TREE CONSULTANTS

Miss Jean Thompson
27 Darton Street
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 3PN

Ref: AWA1482
21st December 2015

# Arboricultural Report
# at:
# 27 DARTON STREET, BARNSLEY, S70 3PN

## Introduction

As instructed, we have visited the above site and inspected a single tree growing within the grounds.

A single early mature Ash tree was surveyed, numbered **T1** on the attached plan. Other less significant vegetation was not surveyed in this instance. Photographs have been included at the end of this report, to highlight the survey findings.

The tree was given a formal visual inspection from ground level, primarily to look for obvious tree defects posing a serious and present risk of harm, and if necessary, manage these tree-related risks to an acceptable level. The tree was also assessed in relation to recommending suitable pruning works to facilitate a potential development of the adjacent garage by building a second storey. The trees were surveyed using 'Visual Tree Assessment' techniques and in accordance with the guiding principles of National Tree Safety Group Guidance.

# The Vegetation

## TREE 1 (T1)

### Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*

| Age Class | Height (m) | Diameter at 1.5m (cm) | Spread (m) | Condition | Target Value | Future safe life expectancy (yrs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Early Mature | 16.5 | 58 (ivy) | 4.5 (see plan) | Fair | Moderate | 20+ |

The tree is situated adjacent to a garden shed, garden wall boundary and a single storey garage. The tree crown is overhanging the adjacent residential gardens to the North and West, a car park to the South and a single story double garage to the east.

The tree is situated within falling distance of the subject property and the adjacent residential property to the East. As such, the trees' Target Value (an indication of the likelihood of persons or objects being within falling distance of a tree or its branches) is classed as 'moderate', and management decisions have been made in light of this.

The stem base has a significant area of decay to the south (see picture 2). The decayed area was noted up to around 1m and was around 150cm wide at the stem base – with two pronounced 'ribs' of solid reaction wood each side of the area of decay. An examination of the decayed area with a hand held metal probe revealed soft completely decayed wood extending into the stem. It is very likely a zone of decay extends from this open cavity further into the main stem at the base; with dysfunctional wood (wood that has dried out and cannot retain its normal function properly) into around a quarter of the stem base area. The north eastern side of the stem has two separate areas of decay, one close the base and a second around 2m from ground level (see picture 3), it is likely the open cavities join to forms a column of decay. There is a possibility of further areas of decay up the stem but due to large amounts of ivy it was not possible to complete a detailed inspection.

The tree is single stemmed from ground level and vertical. The stem has moderate sized epicormic growth up the main stem. Dense ivy covered much of the tree stem. Although this is unlikely to significantly impact on the future condition of the tree, it can hinder a full detailed assessment of the condition of the tree stem. As such, it is advised that the ivy is severed at the base and allowed to fall from the tree.

Occasional dieback and moderate deadwood was noted in the crown, the canopy shows signs of decline with smaller branches appearing to have snapped and multiple branches with buds missing. The decline of the canopy as whole is made clearer by the vigour and good health of the adjacent ash trees (see picture 1).

The suitable pruning of overhanging branches could be achieved without any significant negative impact on the tree; however, it may result in a slightly unbalanced crown form, and as such, some additional crown pruning would help better balance the tree, if this work were undertaken.

# Recommendations

***Crown reduce by up to 30%: Removing a maximum of 2 m in height and a maximum radial crown spread of 2m, back to suitable points; resulting in a final tree height of around 14m (as detailed in the tree work images). Remove all epicormics from the main stem and sever the ivy.***

The crown reduction will alleviate biomechanical stress by reducing both the leverage and the sail area of the tree. The recommended pruning intervention in the form of a general crown reduction is needed in order to reduce the probability of mechanical failure, as a result of the weaknesses from the stems central decay.

By reducing the crown as specified this will allow ample room to enable the proposed garage development, whilst retaining the trees form and amenity value. (See picture 5).

In the longer term it is recommended that periodic monitoring of the trees condition is undertaken with an assessment of the need for possible further retrenchment pruning, reducing the height and spread of the crown, to further reduce mechanical stress r the safe removal and replacement of the tree.

It is understood **the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order**. Due to the large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work to protected trees, before authorising any tree works, you should contact your Local Planning Authority to gain written permission before any works can take place.

When appointing a tree surgeon, please use only properly qualified and experienced companies and check that they carry 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

A single early mature Ash tree was inspected. The tree is in a moderate value target area and requires remedial pruning to make the tree more suitable for retention and to avoid conflict with a proposed garage development.

