



ARBORICULTURAL REPORT & Impact Assessment to BS 5837:2012 at:

*Land at
**Sheffield Road,
Oxspring,
South Yorkshire,
S36 8YA***

Prepared for:
White Agus

Date: October 2023

Reference: AWA5462



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1. Introduction

1.1 Instructions and Brief

- 1.1.1 We were instructed by White Agus to visit the site and prepare our findings in a report.
- 1.1.2 The report is required in accordance with BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*, to provide detailed, independent, arboricultural advice on the trees present, in the context of potential development.

1.2 Survey Details

- 1.2.1 The survey took place during May 2023.
- 1.2.2 The trees were surveyed visually from the ground using “Visual Tree Assessment” techniques and in accordance with the guiding principles of British Standard 5837:2012.
- 1.2.3 Any additional off-site trees that could impact a new development design have been included in the tree survey parameters.
- 1.2.4 The tree positions were plotted on a provided topographical plan. Where trees were missing from this plan, they were plotted using enhanced GPS technology (1m accuracy) and laser distance measurer.
- 1.2.1 This report has been prepared by Mr Adam Winson, Chartered Arboriculturist, MSc, BSc (Hons), MICFor, MArborA, Principal and Director of AWA Tree Consultants Ltd. The tree survey data collection was carried out by Mr James Boyle, HND Level 5 Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Dip Arboriculture Level 4, TechArborA, Arboriculturist at AWA Tree Consultants Ltd.
- 1.2.2 Full qualifications and experience are included within **Appendix 1**. Explanatory details regarding the survey methodology are included within **Appendix 2**. A full explanation of the tree data can be found at **Appendix 3**. Full details of all the trees surveyed are found in **Appendix 4**. For tree locations please refer to the Tree Constraints Plan at **Appendix 5** and for detail of the impacts of the new development refer to the Tree Impacts Plan at **Appendix 6**.

2. The Site

2.1 Location and Description

- 2.1.1 The site is located on Sheffield Road in Oxspring, a village and civil parish in the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley in South Yorkshire.
- 2.1.2 It comprises a single storey building with associated land. Sheffield Road borders the site's southern boundary a neighbouring residential property borders the west of the site. Fields and woodland surround the site to the north and east.
- 2.1.3 The approximate area of the survey is highlighted in the (2022 Google Earth) image below:



3. The Trees

3.1 Legal

- 3.1.1 The following advice is for guidance purposes only. Some trees are protected by legislation, and it is essential that the legal status of trees is established prior to carrying out works to them. Unauthorised work to protected trees could lead to prosecution, resulting in enforcement action such as fines or a criminal record. Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, Planning Conditions, Felling Licences or Restrictive Covenants legally protect many trees in the UK.
- 3.1.2 An online search was undertaken with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on 17/05/23 to check whether any trees at the site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are located within a Conservation Area. As of this date no trees at the site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area.
- 3.1.3 Before carrying out any works to protected trees the permission of the local planning authority is required. There are large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work to protected trees. Statutory permission is not required for the removal of deadwood.
- 3.1.4 Due to the large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work to protected trees, before authorising any tree works a further check should be made with the Local Planning Authority to confirm if any trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area. If either applies, then statutory permission is required before any works can take place (unless such work is approved as part of full planning permission).
- 3.1.5 The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was used to search for areas of ancient woodlands listed on the Ancient Woodland (DEFRA 2021), and a check for catalogued Ancient and Veteran trees using the woodland trust ancient tree inventory (Woodland Trust 2021).
- 3.1.6 It was confirmed that there are no designated ancient woodlands or veteran trees within the survey area.
- 3.1.7 Trees provide a wide range of habitats for many species, some of which are legally protected such as bats, nesting birds, badgers and dormice. It is essential that appropriate care is taken to ensure that this legislation is not contravened.
- 3.1.8 When appointing a tree surgeon, only properly qualified and experienced

companies should be used, who have adequate Public Liability and Employer's Liability Insurance.

- 3.1.9 All tree work should be carried out according to British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.

