

**Arboricultural Implication Assessment
Angels Nursery Site
Yapton Road
Barnham
West Sussex**

*Report compiled by:
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PJC Ref No: PJC/901/09

Summary

This report was commissioned to satisfy the requirements of the arboricultural issues defined by planning policy, at the request of Paul Collins of PPC Planning.

The site contains a large number of trees with low arboricultural, landscape or other values, and many possessing defects or qualities that make retaining them close to a development unwise.

Planting as part of the soft landscape phase of construction would mitigate the loss of trees at the site, and gives an opportunity to improve the visual amenity of the local area.

The proposed project should not affect existing and/or retained trees on the site as long as protection measures set out in BS5837:2005 *Trees in Relation to Construction* and outlined in this report are followed.

Objectives of this report

My involvement in this project can be defined by the following objectives:

To provide a schedule of the existing trees that are situated in areas that are likely to be potentially affected by the proposed construction project.

To classify the existing trees using the process defined by BS5837:2005 'Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations'.

To provide arboricultural guidance on protection measures to be implemented during the construction process, and prevent future conflict between trees and structures.

To promote the retention of trees wherever possible.

CONTENTS

1 Introduction

2 Site visit and observations

3 Appraisal

4 Recommendations

5 Conclusions

6 Other considerations

7 Implementation of Works

Appendices

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Brief:** I have been commissioned by Paul Collins of PPC Planning, to provide a tree survey and arboricultural implication assessment for the site at the former Angels Nursery, Yapton Road, Barnham.

1.2 **Documents and information provided:** I was provided with the following documents:

- Drawing ref. 07.2009/01 Location Plan
- Drawing ref. 07.2009/02 Existing Site Plan
- Drawing ref. 07.2009/03 Block Plan

1.3 **Scope of this report:** This report is only concerned with the trees within the property boundaries of the site, or in areas that have the potential to be affected by construction works.

1.4 **Background information:** Proposals to develop the site have been outlined. PJC Consultancy has been commissioned to undertake a tree survey and provide an arboricultural implication assessment following the guidelines set out in BS5837:2005 '*Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations*'.

2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 Site visit: I carried out a site visit on 6th November 2009. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigations and I estimated all dimensions except for tree diameters unless otherwise indicated. The weather conditions at the time were dry and overcast with a light south westerly wind. The visibility was good.

2.2 Brief site description: The site is situated on Yapton Road, Barnham. The surrounding land use comprises of a plant nursery to the south, residential land to the east and west and Yapton Road to the north. The site itself comprises of old plant nursery buildings and glasshouses with concrete paths not open to the public at the time of the survey. There are substantial overgrown areas in the south and west of the site. Trees are located around the boundaries of the site and act as a partial divider along the centre of the site.

2.3 Identification and location of trees: The trees are not number tagged but their locations are marked on the tree map in Appendix 1.

2.4 Tree observations: I visually inspected the trees from within the boundaries of the property. The survey methodology was restricted to a visual assessment. A sounding hammer was used to detect potential areas of decay or cavities.

2.5 Limitations of survey: Due to the extremely overgrown nature of the site, some trees were situated in dense areas of undergrowth preventing a full assessment of their condition, safety and vigour. Dimensions in some cases had to be estimated, in the case of undergrowth preventing access to the base of the tree. Access to the land behind the existing properties that make up the eastern part of the site was not forthcoming. However, the vegetation within this area comprised mostly of overgrown shrubs and hedges making up the external boundaries.

3 APPRAISAL

3.1 The trees were assessed and categorised using the cascade chart in BS5837:2005 *Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations*. Their dimensions were recorded, and their positions plotted on the Tree Constraints Plan in Appendix 1. The survey sheets in Appendix 2 contain more detailed information for each tree.

3.2 The categorisation of trees is based on a number of factors. The initial category is R for trees that require felling because they are dead, dying or dangerous. The remaining trees are then assessed for their arboricultural, landscape and historical, (or cultural) contribution. This assessment takes into account defects and previous pruning to put the trees into A, B and C categories. The highest categorisation is category A, with the lowest being category C. Category C trees are not normally retained if they pose a constraint to development. The cascade chart further explaining the above is included in Appendix 3.

