

**Stairfoot Brick Works
Wombwell Lane
Barnsley**

**Phase 1
Pre-development Arboricultural Report**

**Prepared at the request of
Potters Ballotini Ltd and Hanson Packed Products Ltd**

05 October 2020

**By
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Summary

I have been instructed by Potters Ballotini Ltd and Hanson Packed Products Ltd to carry out a pre-development tree survey of the significant trees at the former Stairfoot Brick Works, Wombwell Lane, Barnsley.

The approximate locations of the trees are recorded on Plan 1 that shows the existing site layout.

Table 1 records their species, dimensions, age, life expectancy, any defects and their amenity value. This information was collected, interpreted and recorded in accordance with BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*. The information is used to attribute retention categories to the trees. These retention categories are described in Appendix 2.

The trees included in this report are mainly confined to the boundaries of the site and growing as large groups or small woodland areas.

The trees are mostly very young having been planted or naturally seeded within the last 20 years or so. Whilst the trees have very limited value as individuals they perform a very valuable role in screening the site from the Trans Pennine Trail to the north, Wombwell Lane to the south west and a residential area to the east.

Many of the groups are growing on steep bunds. This increases the screening capacity of the trees.

Because of the high screening value of the groups, most have been included in retention category B, sub category 2.

An arboricultural impact assessment has not been prepared at this stage because the proposed layout of the site is currently being designed. This is a phase 1 report.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

I have been instructed by Potters Ballotini Ltd and Hanson Packed Products Ltd to carry out a pre-development tree survey of the significant trees growing within the site of the former Stairfoot Brick Works, Wombwell Lane, Barnsley.

The tree survey is intended to provide a structured, impartial assessment of the tree population that could be affected by a proposed development.

The survey is intended to be informative to all stages of the development process and was carried out in accordance with *BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

1.2 Documents and Provided Information

I was provided with the following:

An aerial photo with the site boundary marked in red.

A suggested layout produced by Peter Thompson Architect in 2019

Topographical Survey of the site by Linear Surveys. Drawing No. PBL/SFB/SEPT20-01

1.3 Limitations

This report is concerned only with assessing the condition of the trees, their importance in the local landscape and any cultural and conservation values.

It takes no account of the affects the trees may have on the soil, such as heave where trees are removed or shrinkage where trees are retained.

Trees are dynamic organisms influenced by weather, pests and diseases. Therefore, this report can only remain valid for a period of 24 months.

Any works around the trees such as trenching, pruning, storage of materials and trafficking that has not first been approved by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist will invalidate this report.

This report has been prepared for pre-development purposes. Whilst the condition of the trees has been assessed this is primarily to attribute a retention category. It is not a tree condition and safety report and may not include the same level of detail on tree health and structural condition.

No decay detection equipment was used to gather information on the condition of the trees.

All survey and inspection was completed at ground level.

2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 Site visit

I visited the site on 18 September 2020 to complete the survey.

All dimensions were taken using recognised methodology and arboricultural measuring equipment, unless otherwise stated.

The principles of BS5837:2012 were applied to the assessment and evaluation of the trees.

The weather at the time of inspection was overcast but bright. Winds were light and visibility was good.

2.2 Brief Site description

The application site is currently a former brick works to the north east of Wombwell Lane, Stairfoot, Barnsley at Ordinance Survey grid reference SE 3790 0499. The site has been cleared of buildings to leave large concrete hard standings across much of the site. There are spoil bunds around the boundaries of the site. These bunds are where most of the trees are growing as large groups of young trees and small woodland areas.

2.3 Development Proposals

The development proposes a new recycling and processing centre. I believe the layout of the site is currently being designed.

2.4 Locations of the Trees

The locations of the trees are included on the topographical survey produced by Linear Surveys. The accuracy of the plan has not been checked by me.

2.5 Discussion of the Trees

The trees are growing as long linear groups and small woodlands. Most are growing on the bunds around the boundaries of the site.

With the exception of Tree 18, a mature ash tree, all of the trees are young. Most appear to have established naturally but a small number close to the boundary with Wombwell Lane have been planted as part of landscaping for the former brick works.