3.2 Tree Survey Results

- 3.2.1 The tree survey revealed 8 items of woody vegetation, comprised of 7 individual trees and 1 tree group.
- 3.2.2 Of the surveyed trees: 2 trees are retention category 'B', and 6 trees, tree groups and hedges are retention category 'C' (explanatory details regarding the retention categories are included at Appendix 3).
- 3.2.3 Full details of the surveyed trees, tree groups and hedges are provided in the attached tree data schedule at Appendix 4. General comments are provided below:
- 3.2.4 The site's highest value trees are the Sycamores T5 and T6. These are larger more prominent trees in good condition which provide amenity value to the site and the surrounding area.
- 3.2.5 T1 Elder, T2 Cherry and T3 Ash are all located on the north west of the site. G4 Privet, T5, T6, T7 and T8 Ash are all located on the south east of the site. T3 Ash was located close to the boundary fence, it was unclear whether the tree is within the site or is adjacent and not under site ownership.
- 3.2.6 Although no trees on the site showed any symptoms at present, many Ash trees in the local area show symptoms consistent with the fungal disease Ash Dieback. Once a tree is infected, the disease is usually fatal, either directly or indirectly. While the identified Ash trees at the site may continue to provide landscape and wildlife benefits, their long-term prospects are likely to be limited as a result of Ash Dieback and they may require removal in the next 10 years.
- 3.2.7 The tree Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree has been plotted as a polygon centred on the base of the stem. Due to the presence of roads, structures, topography (and past tree management) the RPA is likely to be a simplified representation of the tree roots actual morphology and disposition. However, detailed modifications to the shape of the RPA would largely be based on conjecture and so have been avoided.
- 3.2.8 Some lower value tree, hedge and shrub groups do not have RPAs detailed on tree plans. The detailed extent and spread of these low value groups, in conjunction with the tree schedule, is sufficient to assess the associated potential constraints.

3.3 Photographs



Photo 1: T1, T2 and T3 facing south



Photo 2: G4 and T5 facing east



Photo 3: T6, T7 and T8 facing east

4. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4.1 Proposed New Development

- 4.1.1 It is proposed to build a new residential development with associated access, parking, landscaping and facilities. The development proposals have been provided by my client and inform this arboricultural impact assessment and the Tree Impacts Plan at Appendix 6.

4.2 Direct Impacts

- 4.2.1 From assessing the new development proposals, 3 trees will require removal to facilitate the development as they are situated in the footprint of the development or their retention and protection throughout the development is not suitable. G4, an overgrown Privet shrub group is recommended for partial removal and to be brought back under management.
- 4.2.2 The trees that require removal to facilitate the development are T1 Elder, T2 Cherry and T3 Ash.
- 4.2.3 The trees to be removed are all lower value, retention category 'C'. T1 Elder has defects and a limited life expectancy, T2 Cherry is young and insignificant and T3 has limited long term value due to Ash dieback. Due to the low value of the trees to be removed the removals will have only a negligible negative arboricultural impact.

4.3 Indirect Impacts

- 4.3.1 The tree Root Protection Area (RPA) detailed on the Tree Plans at Appendices 5 and 6, has been used as a layout design tool, to inform on the area around a tree where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority. As such, no significant negative indirect impacts have been identified.
- 4.3.2 New drainage links to the existing along the edge of the RPA of T6, yet the incursion is minor and the tree is likely to tolerate this without significant negative impact.
- 4.3.3 The design of the new development has considered the trees crown position in relation to the development. Some shade from trees may be beneficial. In particular, deciduous trees give shade in summer but allow access to sunlight in winter. However, the design proposals avoid excessive shading, and give adequate provision for future tree growth.

- 4.3.4 The buildability of the proposed development has been assessed in terms of access, adequate working space and provision for the storage of materials, including topsoil, in relation to the trees.

4.4 Suitable Mitigation

- 4.4.1 The development of the site provides an excellent opportunity to undertake new tree planting throughout the site as part of a soft landscaping scheme. As such, suitable new tree planting has the potential to mitigate for the required tree removals and, in the longer term, has the potential to improve the sites tree cover.

4.5 Protection of the Retained Trees

- 4.5.1 The retained trees may require protection by fencing in accordance with BS 5837: 2012, during the development phase.
- 4.5.2 If required by the Local Planning Authority, an associated Arboricultural Method Statement, detailing protective fencing specifications and construction methods close to the retained trees can be provided.

5. Signature

I trust this report provides all the required information.

Signed



.....

