and current good practice.

Loose organic matter and a thin layer of turf can be removed from the soil surface but this work should be undertaken with care and only hand tools should be used. Prior to the installation of the cellular confinement system if any uneven surfaces require levelling a suitable and inert material such as a washed no fines gravel should be used.

The final surface should allow moisture to percolate into the ground. Suitable surfaces include washed gravel, paving slabs or block pavers with built in infiltration.. Porous asphalt and resin bonded gravels will initially provide good levels of porosity but will in time become blocked by dust which will reduce their porosity significantly.

A correctly installed cellular confinement system will prevent soil compaction, allow gaseous diffusion between the atmosphere and the soil and allow moisture into the ground. Further information on the specification and installation of cellular confinement systems is available in the Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 12 *The use of cellular confinement systems near trees: A guide to good practice*. Additional advice is also available from manufacturers and suppliers such as Greenfix (Geoweb), Terram (Geocell) and Geosynthetics (Cellweb).

Prior to and during installation the ground directly adjacent to the new structure must be adequately protected from any disturbance or compaction. This protection is provided by following the advice in the 'Ground protection' section above and correct working practices which will roll out the new surface and avoid any direct contact with the existing ground.

Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (Including subcategories where appropriate)	Identification on plan			
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)					
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 category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or 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;					
<table> <tr> <th>1 Mainly arboricultural qualities</th><th>2 Mainly landscape qualities</th><th>3 Mainly cultural views including conservation</th></tr> </table>			1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural views including conservation
1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural views including conservation			
Trees to be considered for retention					
Category A Trees 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 those that are essential components of groups or 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 Trees 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 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 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 value			
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm					
	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			

PLAN A - Location of trees and root protection areas





IMAGE 1 : Tree 161



IMAGE 2 : Trees 163 to 168



IMAGE 3 : Trees 169 to 174

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