Individually, the trees are not important or significant, neither do they have any particular habitat value. However, as cohesive groups they are very valuable at

providing important screening of the site from Wombwell Lane, the Trans Pennine Trail and a residential area.

A number of the trees are ash trees. In 2012 a disease of ash trees was identified in the UK. This disease is caused by a fungus that disrupts the transport of water in trees, initially kills twigs followed by branches and eventually, in some situations the entire tree. It appears that some ash trees have a level of resistance to the disease or may be immune.

Only one of the trees on the site appears to be showing signs of ash die back. The remainder appear healthy. However, there is a high chance that many of the remaining trees will become infected. Fortunately, ash does not make up a high proportion of most of the groups. In one group (13) ash accounts for around 30% of the trees. If these trees are killed by the disease this will have an impact on the effectiveness of the screening provided by this group.

2.6 Tree observations

Table 1. The Tree Survey

Tree number	Species	Height (M)	Stem diameter (DBH in MM)	Branch spread (M)	Ht first branch above GL* (M)	Ht of canopy above GL (M)	Life stage	Health	General observations on the tree's condition	Estimated life in years	Amenity value	Category
1	Ash, sycamore, Norway maple, hawthorn and blackthorn	16.0 – 16.0	<350	North – 6.0 South – 4.0 East – 4.0 West – 3.0	GL	GL	Juvenile mature	Normal	A dense planting of young trees growing along the boundary with Wombwell Lane. The trees are growing on a low bund and provide very effective screening of the site from the highway. A line of hawthorn is growing on the inside edge of the site. The trees are healthy.	20+	High	B 2
2	2 x ash 11 x sycamore	12.0	<450	North – 4.0 South – 6.0 East – 4.0 West – 6.0	2.0	0.5	Juvenile mature	Normal	A linear group of trees growing on the western boundary of the site. They are in good health with no significant defects. The trees have high screening impact from Wombwell Lane.	20+	Medium	B 2
3	Silver birch and field maple	5.0 – 10.0	<200	North – 3.0 South – 3.0 East – 3.0 West – 3.0	1.0	1.0	Juvenile mature	Normal	A long linear group of young trees that are quite openly spaced. The trees are growing on a steep bund with further spoil mounded against the trees. This may have an implication for the health of the trees in the future.	10+	Medium	C 2

4	Silver birch, ash and goat willow with viburnum, elder and buddleia	<10.0	<150	North – 2.5 South – 2.5 East – 2.5 West – 2.5	GL	GL	Juvenile mature	Normal	A group that contains an even mix of trees and shrubs. This helps to provide a very effective screen for the site. The trees are young and in good health. However, the soils may be too dry to support the goat willow trees in the long term. This is a species that prefers moist soils. The group is growing on a steep mount of spoil.	20+	High	B 2
5	Alder, silver birch and goat willow with buddleia	<10.0	<200	North – 2.0 South – 2.0 East – 2.0 West – 2.0	GL	GL	Juvenile mature	Normal	A narrow group of small, young, openly spaced trees growing on a steep bund. The combined bund and tree planting provides effective screening for the Trans Pennine Trail.	20+	Medium	B 2
6	Silver birch, goat willow and ash	<10.0	<200	North – 2.0 South – 2.0 East – 2.0 West – 2.0	1.0	1.0	Juvenile mature	Normal	A group of open spaced trees growing on a bund. The group provides some screening for the Trans Pennine Trail.	20+	Medium	B 2
7	Silver birch and buddleia	<10.0	<100	North – 1.5 South – 1.5 East – 1.5 West – 1.5	1.0	1.0	Juvenile mature	Normal	A small group of small trees growing on the flat part of the side on the inside of the bund. These trees have probably seeded naturally.	20+	Low	C 1
8	Sessile oak, crack willow, blackthorn, sycamore and dense hawthorn	<10.0	<400	North – 2.0 South – 2.0 East – 2.0 West – 2.0	1.0	1.0	Juvenile mature	Normal	The group is growing on the north side of the high bund. The trees are widely spaced but the hawthorn is dense and provides a very visually attractive screen for the Trans Pennine Trail.	20+	High	B 2