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

26th October 2023

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Authors Qualifications and Experience

Appendix 2: Survey Methodology and Limitations

Appendix 3: Explanation of Tree Descriptions

Appendix 4: Tree Data

Appendix 5: Tree Constraints Plan

Appendix 6: Tree Impacts Plan

Appendix 1: Authors Qualifications & Experience

Mr Adam Winson, Chartered Arboriculturist, MSc, BSc (Hons), MICFor, MArborA, ACIEEM, QTRA Registered, VALID Registered

Adam is the company Director and Principal Consultant. He has a mix of the highest-level academic qualifications and relevant work experience. He has worked within the tree care profession for over 20 years and was awarded an MSc in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, with distinction. Adam is a Chartered Arboriculturist and a Registered Consultant with the Institute of Chartered Foresters, a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and he has original research published by the UK Forestry Commission. His work ranges from individual expert tree inspections to managing trees on major multimillion pound housing developments and infrastructure projects. His work often involves trees with preservation orders or litigation, and he has appeared as a tree expert, at planning appeal hearings up to the crown court. Adam has also undertaken locum Tree Officer work for several local authorities.

Mr James Brown, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture, MArborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA Registered

James has a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture, attaining first class honours, as well as being awarded the Institute of Chartered Foresters student award. He is a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association, an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, and he is working towards becoming a Chartered Arboriculturist. James joined AWA in 2016, he has several years' experience as an Arboricultural Consultant, he previously worked in Europe's largest container tree nursery and he has experience of local authority Tree Officer work.

Dr Felicity Stout, PhD, MA, BA (Hons), Cert Ed Forestry, TechArborA, PTI (Lantra)

Felicity has worked in the tree care profession for the last 10 years. She has a Certificate in Higher Education in Forestry, with a focus on Urban Forestry. She has practical arboricultural contractor experience and is a qualified and experienced social forestry practitioner. Felicity has a PhD in History, with a particular interest in the history of woodland and tree management and she has work published in The Arboricultural Journal on this subject. As well as working at AWA Felicity is the Tree Conservation Officer for the Peak District National Park Authority.

Mr James Godfrey, BA (Hons), Dip Forestry and Arboriculture Level 4, Cert Arb L3, TechArborA, QTRA Registered

James has extensive arboricultural experience working as a team leader within the public and private sector. By achieving a Distinction Star in the Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture, James was able to use his knowledge to inform and carry out appropriate maintenance that ensured the long term wellbeing of trees across the UK. During his time at Darlington Borough Council, James provided on site assessment and the management of the remedial works required to ensure safe and suitable retention of trees that provide a multitude of benefits to the urban environment. Currently, James is completing a Foundation Degree in Arboriculture and Tree Management, while working at AWA.

Mr Joe Thomas, MSci Biology, Award L4 Arboriculture, TechArborA, QTRA Registered

Joe achieved a first class degree in biology with an integrated Masters (MSci) from the University of Sheffield. Additionally, he has a Level 4 Award in Arboriculture. Joe joined AWA after an Urban Forestry role with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Sheffield City Council, where he gained a variety of experience in different aspects of the arboriculture sector.

Mr James Boyle, HND Level 5 Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Dip Arboriculture Level 4, TechArborA, QTRA Registered

Jim joined AWA after having worked within the tree care profession for several years, alongside studying at college and university. During this time, he gained a wealth of experience and several professional and practical NPTC qualifications in the tree care industry. Jim has studied Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at Merrist Wood College in Surrey, Plumpton College in Sussex and University of Highlands and Islands in the Scottish Highlands, where he achieved a distinction in the Higher National Diploma Level 5.

Miss Lucy Garbutt, MSc Animal Behaviour, BSc (Hons) Biology, CIEEM

Lucy graduated with a masters degree in Animal Behaviour from the UK's highest rated university, St Andrews of Scotland, immediately following the completion of her BSc degree in Biology from Lancaster University. Lucy has experience in botany and plant science and moved into arboriculture after previous experience of protected species and botanical surveys with a large environmental consulting company.

Appendix 2: Survey Methodology and Limitations

The survey was undertaken in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*. The trees were assessed objectively and without reference to any proposed site layout. The trees were surveyed from the ground using 'Visual Tree Assessment' (VTA) methodology. VTA is appropriate and is endorsed by industry guidance. It is used by arboriculturists to evaluate the structural integrity of a tree, relying on observation of trees biomechanical and physiological features. Measurements are obtained using a diameter tape, clinometer, laser distometer and loggers tape. Where this is not practical measurements are estimated. Tree groups have been identified in instances as defined in BS 5837:2012. Shrubs and insignificant trees may have been omitted from the survey.

