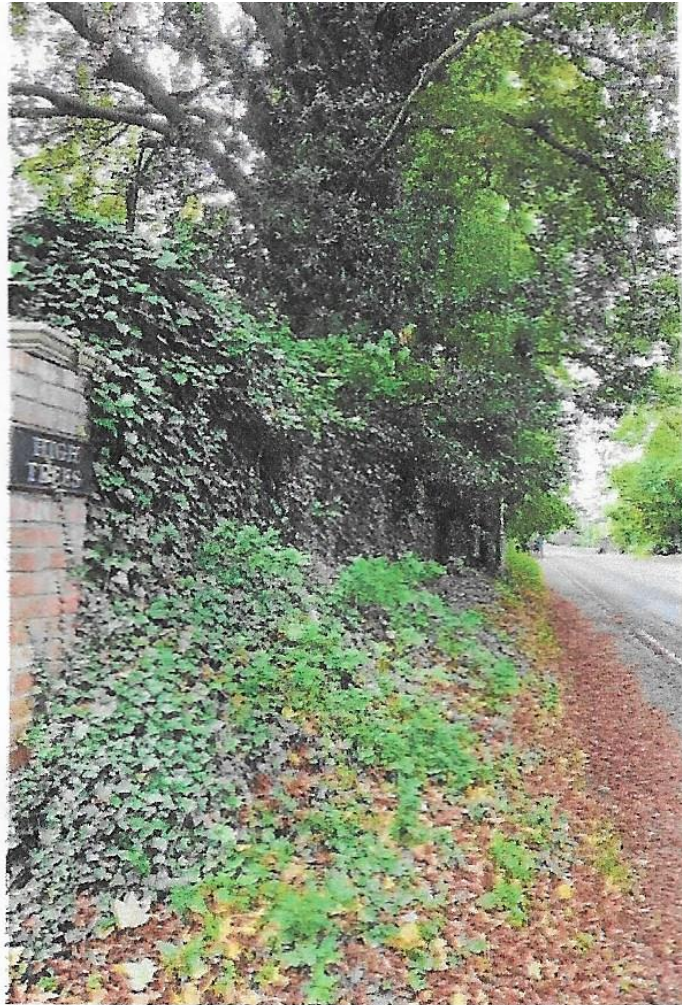


COYNE ENVIRONMENTAL

Little Ravenscourt

Amwell Hill

Great Amwell



Arboricultural Assessment

November 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Coyne Environmental has produced a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of Little Ravenscourt, Amwell Hill, Great Amwell for Country & City Ltd. This is for a planning application to be submitted to East Herts Council (EHC) for a new dwelling within part of the grounds of the existing house.

The proposed access from the new property will need an opening in the boundary wall onto Amwell Hill. There are a number of mature trees along this area, mostly poor-quality hornbeam, probably former hedges, that have been left to grow into a line of thin trees. However, at the end of the line is a large mature beech tree with a wide canopy.

Coyne Environmental has now been instructed to source an Arboricultural Consultant to undertake an arboricultural assessment on the trees to see what impact an access in this location would have on them. A Tree Survey Assessment (TSA) has now been undertaken by Tim Moya Associates Ltd. Their information is included in this report.



GENERAL SYNOPSIS

The TSA survey was undertaken on 7th November 2023, in good weather conditions by a qualified arborist. The whole of the site was inspected, not only the front boundary trees. The survey started with the large beech (H10) and the line of limes (T1-T9) then continued round the rest of the garden

As well as the beech and lime there are a range of other ornamental trees including an Indian Bean Tree, magnolia, Robinia, sycamore, Layland and Lawson Cypress, cherry laurel and privet. The condition of the 26no trees range from 4no A1/A2/A3, 8no B1/B2, 13no C1/C2 and 1no U category

Category A trees are of significant conservation and historic value with a life expectancy of over 40 years

Category B trees are of conservation value with some defects and have a life expectancy of not more than 40 years.

Category C trees have little or no conservation value

Category U trees are in very poor condition and are not expected to live long

BOUNDARY TREES

The beech (H10) is classed as A1/A2 and structurally fair, disease free, with forked trunk due to previous pollarding in the past, causing some weakness. Ivy is growing on the tree (potential bat use) and the canopy is in conflict with cables from the communication poles.

