

BS 5837 Arboricultural Impacts Assessment

CLIENT:	McGregor
SITE:	Land off Denham Road, Denham, IP29 5EW
OUR REF:	01490AIA/CJO/3005
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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.0 Introduction
 - 1.1 Brief
 - 1.2 Background, planning proposal & documents
 - 1.3 Site description
- 2.0 Trees
 - 2.1 Tree data
 - 2.2 Trees and the law
 - 2.3 Tree schedule and summary of trees
- 3.0 Tree Related Site Constraints
 - 3.1 Constraints to development posed by tree crowns/canopies
 - 3.2 Longer term implications of retained trees on quality of life
 - 3.3 Indirect damage (subsidence/heave)
- 4.0 Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA)
 - 4.1 Effect of development on trees General
 - 4.1.1 Direct/ mechanical damage (D-1)
 - 4.1.2 Ground compaction (D-2)
 - 4.1.3 Changes in ground level (D-3)
 - 4.1.4 Severance of roots by ground works (D-4)
 - 4.1.5 Contamination of ground (D-5)
 - 4.1.6 Change in ground surface (D-6)
 - 4.2 Effect of development on trees specific to this site
 - 4.2.1 Tree removals
 - 4.2.2 Facilitation pruning
 - 4.2.3 RPA encroachment
 - 4.3 Other potential impacts
 - 4.3.1 RPA encroachment of underground services
 - 4.3.2 Excavation within the RPA
 - 4.3.3 General construction activity within RPAs
 - 4.4 Issues to be addressed by the AMS

5.0 Conclusion

Appendix A	Tree schedule
Appendix B	Cascade chart explaining tree quality assessment
Appendix C	Tree Constraints Plan
Appendix D	Tree Survey Plan
Appendix E	Photographs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report comprises an arboricultural impacts assessment to assist a planning application on a plot of largely wooded ground off Denham Road, near Denham. The site is densely wooded by trees planted about thirty years ago apart from an open area at the northern end where a cabin is proposed. The scheme results in the loss of no trees but the removal of a shrub S7. RPA incursion is negligible and, due to the proposed use of the cabin where duration of residence will be short, no resentment from the presence of trees will arise. Building activity can potentially take place within the RPA of adjacent trees so precautions will be necessary to avoid this but this is easily achieved through a simple tree protection scheme. All protection matters can be detailed in an arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan if deemed necessary.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief

We are instructed to provide an arboricultural impacts assessment to assist a planning application at Land off Denham Road, Denham, IP29 5EW.

This report incorporates an arboricultural impact assessment and tree impacts plan demonstrating how trees in the immediate vicinity of the scheme may be affected by the proposed development and how trees may impact on the development.

It should be noted that the assessment is based on the impacts of the proposed development on trees and is based on the premise that all trees that can be realistically retained will be shown as retained.

Opinions expressed in this report in relation to the physical or aesthetic quality and value of trees are made on an impartial and non-prejudicial basis, based on observations made during the site survey.

Recommendations are consistent with the most recently revised version of the British Standard on this subject, "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations", BS 5837 (2012).

1.2 Background, planning proposal and documents

It is proposed that a cabin is constructed at the northern end of the site for glamping purposes.

1.3 Site Description

The application comprises a largely wooded pocket of land fronting onto Denham Road along its southern boundary and surrounded by farmland and pasture.

The northern end of the site is open and a track runs along the western side leading to the rear.



Figure 1 - Site of planning application (Google Earth aerial image)

2.0 TREES

2.1 Trees data

Dimensions relating to height, crown spread (at four cardinal points where considered necessary), girth at 1.5m as well as age class, structural and physiological condition and BS 5837 (2012) category are noted. The inspection assesses the height of the crown and suitability to develop near to it.

This survey does not include a detailed assessment of the health of the trees, but clear faults are factored into structural and physiological categories.

2.2 Trees and the law

This report does not formally identify whether planning restrictions apply to the trees. We understand, however, that the lime T1 is subject of a Tree Preservations Order.