3.3 The site comprises of a number of buildings related to the raising of plant stock, open areas of dense scrub and a residential property and garden to the east. The site as a whole is neglected and heavily overgrown, with weed species such as bramble and nettle making access to areas difficult and in places impossible. The trees on the site are predominantly located on the boundaries forming shelterbelts, which would previously have protected the plant stock from extremities of weather. Trees within the site are self-seeded saplings, internal shelterbelts or the occasional individual tree. *Photographs 1 and 2, Appendix 7.*

3.4 T1 and T2 are located on the south eastern boundary of the site. They are two birch (*Betula pendula*), showing no major structural defects. The stem of T1 is obscured by thick bramble and ivy cover, which prevents a more detailed assessment of the stem condition being performed. To the south of the birch trees is a Leyland cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*) screen, which runs down to the site boundary. The screen comprises of two rows of trees, with the row on the western side suffering die back through severe pruning and causing uneven growth to the trees on the eastern row.

3.5 The southern end of the Leyland screen has T4, a sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) growing up through it. The sycamore has no major physical defects however it is competing for light with the Leyland screen. It seems to be heavily seeding which is a sign the tree is under stress from suppression.

3.6 Along the southern boundary, below the Leyland screen is a white poplar (*Populus alba*) screen. These trees are of relatively small stature and have thick bramble cover preventing a full visual assessment of the stem condition. The conditions of the crowns are satisfactory although they have been previously pruned, with resultant weak stem and limb unions. This screen has an understorey of birch, Leyland and English oak (*Quercus robur*). T6 and G7 are a birch tree and a Leyland screen respectively. The Leyland screen is insubstantial and located as a dividing boundary within the site. It is suppressing the birch leaving the tree of low value.

3.7 South of the Leyland screen is an old poplar pollard. The stem is of a wide girth, however it is showing limited signs of re-growth with resulting low aesthetic value. There is a similar dead poplar stem to the south standing as a monolith. South of these trees is Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra var. italica*) screen. The trees within this screen are of small stature, situated within a dense, inaccessible growth of bramble.

3.8 In the south western corner of the site are T10 – T13, four larger white poplars. T10 is suppressed on one side by T11. Apart from some minor deadwood, these trees have no visible major defects however the view of the stems is once again obscured. To the north of these trees is another white poplar screen. It is an isolated screen that provides little in the way of a visual barrier. *Photograph 3, Appendix 7.*

3.9 Located in the centre of the site are two English oak (T15 and T16). These trees show high crown virility although T15 has minor deadwood and a slightly congested crown. Due to the size, good condition and aesthetic value, these trees are of high value to the site. *Photograph 4, Appendix 7.*

3.10 At the north of the site are T18 – T23, which are six large white poplar. They have an inaccessible understorey of bramble, ivy and one juvenile, suppressed horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), which prevent detailed inspection of the stems. T21 is demonstrating a sparse crown, although the remaining trees have satisfactory crowns with some minor deadwood. *Photograph 5 and 6, Appendix 7.*

3.11 On the boundary with the property named Millward in the north western corner of the site is a small sycamore screen. They have a thick understorey of ivy, bramble, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), preventing a detailed inspection of their stems. However, they are demonstrating good condition, form and vigour, forming a visual barrier between the site and the adjacent dwelling. The road frontage with Yapton Road is separated by mixed species hedge. Species present include field maple (*Acer campestre*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), hawthorn and blackthorn. It is of a dense nature and provides a good visual barrier preventing viewing of the site from Yapton Road.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The trees Diameter at Breast Height were recorded, and applied to the formula found in Appendix 4. The resulting dimensions equal each trees Root Protection Areas that are plotted on to the Tree Constraints Plan in Appendix 1, and added to the survey sheets in Appendix 2. These are represented as a circle on the plan, and are colour coded depending on the category they were classed in using the cascade chart in Appendix 3.

4.2 The disturbance of a tree's root system can result in crown dieback and even death of the tree. Roots are used to support the tree structurally and act as transport for water and nutrients. Direct damage such as root severance can lead to ill health, as can compaction of the soil by construction traffic, heavy plant and storage of materials. Changing the nature of the surface above growing medium, i.e. from porous to non-porous can alter the resources available to the tree, which in turn can lead to its decline.

4.3. The root protection areas must be left free from excavation and disturbance, and protected during any proposed works. Protection should be in the form of fencing as defined in Appendix 4, and signs affixed as shown in Appendix 5. Fencing location is shown on the tree protection plan in Appendix 1.

