

BS5837 Tree Survey The Old Manor, Croscombe

Client:

Mr & Mrs Friend

Site:

The Old Inn

Roemead Road

Green Ore

BA5 3ES

homelands.focal.widget

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Table of Contents:

Contact Sheet...	Page 1
Section 1.0 – Scope of the Report...	Page 3
Section 2.0 – BS5837:2012...	Page 5
Section 3.0 – General Information...	Page 5
Section 4.0 - Habitat Considerations...	Page 6
Section 5.0 – Root Protection Area...	Page 6
Section 6.0 – References...	Page 7
Section 7.0 – Survey Table...	Page 8
Appendix 1 – Tree Constraints Plan...	Page 9



1.0 Scope of The Report

1.1 *Instruction*: email instruction from Nick German of DB & Paul (6/12) to undertake a tree survey to BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations to inform and support proposed development at The Old Inn. The aim of the report is to provide an Arboricultural, landscape and cultural (conservation) value for the trees to inform the proposed development (*Section 2.0 BS5837.2012*).

1.2 *Tree identification*: The trees will be identified numerically in section 7.0 Survey Table and by botanical and/or common name either as individuals or as groups.

1.3 *Tree dimensions*: Height in metres, diameter in millimetres at 1.5m above the ground, crown clearance and crown spread in metres. All measurements are taken on site as accurately as possible unless stated as “estimated” but should be verified by re-measurement.

1.4 *Age classification*: The trees have been classified as young (Y), semi mature (SM), mature (M), over mature (OM) and veteran (V). This corresponds to the first, second and third stages of tree life expectancy for the species followed by senescence (OM/V).

1.5 *Physiological Condition Assessment* – an assessment of the trees’ current health, looking at vigour and the presence of disease. These are categorised as follows:

- **Poor** - in decline, moribund or with significant faults/disease indicators
- **Fair** - some minor faults/disease indicators but otherwise of good vigour as might be expected of the age and species.
- **Good** - no apparent faults, good vigour for age and species, significant life expectancy

1.6 *Structural Condition Assessment*: External features of the trees will be assessed from ground level using visual observation methods (*Mattheck and Breloer 1994*), with the aid of a mallet and metal probe. No internal investigations will be made beneath the bark at this level of assessment, nor will any investigations be made below ground. Individual notes relating to each tree or group of trees will be recorded.

1.7 *Recommendations*: Informed by the above assessment of vigour, health and structural condition. Recommendations will also take account of the landscape and habitat contribution of the trees. All works are specified to BS3998:2010 Tree Works except end weight reduction.

1.8 *Priority*: Recommendations will identify Arboricultural works prioritised as either “**Desirable**” (D) - carried out for the long-term safe retention of the trees or “**Essential**” (E) - immediately required for reasons of safety to people or property or to ensure the short-term retention or survival of the trees.

- **Essential** works should be carried out within six months of the survey unless otherwise stated.
- **Desirable** works should be carried out appropriately as part of the long-term management objectives.

1.9 *Hazards*: Trees are subject to the laws & forces of nature. No tree can ever be said to be completely safe. The laws and forces of nature dictate a natural failure rate even among trees that are healthy and structurally sound. By their very nature, therefore, trees cannot be considered entirely hazard free, though it is stressed that the risk posed is generally present at very low and acceptable levels. For this reason, it is considered important by most practitioners that trees are not managed in a risk-averse way (*BS8516 unpublished*). This report can be used to guide your own risk assessment but cannot be used as a categorical statement of the trees current or future condition or safety.

The information recorded refers to the circumstances found at the time of inspection any changes to the site (excavation, tree works, ground level changes etc) will render the report invalid.

The report remains valid for one year only.

1.10 *Author(s)*: I.M Chedgy holds a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry alongside the Arboricultural Association’s Technicians Certificate (Tech Arbor A), the Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (ANCH), the title Associate of the Institute of Horticulture (AI Hort) and has completed the Royal Forestry Society’s Professional Diploma theory paper (M Arbor A). He has worked as an Arborist for 17 years both in private practice and for a local authority. I.M Chedgy is a member of the Arboriculture Association (AA), and the Royal Forestry Society (RFS).

