Arboricultural Assessment
No. 21 Glebe Close, Fishburn, County Durham

Site Address

No. 21 Glebe Close, Fishburn, County Durham, TS21 4DE

Date

Site Visit – 10.06.2023

Report Issued (V1) – 6th August 2023

Introduction

A health and condition arboricultural assessment (AA)is provided for four trees growing within the rear garden of No. 21 Glebe Close, Fishburn. The trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO No. SBC-12-2004; Title Former Glebe House Fishburn). This AA will be submitted to Durham County Council as part of an application for tree works.

Methodology

The site was visited and the trees assessed visually, from ground level in accordance with BS5837:2012, Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. This forms the basis of the Tree Survey, the details are provided at Appendix 1.

At the time of the inspection, weather conditions were fine and dry. Light visibility was reasonable. As trees are living organisms, their condition is subject to change; therefore the details contained within this report are valid for a 12-month period. The trees were in full leaf at the time of the inspection.

The site is not within a Conservation Area. However, as the trees are protected by a TPO permission musty be sought from Durham County Council for undertaking works to the trees.

Other information in this assessment includes:

- Site & Tree Plan - Appendix 2
- Photographs – Appendix 3
- Terminology – Appendix 4

Site Survey

No. 21 Glebe Close is a residential property located on a small housing development in Fishburn. The property consists of a dwelling with sunroom / conservatory to the rear, a driveway and front and rear gardens. Three semi-mature / early mature Sycamore trees are growing within the rear garden of the property, adjacent to the western boundary fence. One Alder is growing outside the northern boundary fence, however the tree is part of the property and within the Client's ownership.

Residential properties surround No. 21 on its south, east and western sides. Open green space with trees are located to the north of the property.

Tree Survey

Trees T1 to T3 are growing in a row, within a raised bed parallel to the western boundary of the rear garden. The trees are dominant established specimens that are growing in competition. The trees appear to be in a reasonable state of health, however they have dense canopies which are unbalanced due to competition. When in full leaf, the canopies of the trees are overbearing on the small rear garden of the property. T4 is growing outside the northern boundary fence line. Part of the tree's canopy overhangs the sunroom / conservatory attached the western elevation of the dwelling. Full details of the trees health and condition is set out at Appendix 1.

Conclusion

Trees T1 to T3 are large dominant trees growing within a small rear garden of residential property. The trees have grown in competition however they have dense overbearing canopies. T4 is growing close to / overhanging the sunroom / conservatory. Tree working are requested to manage the growth to the trees and make the garden of the property a more usable space.

The condition of the trees should be monitored on a 12-18 month basis.

Prepared by: [redacted]	Della Adams MRTPI, HND (Arb), TechArb We Care Tree Care Arboricultural Services [redacted] / [redacted]	**Date:** V1: 06/08/2023

Appendix 1 - Tree Schedule

Tree Tag No. / Group No.	Species	Age	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	Crown Spread south, east & west) (m)	Height above ground level of		BS5837: 2012 Colour Retention Category	Life Expect-any (yrs.)	Structural Condition	Physiological Condition	Tree Detail	Recommendations
						a) canopy (m)	b) 1st branch & direction of growth						
T1-T3	Sycamore	Semi-mature Mature	15 14 13	45 48 35	0433 1044 4022	3	N/A	Grey (C1)	20+	Fair	Fair	Established trees growing in raised bed adjacent to the western boundary. Trees grown in competition resulting in unbalanced / asymmetric canopies, however foliage is dense. T1 – largets tree. T2 growing in competition between T2 & T3. T3 has a slight lean east.	Reduce canopies by 1/3 thin by 20% to tidy up, control growth and allow light through the tree canopies. Trees to be pruned to help balance canopies and improve amenity.
T4	Alder	Semi-mature Mature	10	20+	2141	3	N/A	Grey (C1)	20+	Fair	Fair	Tree outside boundary fence (viewed from within garden only). Tall spindly specimen grown in competition. Canopy overhang sun room / conservatory.	Reduce upper leader by ½ to reduce / control height. Prune back lower branches towards house by ¼.