Please note that no works around trees should be carried out without the approval of the Local Planning Authority (since it is likely to incur large fines) unless planning permission has been granted that indisputably necessitates the removal or pruning back of any of these trees.

Section 197 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 states that it shall be the duty of the local planning authority to ensure whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission, "adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees".

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) (1990) in conjunction with English Heritage empowers local authorities to designate areas of special architectural or historical interest as 'Conservation Areas', to preserve their character and appearance. Trees can form an intrinsic part of the character and appearance of such areas and the Act prohibits any works to trees within them.

Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework adopted in July 2018 states that, "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment" and Section 12 states that, "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments are....visually attractive" and "sympathetic to the local landscape".

The Council's Local Plan also contains policies relating to the protection and retention of trees and landscape.

2.3 Tree schedule and summary of trees

Please refer to the schedule at Appendix A for a tabulated summary of the arboricultural impacts of the scheme..

None of the trees noted are of exceptional character. Four trees T10, T12, T14 & T15 are identified as B grade trees on landscape amenity grounds but this is marginal and they are deemed as such simply because they are slightly larger trees by virtue of being located on the edge of the patch of woodland.

All the trees noted are young mature specimens planted probably about 30 years ago to form a small block of woodland. Quality is variable but typical of trees in such a setting, being somewhat asymmetric and containing varying levels deadwood but in totality they form a welcome landscape feature and habitat in an area of intense agriculture.

3.0 TREE RELATED SITE CONSTRAINTS – GENERAL

3.1 Constraints to development posed by tree crowns/canopies

Where crown/canopies of trees to be retained overhang a development site, careful assessment of the implications must be made. This may be deemed a constraint where it/they obstruct building work - including erection of scaffolding.

This is not anticipated.

3.2 Longer term implications of retained trees on quality of life

New structures and parking spaces close to trees may give rise to long term resentment of the trees through a variety of causes, some real and some perceived, resulting on pressure to remove the trees. These can include loss of ambient light or sunlight, leaf/needle litter and other debris from trees accumulating in gutters and gardens, sticky residues (honeydew) on surfaces and cars, provision of perches for birds - particularly pigeons - and consequent bird droppings and anxiety stemming from the presence of large trees close dwellings.

Such longer-term pressures are not considered to apply in view of the usage of the proposed structure. This will not provide housing but short term holiday stays where such longer term issues are not germane.

3.3 Indirect damage (subsidence/heave)

All new buildings must be cognisant of the shrinkability of the ground and ensure foundations are designed in full compliance with Chapter 4.2 of the NHBC guidelines "Building near trees", 1992, to ensure future co-existence with trees and new buildings.

4.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT (AIA)

4.1 Effect of development on trees - General

The objective of the report is to identify and evaluate the extent of direct and indirect damage on existing trees that may arise as a result of the implementation of the proposed development without appropriate guidance. A tree may take a century to reach maturity, but it can be irretrievably damaged in a few minutes often because of a failure to appreciate the vulnerability of trees and particularly the root systems. *Irreparable damage is frequently done to existing trees in the first few days of a contractor's occupation of a site.*

It is important to be aware that the effects of tree damage may not be apparent for some time.

There are a multitude of activities that can kill or damage trees on construction sites and there is a need to be mindful of these activities and why they may be so harmful to trees. These are briefly summarized below.



Figure 1 Typical root distribution of tree roots

4.1.1 Direct mechanical damage (*Referred to as D-1 in this report*)

Direct damage to the crown or stem is unlikely to kill a tree unless it is significant but may disfigure it and result in long-term decay setting in. This often occurs as a result of construction activities taking place too close to trees without protection or appropriate pre-construction tree surgery.