9	Silver birch	<8.0	<50	North – 1.0 South – 1.0 East – 1.0 West – 1.0	0.5	0.5	Juvenile mature	Normal	Very young and small trees growing within the site. The trees have regenerated naturally since the site have been disused.	20+	Low	C 1
10	Silver birch and alder	<10.0	<100	North – 1.0 South – 1.0 East – 1.0 West – 1.0	0.5	0.5	Juvenile mature	Normal	Very young and small trees growing within the site. The trees have regenerated naturally since the site have been disused.	20+	Low	C 1
11	Silver birch, alder, hawthorn and buddleia	<8.0	<50	North – 1.0 South – 1.0 East – 1.0 West – 1.0	GL	GL	Semi mature	Normal	Very young and small trees growing within the site. The trees have regenerated naturally since the site have been disused. Some of the alders are dying. The ground conditions may be too dry to support this species which prefers moist to wet soils.	10+	Low	C 1
12	Woodland of field maple, sycamore and ash	<12.0	<200	North – 3.0 South – 4.0 East – 4.0 West – 4.0	GL	GL	Juvenile mature	Normal	A wide woodland planting growing at an elevated position around 1m above the site. The trees are healthy and provide a good screen for the Trans Pennine Trail.	20+	High	B 2
13	Woodland of crack willow, ash, alder, field maple and some aspen	<8.0	<250	North – 3.0 South – 3.0 East – 3.0 West – 3.0	GL	GL	Juvenile mature	Normal	One of the larger woodland areas with larger trees than many of the other groups and woodlands. Approximately 30% of the trees are ash. There are healthy at the moment but if they become infected by the pathogen that causes ash die back this may affect the screening qualities of the woodland. The trees are growing on a steep bund and provide screening to a residential area.	20+	High	B 2

14	Silver birch	<8.0	<200	North – 2.0 South – 2.0 East – 2.0 West – 2.0	GL	GL	Juvenile mature	Normal	A groups of widely spaced trees growing on the flat part of the site outside the bunded area. The trees are healthy and provide some amenity and screening to the residential area.	20+	Medium	B 2
15	Woodland of alder, sycamore, lime, field maple and hawthorn	<14.0	<300	North – 3.0 South – 3.0 East – 3.0 West – 3.0	1.0	1.0	Juvenile mature	Normal	A wide woodland belt providing screening for the residential area. The woodland is raised above the site by around 1m. Some of the alders are dying. The ground conditions may be too dry to support this species which prefers moist to wet soils.	20+	High	B 2
16	Silver birch	<8.0	<100	North – 1.0 South – 1.0 East – 1.0 West – 1.0	0.5	0.5	Juvenile mature	Normal	Very young and small trees growing within the site. The trees have regenerated naturally since the site has been disused.	20+	Low	C 1
17	Woodland of elm, ash, field maple, alder, lime and Leyland cypress	<12.0	<350	North – 3.0 South – 5.0 East – 3.0 West – 4.0	1.0	1.0	Juvenile mature	Normal	A wide woodland belt providing screening for the residential area. There is an old coppiced ash tree growing on the boundary but the trees are otherwise very young.	20+	High	B 2
18	Ash	12.0	710	North – 5.8 South – 6.0 East – 5.0# West – 7.5	4.0	3.0	Mature	Normal	This is the only mature tree within the site. The tree has good form, is healthy and has no significant defects. It is not showing any signs of being infected with the pathogen that causes ash dieback. It has high landscape value.	20+	High	B 1&2

19	5 x silver birch and 1 x ash	6.0 – 8.0	<300	North – 4.1 South – 4.0 East – 5.4 West – 5.5	2.0	0.25	Juvenile mature to young mature	Normal	A small group of quite insignificant trees growing within the interior of the site. These were probably planted as landscaping for the offices that have since been demolished. The silver birch trees are healthy but there is some decline in the ash tree. This may be associated with the pathogen that causes ash dieback.	10+	Low	C 1
20	Leyland cypress	16.0	600# at base	North – 2.0 South – 2.5 East – 1.5 West – 2.5	GL	GL	Mature	Normal	A large but unattractive tree close to the entrance to the site. There are a number of acute stem unions which were stable at the time of inspection. This is fairly typical in this hybrid.	10+	Low	C 1

3 Interpretation of Information and References

My interpretation and appraisal of information gathered from the survey is based on experience of tree species, visual risk hazard assessment and the guidance set out in BS5837:2012 *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition, Construction – Recommendations*.

