

Report on trees on land at Market Street, Hoyland, South Yorkshire

February 2011

1 Instructions

- 1.1 I was asked by Fraser Scott of Mascot Management Ltd, on behalf of Litton Properties Limited, to inspect and report on trees on land which was formerly occupied by a school, and which became disused about 10 years ago, with the buildings having now been demolished.
- 1.2 I was supplied with a copy of a survey plan, showing the location of trees, which I amended to a scale of 1:250 for ease of use.
- 1.3 I met Mr Scott on site on 1st July 2010 before inspecting the trees.

2 Description of site and trees

- 2.1 The site falls gently towards the east. The main part of the site is currently fenced, but the site also includes an area to the east which is not fenced and parts of which are regularly mown.
- 2.2 There are only a few trees more than about 30 years old on the site. These include a false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (No.2 in my survey), a sycamore (No.10), and three large hawthorns (Nos. 13, 15, and 17).
- 2.3 Most of the other trees appear to have been planted about 25 years ago, to form belts or groups near to the edge of the school site. The species which were planted are a rather peculiar assortment, including common alder (which rarely grows well on ground which is not permanently wet), bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) (which tends to form a rather straggly bush), Italian alder, common ash, Norway maple, field maple (in abundance), silver birch, rowan, and willow (which appears to be some sort of hybrid, which I am unable to name precisely, but which is of rather similar habit to goat willow, but with narrower leaves).

- 2.4 Other species (some of which may have arisen by natural processes) include small numbers of oak, numerous hawthorn, some hazel, a few sycamore, and a group of Corsican pine.
- 2.5 There are also three relatively young sycamore trees (Nos. 5-7) with purple leaves (*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Atropurpureum') and a rather dwarf winter-flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*).
- 2.6 There are also numerous saplings which have arisen in the last 10 years.
- 2.7 I have not included trees or saplings of less than 7cm stem diameter in my survey, and I have not numbered every tree which is present. I have indicated the location and crown spread of most of the trees above 7cm diameter and have numbered on my plan 35 trees which are of better quality than the majority or have some other point of interest.
- 2.8 The majority of the un-numbered trees would not be suitable for retention as individual trees, and some of the numbered trees might not be reliably stable if left suddenly isolated.
- 2.9 The belts of trees would be suitable for retention as belts or large groups, if suitably managed (to favour the better specimens and to replace some of the poorer specimens with more suitable trees in the long term).
- 2.10 The list of trees which is given below includes the following details:

Numbers are as on my plan

Species have been given their common name

Diameters have been measured at a height of 1.5m

Heights have been estimated, rather than measured, and may not be very accurate

Lower branch height is just an approximate indication of the height above ground of the main tree canopy

SULE (safe useful life expectancy) is an estimate of the number of years that the tree is likely to remain suitable for retention. (This is a very approximate figure.)

Condition classes are:

- 1 Best trees, with no significant defects
- 2 Trees with minor defects, but still suitable for retention as individual trees
- 3 Trees which would only be suitable for retention as part of a group, for a limited number of years, or in locations where falling branches would not be a problem
- 4 Unsuitable trees

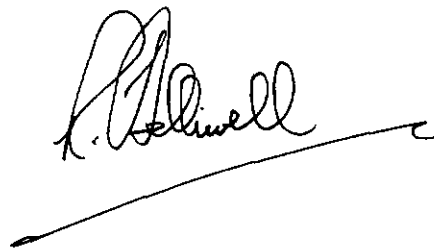
Classes 1-2, 2-3, and 3-4 are intermediate.

Categories as per BS5837:2005 are also included, in case they are needed, although I do not feel comfortable with this system. R = "Remove". A = best trees with a long expected safe life. B = next-best. C = might be worth keeping for a few years, and trees less than 15cm diameter.

