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arboricultural consultants



Location:  
**Land Off Whistler Drive  
Castleford**

Report Type:  
**Arboricultural Survey  
Arboricultural Impact Assessment  
Arboricultural Method Statement**

Ref:  
**ARB/AE/3029**

Date:  
**May 2024**

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# 1 Introduction

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- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Andrew Elliott of Elliott Consultancy Ltd on behalf of the applicant.
- 1.2 Elliott Consultancy Ltd was commissioned to visit the site to inspect the trees and to produce an arboricultural report in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction*'. An initial inspection of the trees was undertaken on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 1.3 **Scope of the report:**
- This report provides arboricultural information and advice in relation to the proposed re-development of the site – as shown within Appendix 6.
  - It should be used to guide the construction process in order to minimise potential damage to retained trees.
  - Section 4 provides a summary of the design proposals and their impact on the current tree population.
  - Sections 5 - 7 provide a method statement that details all measures recommended for adequate tree protection including any special construction measures to be utilised.
  - Within the Arboricultural Tasks Sequence Table (Appendix 2), is a timescale for implementation of these tree works and protective measures in reference to the development period.
- 1.4 **Prior to site works commencing, the Arboricultural Method Statement needs to be passed to the site manager or contractor and used as reference during the development period, with particular attention paid to Sections 5-7, and Appendices 3-7.**

## 2 Site Information

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- 2.1 The project area is located to the south of Castleford in an area of currently disused land immediately adjacent to the M62 highway corridor (which is to the south). Figure 1 shows the area pertinent to this application:



**Figure 1: Proposals area highlighted.**

- 2.2 There is no tree cover located within the site boundary. Tree cover pertinent to these proposals includes trees located around the periphery of the site, in particular to the east in an area of semi-mature woodland, and to the south within the M62 corridor. Any visibility restrictions encountered during the survey are noted within the tree data (Appendix 1).

### 3 Tree Quality Assessment

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3.1 BS5837:2012 notes that all trees apart from those with stem diameters <150mm or classified as Category U should be viewed as a site constraint. When inspected, each tree and or group feature is assigned one of four categories that signify how suitable that tree/group would be for retention within any development proposals, and therefore the degree to which it should constrain the site. The four categories are as follows:

3.2.1 **Category A** trees are those of high quality and value, and of a condition whereby they could make a substantial contribution to the site. Such trees should be retained and offered adequate consideration during the design phase and physical protection during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

3.2.2 **Category B** trees are those of moderate quality and value, and of a condition that still make a substantial contribution to the site. Category B trees should be retained wherever possible and offered adequate consideration during the design phase and physical protection during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

3.2.3 **Category C** trees are considered to be of low quality and value, or lacking stature, but of an adequate condition to remain in the short-term. These trees can also be retained if required but where they form a significant constraint to development their removal should be considered. Where they are to be retained they should be afforded adequate consideration during the design phase and physical protection during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837:2012.

3.2.4 **Category U** trees are of such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years. As a result it is recommended that Category U trees are not considered a constraint for development and are removed prior to construction commencing.

### 3 Tree Quality Assessment (cont)

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- 3.3 In addition to the four main categories explained above, each tree/group is assigned a sub-category which signifies its overriding value as determined by the surveyor, which is noted by adding a suffix of 1, 2 or 3 alongside the category letter. 1 signifies that the trees/groups main value is arboricultural e.g. it may be a particularly good example or may be rare. A 2 signifies that the overriding factor was due to the landscape value that the tree/group provides e.g. it may be part of a group feature such as a screen. A 3 indicates that a cultural factor was the overriding value e.g. it may have historical or commemorative importance.

## 4 Design Proposals and Arboricultural Impact

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4.1 This section concentrates on the proposals and how they relate to the trees on the site (proposals are shown within Appendix 6).

4.2 **Potential Conflict 1: Loss of trees to allow design.**

No trees require removal to allow construction.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** No countermeasures or mitigation is required.