3.1 BS5837:2012 Tree Retention Categories

All trees have been assessed and assigned a retention category in accordance with Table 1 of the standard. A copy of Table 1 from BS5837: 2012 is included as Appendix 2.

This categorisation is intended to rank trees according to their importance in terms of quality, health, life expectancy, amenity and landscape value, together with wildlife and cultural importance. This ranking assists in determining the suitability and appropriateness of trees for retention in any development. Categories A to C are those considered for retention, 'A' being highest.

Category A and B trees tend to be considered more valuable for retention than category C trees.

Category 'U' trees are those not suitable for retention because of impaired condition.

Hedges and shrubs are not assigned retention categories but their heights and species are simply noted on the tree constraints plan.

3.2 Below Ground Constraints; Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

The root protection area is the area of land considered necessary for trees should they be retained as part of any development. This is calculated using the stem diameter measured at 1.5 metres from ground level. This protection area is shown diagrammatically as a circle centred on the base of the tree where it is expected that rooting has not been impeded in any one direction and where disturbance has not taken place. Where rooting has been impeded or disturbance taken place then the shape and size of the root protection area is modified according to an assessment of where rooting is likely to take place.

In this case the RPAs are likely to be contained within the bunds that the trees are growing in.

Where trees are to be retained, it is optimal to locate structures and services outside the RPA. However, where incursion becomes necessary, technical solutions may be possible to limit damage, areas lost can be compensated elsewhere, or the soil environment can be improved. In these circumstances an arboricultural method statement will be necessary to ensure that works are undertaken sympathetically and do not damage the below ground parts of the trees.

3.3 Above Ground Constraints; Crown Spreads

Ideally, working areas will be out with the crown spreads of trees to be retained.

Any permanent development proposed within the canopy spread of a tree should be assessed to determine whether the level of pruning necessary to accommodate the layout would be acceptable. However, the effects of shade and other perceived inconveniences of trees this close to property should also be considered, together with the future growth potential of the trees and the maintenance obligation this will bring.

Where temporary access by high sided vehicles and machinery for construction or erection of scaffolding is necessary within the crown spreads of trees to facilitate development an arboricultural method statement will be necessary to ensure pruning works are carried out sympathetically prior to demolition or construction works commencing.

3.4 Discussion of these trees

These trees provide significant amenity value as a group. They form part of a well treed landscape and are highly visible from a busy road network.

Most of these trees are horse chestnuts. They have a browning to their leaves caused by the horse chestnut leaf miner. This is an insect that feeds between the upper and lower epidermis of a leaf. This causes the affected parts of the leaf to go brown. It is an annual occurrence and is almost always a cosmetic issue.

3.5 Conception and Design

The constraints imposed by trees should assist with site design and layout, together with the other competing needs of development.

The provisions of services and the access space required for construction itself should be considered.

4 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section of the report considers the impact that the proposed layout could have on the trees that are included in Table 1 and shown on Plan 1; *Tree Constraints Plan showing the existing layout*.

This section discusses the engineering solutions that may be available to retain trees where development is proposed within their root protection areas (RPAs) or the pruning options available where development might affect crown spreads.

Where there is no option but to remove a tree to accommodate the proposed layout this section will discuss the impact on amenity and ecology and any mitigation that could be offered such as opportunities for replacement planting.

4.1 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

This is a phase 1 arboricultural report because the layout is currently being designed. For this reason, this report does not include a specific impact assessment for the site but I provide some general comments and guidance here.

- The trees are mostly growing in bunds. The RPAs of the trees are likely to remain within the bunds. Provided development remains outside the bund areas the trees are unlikely to be affected.
- The trees growing within the flat, interior parts of the site are very small and young. Their stems diameters are less than 150mm. BS5837:2012 regards trees under this diameter to be insignificant. These trees do not contribute anything to the landscape screening of site.