This report represents a BS 5837:2012 tree survey and should not be accepted as a detailed tree safety inspection report; however, tree related hazards are recorded and commented upon where observed, yet no guarantee can be given as to the absolute safety or otherwise of any individual tree. All recommended tree work must be to BS 3998:2010 - '*Tree Work: Recommendations*'.

The findings and recommendations contained within this report are valid for a period of twelve months from the date of survey. The author shall not be responsible for events which happen after this time due to factors which were not apparent at the time, and the acceptance of this report constitutes an agreement with these guidelines and terms.

Appendix 3: Explanation of Tree Descriptions

HEIGHT of the tree is measured from the stem base in metres. Where the ground has a significant slope the higher ground is selected.

CROWN HEIGHT is an indication of the average height at which the crown begins.

STEM DIAMETER is measured at 1.5 metres above (higher) ground level. Where the tree is multi-stemmed at this point; the diameter is measured close to ground level or else a combined stem diameter is calculated.

CROWN SPREAD is measured from the centre of the stem base to the tips of the branches in all four cardinal points.

AGE CLASS of the tree is described as young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, or over-mature.

PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION is classed as good, fair, poor, or dead. This is an indication of the health of the tree and takes into account vigour, presence of disease and dieback.

STRUCTURAL CONDITION is classed as good, fair or poor. This is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree and takes into account significant wounds, decay and quality of branch junctions.

LIFE EXPECTANCY is classed as; less than 10 years, 10-20 years, 20-40 years, or more than 40 years. This is an indication of the number of years before removal of the tree is likely to be required.

Retention Categories

A (marked in green on Appendix 5) = retention most desirable. These trees are of very high quality and value with a good life expectancy.

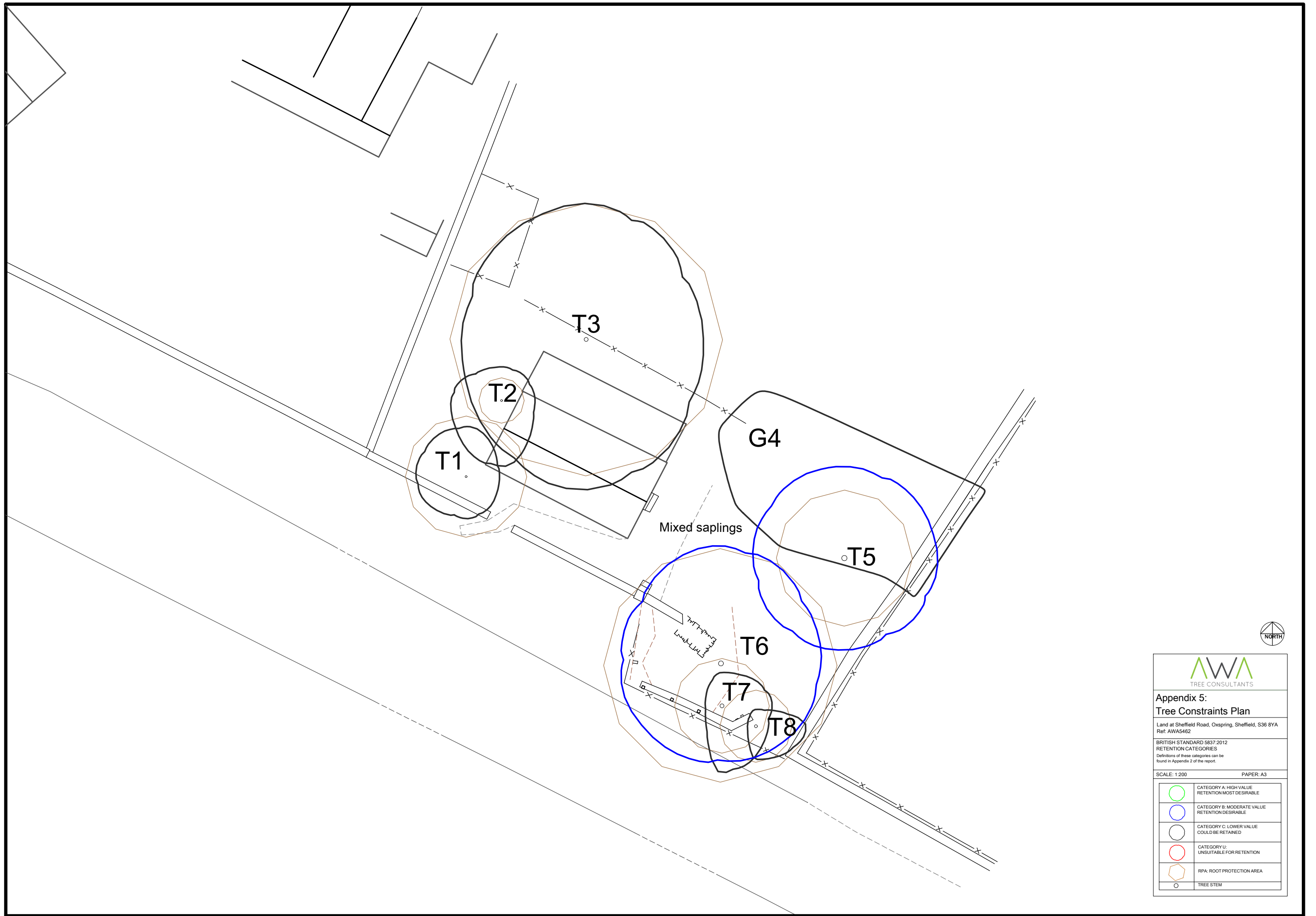
B (marked in blue on Appendix 5) = retention desirable. These trees are of good quality and value with a significant life expectancy.

