

# Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd.

Helping you make the most of your land.



**WILD ORCHIDS, HARCOMBE ROAD,  
REYMONDS HILL.**

## Arboricultural Survey Report

**Report by:** Steve Russell BSc (Hons).    **Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd. was commissioned to carry out a BS5837 (2012) Tree Survey in December 2023. The report provides a Tree Survey Schedule providing details of the trees surveyed, plus detailed plans identifying the location of trees, their calculated Root Protection Areas (RPA's) and their Tree Shadows. The survey was carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 and has been applied to the site plans provided by the client.

### 1.2 Purpose of Report

At this stage the primary purpose of the report is to provide the client with information to enable the trees on the site to be given full consideration in relation to the proposed development of a swimming pool and changing area. It should be used to assess the impact on the trees surrounding the proposal, including tree removal and retention and as the basis for any future works and for the preparation of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement if required. It can be used in discussion with the planning authority to review the tree information in support of the planning submission and for use as a basis for issuing planning consent or engaging in further discussion towards that end. This report is based on my site observations and the information provided; I have interpreted this in the context of my experience.

### 1.3 Qualifications and Experience

My Qualifications are a BSc (Hons) in Countryside Management and National Diploma in Forestry. I have 45 years' experience in Forestry, Arboriculture and Countryside management primarily in the local authority sector but also the Forestry Commission. I hold numerous NPTC certificates including tree inspection. I have been running Woodland and Countryside Management Ltd. for 13 years. I have worked for Local Authorities, Forestry Commission, MOD, Environmental Organisations, Estates, Estate Agents, Individual landowners, and householders. I am a serving member of the Royal Forestry Society and Confederation of Forest Industries. I have also been a part time lecturer in Arboriculture and Woodland Management at Sparsholt and Lackham Colleges.

## 2 SITE EVALUATION

### 2.1 Site Visit

The Tree Survey was carried out on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. All observation was from ground level, observations were confined to what was visible from within the site. The weather was cold and sunny.

### 2.2 Site Description

The site consists of an area of garden to the south of the house, it is laid to lawn with a line of managed shrubs and small trees. The boundary to the south and west is a fence with paddock beyond. To the southeast of the property is a boundary hedge with trees, this is a typical hedge bank with mainly Beech, some Oak and some Holly understorey. The Beech have been cut/coppiced/laid in the past and many of the stems have regenerated from the old laid/coppice.

The hedge has not had any management in some time until recently when the majority of the Beech trees have been topped, although in parts it has been trimmed back to form a cut hedge. The Oak to the southern end of the surveyed hedge has clearly been regularly pruned back from the power cables by the Electricity company. There is a further Oak which has been retained with its full canopy.



Photo 1 - View from the paddock looking north towards the property.



Photo 2 - View looking north showing Beech hedge bank and Oak.

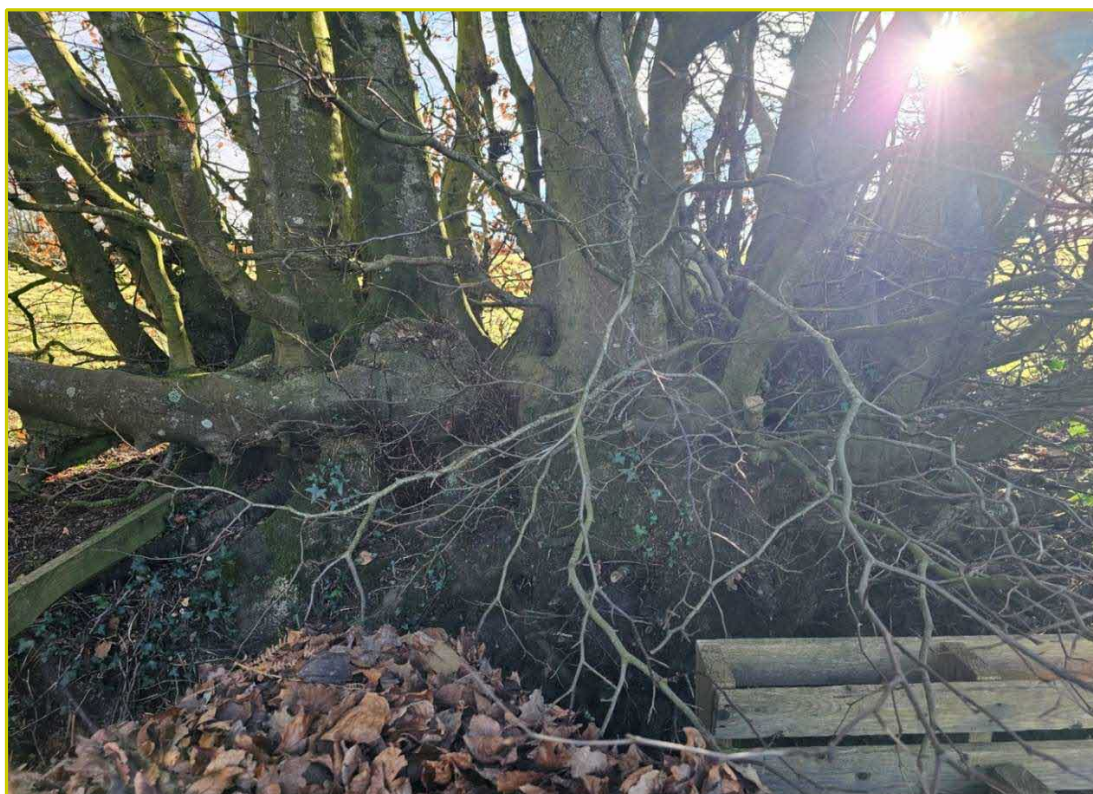


Photo 3 - Old Beech Coppice.