4.2 General guidance on trees and development

4.3 Levels

Altering the ground level within the RPAs of the trees may have a detrimental impact on their health and longevity.

4.4 Ground surface materials

Altering the ground cover, such as by using impervious or semi-pervious surface materials to cover areas that were previously vegetated soil, will alter the moisture content and recharge of the soil and its oxygen and carbon dioxide content. This could have a detrimental effect on the health of tree roots growing in it.

4.5 Site access

Vehicles and plant operating or parking on unprotected soil within the RPA of a retained tree could compact or contaminate it and this could have a detrimental impact on its long-term condition and longevity.

4.6 Storing fuel, materials and equipment

Storing fuel, equipment and materials close to trees increases the risk of damage to their trunks and branches, soil compaction and/or contamination with toxic substances.

4.7 Activity under tree canopies

Activity under tree canopies, such as mixing cement, lighting bonfires or storing equipment, plant and materials, may damage branches or stems. It may also be detrimental to soil within its RPA that is utilised by its roots.

5 REFERENCES, PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

5.1 National policy

Section 197 in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 makes it the duty of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), *'in the interests of amenity,'* to protect trees, when granting planning permission, either by the imposition of conditions or serving Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) mentions trees and should be taken into account.

170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

175. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁵⁸ and a suitable compensation strategy exists;

Annex 2: Glossary

Ancient or veteran tree: A tree which, because of its age, size and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient, but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.

Ancient woodland: An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

Irreplaceable habitat: Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.

5.2 British Standard: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (BS 5837, 2012)

The British Standard: *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* (BS 5837, 2012) contains guidance on how to assess trees in or close to proposed development and information to include in pre-development arboricultural reports submitted with planning applications. Appendices 2 and 3 contain relevant extracts from BS 5837 (2012).

5.3 Barnsley Borough Council

Barnsley Local Plan. Adopted January 2019

17. Green Infrastructure and Green Space

6 CONCLUSIONS

The trees are mostly growing around the boundaries of the site in large linear groups.

The trees are mostly very young and individually they are insignificant.

The value of the trees is in their grouping around the boundary of the site as they provide important screening of Wombwell Lane, the Trans Pennine Trail and a residential area.

This is a phase 1 report because the proposed layout is currently being designed.

If the development is kept within the interior of the site on the existing concrete standing it would not have a detrimental impact on the groups of trees.

7 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Protected trees

No checks have been made with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for trees included in a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within a Conservation Area.