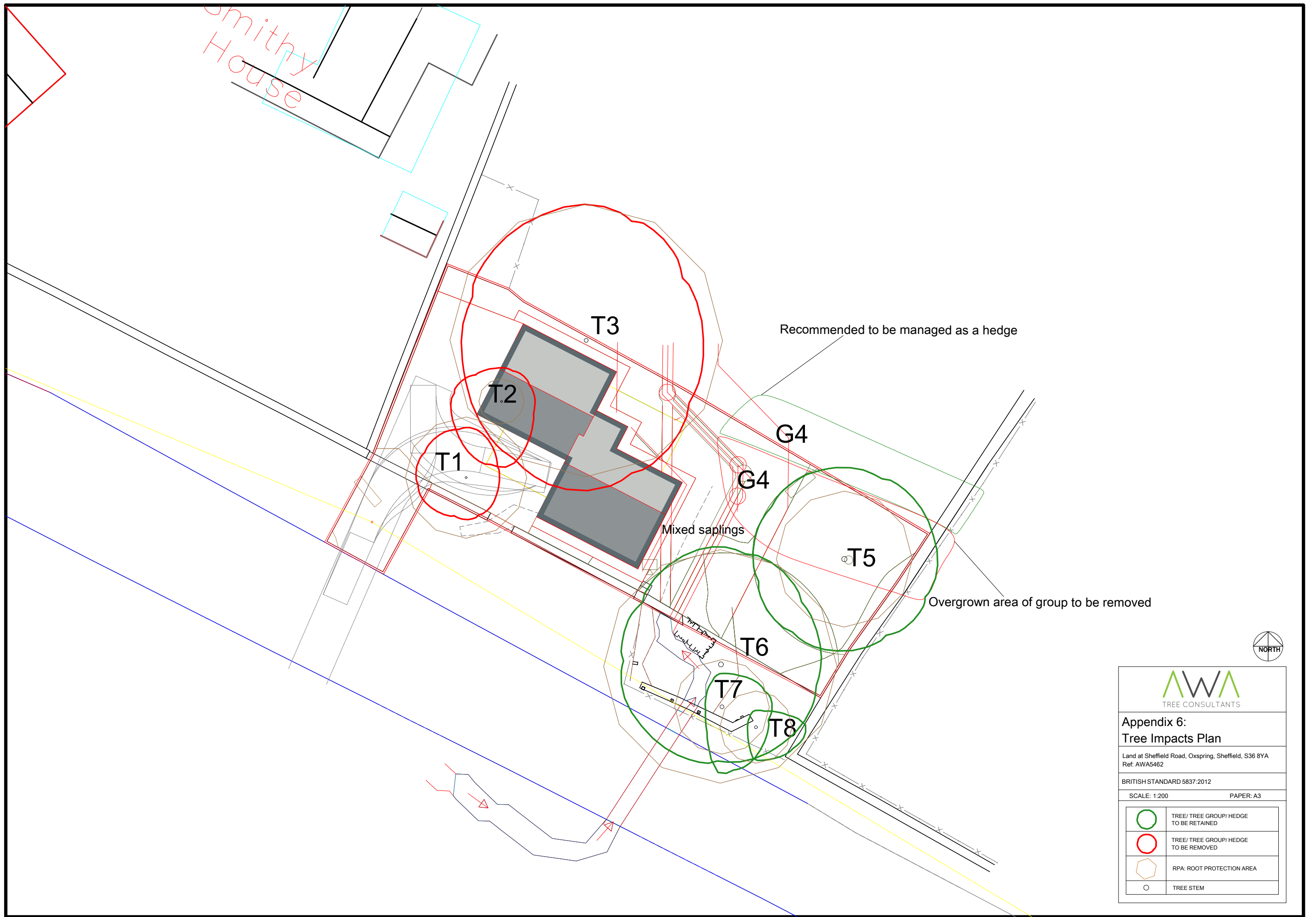
C (marked in grey on Appendix 5) = trees which could be retained. These trees are of low or average quality and value, and are in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established.