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

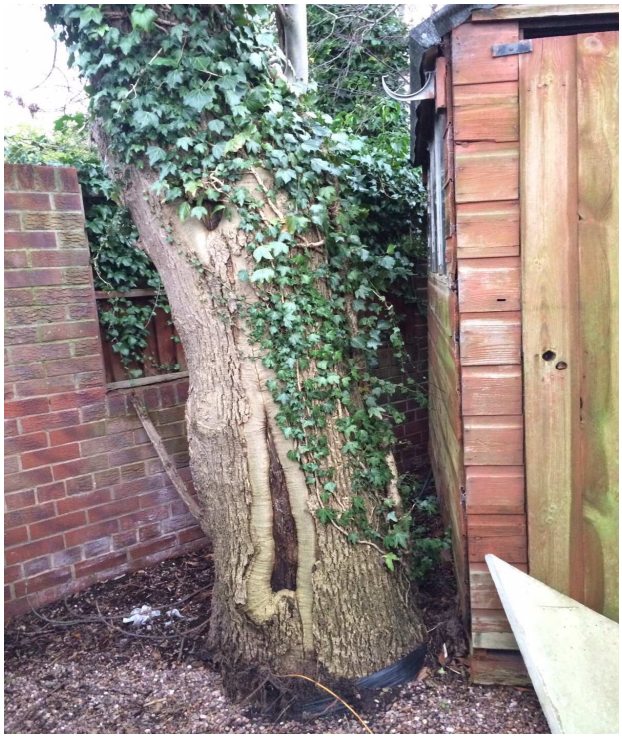
*A. Winson*

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

# Photographs

Photograph 1: Early mature Ash tree

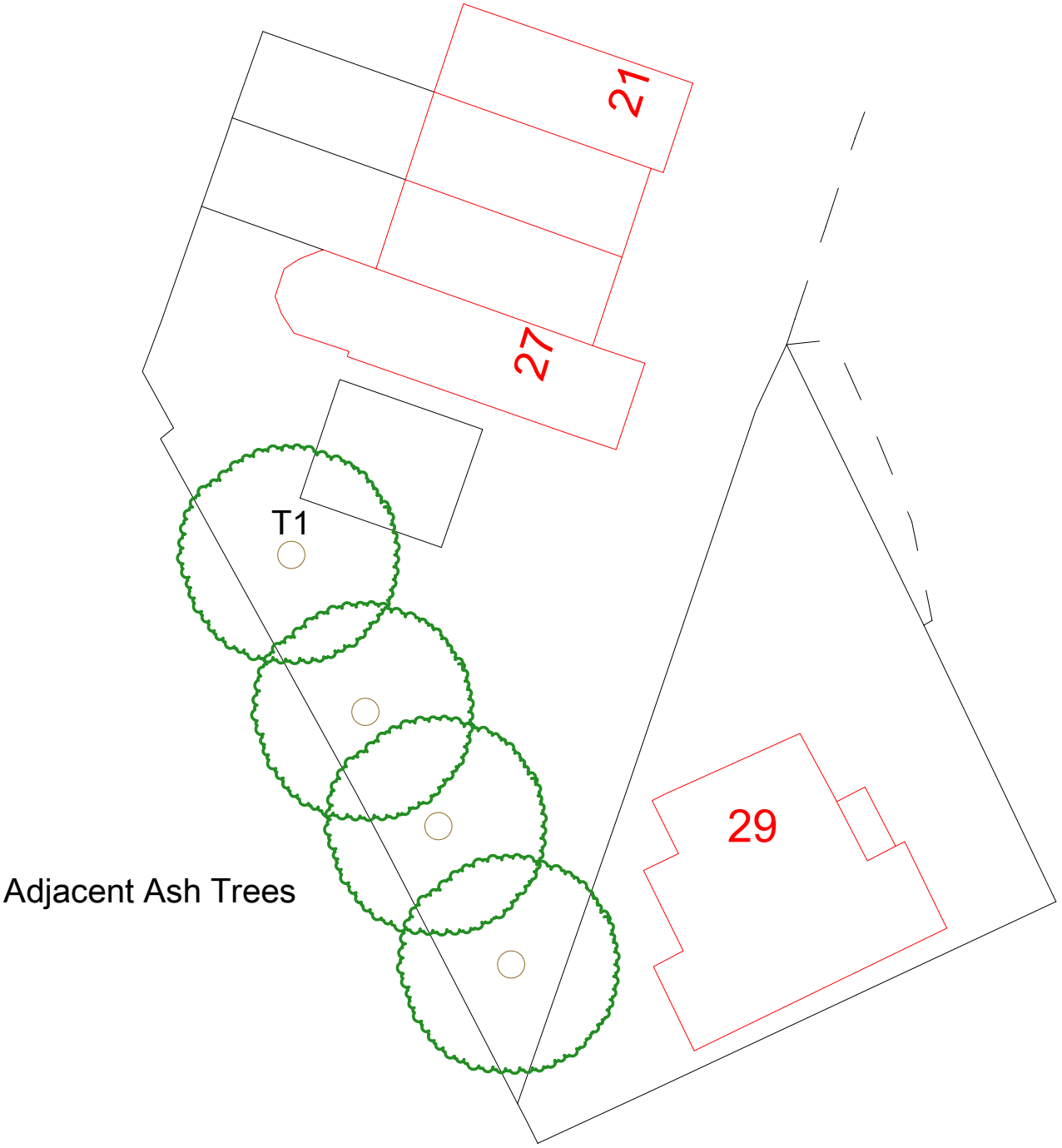
Photograph 2: Column of decay



Photograph 3: Second column of decay

Photograph 4: Ivy on stem

Photograph5: Proposed extent of pruning works




Adjacent Ash Trees

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NORTH

**Tree plan**

**27 Darton Street, Barnsley, S70 3PN**
**Ref: AWA1482/ Tree 1**

BRITISH STANDARD 5837:2012

Not to scale PAPER: A4

| | |
|---|---|
| | TREE/HEDGE TO BE RETAINED |
| | TREE/HEDGE TO BE REMOVED |
| | TREE STEM |