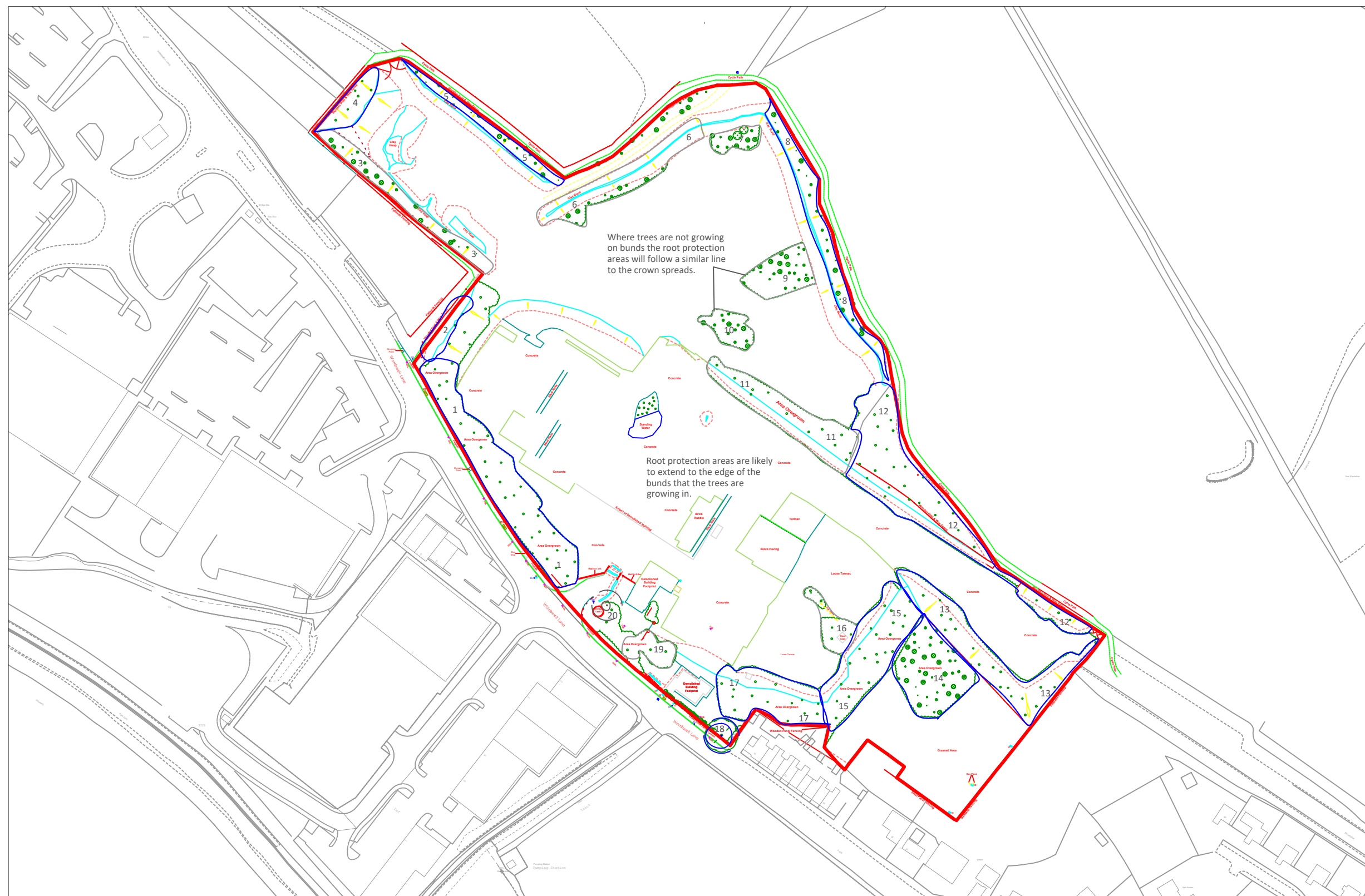
If any trees are protected by a TPO, are located in a conservation area or protected by planning conditions, it will be necessary to obtain permission from the LPA before any work, other than certain exempted operations, can be carried out.

7.2 Wildlife conservation legislation

Breeding birds are protected, together with bats and their roosts are, whether their roosts are in use or not.

Consideration should be given to the presence of protected species prior to any proposed tree removal or maintenance. This will include breeding birds, principally between March and August, and bats at any time of year.

Tree surgeons should also be aware of their duties under legislation to protect wildlife and carry out their site assessment and work accordingly.



Key

-  Category B crown
-  Category B stem
-  Category RPA
-  Category C crown
-  Category C stem
-  Category C RPA

Plan 1: Tree Constraints Plan showing the existing layout.

Not scaled

Appendix 1

The Experience and Qualifications of Ian Kennedy

1. Qualifications

Ian graduated from the Scottish Agricultural College in August 1995 with a Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (HND) with Distinction.

In 1998 Ian graduated from the University of Aberdeen with aBSc (Hons) Upper second class in Forestry with Arboriculture and Amenity Forestry.

He passed the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection examination in (2006).

In 2009 his application to become a professional member of the Arboricultural Association was assessed to fulfil all the necessary requirements and he became a professional member of the Association that year.

In 2011 he passed the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and became a member of that institute in January 2012.

2. Practical experience

Presently Ian is working in private practice as an independent arboricultural and woodland management consultant undertaking tree conditions surveys, pre-development tree surveys to the BS5837:2012 standard, mortgage reports and woodland management planning works. Clients range from home owners and farmers to architects, building companies, local authorities, schools and larger development companies.

Prior to private practice Ian held a number of positions in local government. Firstly he was the arboriculturalist within a planning office in Essex. Ian gained considerable experience regarding trees in relation to development, in particular BS 5837.