Photo 4 - Beech hedge bank showing partially trimmed back hedge line.



Photo 5 - Small trees and shrubs in garden.

### **2.3 Collection of Data**

The individual trees potentially impacted by the proposal on the site were surveyed as advocated by BS5837 (2012). Category rating was based on BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart (Appendix 3). The surveyed trees details are found in the Tree Survey Schedule (Appendix 1) and the Tree Survey Plan (Appendix 2).

### **2.4 Interpretation of Data**

The Root Protection Area (RPA) for individual trees was calculated using the process laid down in section 4.6 of BS5837 (2012). However, this is a simplistic methodology for establishing the minimum distance for protective barriers and consideration should be given to the influencing factors set out in section 4.6.3 of BS5837 (2012) in setting the RPAs on this site. The calculated RPAs of the retained trees are detailed in the Tree Survey Plan (Appendix 2). The area of the retained trees shadow has also been calculated and is detailed in the Tree Survey Plan (Appendix 2).

### **2.5 Root Protection Area**

The Root Protection Area (RPA) is the area where ground disturbance must be carefully controlled. In principle, no significant disturbance should occur within the RPA of category A, B or C trees as described in the BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart (Appendix 3), and high levels of care are needed during any activities authorised within the RPA if the trees are to be successfully retained. Consideration also needs to be given to the space needed for the trees to be successfully retained after development has finished i.e., enabling tree crowns have room to develop. This is more important for trees that fall within Category A or B.

### **2.6 Impact on Trees**

Any development should be made based on the primary assumption that there is no disturbance within the RPAs of the retained trees, particularly those of categories A and B. Careful consideration must be given to the restoration so that it has the least impact on trees on the site.

The current pool proposal will have no impact on the RPAs of the Beech bank hedge and Oaks, the RPAs can be protected with Protection Fencing during the construction of the pool. A number of the smaller trees and shrubs will be directly impacted by the proposals, however other than the Cypress most could be moved successfully and located elsewhere in the garden if desired/required.

## **3. Recommendations**

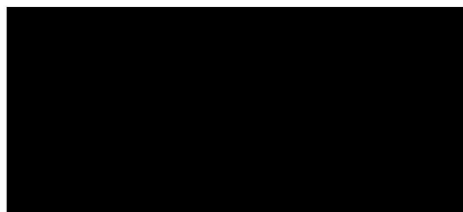
The proposed layout takes account of the main tree constraints detailed in this report. There will be a need for protection fencing of the hedge line and the need to remove/move a number of smaller trees and shrubs within the garden Demonstration at this stage that trees are fully protected may result in the local authority not requiring a full Arboricultural Method Statement at a future date.

#### **4 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Tree Survey Schedule

Appendix 2 Tree Survey Plan

Appendix 3 BS5837 (2012) Tree Quality Assessment Chart



Steve Russell BSc (Hons)  
Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd.

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

WOODLAND & COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT LTD

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE (BS5837:2012)

Client: Rex Ireland

Site: Wild Orchids, Harcombe Road, Reymonds Hill.

Date of Survey: 16th January 2024

Surveyor: Steve Russell

Tagged: No




Tree ID	Common Name	Latin Name	Maturity	Height (m)	Number of Stems	Stem 1 (mm)	Stem 2 (mm)	Stem 3 (mm)	Stem 4 (mm)	Stem 5 (mm)	Spread (m)				Canopy Height (m)				Crown	Stem	Basal Area	Category	Life Expectancy	Physiological Condition	Comment
											N	E	S	W	N	E	S	W							
1	Noble Fir	Abies procera	Young	6	1	120					1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	0	Good	Good	Good	C	>40 yrs	Good	
2	Lawson Cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Semi-mature	6	7	100					1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	0	Good	Good	Good	C	>40 yrs	Good	Regularly trimmed. Golden variety.
3	Lawson Cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Semi-mature	6	6	110					1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	8	Good	Good	Good	C	>40 yrs	Good	Regularly trimmed. Golden variety.
5	Common Oak	Quercus robur	Mature	17	1	360					3	4	6	4	9	4	4	6	Good	Good	Good	B	>40 yrs	Good	
4	Common Oak	Quercus robur	Mature	14	1	380					5	3	3	6	7	3	3	6	Fair	Fair	Good	C	>40 yrs	Fair	Weight to west. Pruned back from power line.
6	A Hedgerow			10		240					2	5	3	2	6	4	6	6	Fair	Good	Good	C	>40 yrs	Fair	Old hedge bank. Mainly beech. Odd oak younger Holly under. Multi stemmed from old hedge. Stem diam 100 up to 240mm. Crowns topped and sides reduced in past. Some reduced to 1 m. Partially trimmed back to reform hedge. Treat as group.





WILD ORCHIDS

**BS5837:2012 Table 1 - Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment**

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on Plan
<b>Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)</b>				
<b>Category U</b> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE</i> Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve: see [BS5837:2012] 4.5.7.</p>			
	<b>1 Mainly arboricultural qualities</b>	<b>2 Mainly landscape qualities</b>	<b>3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation</b>	
<b>Trees to be considered for retention</b>				
<b>Category A</b> 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)	
<b>Category B</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	
<b>Category C</b> 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	