Appendix 2 – Suite & Tree Location Plan

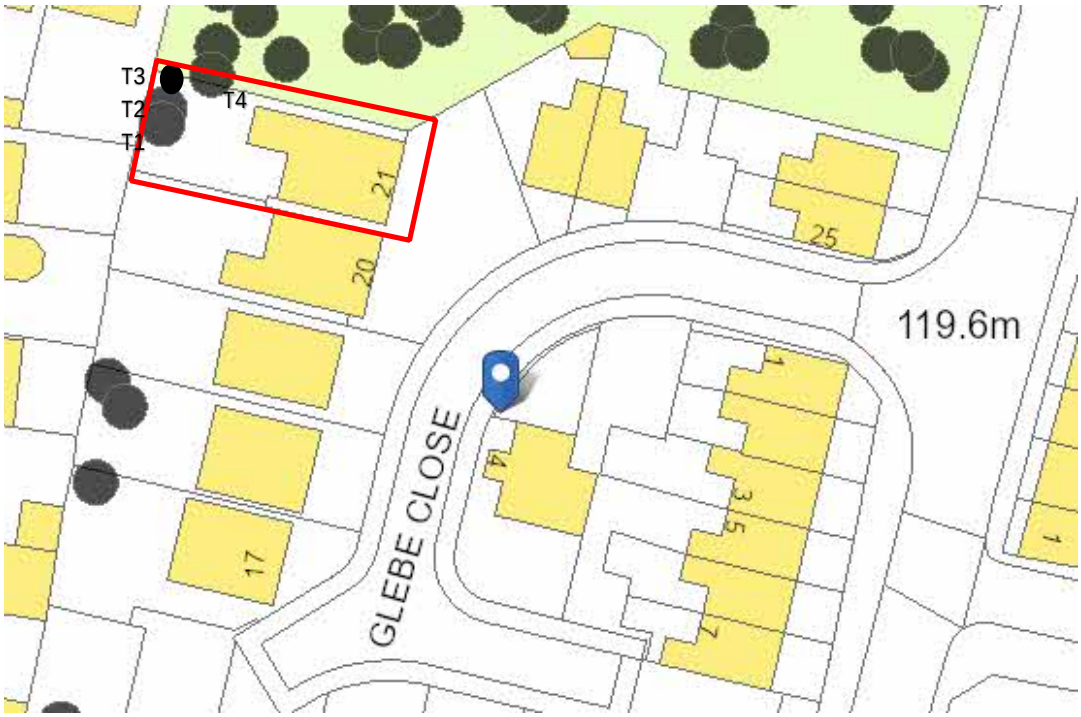
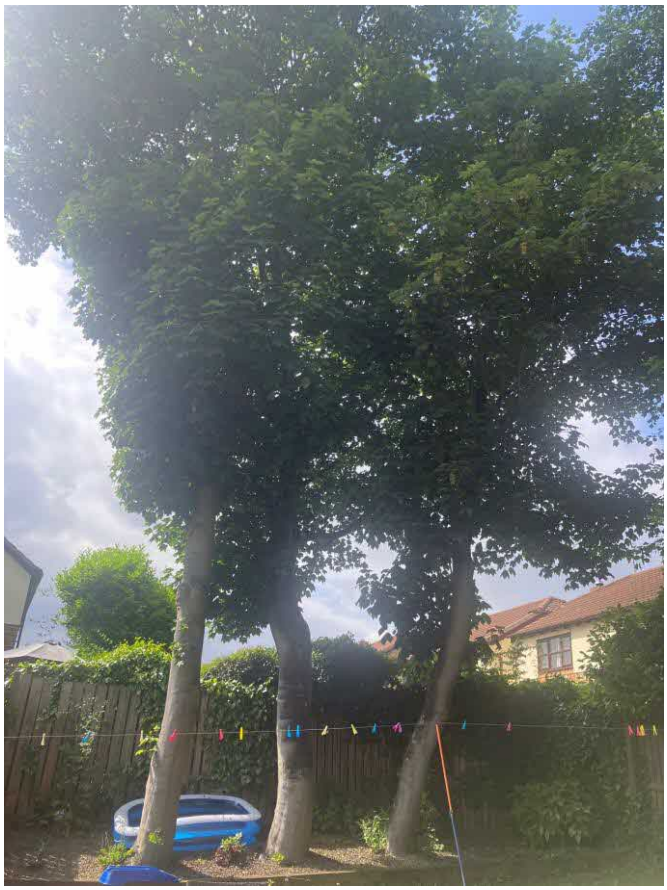
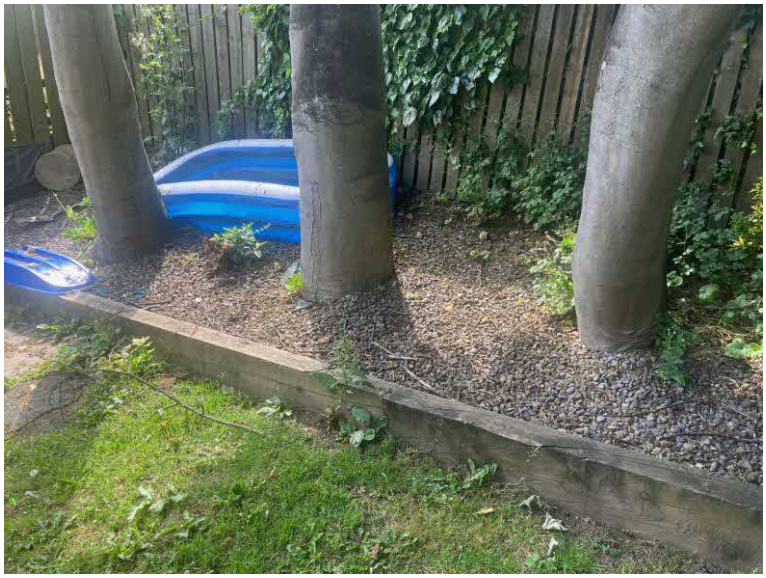