No.	Species	Diam (cm)	Ht. (m)	Lower Branch Ht. (m)	SULE	Class	Cat.	Comments
1	Willow	43	8	2	20	2-3	B-C	Rather coarsely branched, relatively short-lived. Not a fantastic specimen.
2	False acacia	c.55	13	4	25	2	B	Slightly coarse branching. (In a dense thicket.)
3	Ash	9	5	2	10?	3	C	Very close to boundary wall.
4	Cherry	22	4	1.5	25	2-3	C	<i>Prunus subhirtella</i> . Short, spreading canopy. Not a major tree.
5	Sycamore	23	10	1.5	50	2	B	Purple leaved. Slightly coarsely branched and one-sided due to proximity of similar tree.
6	Sycamore	22	10	1.5	50	2	B	- ditto -
7	Sycamore	19	9	1.5	50	1-2	B	Similar, but not one-sided.
8	Willow	33, 20, 25	14	3	20	2-3	B-C	Coarsely branched. Multi-stemmed.
9	Cherry	13, 22	15	2.5	30	2-3	B-C	Forked at ground level. Slightly crowded.
10	Sycamore	54	16	4	50	1-2	A	Slightly coarsely branched, but the best tree on the site.
11	Norway maple	24	14	3	60	2-3	B	Crowded.
12	Lime	15	14	3	60	2-3	B	Very crowded.
13	Hawthorn	38	10	2	20	2-3	C	Mature.
14	Ash	18	14	4	50	2-3	B-C	Crowded.
15	Hawthorn	42	10	2.5	10	3	C	Crowded. Mature.
16	Italian alder	30	17	3	30	2	B	Slightly crowded.
17	Hawthorn	37	10	2	20	2-3	C	Mature.
18	Ash	20	16	4	50	2-3	B	Crowded.
19	Cherry	27	16	2	30	2-3	B	Crowded.
20	Cherry	24	16	4	30	2	B	Somewhat crowded.
21	Field maple	18, 19, 20	14	1	50	2	B	Somewhat crowded.
22	Norway maple	29	15	2	50	2	A	Slightly coarsely branched.
23	Sycamore	18, 32	15	2	40?	2-3	B?	Rather odd structure at ground level, but may be OK. Looks sound enough at present.
24	Norway maple	25	16	3	50	2-3	B	Rather crowded.
25	Birch	44	15	2	15	2-3	C	Limited further useful life. Slightly coarsely branched.
26	Ash	18	14	2	50	2	B	Slightly crowded.
27	Ash	20	16	4	50	2	B	Slightly crowded.
28	Cherry	17	14	1.5	40	2	B	Young tree.
29	Ash	21	15	40	50	2	B	Slightly crowded.
30	Ash	15, 16, 18	15	3	40	2	B	Forked into 3 at a height of 0.5m. Slightly crowded.
31	Ash	34	16	3	40	2-3	B	Slightly coarsely branched and crowded.
32	Oak	24	15	3	50	2	B	Forked at 4m. Slightly crowded.
33	Beech	25	15	3	10?	2-3?	C	Weak fork at 1.5m.
34	Ash	21	14	3	40	2	B	Slightly coarsely branched.
35	Field maple	24	12	1	40	2	B	Bushy shape.

3 Additional comments

- 3.1 Most of the trees on the site are relatively young and do not have stem diameters of more than 30cm, so the Root Protection Area which would be necessary to avoid undue disturbance to roots would be unlikely to extend to a distance of more than 4m from such trees. (Larger trees would of course require a greater distance; based, loosely, on a distance of 12 times the stem diameter at breast height.)
- 3.2 However, there may be problems if part of an existing belt of trees is removed, as the trees which remain at the edge may not be stable enough to avoid risk of some of them falling in the next strong wind. This would need to be assessed in more detail.
- 3.3 In any event, any retained tree belts would probably need some action to remove any unsafe trees, and would certainly need regular on-going management, as mentioned in para. 2.9.
- 3.4 Provision has been made in the scheme for additional planting to the north-east and south-east of the proposed store, which would result in an overall increase in tree cover.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Helliwell', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

R Helliwell
18th February 2011