Limes T2-T8 are all classed as C1/C2 apart from lime T8 which is classed as U. The rest are generally structurally fair, disease free, but some with unbalanced crowns. These are of little or no conservation value.

ASSESSMENT

The TSA has indicated that the majority of the trees are generally in good arboricultural health. The beech (H10) is sound and it is only the cables from the telephone lines that is an issue. It may be advisable to contact the relevant service authority to see if this can be resolved or reduced.

All of the limes (T2-T8), apart for T8 /U, are also generally in reasonable condition with a life expectancy of around 40 years. As they are of little or no conservation value, an access point in this area would have the least ecological impact on the site. T8 should be considered for removal (U category).

The remainder of the trees in the grounds are classed from A1 right through to C2 value. The location for the proposed new dwelling will affect the Leyland/Lawson Cypress G14, Mixed shrub group G24 and Privet shrubs G26. All of these are classed as C2 with little or no conservation value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The existing trees and shrubs in the grounds of Ravenscourt have all been surveyed and arboriculturally assessed by Tim Moya Associates Ltd. Only a small part of the overall grounds will form the garden of the proposed dwelling. This will affect a portion of the boundary wall and some of the shrub groups in the garden.

The access onto Amwell Hill has been positioned to have no impact or effect the beech tree (T10) but it is estimated will affect limes T5-T8. All of these are classed as C1/C2 with lime C8 classed as U and will be removed anyway. They are all of little or no conservation value.

Shrub groups G14, C24, and G25 are all grouped as C2. They therefore have little or no conservation value. Also, as they are all non-native stock, they have minimal ecological value. It is considered that the requirement to remove them, as part of the development, will have minimal effect on biodiversity.

The proposal will require a landscape design, as part of the planning conditions. This will be native stock to compensate for the loss of the trees and shrubs in the proposal.

Any work on the removal of the affected trees and shrubs should not be carried out in the bird breeding season (Mar-Aug) in accordance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. If fires are allowed on site, care must be taken to ensure woodpiles are checked before starting, as small animals like hedgehogs often use these as refugia sites.

At the same time as this felling takes place, the remaining trees should be inspected and if pruning needs to be done, to retain the health of the trees or for safety reasons, these should be considered. The aim is to leave the site in a good environmental condition ready for the development when it commences. This will enable the site to have a mature landscape from the start.

CONCLUSION

Coyne Environmental has been instructed to carry out a review of the arboriculture of Little Ravenscourt following the previous PEA Report. The TSA site survey has shown that the vegetation is of amenity and ecological value and that with the recommended removal of trees affected by the development, the remaining are worth retaining in the proposal.

Country & City has requested an arboricultural assessment of the site to be undertaken. This is to ensure that the existing trees are not unduly affected by the proposed development of a small proportion of the overall grounds. A small section of the boundary trees will have to be removed but does not affect the (T10) beech tree. Three groups of mixed, none native conifers and shrubs will have to be removed for the proposed development. These have no conservation or ecological value. A landscape design will be provided with ecological planting to compensate for any biodiversity loss

In my professional opinion I assess that the proposed development at Little Ravenscourt, Amwell Hill, Great Amwell will have minimal impact on the overall ecology of the area. I conclude that, following this TSA survey, no further environmental studies are required and that the proposal can be determined on this basis.