4.3 **Potential Conflict 2: Damage to trees due to the regrading of ground to facilitate construction.**

The proposed level changes are in close proximity to the boundary trees and may cause damage to underlying root tissue.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** The design has allowed for minimal level change within any root protection areas that extend into the site, with retaining structures expected to allow levels near the trees to remain unchanged. No significant negative impact is therefore expected.

4.4 **Potential Conflict 3: Damage to retained trees during construction.**

Trees could be damaged during construction due to a variety of reasons including impact, root severance, ground compaction, and spillages etc.

**Mitigation / Countermeasure:** All trees can be protected from damage in accordance with BS5837. The current layout allows root protection areas to be respected to ensure no future conflicts are experienced. Fencing locations and construction exclusion zones are shown at Appendix 7.

## 5 Pre-Development and Site Preparation Works

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- 5.1 Refer to Appendix 2 for stage specific tasks.
- 5.2 Prior to any site work the tree protection barriers needs to be erected in order to protect the retained trees and the soil structure from damage; this must remain in situ during the entire build process. The fencing needs to be erected according to the locations found on the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 7). The fence should conform to the specifications within Appendix 3. All weather notices should be attached to the fencing marked with the following: '*Construction Exclusion Zone - Keep Out*' (a notice is provided within Appendix 4).
- 5.3 Construction material storage must be confined to an area identified outside of all root protection areas and construction exclusion zones (see Appendix 7) and agreed with the local authority as acceptable.
- 5.4 At the beginning of the construction phase, the site manager will appoint a delegated site representative who shall be responsible for continued checking of protective fencing to ensure it is compliant with the exclusion zone.



## **6 Tree protection measures during construction**

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- 6.1 Refer to Appendix 3 for stage specific tasks.
- 6.2 All ground levels where trees are located should be maintained. Changes to soil levels adjacent to trees can severely affect the trees structural integrity and its ability to gain moisture and nutrients from the surrounding soil. Unavoidable level changes that may affect retained trees, and not already accounted for within this method statement, should be assessed by a qualified arboriculturalist so that any mitigation or special construction techniques can be considered.
- 6.3 Building material storage and operations that can contaminate soil, such as cement mixing, must be confined to areas outside the construction exclusion zone.
- 6.4 Fires will not be lit.
- 6.5 The tree should not be used to attach notices, cables or other services.

## **7 Tree protection measures post-construction**

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- 7.1 Refer to Appendix 2 for stage specific tasks.
- 7.2 Only once all construction works have been completed can the protective fencing be removed.

## Appendix 1: Tree Data

### Key to tree survey headings:

- **Species** – Common name of each tree
- **DBH** – Average 'Diameter at breast height' in mm taken on stem at 1.5m.
- **Hgt** – Average Height in metres of each tree
- **Average spread:** Crown spread in metres to from centre of stem
- **CH** – Crown clearance from ground to lowest branches
- **Age** – Age-class of tree: Y = Young, SM = Semi-mature, M = Mature, OM = Over-mature.
- **General observations** – details both Physiological and structural Condition
- **Est Con** – Estimated life expectancy / contribution to the landscape (in years): 0-10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+
- **Recommendations** – Any recommendations that, regardless of land use, require attention.
- **BS. Cat** – Retention category. **A**, **B**, **C**, or **U**. For retained trees **A** being of the highest quality, **C** being the lowest. Category **U** trees for removal regardless of design. Category A, B, & C are given sub-catagories 1, 2, & 3 – details of which are shown in appendices.