U (marked in red on Appendix 5) = trees unsuitable for retention. These trees are in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years.

	Tree Species			Measurements			Crown (m)					Tree Condition								Value		Management
Tree ID	Common Name	Latin Name	Maturity	Height (m)	Stems	Stem Diameter (mm)	Estimated	Crown height	N	E	S	W	Roots	Stem	Crown	Comments	Physiological	Structural	Life Expectancy	Amenity	Category	Works
T1	Elder	<i>Sambucas nigra</i>	Semi-mature	5	6	120	Yes	1	3	2	2.5	3	Limited access around base	Multiple stemmed at 1m, Old pruning wounds, Stubs, Bark damage	50% dead / absent, Major deadwood	Half of tree dead. Other half in good vigour	Fair	Fair	10 to 20 yrs	Low	C	Removal required to facilitate development
T2	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Young	5	1	110	No	2	2	2	4	3	Limited access around base	Single stemmed	Normal		Good	Good	>40 yrs	Low	C	Removal required to facilitate development
T3	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Early-mature	15	7	250	No	2.5	8	7	9	7.5	No visual defects	Multiple stemmed at base & at 1m, Slight lean, Cup-like union collecting dirt/water, Tight union, Partially included bark	Well developed crown, Snapped /hanging branches	Crown overhanging building and adjacent land. Some stems slight lean	Good	Fair	20 to 40 yrs	Moderate	C	Removal required to facilitate development
G4	Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Semi-mature	5	10	80	Yes	0.5	See plan				Limited access around base	Multiple stemmed	Normal	Occasional hawthorn	Good	Good	20 to 40 yrs	Low	C	Partial removal required to facilitate development
T5	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Early-mature	15	1	330	No	2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	No visual defects	Single stemmed	Well developed crown	Reasonable prospects	Good	Good	>40 yrs	Moderate	B	No works required
T6	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Early-mature	16	8	200	No	3.5	7	6	6	6	Exposed roots, Ground level changes. Stream at base	Multiple stemmed at base, Stubs, Old pruning wounds, Epicormic growths, Slight lean	Well developed crown	One larger stem with established suckers forming multiple-stemmed form. Some bark damage on first major west limb.	Good	Good	>40 yrs	Moderate	B	No works required

	Tree Species			Measurements			Crown (m)				Tree Condition							Value		Management		
Tree ID	Common Name	Latin Name	Maturity	Height (m)	Stems	Stem Diameter (mm)	Estimated	Crown height	N	E	S	W	Roots	Stem	Crown	Comments	Physiological	Structural	Life Expectancy	Amenity	Category	Works
T7	Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	Semi-mature	15	1	230	No	5	2	3	4	1	Ground level changes	Single stemmed	Normal	Concrete at base. Suppressed form. Water at base	Good	Fair	10 to 20 yrs	Moderate	C	No works required
T8	Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	Semi-mature	10	3	110	No	5	1	3	2	0.5	No visual defects	Tight union, Partially included bark, Multiple stemmed at base	Normal	Suppressed form	Good	Fair	10 to 20 yrs	Moderate	C	No works required





**Appendix 6:
Tree Impacts Plan**

Land at Sheffield Road, Oxspring, Sheffield, S36 8YA
Ref: AWA5462

BRITISH STANDARD 5837:2012

SCALE: 1:200

PAPER: A3

	TREE/ TREE GROUP/ HEDGE TO BE RETAINED
	TREE/ TREE GROUP/ HEDGE TO BE REMOVED
	RPA: ROOT PROTECTION AREA
	TREE STEM