

Landscape Assessment Report

1. Trees to be Removed

- 1.1 The trees on site are generally in poor condition and offer little current or future benefit to local amenity. The age and species diversity of the trees is limited and the site would benefit from a landscaping scheme that can provide a useful lasting amenity to both the development and the surrounding area.
- 1.2 In this instance, a number of trees have been recommended for removal due to arboricultural reasons (general health and safety). In addition, a number of trees will need to be removed to accommodate the new development, the following is a breakdown of required tree removal on site:

2. Existing Trees

- 2.1 Some trees will be retained on site. These trees will add maturity to the proposed planting. An Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) in accordance with BS5837 will ensure that the retained trees on site will be protected throughout the construction process.

3. Benefits of Planting

- 3.1 Most local authorities have policies for replanting trees on development sites as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) within their Unitary Development Plan (UDP) or Local Development Framework (LDF). These policies are designed to promote the protection of trees during development and to encourage continual or increased tree cover throughout the authority. All proposed planting should be considered in accordance with the Landscape Design provisions set out in Barnsley MDC's Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 3.2 Where appropriate, planting should be done as part of sustainable development and should be done in a sympathetic manner in order to avoid any potential future conflicts with buildings. Replacing trees will not only promote biodiversity but will be beneficial to both the local environment and the end users of the development. Quality young trees mixed with significant mature trees will provide a continuity of tree cover for many years to come.

- 3.3 Ideally native species should be used that will be beneficial to wildlife and will enhance local biodiversity; but there are also a number of non-native species that would be suitable.
- 3.4 In addition to the above, tree cover offers many other benefits such as aiding surface water runoff and drainage, providing shade and shelter and creating greener environments for people to live in.

4. Recommended Planting

- 4.1 As part of the post construction landscaping scheme new replacement tree planting is recommended. Employing the planting scheme suggested below will result in a significant increase of trees on site.
- 4.2 We recommend that, as a minimum, trees are replaced on a 2 for 1 basis in order to compensate for any removal of trees. The suitability of species within the local landscape, in addition to the form and ultimate size of recommended trees, has been considered so that the replacement planting scheme will harmonise with the surrounding area and provide amenity value to the local area and biodiversity for the local wildlife.
- 4.3 The Biodiversity Action Plan for Barnsley (BAP) highlights a number of habitat types and tree species that would be desirable within the area. These species have been considered when deciding on suitable planting species.
- 4.4 In the area of the proposed house development (Site A), we would recommend a variety of native species including fastigate and flowering types. These could include *Acer campestre* (Field Maple) and *Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan); or other ornamental flowering varieties and trees with limited growth and vigour. Larger native species, e.g. *Quercus robur* (Oak) and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash) could be reserved for structural planting, e.g. at street corners.
- 4.5 In the area of the proposed public open space and flood basin (Site B), we would recommend a variety of water tolerant species, e.g. *Salix sp.* (Willow), *Alnus sp.* (Alder) and *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch). The same species in small quantities might also be considered in the grassed area comprising the flood basin.
- 4.6 Adjacent to the factory, a screen comprising coniferous species e.g. *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine) would be recommended, perhaps faced (on the flood basin side) by Alder and Birch.
- 4.7 Along Valley Road, an avenue of *Tilia sp* (Lime) might be considered on

both sides of the road, together with a dense understorey of shrubs adjacent to the factory to complete the screen.

- 4.8 Hedges might be considered in preference to, or in addition to the palisade fencing in order to improve the amenity of the flood basin area and provide havens for wildlife. Suitable species would include a mixture of *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).
- 4.9 Overall, the suggested species will fit well into the surrounding landscape and will enhance the local area. They will provide shade and shelter and act as a barrier to aid noise reduction. Upon instruction, JCA will provide a detailed Method Statement and Planting Scheme.