Figure 1 – TPO Map taken from Durham County Council's Website. Showing No. 21 Glebe Close, and the trees T1 to T4. T3 has been added to the plan (https://maps.durham.gov.uk/OLBasic2/Index.aspx?appid=62)

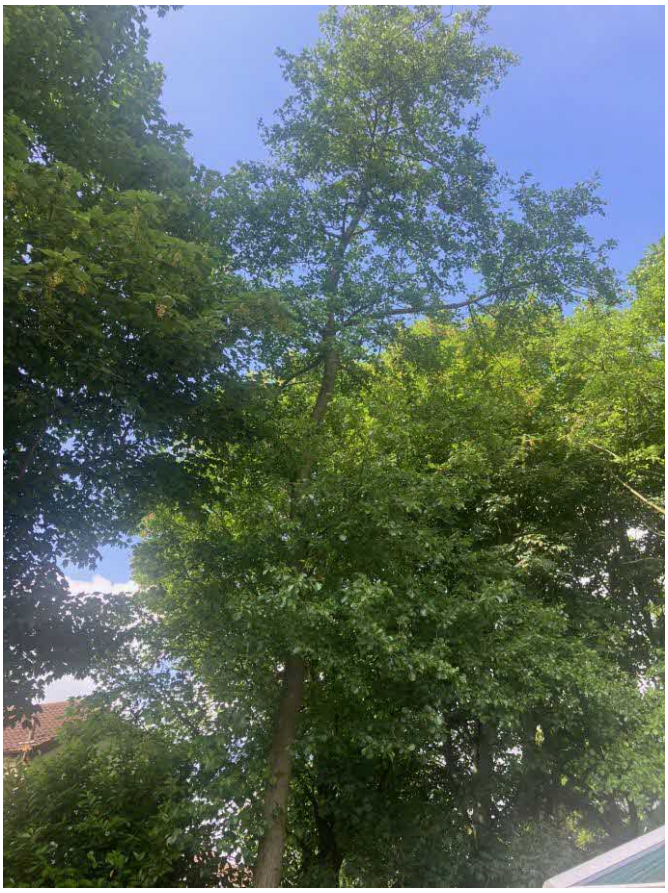
Appendix 2 – Tree Location Plan



Photograph 1 - T1 – T3



Photographs 2 – The base of trees T1 to T3 (growing in a raised bed)