4.4 The two oaks (T15 and T16) should be retained. These are the two highest value trees on the site and the design should take into account their location and root protection areas. It would be advisable to remove the minor deadwood from the crown of T15 before construction works commence. Both trees have the potential for long-term contribution of visual amenity to the site, providing an internal focal point.

4.5 With the exception of T15 and T16, many of the trees on the site are of low aesthetic or landscape value. The majority of trees that form the poplar shelterbelts at the edges of the site have been previously pruned resulting in the development of weak branch and stem unions, which are prone to structural failure. Without a strategy for long-term management it would be unwise to retain them in close proximity to any proposed development. Their quality does not warrant the financial outlay that would be required for continued tree surgery, and their removal and replacement with more suitable species is highly recommended.

4.6 If retained the poplars could cause further issues in their demand for water. No soil samples were taken but the National Soils Research Institute (NRSI) website was used to examine soil maps of the local area. The interactive mapping software Soilscape showed the predominant soil types in the area comprised of coastal flats with loam and clay soils, and free draining loam soils. Clay soils can be prone to movement caused by water uptake by trees depending on the make up of the soil, which can result in subsidence of properties. Poplars are renowned for their high water demand, and presents further evidence for their removal if soil analysis confirms clay soils with a high plasticity index are present at the site.

4.7 The remaining trees at the site are sited internally and are of low arboricultural value. The Leyland cypress screens do not provide visual amenity or effective screening due to their internal siting. The poplars within the site have been pruned heavily and are of poor condition, form and vigour. The pruning points will be subject to future decay leading to a high potential for structural failure. As with the poplars sited as part of the boundary screening, long-term management would be expensive and questionable given the low quality of the trees. Planting during the soft landscaping phase of construction could mitigate the loss of the trees within the internal parts of the site.

4.8 The hedges comprising the boundaries of the site should be retained to aid screening of any development. They should be managed to form a more formal pattern in keeping with residential rather than an agricultural hedge. Where they fall within the gardens of properties they should be of a height and width that is convenient to maintain by future residents. Any breaks in the hedges should be planted with similar species to provide a consistent screen.

4.9 Suggested species for planting will depend on soil types present. Species with a high water uptake should be avoided if the soil type is confirmed as clay, particularly of a highly plasticized nature. Trees with low water demand include birch, holly, hornbeam, magnolia and tulip tree. Trees with moderate water uptake include whitebeam, mountain ash, plane, yew, lime and cherry. Trees that should not be planted due to their high water demand include willows, poplars, oaks and cypresses.

4.10 Any final design must show service locations and their routing. These must be located outside of the trees RPA's where they are underground and outside of the anticipated area of mature crown spread where above ground.

4.11 A pre-commencement meeting with all parties and the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer is recommended to agree working methods before any works are undertaken. All contractors should be briefed about tree related site factors as part of the site safety briefing.

4.12 A system and programme of onsite monitoring by the appointed arboricultural consultant should be agreed with the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer, if it is deemed necessary. Record sheets of monitoring site visits should be available for inspection by all parties, and forwarded to a designated employee of the Local Authority.

4.13 If significant root growth is disturbed during construction activities that are not within the scope of this report all work should cease and a suitably qualified arboriculturalist consulted. It should be remembered that whilst root protection areas are part of industry best practice, tree root growth is influenced by a number of factors and may not conform to expected ideals.

4.14 The extensive dense undergrowth at the site prevented a full assessment of a number of groups and individual trees. However, these trees were recommended for removal due to their low arboricultural value. Should these trees be retained then the undergrowth should be cleared to allow a full visual assessment to be undertaken and measurements taken to calculate root protection areas.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 With the exception of a small number of individuals, many of the trees on the site are of low arboricultural value or possess qualities that conflict with any proposed development. They do not greatly contribute to the local landscape and should not be retained if they pose a constraint to any proposed development.

5.2 Tree removal could be mitigated by planting of replacement trees during the soft landscaping phase of construction. Species have been recommended depending on the soil type of the site, and careful consideration should be given to the location of planting. Their future potential for growth, both above and below ground should be realised to avoid conflict with planned structures.

6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The site is not covered by a Tree Preservation Order and does not fall within a Conservation Area. However, designations are subject to change and therefore any persons proposing to undertake tree works must check the status of these trees with the local authority, and gain necessary consent before works are undertaken.

6.2 Financial penalties and/or criminal proceedings can result if tree works are carried out without consent. The entirety of the tree is protected, both above and below ground.