REFERENCE

Coyne Environmental Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report

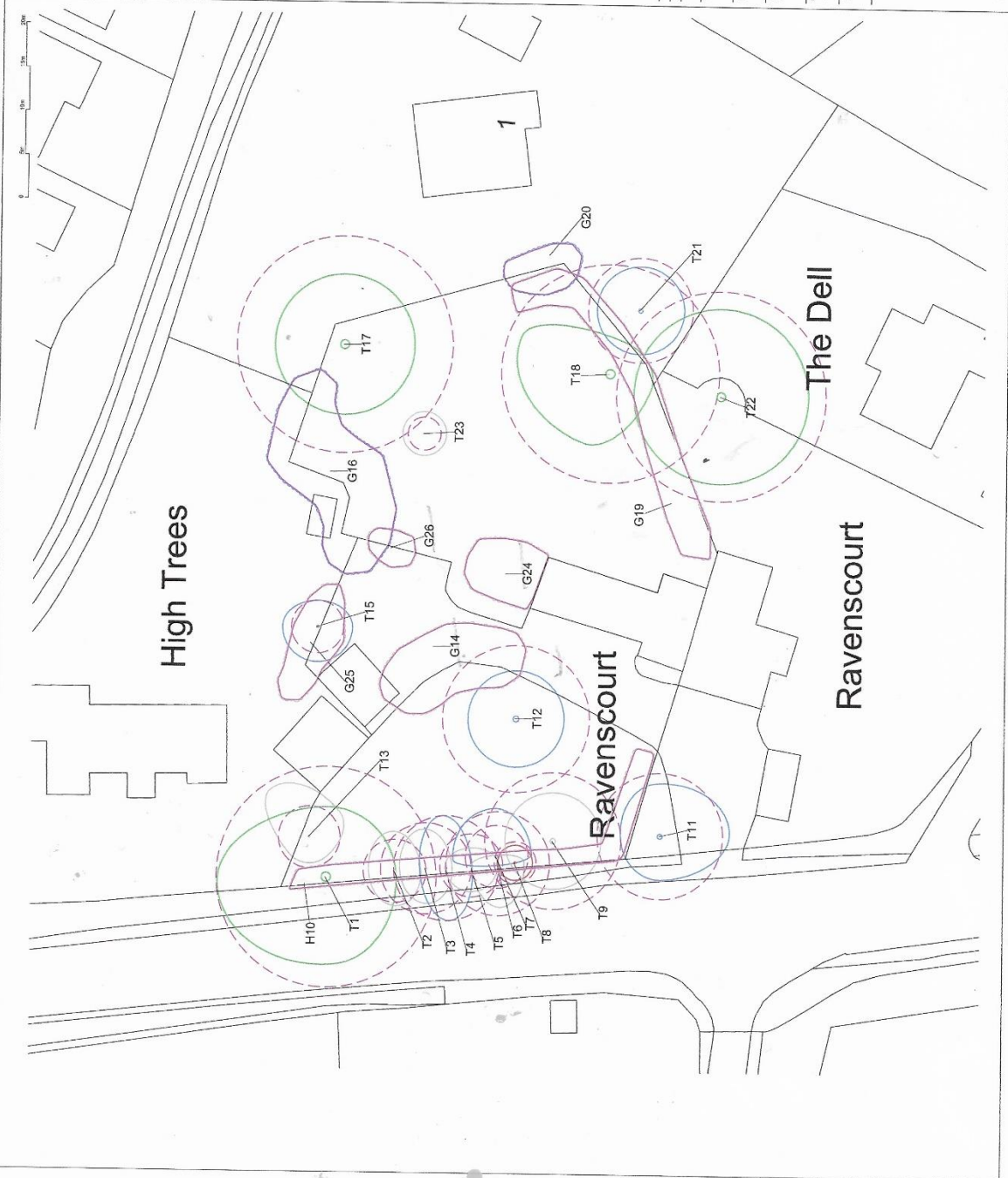
Tim Moya Associates AIA Ltd Tree Survey Report

Tim Moya Associates AIA Ltd Tree Plan

Proposals Plan

BS 5837:2012 TREE RETENTION CATEGORIES

- Category 1: High Value Trees**
Trees which are highly valued for their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 2: Medium Value Trees**
Trees which are valued for their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 3: Low Value Trees**
Trees which are valued for their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 4: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 5: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 6: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 7: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 8: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 9: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.
- Category 10: Trees to be Retained**
Trees which are to be retained for reasons other than their amenity, historical, scientific, or other special interest.



Drawn by	Authorised	Scale
10/11/2023	HR KH	1:200@A1
Drawing No	Rev	
231084-P-10		

Title	BS 5837 Tree Survey Plan
Client	County & City
Project	Little Ravenscourt, Annwell Hill, Coal Amwell, Hertfordshire, SG12 9RA
Date	10/11/2023
Drawn by	HR KH
Authorised	HR KH
Scale	1:200@A1
Drawing No	231084-P-10
Rev	



The name of the contractor, client, and other details, for the project, shall be the responsibility of the client. The contractor shall be responsible for the accuracy of the data provided to the contractor. The contractor shall be responsible for the accuracy of the data provided to the contractor. The contractor shall be responsible for the accuracy of the data provided to the contractor.

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