## Group Data

Group Number	Dominant Species	Lesser Species	DBH	Average Height	Age	Average Spread	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	EstCont	BS Cat
1	Wild Cherry Ash	Hawthorn Sycamore	20	8	SM	3	Off-site trees in M62 corridor. Generally larger stems are 2m + away from fenceline but with sections of dense Cherry suckering on fenceline and 1-2m overhang - can be cut back to boundary without impact. Individually low quality but screen function.	No work required	40+	B2
2	Ash Sycamore		35	10	SM	3	Off-site trees in M62 corridor. Small group of x10 trees. Stems 2m plus from fenceline at closest point. Overhang maximum of 2m at 4m height.	No work required	40+	B2
3	Goat Willow		15	6	SM	3	Off-site ? x2 Dense lines of small multi-stemmed Gaot Willow on either side of path. Individually very low quality due to poor multi-stemmed form - suspect past flail cutting at 2m? Very occasional young Birch.	No work required	20+	C2
4	Goat Willow Silver Birch Ash		15	8	SM	3	Off-site. Scrubby woodland plantation. Most tree cover is several metres from fenceline. No overhang.	No work required	40+	B2

Group Number	Dominant Species	Lesser Species	DBH	Average Height	Age	Average Spread	Condition/Comments	Recommendations	EstCont	BS Cat
5	Hawthorn	Common Alder Willow spp	1	1	Y	1	Recent linear plantation at 1m spacings on raised bund.	No work required	40+	C2

## Appendix 2: Arboricultural Tasks Sequence Tables

Tree or Group Number	Pre-Demolition & Construction Stage	Construction Stage	Post Construction Stage
All retained and neighbouring trees	<p>Adhere to Section 5.</p> <p>Set out and erect protective fencing as per Appendix 3 &amp; 7.</p> <p>Attach notice in Appendix 4.</p>	<p>Adhere to specification within Section 6.</p> <p>Monitor integrity of fencing and tree protection area.</p>	<p>Adhere to specification within Section 7.</p> <p>Remove tree protection measures.</p>

### Appendix 3: Protective Fencing Specification









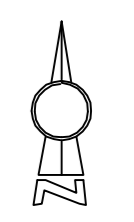
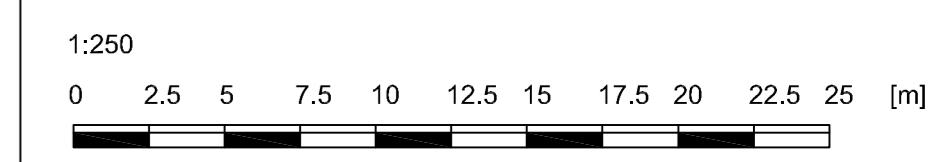
Root Protection Area - to remain free from disturbance (merged where over-lapping)

Group of Trees

1/G1/H1 Tree/Group/Hedgerow Number

A1/B1/  
C1/U BS5837 Retention Category

1 Photo Number, Position and Aspect



APPENDIX 5

Drawing Title: Tree Constraints Plan


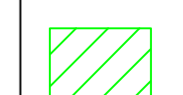
Project: Land off Whistler Drive

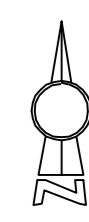
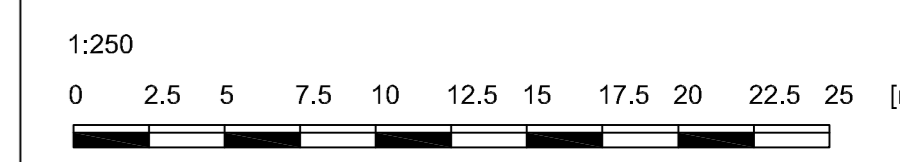
Drawing Number: ARB/AE/3029/TCP

Date: January 2023

Scale: 1:250 @ A0



-  Root Protection Area - to remain free from disturbance (merged where over-lapping)
-  Group of Trees
- 1/G1/H1 Tree/Group/Hedgerow Number
- A1/B1/  
C1/U BS5837 Retention Category





Group of Trees

1/G1/H1 Tree/Group/Hedgerow Number

A1/B1/  
C1/U BS5837 Retention Category

1:250  
0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 15 17.5 20 22.5 25 (m)



Protection Fence

Construction Exclusion Zone

**APPENDIX 7**

Drawing Title: Tree Protection Plan  
Project: Land off Whistler Drive  
Drawing Number: ARB/AE/3029/TPP  
Date: May 2024  
Scale: 1:250 @ A0