6.3 The trees at this site were assessed for their condition and safety in relation to the average range of weather conditions that the region experiences. Any weather events that exceed the average norm cannot be predicted, and so their effects are not considered within this report.

6.4 The views and opinions contained within this report are entirely those of the author.

7 IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKS.

7.1 The contractors should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 *Recommendations for Tree Works* (1991) as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance.

7.2 It is also recommended that all tree works are carried out by an Arboricultural Association approved contractor. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards, and the Arboricultural Association website contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

Contact details

PJC Consultancy Ltd
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Mob: 07710722294

E -mail: nick@pjconsultancy.com

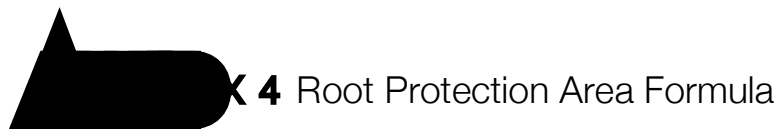
Signed: Nick Betts

Date: 16th November 2009





APPENDIX 3 Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment



CALCULATING THE RPA

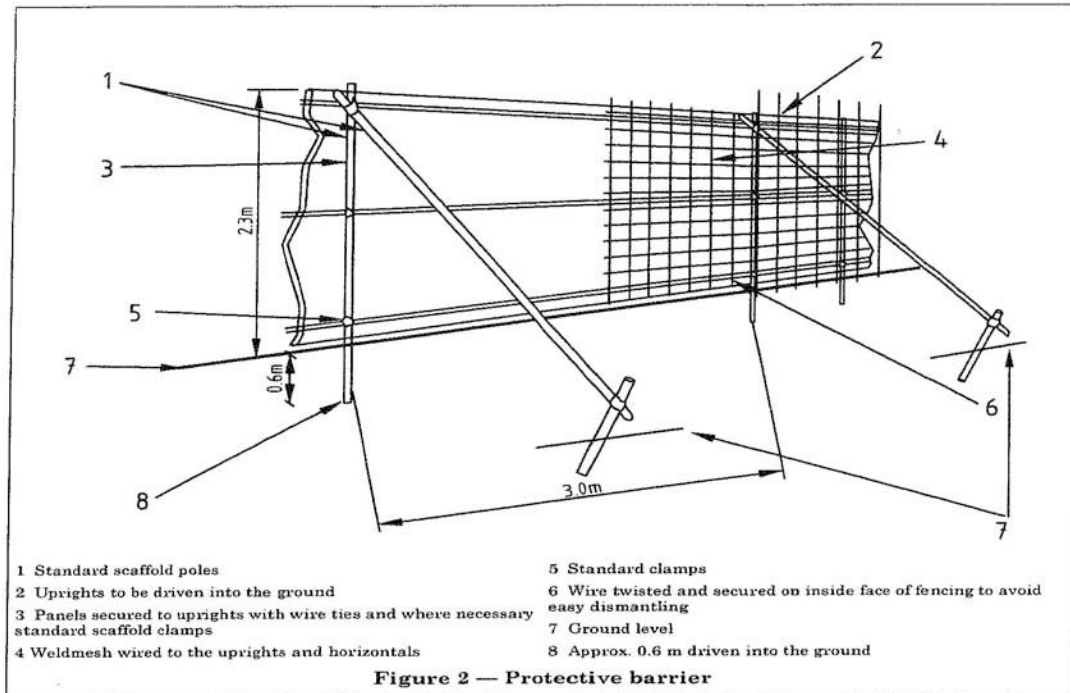
For single stemmed trees

$$\text{RPA(m}^2\text{)} = \frac{(\text{stem diameter (mm) @ 1.5 m x 12})^2 \times 3.142}{1000}$$

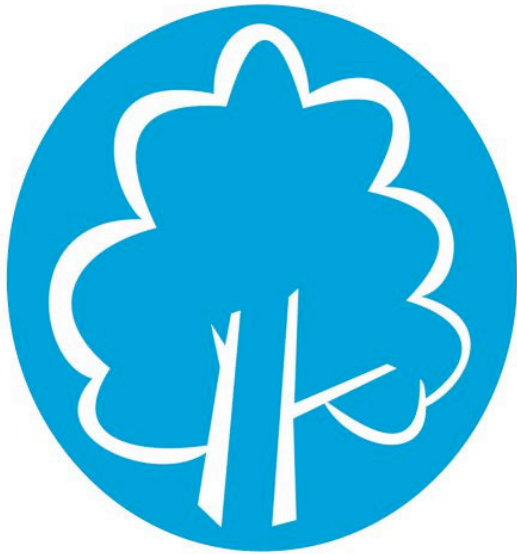
For multiple stemmed trees

$$\text{RPA(m}^2\text{)} = \frac{(\text{basal diameter (immediately above root flare (mm) x10})^2 \times 3.142}{1000}$$

