TREE CONSULTANTS

Tolson Court Management Company
Tolson Court
Huddersfield Road
Penistone
Sheffield
S36 7BU

10th February 2015

Ref: AWA1314

Arboricultural Report
at:
TOLSON COURT, HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, PENISTONE

Introduction

As instructed, I have visited the above site and inspected the five trees growing around the property.

The property is a large stone residential building with surrounding land. The garden areas contain five significant trees numbered **T1** to **T5** on the attached plan. Other less significant vegetation was not surveyed in this instance.

The trees were given a formal visual inspection from ground level, primarily in order to identify any obvious tree defects posing a serious and present risk of harm, and if necessary, manage these tree-related risks to an acceptable level. The trees were surveyed using 'Visual Tree Assessment' techniques and in accordance with the guiding principles of National Tree Safety Group Guidance.

Institute of Chartered Foresters
Registered Consultant

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The Trees

TREE 1 (T1)

Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Age Class	Height (m)	Diameter at 1m (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Target Value	Future growth potential (yrs)
Mature	22	146	24	Fair	High	20-40

This is a very large tree situated on a raised garden area near the south eastern corner of the site. It is adjacent to and overhanging the road and public footpath.

The trees rooting area will be restricted slightly to the east and south due to the raised location, yet no significant defects were noted around the rooting area or stem base. There is a slightly fissured and calloused lower stem, highlighting the trees advanced age. The tree stem becomes massive at around 2m from ground level, with the main stem dividing at this point and then immediately dividing again into around 8 main stems. Tight unions and partially included bark is visible at the main and secondary unions. The main stems are relatively upright in form, reducing the likelihood of branch failure. The secondary branches that run to the south east, towards the road have signs of included bark that indicates a more weakly attached union.

It is likely the growth of the main unions has created a large central cup-like formation, which is collecting leaf debris and water; however this wasn't visible from a ground inspection, and other than the wide lower stem – suggesting reaction growth- there was no obvious signs of major decay at this main union area.

The lower and central crown has a number of crossing branches, where two separate branches are rubbing against each other and causing damage and reaction growth. These crossing stems are a structural weak point, and they should be removed by suitable pruning where possible.

The central third of the crown is relatively sparsely branched, largely as a result of previous thinning works. The pruning wounds from the thinning works are generally small in diameter and healing well. The outer crown appears in good health, with no signs of dieback or significant deadwood.

Recommended works: *Remove the crossing branch of around 25cm diameter, situated at around 5m and 9m from ground level, to the south-eastern section of the crown, the smaller crossing branch should be removed and the remaining branch should be reduced back by around 3m to 4m. Also remove the crossing branch at around 7m from ground level in the northern section of the crown and shorten the remaining by around 3m. Other smaller crossing branches should be removed as suitable. Crown reduce the south-eastern section of the crown by 3m to suitable points (crown section that that is overhanging the road & emanates from the main lower stem union with fused/included bark).*

These works are recommended to make the tree safer for retention, yet in the longer term a phased crown reduction of the whole tree is advised.

TREE 2 (T2)

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

Age Class	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Target Value	Future growth potential (yrs)
Mature	19	65	12	Poor	Moderate	10-20

This tree is situated near the south eastern corner of the building in a shrub area.

It has a bulbous lower stem indicating reaction growth as a response to central decay. It is tear wound at 2m with a tight union at this point that is collecting dirt.

There are minor cavities at 3m and at 5m from ground level. The tree has a very sparse lower crown and an unbalanced upper crown that is leaning towards the building. The crown has moderate dieback and deadwood.

Due to the stem defects and poor crown condition, some form of crown management would be prudent for this tree.

Recommendation: *Crown reduce down to suitable points at around 12m from ground level, selectively reduce the crown sides to create a balanced form.*

TREE 3 (T3)

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Age Class	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Target Value	Future growth potential (yrs)
Mature	19	60	11	Fair	Moderate	40+

This tree is situated in a sloping garden area, near the property.

It is single-stemmed and vertical, becoming twin-stemmed at 2.5m with a tight union and partially included bark, yet has an upright form with no major visible defects.

The tree has previously been crown lifted, resulting a slightly unbalanced high crown form. The tree has no major visible defects.

Recommendation: *No action required.*

TREE 4 (T4)

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Age Class	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Target Value	Future growth potential (yrs)
Mature	19	60	11	Fair	Low/ Moderate	40+

This tree is situated in a raised garden/shrub area, near the car parking area of the property.

The raised ground level and retaining wall mean the tree has limited rooting area to the south, yet no major visible defects were noted to the rooting areas or stem base. There is a significant pruning wound at 2m, with some central decay, and some other more minor pruning wounds with minor decay. There is a branch stub with some decay at 4m from ground level. The crown is slightly unbalanced yet in general the tree has no major visible defects.

No action is required in the short to medium term, but in the longer term, minor crown reduction work would be advisable for this tree.