2.0 BS5837:2012

The British Standard aims to provide guidance for a balanced approach to deciding which trees are appropriate for retention, on the effect of trees on design considerations and on the means of protecting retained trees during development. The standard follows a logical sequence:

- Tree Survey & categorisation **A1 - 3** Trees of high quality and value; **B1 - 3** Trees of moderate quality and value; **C1 - 3** Trees of low quality and value; **U** - Trees for removal *N.B. Categorisation colours as BS5837 Table 1.*
- Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) - to identify crown and root spread (*Section 5 Root Protection Area RPA*)
- Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) – once the design & layout of the site has been finalised the report should be used to prepare the TPP and AMS for the retained trees. This should be carried out in consultation with the Project Arboriculturist.

3.0 General/Site Notes:

3.1 The tree surveyed, a single copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica* “*Purpurea*”, is prominent in the front garden of The Old Inn, Green Ore adjacent to and visible from Roemead Road.

3.2 T1 Beech – a fully mature beech of some 14m height and 1060mm diameter at 1.5m above ground level. Subject to an extensive canopy reduction sometime in the last 10 years, the tree stands on a raised platform approximately 300mm above the surrounding garden with surface roots at the lower level on the west side (Fig 1 below). Fruit bodies of the decay fungus *Ganoderma australe* can be seen between the buttresses indicating heartwood decay in the lower stem/root collar. Lower stem swelling maybe a growth response to grafting.



Fig 1 – showing lower stem swelling and raised platform

3.3 Tree Condition Assessment – taken from BS5837 Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment; the majority of the trees have been classified as **B1** “Trees that might be included in category A but are downgraded because of impaired condition” (BS5837 Table 1).

3.4 Arboricultural Management – wherever trees on or adjacent to the site have been identified in the tree protection process, there should be an auditable system of Arboricultural site monitoring and supervision (BS5837 section 6.3).

Recommend (1) – The Project Arboriculturist to supervise all tree related operations (E).

3.5 **Planning Constraints** – from the Mendip DC web site interactive map, I understand that the tree is not within a conservation area. And not subject to a protection order. Further information from the MDC Tree Officer (0300 303 8588).

4.0 Habitat Considerations

4.1 *Bats*: All bats and their roost sites are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is unlikely that bats will be using the tree for resting or foraging.

4.2 *Birds*: All birds and their nest sites are protected under the act. Where practicable works should take place outside of nesting season (1st March – 31st August).

5.0 Root Protection Area (RPA)

Trees selected for retention should be protected within a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). This must be a construction exclusion zone of temporary fixed fencing (*BS5837 section 6.2.2 Figure 2 as appropriate*) that provides for a minimum RPA for each tree and may be represented on the tree protection plan as a circle taking the tree as its centre. TPZ dimensions should be set out in the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and the associated Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).

5.0 References.

Arboricultural Association – Tree Surveys, a guide to good practice (Note 7)
BS3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations
BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition & construction – Recommendations
BS8516 Recommendations for tree safety inspections (working document unpublished)
Londsdale (1999) – Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management
Mattheck & Breloer (1994) – The Body Language of Trees
Mitchell (1994) – Trees of Britain & Northern Europe
National Tree Safety Group & HSE Publications (2011) Common Sense Risk Management of Trees
Tree Council (2019) – Ash Dieback: an action plan tool kit <https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Tree-Council-Ash-Dieback-Toolkit-2.0-2.pdf>

7.0 Survey Table

Tree No.	Species	Height (M)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Age Class	Canopy Spread (M)	General Condition	Field Notes	Recommendations	Priority
T1	Copper Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> "Purpurea"	14	1060	Mature	N6.5 S7.3 E6.4 W4.8	Fair	Recent crown reduction, Ganoderma austral bracket between buttresses, surface roots (W), lower stem swelling	Bi-annual inspection to monitor extend of decay	B1

Key: AGL- above ground level, D – desirable, D/W – dead wood, E – essential, FTGL – fell to ground level, G – group, H – hedge, N, S, E, W – cardinal points, PBU – principal branch union

Appendix 1 The Old Inn Tree Constraints Plan v1