4.1.2 Ground compaction (*Referred to as D-2 in this report*)

This is likely to be the most common cause of tree death or decline on a building site. The vast majority of tree roots are located in the upper soil horizons where soil conditions are most favourable for root growth. It is these upper horizons that are most vulnerable to ground compaction. Compaction destroys soil structure, and this prevents soil moisture absorption into the ground and loss of natural aeration. This process deprives tree roots of moisture as well as giving rise to root asphyxiation and is often fatal to trees.

4.1.3 Changes in ground level (*Referred to as D-3 in this report*)

The majority of a tree's root systems are generally located in the upper 0.6m of the ground and the bulk of these roots happen to be very small, delicate and essential feeder roots. Reductions in ground level such as soil stripping can be catastrophic for a tree's health. Conversely increases in ground level can result in root asphyxiation.

4.1.4 Severance of roots by ground works (*Referred to as D-4 in this report*)

Excavation of ground to remove old foundations and hard standing, construction of conventional concrete footings, new hard standing or the installation of services such as water/sewerage pipes, gas/electricity cables, TV/telephone cables using open trenching within the drip-lines of trees severs any roots present, potentially leading to destabilization, decline or death of trees. It may also have implications for local soil hydrology.

4.1.5 Contamination of ground (*Referred to as D-5 in this report*)

Spillage of petrol, diesel, paint removers, wood preservatives and many other toxic liquids regularly used on building sites can kill roots.

4.1.6 Change in ground surface (*Referred to as D-6 in this report*)

Covering surfaces with impermeable materials – especially areas that were previously open ground can prove fatal for tree roots. Trees derive moisture from regular moisture recharge of the ground and nutrients generated by the nutrient cycle from decomposing leaf litter. Impervious surfaces can also prevent gaseous interchange between the ground and the atmosphere creating a build-up of toxic waste gases such as carbon dioxide and a deprivation of oxygen.

4.2 Effect of development on trees specific to this site

4.2.1 Tree Removals

No tree removals are necessitated by the scheme. Removal of the shrub S7, however, is required.

4.2.2 Facilitation pruning

Facilitation pruning may be required but is not considered to be likely. This can only be fully determined and quantified when the footprint is pegged out and the relationship with adjacent trees established.

Should the builders consider some tipping back of the outer, northern edge of T6 be required to avoid any minor obstruction to building, this should be carried out by a skilled tree surgeon. This will not, however, have any adverse impact on health or form.

4.2.3 RPA Encroachment

An RPA is defined in BSi 5837 (2012) as "the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree".

The 2012 British Standard formula for calculating the RPA has been used in conjunction with prevailing existing site conditions that can affect root morphology and dispositions such as the presence and type

of hardstanding, structures and underground apparatus; topography and drainage; tree health and vitality; species type of root severed; disposition of incursion and the soil type and structure to determine likely RPAs. The resultant RPAs are shown at Appendix C.

The British Standard states that incursion "should not exceed 20% of any existing unsurfaced ground within the RPA". This is guidance; though encroachment upon the RPA should be avoided, it can be acceptable in certain conditions and this involves assessment of the tolerance levels of the tree based on a variety of factors.

The proposed cabin will encroach upon less than 5% of the RPA of T10. This well below the 20% threshold generally advised by the British Standard. The trees are, moreover, early mature trees of high vitality that will tolerate any root loss with negligible impact on health and form. There is, moreover, ample new rooting space to exploit.

4.3 Other potential impacts

4.3.1 RPA incursion of underground services

At the time of writing, no services plan was available. Any new services, however, are anticipated to be placed to the north away from the woodland and would be informed by RPAs.

4.3.2 Excavation within the RPA

A section of the foundations of the proposed extension will be laid within a peripheral section of the RPAs of T4, T6 & T10 as described above. The level of incursion is very low but appropriate precautions should be applied when digging the trench adjacent T1 to minimise any damage to roots. This can be detailed in an arboricultural method statement.

4.3.3 General construction activity within RPAs

Construction activity associated with the proposed works can be severely damaging to trees and include demolition and levelling; movement of heavy plant; mixing of cementitious substances; fires, storage of materials etc.