Tree Protection Fencing Specification



 Example Protective Fencing Signs



**PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS
FENCING MUST BE
MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE APPROVED PLANS
AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS
DEVELOPMENT.**



**TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT !**

**(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY
PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY
LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

**ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE
WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL
PLANNING AUTHORITY**

 Photographs



Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3



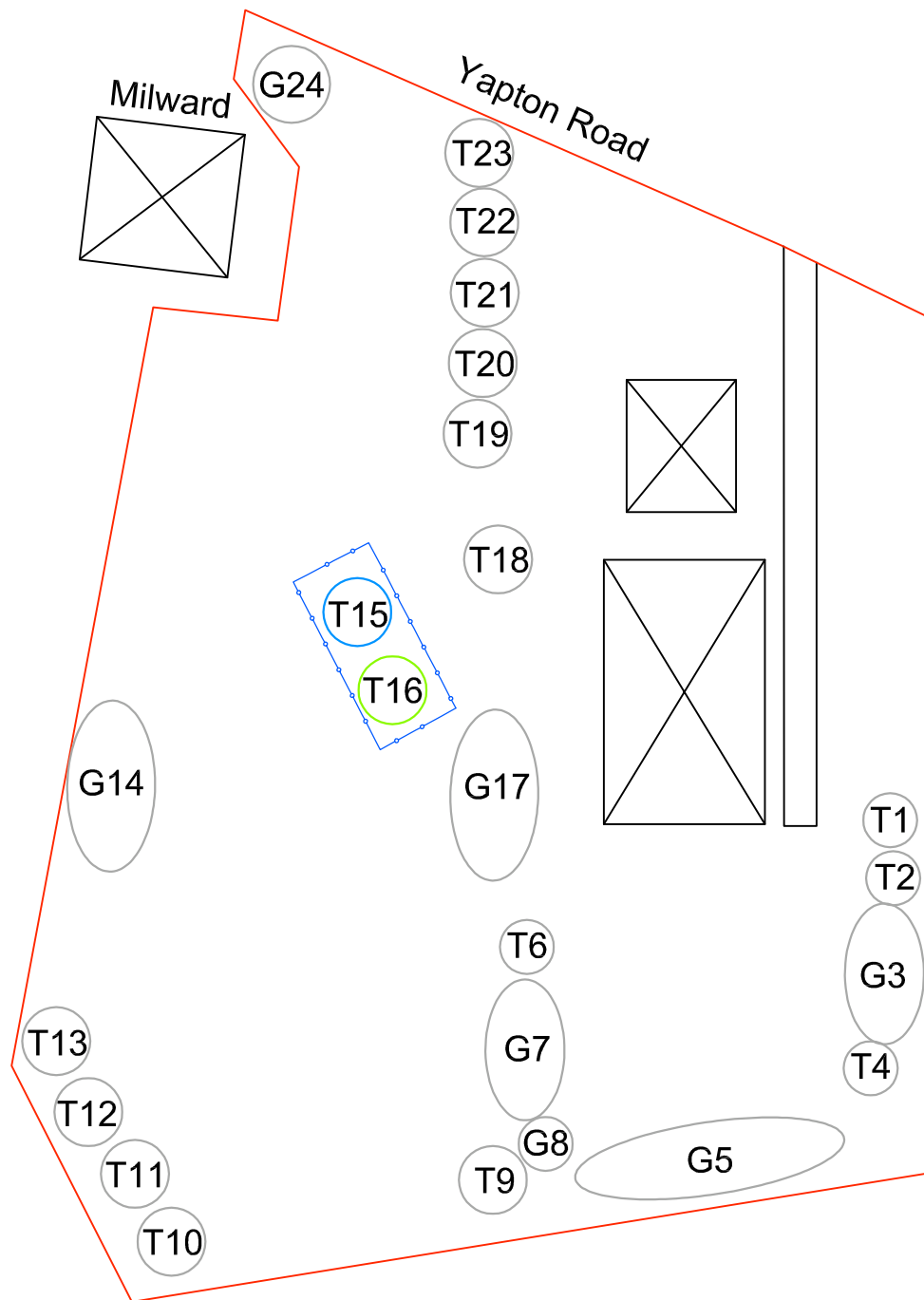
Photograph 4



Photograph 5



Photograph 6



Key:

-  CAT A Tree RPA to Scale*
-  CAT B Tree RPA to Scale*
-  CAT C Tree RPA to Scale*
-  Tree recommended for removal

 Encroachment zone into RPA

 Recommended route for protective fencing

** Trees categorised in accordance with BS 5837:2005 'Trees in relation to construction'.*

Please note: Tree positions are indicative only. No topographical survey was available to accurately portray root protection areas and crown spreads.

Appendix 2, (Survey sheets) contained within the arboricultural report ref. no. PJC/901/09 contains further information for each tree.

Specification for Tree Protection Fencing is defined in Appendix 5 of the arboricultural report.

Site: Angels Nursery Site, Yapton Road, Barnham, West Sussex

Client: PPC Planning

Surveyor: Nick Betts/Pete Davies

Date Drawn: 17/11/09

Drawing Number: PJC/901/09

Drawing Title: Tree Constraints Plan



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TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Arundel, Arundel Road, Barnham

Date: 06/11/09

Surveyor: Pete Davies

Tree ref. no.	Species	Height (m)	DBH diameter (mm)	Canopy spread (m)	Clearance (m)	Age	Health	Condition	Management recommendations	Grading	Projected Area m ²	Projected Area Radius (m)
T1	Birch (Betula pendula)	10	280	12.0	2	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	35.5	3.3
T2	Birch (Betula pendula)	10	320	12.0	1	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Fair, adequate condition and form common of species, no major visible defects	Fell if constraint to development	C1	46.3	3.8
G3	Leylandii (Cupressocyparis leylandii) Group	8	300 Average	12.0	0	Semi mature	Poor, dieback due to excessive pruning occurring on western side of stand	Deadwood present within crown, trees growing in close proximity has led to suppressed growth	Fell if constraint to development	C1	40.7	3.6
T4	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	10	460 Multistem	12.0	1	Semi mature	Fair, partially suppressed by Leyland screen, stress seeding	Fair, adequate condition and form common of species, no major visible defects	Fell if constraint to development	C1	66.5	4.6
G5	White Poplar (Populus alba) Group	10-15 Average	450 Average	12.0	2	Semi mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	113.1	6.0
T6	Birch (Betula pendula)	12	230	12.0	1	Semi mature	Satisfactory, one sided growth due to suppression.	Fair, crown has lost main leader	Fell if constraint to development	C3	23.9	2.8
G7	Leylandii (Cupressocyparis leylandii) Group	6 Average	400 Average	12.0	2	Semi mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Fair, adequate condition and form common of species, no major visible defects	Fell if constraint to development	C2	72.3	4.8

Green = Category A Tree

Blue = Category B Tree

Grey = Category C Tree

Red = Category R Tree

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Client: [REDACTED]

Location: [REDACTED]pton Road, Barnham

Date: 06/11/09

Surveyor: Pete Davies

Tree ref. no.	Species	Age	DBH diameter (mm)	Height (m)	Crown clearance (m)	Condition	Notes	Assessment	Preliminary management recommendations	Grading	Position	Area m ²	Area Radius (m)
G8	Lombardy Poplar (<i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>italica</i>) Group	7 Average	Unable to record	[REDACTED]	4 Average	Semi mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C2	[REDACTED]	Unable to calculate	
T9	White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>)	7	600	[REDACTED]	3	Mature	Poor, previously pollarded with limited regrowth	Stem obscured by ivy and bramble	Fell if constraint to development	C1	[REDACTED]	162.9	7.2
T10	White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>)	10	Unable to record	[REDACTED]	4	Mature	Fair, suppressed by T11	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	[REDACTED]	Unable to calculate	
T11	White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>)	12	Unable to record	[REDACTED]	4	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	[REDACTED]	Unable to calculate	
T12	White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>)	12	Unable to record	[REDACTED]	3	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	[REDACTED]	Unable to calculate	
T13	White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>)	10	Unable to record	[REDACTED]	3	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	[REDACTED]	Unable to calculate	
G14	White Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>) Group	10 Average	Unable to record	[REDACTED]	3 Average	Semi mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C3	[REDACTED]	Unable to calculate	