Recommendation: *No action required.*

TREE 5 (T5)

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Age Class	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m (cm)	Spread (m)	Condition	Target Value	Future growth potential (yrs)
Mature	20	85	115	Fair	Moderate	20-40

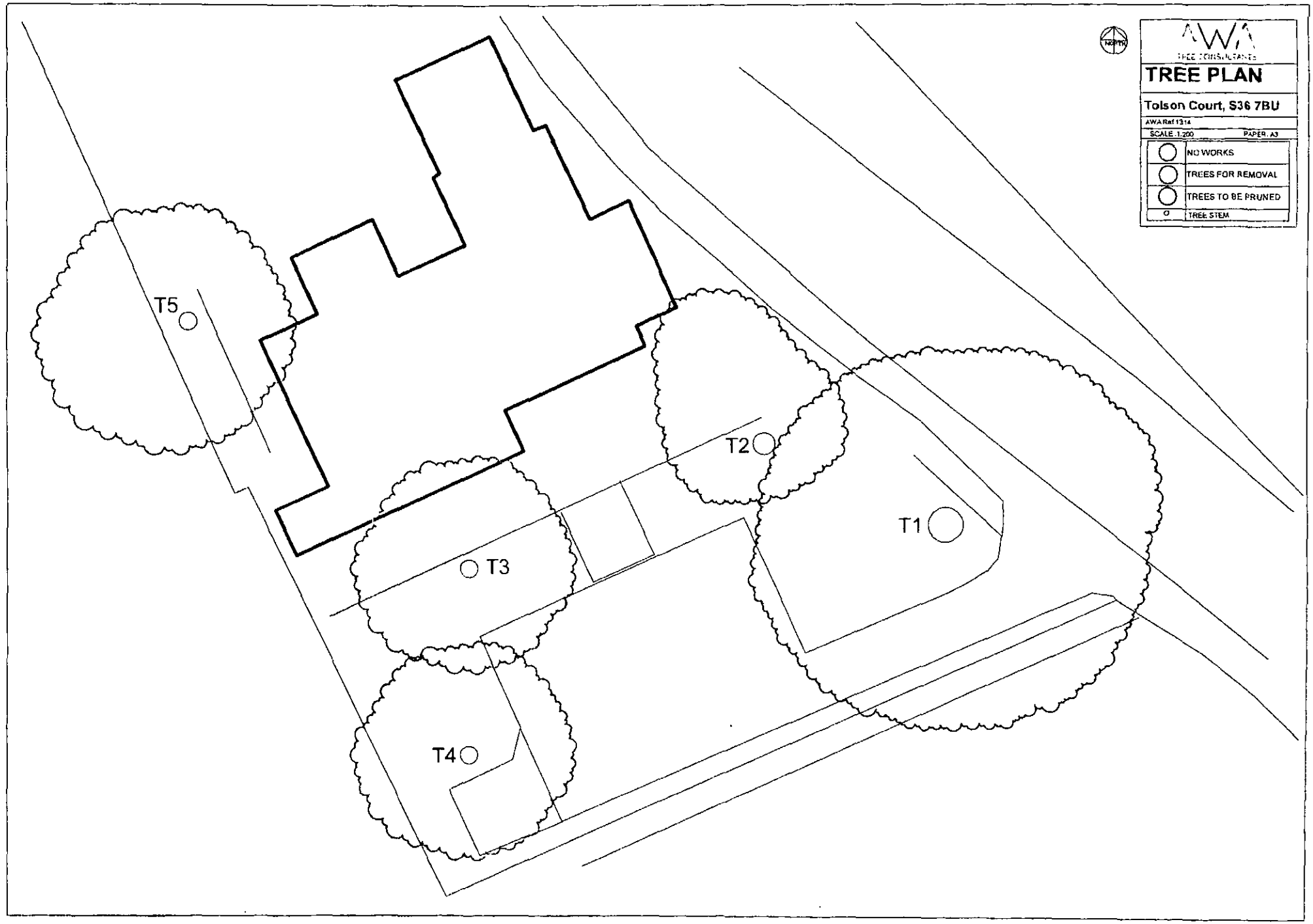
This tree is situated in a raised garden area, near a footpath at the rear of the property.

Some exposed roots are visible to the east of the stem, some of which show signs of minor damage, yet no major visible defects were noted. The tree is twin-stemmed at 2.5m with ivy on the stem. Minor cavities and crossing branches were noted. Minor deadwood and hanging branches were noted.

The crown has previously been cut back away from the property, resulting in a slightly unbalanced crown that leans away from theproperty.

No action is required in the short to medium term, but in the longer term, minor crown reduction work would be advisable for this tree.

Recommendation: *No action required.*


AWA
TREE CONSULTANTS
TREE PLAN
Tolson Court, S36 7BU
AWA Ref 1314
SCALE 1:200
PAPER A3
NO WORKS
TREES FOR REMOVAL
TREES TO BE PRUNED
TREE STEM
T1
T2
T3
T4
T5

Recommended Tree Works

Due to the large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work to protected trees, before authorising any tree works a check should be made with the Local Planning Authority to see if the trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or if they are within a Conservation Area. If either applies, then statutory permission is required before any works can take place.

When appointing a tree surgeon, only properly qualified and experienced companies should be used, who have adequate Public Liability and Employer's Liability Insurance. All tree work should be carried out according to British Standard 3998: 2010 *Tree Work – Recommendations*

Conclusion

Five trees were inspected. The Beech tree T1 and the Ash tree T2 have structural defects and can be retained more safely with crown pruning works.

If I can be of further assistance in arranging the recommended works, or should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A. Winson

Adam Winson *MSc, BSc (Hons), Chartered Arboriculturist, MICFor, AIEEM.*