Such activities will be a major factor in assessing impacts to the lime of the build process. Much of the rear garden will be colonised by its RPA and where there is open ground, compaction and leaching of toxic materials may have a damaging impact on the health of the lime.

Additionally, if the flagged surface is porous, as is likely, mixing of concrete/cement on this surface may result in toxic leachates being absorbed into the root zone.

This can be avoided by the creation of Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ) and the use of ground protection and can be detailed in an arboricultural method statement, ideally in association with site contractors.

4.4 Issues to be addressed by the AMS:

- Construction of ground protection
- Erection of tree protection
- Possible pre commencement tree surgery
- Root pruning/protection

5.0 CONCLUSION

The scheme results in the loss of no trees but the removal of a shrub S7. RPA incursion is negligible and, due to the proposed use of the cabin where duration of residence will be short, no resentment from the presence of trees will arise. Building activity can potentially take place within the RPAs of adjacent trees so precautions will be necessary to avoid this but this is easily achieved through a simple tree protection scheme.



Appendix A Tree survey schedule

No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem ø @ 1.5m (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Maturity	Physiological & Structural Condition	Crown Height (m)	1st Sig. Branch (Ht./Dir.)	SULE	BS5837 Cat.	Comments	RPA Radius (m)
T1	Horse chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)	4.7	150	N -2 S -2 E -1 W -2	SM	PhysGood StructGood	2.7	2 (N)	>40	C2	Established specimen; corner location atop embankment Works: -	1.8
T2	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	6.8	200	N -1.5 S -4 E -4 W -4	EM	PhysFair StructFair	3.0	3 (S)	20- 40	C2	On ditch embankment; codominant stem recently cut to 1m stump; some deadwood; low vitality Works: -	2.4
T3	English oak (Quercus robur)	8	310	N -3.5 S -5.5 E -2.7 W -4.8	EM	PhysGood StructGood	2.0	1.8 (S)	>40	C2	Good health;asymmetric due to removal of trees to east but good vitality Works: -	3.72
T5	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	9	180	N -2.7 S -3 E -2 W -2.2	EM	PhysGood StructGood	6	4.1 (W)	>40	C2	Some etiolation due to wooded setting Works: -	2.16
T4	English oak (Quercus robur)	8.3	320	N -4 S -5.2 E -4 W -6.3	EM	PhysGood StructGood	0.8	2 (S)	>40	C2	Good health; slight asymmetry due to location on corner of wooded area Works: -	3.84
T6	Field maple (Acer campestre)	8	240	N -4.5 S -4.5 E -2.9 W -5.2	EM	PhysGood StructGood	0.4	4 (SW)	>40	C2	Good health; slight asymmetry due to location on edge of wooded area Works: -	2.88
S7	Common dogwood (Cornus sanguinea)	4.6	100 80	N -2.5 S -2 E -1.8 W -1.7	М	PhysGood StructGood			>40	C2	Establshed shrub on edge of wooded area Works: -	1.54

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No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem ø @ 1.5m (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Maturity	Physiological & Structural Condition	Crown Height (m)	1st Sig. Branch (Ht./Dir.)	SULE	BS5837 Cat.	Comments	RPA Radius (m)
Т8	Goat willow (Salix caprea)	9.5	320	N -3 S -4 E -4.8 W -3.6	М	PhysFair StructGood	5	5 (NE)	>40	C2	Within wooded area; significant deadwood in lower canopy Works: -	3.84
Т9	Goat willow (Salix caprea)	9.5	320	N -3 S -4 E - 4.8 W - 3.6	М	PhysFair StructGood	5	5(NE)	>40	C2	Within wooded area; significant deadwood in lower canopy Works: -	3.84
T10	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	12	250	N -3.7 S -3.7 E -3.7 W -3.7	М	PhysGood StructGood	7	4.8 (N)	>40	B2	Clear stem to 5m; shapely crown Works: -	3
T11	Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	5	70 70 50 40	N -2 S -1.6 E -1 W -2.3	EM	PhysPoor StructPoor			<10	U	Predomiantly dead Works: -	1.42
T12	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	13	190 240	N -3.7 S -5 E -5.2 W -3	М	PhysGood StructGood	8	4 (E)	20- 40	B2	Edge of wooded area; largely deadwood in lower crown Works: -	3.67
T13	Common lime (Tilia x europaea)	8.5	240	N -4 S -2 E -4.3 W -3.2	М	PhysGood StructGood	1.6	1.3 (W)	>40	C2	Edge of wooded area; historic damage to base of stem; good woundwood Works: -	2.88
T14	Crack willow (Salix fragilis)	13	330	N -3.8 S -5.2 E -9 W -2.2	М	PhysGood StructGood	2	2.8 (E)	>40	B2	Edge of wooded area; crown bias to east Works: -	3.96