Green = Category A Tree

Blue = Category B Tree

Grey = Category C Tree

Red = Category R Tree

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

Mapton Road, Barnham

Date: 06/11/09

Surveyor: Pete Davies

Tree ref. no.	Species	Height (m)	Stem diameter (mm)	DBH (m)	Minimum crown clearance (m)	Age Class	Health Condition	Deadwood	Liminary management recommendations	Canopy grading	POC Area m²	POC Area Radius (m)
T15	Oak (Quercus robour)	14	810	0.81	1	Mature	Good, full and healthy crown with no evidence of pest or disease	Minor deadwood, congested crown, no major visible defects	Remove minor dead wood	B2	296.9	9.7
T16	Oak (Quercus robour)	15	460	0.46	5	Mature	Good, full and healthy crown with no evidence of pest or disease	Minor deadwood, no major visible defects	No action required	A2	95.7	5.5
G17	White Poplar (Populus alba) Group	8-10 Average	Unable to record	0.8-1.0	2-3 Average	Semi mature	Poor, all trees heavily pollarded with resulting poor regrowth	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C2	Unable to calculate	
T18	White Poplar (Populus alba)	12	580	0.58	1	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	21.9	6.9
T19	White Poplar (Populus alba)	14	1210	1.21	3	Mature	Poor, suppressed on northern side by neighboring	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	662.4	14.5
T20	White Poplar (Populus alba)	15	Unable to record	0.8-1.0	5	Mature	Poor, suppressed to the north and south by T19 and T21	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	Unable to calculate	
T21	White Poplar (Populus alba)	15	Unable to record	0.8-1.0	6	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	Unable to calculate	

Green = Category A Tree

Blue = Category B Tree

Grey = Category C Tree

Red = Category R Tree

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

CONCLUSIONS

Chapton Road, Barnham

Date: 06/11/09

Surveyor: Pete Davies

Tre ref. no.	Species	Height (m)	Stem diameter (mm)	Canopy spread (m)	Minimum crown clearance (m)	Age class	Health/condition	Notes	Limnology management recommendations	Canopy grading	Plot Area m²	Plot Area Radius (m)
T22	White Poplar (Populus alba)	14	Unable to record	2.5m x 2.5m	5	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	Unable to calculate	
T23	White Poplar (Populus alba)	10	Unable to record	2.5m x 2.5m	5	Mature	Fair, adequate growth within crown, although no evidence of pest or disease.	Dense undergrowth preventing full visual assessment	Fell if constraint to development	C1	Unable to calculate	
G24	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) Group	8 Average	Unable to record	2.5m x 2.5m	2 Average	Semi mature	Good, full and healthy crowns with no evidence of pest or disease	Stem obscured by ivy and bramble, holly, blackthorn, hawthorn and spindle berry understory	No action required	B2	Unable to calculate	

Green = Category A Tree

Blue = Category B Tree

Grey = Category C Tree

Red = Category R Tree

Table 1 — Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

TREES FOR REMOVAL				
Category and definition	Criteria			Identification on plan
Category R Those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management	- 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 R 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 (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality. NOTE Habitat reinstatement may be appropriate (e.g. R category tree used as a bat roost: installation of bat box in nearby tree).			DARK RED RGB code: 127-000-000 AutoCAD 246
TREES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION				
Category and definition	Criteria – Subcategories			Identification on plan
	1 Mainly arboricultural values	2 Mainly landscape values	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Category A Those of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested)	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 which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance (e.g. avenues or other arboricultural features assessed as groups)	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	LIGHT GREEN RGB code: 000-255-000 AutoCAD 90
Category B Those trees of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested)	Trees that might be included in the high category, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of remediable defects including unsympathetic past management and minor storm damage)	Trees present in numbers, usually as groups or woodlands, such that they form distinct landscape features, thereby attracting a higher collective rating than they might as individuals but which are not, individually, essential components of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. trees of moderate quality within an avenue that includes better, A category specimens), or trees situated mainly internally to the site, therefore individually having little visual impact on the wider locality	Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits	MID BLUE RGB code: 000-000-255 AutoCAD 170
Category C Those trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Trees not qualifying in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater landscape value, and/or trees offering low or only temporary screening benefit	Trees with very limited conservation or other cultural benefits	GREY RGB code: 91-91-91 AutoCAD 252
	NOTE Whilst C category trees will usually not be retained where they would impose a significant constraint on development, young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150 mm should be considered for relocation.			