Development work formed the core of his duties and applications ranged from small back garden developments to major schemes such as the redevelopment of Ministry of Defence land for private residential development. Ian also undertook all functions associated with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), including the making of new TPOs, assessing suitability of applications to work on protected trees and trees in conservation areas.

Ian went on to manage a 500 hectare woodland estate for a local authority in South Yorkshire that included a mix of urban and rural woodlands. This included preparation and implementation of detailed management plans for multiple use woodlands. He undertook all aspects of silvicultural management from marking to contract tendering and monitoring. He also managed the access, conservation, landscape and archaeological requirements of the estate.

Ian was directly involved in the estate achieving Forest Stewardship Council certification in 2003 and personally ensured continued certification.

Ian has worked extensively with Forestry Commission to obtain the necessary licences for management works and ensured the estate benefited fully from the full range of grants available.

Latterly at the same authority Ian went on to manage the trees and woodlands unit, having overall responsibility for management of the authority's tree and woodland stock and associated staff, together with delivery of other tree related services such as those associated with the Town and Country Planning Acts.

3. Continuing professional development

Ian regularly attends meetings, seminars and training events hosted by The Arboricultural Association, Institute of Chartered Foresters, Royal Forestry Society and Forestry Commission and benefits from the respective journals, briefings and newsletters available to members of the first three of the organisations listed.

4. Relevant experience

Ian Kennedy has spent 20 years working with trees, including as the arboricultural advisor to planning officers for a Local Planning Authority and manager of a trees and woodlands unit for another local authority with overall responsibility for trees, including in relation to the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Appendix2

Tree Retention Categories

Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall declineTrees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i></p>			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

Appendix 3

Explanatory notes for some of the terms used in this report

- **Stem Diameter:** The diameter of the trunk at 1.5m above ground level and recorded in millimetres measured with a diameter tape.
- **Compass Bearing:** N = north; S = south; E = east; W = west;
- **Life Stage:** Assessed as either:
 - Semi-mature = a size which could be easily transplanted;
 - Juvenile mature = prior to seed bearing age and could be transplanted with care;
 - Young Mature = early maturity, not fully grown but of seed bearing age and may have achieved mature height;
 - Mature = fully grown, annual growth is much reduced;
 - Old Mature = old for the species, possibly starting to decline;
 - Veteran = Beyond maturity for the species. This can be characterised by larger than average stem diameters, scaffold branches or crown spreads. Often still growing with full crowns.
 - Ancient = Well beyond normal mature age. It will have special characteristics associated with its age, including biological, cultural. Growth rates will significantly reduced and the tree may be declining in size.
- **Estimated size: #**
- **Health:**
 - Normal Vitality = normal growth and twig extension;
 - Moderate Vitality = reduced twig extension but other than that few signs of ill-health;
 - Early Decline = reduced twig extension and some dead twigs in the outer canopy;
 - Mid-decline = small internodes, the canopy may be thinning and contain dead twigs and/or branches in the outer canopy, older branch wounds that haven't occluded may be decaying and forming cavities;
 - Severe Decline = sparse crown, numerous dead twigs and branches in the outer canopy, older branch wounds likely to be decaying and forming cavities;
 - Dead.
- **Structural Condition**
 - Acute stem union = a weak union between two or more stems at the main forking point caused by the formation of reaction wood. Mechanical pressure at the forking point increases as secondary thickening occurs increasing the risk of failure at that point.

- Acute branch union = the same principle as acute stem unions but between a stem and a branch or two branches rather than 2 main stems.

- **Estimated life**
 - The life expectancy brackets of <10 years, 10+ years, 20+ years and 40+ years accord with the guidance in BS5837:2012 and should be considered as the useful life expectancy in the location the trees are growing in. For example, a tree with significant defects growing in a quiet area could be retained for longer than a tree growing next to a busy highway or a residential building.

- **Amenity**
 - High = Growing in a place that is very publicly visible such as a next to a busy road or places where people gather. The tree is also likely to be large or very large.
 - Medium = A smaller tree growing in a very publicly visible place or a large tree growing in a place with reduced public access.
 - Low = A small to medium sized tree growing in a quiet location where it is barely or not visible to anyone other than the landowner.

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