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No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem ø @ 1.5m (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Maturity	Physiological & Structural Condition	Crown Height (m)	1st Sig. Branch (Ht./Dir.)	SULE	BS5837 Cat.	Comments	RPA Radius (m)
T15	Goat willow (Salix caprea)	12.5	270 190 170	N -5.5 S -3.1 E -4.8 W -5.4	м	PhysGood StructFair	5	4 (NE)	20- 40	B2	Some asymmetry due to trees being removed from west; some damage in crown from felling Works: -	4.45
T16	English oak (Quercus robur)	7.7	180	N -5 S -3.7 E -3.2 W -4.7	SM	PhysGood StructGood	2.3	1.4 (E)	>40	C2	Some asymmetry due to trees being removed from west; so damage in crown from felling of other trees; some mechani damage to stem Works: -	
T17	Common lime (Tilia x europaea)	8	160	N -2.9 S -2 E - 1.2 W - 3.2	SM	PhysGood StructGood	0.9	1.9(N)	>40	C2	Well established Works: -	1.92
T18	European larch (Larix decidua)	5	200	N -0.5 S -3.7 E -2.8 W -2	ЕM	PhysPoor StructFair	4.5		10- 20	U	Edge of woodland facing highway; seriously disfigured by poor tree work; little potential to redevelop its crown Works: -	2.4
T19	Common lime (Tilia x europaea)	4.6	220	N -1 S -3.3 E -2.2 W -2.9	ЕM	PhysPoor StructPoor	5		10- 20	U	Edge of woodland facing highway; seriously disfigured by poor tree work; little potential to redevelop its crown Works: -	2.64
T20	English oak (Quercus robur)	11.6	340	N -4 S -2.6 E -1.7 W -3.9	ЕM	PhysFair StructFair	4	1.7 (NE)	10- 20	U	Edge of woodland facing highway; seriously disfigured by poor tree work; little potential to redevelop its crown Works: -	4.08
T21	Field maple (Acer campestre)	10	180 170 180	N -4 S -2.9 E -4.6 W -2.4	EM	PhysPoor StructPoor	2.5	0.5 (NE)	>40	C2	Within wooded area; established; typical shrubby form Works: -	3.67

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No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem ø @ 1.5m (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Maturity	Physiological & Structural Condition	Crown Height (m)	1st Sig. Branch (Ht./Dir.)	SULE	BS5837 Cat.	Comments	RPA Radius (m)
T22	English oak (Quercus robur)	8.7	280	N -2.5 S -2.9 E -3 W -4.6	EM	PhysFair StructFair	3	1.7 (W)	20- 40	U	Edge of woodland facing highway; seriously disfigured by poor tree work; little potential to redevelop its crown Works: -	3.36
T23	Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	9.5	310	N -2 S -1 E -2.5 W -2.5	EM	PhysFair StructFair	8		>40	C2	Edge of woodland facing highway; rather narrow, columnar crown with all lower limbs removed Works: -	3.72
T24	Common beech (Fagus sylvatica)	10	270	N -3 S -3.3 E -3.1 W -3	EM	PhysFair StructFair	3		>40	C2	Within wooded area; established; lower branches on SE side lopped off Works: -	3.24
T25	Common lime (Tilia x europaea)	9.1	270240	N -4.1 S -4.4 E -4 W - 5.1	EM	PhysGood StructGood	3		>40	C2	Within wooded area; established tree; good health Works: -	4.33



