PROPOSED TREE WORKS APPLICATION

Supporting Statement & Specification of Works

Tree Species	Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
Protection Status	Subject to Conservation Area restrictions
Site Location	8 Mysten Croft, S75 1EP

1. Description of Proposed Works

The application seeks formal permission for a heavy crown reduction and the strategic removal of major overhanging limbs to manage risk and structural integrity. The specified works consist of:

- **Removal of Primary Lateral Limbs:** Severe reduction/removal of primary lateral limbs extending over the southern and western aspects of the garden area.
- **Target Reduction:** Reducing the overhanging limbs back to the main stem or appropriate vegetative growth points to mitigate the immediate risk of branch failure.
- **Ivy Removal & Management:** Severing of established ivy at the base of the tree trunk to kill off growth, allowing for a thorough subsequent aerial inspection of the main stem, structural junctions, and upper crown structure.

2. Justification and Statement of Reasons

The proposed works are urgently required due to a combination of physiological decline, structural defects, and immediate safety concerns:

> **Ash Dieback (ADB) Infection (Chalara):** The tree exhibits clear, advanced symptoms of Ash Dieback, including characteristic sparse foliage in the upper canopy, deadwood, and necrotic lesions on branches. Ash trees infected with ADB are documented to lose structural elasticity and become brittle rapidly, significantly increasing the risk of sudden "drop-out" of heavy limbs.

> **Safety & Hazard Mitigation:** The major overhanging limbs are positioned directly above a high-usage residential garden area. Given the progressive, terminal nature of Ash Dieback, reducing the weight and lever-arm effect on these compromised limbs is a necessary preemptive safety measure to protect residents, visitors, and property.

> **Heavy Ivy Colonization:** The tree is currently heavily obscured by dense, mature ivy running from the root flare up into the high canopy. This colonization adds substantial "sail area" (wind loading), severely increasing the risk of structural wind-throw or major limb snapping during storm events. Furthermore, the density of the ivy currently prevents a thorough ground-level or aerial safety inspection of the bark and vital structural unions.

3. Arboricultural Standards & Work Practices

All specified tree works will be executed by fully qualified, insured arboricultural contractors in strict accordance with **BS 3998:2010 (Tree Work – Recommendations)**.

Pruning cuts will be precisely executed to appropriate target nodes and growth points, ensuring the preservation of the remaining tree structure's health, protecting defensive zones, and minimizing the risk of entering decay pathogens.