Photographs 3 – T4, the Alder

Appendix 3 – Key to the 'Tree Schedule'

1.0 Tree number: Where trees have been assessed individually, they were allocated individual 'T' or tree numbers. Where trees are in large groups and may be difficult to identify they have been 'tagged' with tree tags showing the allocated number. This is identified in the report.

1.1 Tree species: Tree species is identified and provided.

1.2 Age class: The estimated age of the tree, categorised as one of the following:

a) Young – Immature specimens, being in the early stages of life or development.
b) Semi-mature – half, or early stages of maturity.
c) Mature – Completely developed/ developed fully.
d) Over-mature –The latter stages of maturity, being past maturity and optimum life. The tree is therefore in latter stages of life

1.3 Tree Height: Estimated height of the tree given from base at ground level to top of canopy.

1.4 DBH: The trees 'diameter at breast height' and involves measuring the diameter of the trees trunk at a height of approximately 1.3 meters above soil level. This measurement is then used to calculate trees 'Root Protection Areas' (RPA), a definition of which may be found within the glossary.

1.5 Crown spread: The spread of the trees crown was estimated in meters "at four cardinal points to derive an accurate representational the crown", e.g. from the centre of tree in north, south, east and western directions (BS 5837:2005).

1.6 Existing height above ground level of a) first significant branch and direction of growth, and b) canopy. This is used to inform on ground clearance, crown/stem ratio and shading.

1.7 Trees Condition – Structural / Physiological & further comments: General observations, particularly of structural and/or physiological condition (e.g. the presence of any decay and physical defect), and/or preliminary management recommendations.

1.8 British Standard Colour Categorisation BS5837: 2012

Trees are allocated a 'colour' in accordance with the chart overleaf The colour categorises are a coding system which identifies the trees 'retention value' (see overleaf).

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 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.*			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	**2 Mainly landscape qualities**	**3 Mainly cultural values, 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)	See Table 2
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 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 value	See Table 2
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	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

Table 2 **Identification of tree categories**

Category (from Table 1)	Colour [A)]	RGB code [A)]
U	Dark red	127-000-000
A	Light green	000-255-000
B	Mid blue	000-000-255
C	Grey	091-091-091

[A)] Colours verified against http://safecolours.rigdenage.com/palettefiles.html#files [viewed 2012-03-26].

1.9 Estimated remaining contribution in years in accordance with BS 5837: This is a professional judgement may on the expected remaining life / contribution of the tree. The following categories apply.

a) Less than 10.
b) 10-20
c) 20-40
d) More than 40.

1.10 Recommendations: Advice is given on any recommended on tree works based on surveyor's experience and knowledge.
The following terms may be used:

a) Crown clean –involves the removal of dead, dying, diseased damaged and crossing branches, usually undertaken for the health and longevity of the tree, but also as a means of reducing potential risk associated with branch failure.

(b) Crown raise/lift – the selective removal of the lower branches to raise the lower canopy of the tree. This may be undertaken to allow avoid obstruction to pedestrians/vehicles. Such works may be prescribed as a method of formative pruning to improve the shape of trees, particularly younger specimens.

(c) Crown Thin – the selective removal of branches within the crown reduce crown density, allowing the increased penetration of light and air to pass through the canopy. This is usually prescribed as a percentage thin.

(d) Removal – complete removal of the tree, usually to a height just above existing ground level unless indicated otherwise.