Appendix B - Cascade chart explaining tree quality assessment

KEY TO TREE S	CHEDULE RE	FERENCES					
Prefix:	T – Tree * Estimated	S – Shrub/Climber	TG/SG – Group/Hedge of Trees or Shrubs	Dia.:	N/A - Tree less	than 100mm (for shrubs: young, sen	ni-mature or mature)
Age Class: Life Expectancy: B.S. Category: Physiological Condition:	* Estimated Semi-m Early-m M Va Over-m How many See Appendi Good: Fair: Poor:	Young: Generally less ature: Within first 30 ature: Typically 30-60 ature: Typically 60% eteran A stage of dev ature: Where a tree i years before tree is like x 2 Healthy tree with no Some disease noted a Significant disease no	than 10 years old and high life expectancy % of life expectancy and significant growth to be 0% of life expectancy, full size almost reached or more of life expectancy, full size reached with elopment where intervention/management mar- is so senescent that management is not worthw ly to need removing (subject to human intervent symptoms of significant disease and/or vitality is below what would be expected oted and/or very low vitality	e expected n very gradual, sli y be required to o hile tion) Crown F Structur Conditio	ght further increas ensure the tree rer Radius: If crow ral Good: on: Fair: Poor:	es in size nains safe n is symmetrical, one dimension is g No significant structural defects Defects noted but not sufficient t Significant defects. Monitoring ar	given for the radius followed by "S" o warrant immediate work ad/or remedial works required
Space Below Cro	Very Poor: wn: A usefu	Tree is in severe decli	ne e the practicality of developing below the crown	. Rather than a m	Very Poor: easurement which	Significant defects requiring immo	ediate work or tree removal
	Y N N/A	Potential to devel No scope to deve Tree to be remov	lop below the dripline with either no treework o lop below the dripline of the tree ed	r removal of limb	os that will not adv	ersely affect the health and appeara	ance of the tree
Treework: Ti H L N P R R	his is general sin High prior No urgen No treew Facilitatio Remove - A Tree remo A Treework Sever and	ice the report is not a tr rity. For trees to be reta t work required but wor ork identified as necess on tree surgery advised - tree identified to be re oved to accommodate devel to accommodate devel I remove ivy	ree-work specification. It indicates: ained and where work required to make safe uld benefit from some intervention ary in the foreseeable future emoved because "U" category tree development lopment	B.S. Category: 1 - Mainly Arbo	 A - Those of high B - Those of good C - Those of low young trees U - Those of such ricultural value 	quality and value i.e. make a substa I/moderate quality and value, might v quality i.e. adequate to remain u with a stem diameter less than 150r poor condition that any existing val 2 - Mainly Landscape value	ntial contribution; be Cat. "A" but slightly impaired ntil new planting is established or nm at 1.5m height lue would be lost within 10 years 3 - Mainly Ecological value

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)								
Trees unsuitable for retention									
Category U Those in such condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other U category trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)								
use for longer than To years.	Trees that are dead or are showing signs	s of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall o	decline						
	• Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or stability of other nearby trees (e.g. Dutch elm disease), or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality.								
	NOTE: Category U trees can have existin	g or potential conservation value which it might be	desirable to preserve.						
	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 of particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are 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 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)	LIGHT GREEN					
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated contribution of at least 20 years	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 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	MID BLUE					
Category C Frees of low quality with an estimated contribution of at east 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	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 landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	GREY					



Appendix C - Tree Constraints Plan









Appendix D - Tree Survey Plan





Appendix E - Photographs





