



Simon Elliott,
 9 Farnaby Gardens, High Green,
 Sheffield, S35 4FZ.

November 17th 2021.

Dear Simon,

Tree Impact appraisal Greenside House Project,
Hoylandswaine.

Barnsley Planning application reference; 2021/0331.

The proposal here will require the following tree work, the tree numbers are based on my tree survey of June 2018. The appraisal is based on the scanned site layout supplied to me, dated November 2020, for the erection of 5 dwellings with car parking. The following schedule is copied from the 2018 report:

Tree No.	Species.	Comments.
1.	Beech.	Remove.
2.	Oak	Remove.
3.	Sycamore	Remove.
4.	Lodgepole Pine	This tree could be retained but I consider it wisest to remove it as this will permit the adjacent tree (5) to develop a better crown shape.
5.	Oak	No work required.
6.	Silver Birch	No work required.
7.	Sycamore	No work required.
8.	Silver Birch	No work required.
9.	Horse Chestnut	No work required.
10.	Group	No work required.
11.	Group	Remove along with the Cherry Laurel hedge. I consider the removal of Cherry Laurel, a noted suppressor of competing plants, to be of benefit to biodiversity.
12.	Orchard group.	Remove.

Overall I consider the loss of trees here to be of little significance. I consider the loss of the Cherry Laurel to be a positive outcome in terms of biodiversity.

I note that the biodiversity-net-gain calculation (the spreadsheet prepared by Whitcher Wildlife Ecological Consultants) while considering the hedge to be of low value, does not actually give it a negative value. This seems wrong. I'm not saying that I have any familiarity



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with or knowledge of the “biodiversity net gain matrix,” simply that there needs to be an acceptance that some sites ought to be acknowledged as a threat to biodiversity. Referring to an overgrown garden with some trees as “wood pasture” also seems to be overstating the situation as well.

Replanting.

Planting to compensate for the loss of trees seems entirely reasonable. I should note here that various pressure groups have suggested the adoption of systems whereby established trees are equated to numbers of replacement trees. For example if a tree of 750 mm diameter was removed, then 7 replacement trees might be demanded. (The Bristol Tree Replacement Standard.) It should be noted that the legislative principles of replacing protected trees permits tree replacement on only a one-for-one basis.

I think it’s reasonable to say that one new tree for an absent established larger tree might seem somewhat disproportionate but the legislation recognises that discouraging tree planting or ownership is not a desirable outcome, and it should also be remembered that young trees growing rapidly may very well produce more environmental benefits than elderly trees that might be growing very slowly.

The trees I suggest as being suitable to plant here, bearing in mind that the site still contains a respectable number of trees, are as follows.

Species	Comment
Wild Service Tree. <i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	A native plant, not often seen. Good fruit for wildlife and good autumn colour.
Field Maple. <i>Acer campestre</i>	Another native plant. In profile it can seem like a small but established Oak. Good autumn colour.
Cherry-leaved Hawthorn. <i>Crataegus x prunifolia</i> .	Another native plant with good fruit for wildlife and with good autumn colour.
Rowan. <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Another native tree, good for wildlife.
Holly. <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Native, good cover and fruit for wildlife.
Hornbeam. <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Similar to Beech with good autumn colour and unusual seeds.

The following plants are shrubby trees but could be planted as part of an informal hedge to compensate for or replace the removed hedge.

Hazel. <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Native, the nuts are good for wildlife if the squirrels don’t get them.
Guelder Rose. <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Interesting flowers and good fruit. Native
Spindle Tree. <i>Euonymus europaea</i> .	Unusual berries, native.
Hawthorn. <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> .	The basis of a decent wildlife hedge. Native.

Planting a hedge beneath group 10 would be feasible but some additional tree work, removing suppressed trees to allow space for planting would be prudent.

The trees to be planted should be 10-12s¹ grown in containers no larger than 50 litres. They should be staked with a single stake and a single tree tie. (See appended specification drawing.)

I have appended the planting pit specification from BS8546² to show the principles to be adopted when planting the trees.

In the first year after planting the trees and shrubs should be watered once a week from spring to early autumn: Mid-April to late September. This frequency is a minimum and should be reviewed as weather conditions dictate. (This is not complicated and residents could deal with it.) Weeds will also need to be managed by either hand weeding or with the careful use of a weedkiller.

Whenever watering is undertaken, the planting should be inspected. Formative or remedial pruning should be undertaken as necessary. Stakes should be removed as soon as possible. Remedial pruning may mean cutting some plants back to ground level to promote coppice growth.

Summary.

In my opinion, the impact of this project on the local landscape, the tree population, and biodiversity is fairly low, and planting 10 trees to compensate for the trees lost is more than adequate. Replacing the Cherry Laurel hedge with a hedge of mixed native species also seems to be a vast improvement over the existing situation.

I trust you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,



W L Anderson. Dip.Arb(RFS). M Arbor A.

Enclosure: Tree planting specification from BS8545(2014)

¹Tree sizes are based on stem circumference measured at 1 metre. A 10-12 would be 10-12 cms circumference, then 12-14, 14-16 and so on. As a rule-of-thumb, a 10-12 would be 10 feet tall although height is not part of the specification. A tree in a 50 litre pot is reasonably easy to handle gently while planting, which means they establish more readily than larger trees.

² BS8545: (2014) *Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations*

The diagram illustrates a young tree with various parts labeled for identification. The labels are as follows:

- 1: Straight leader (the main vertical stem)
- 2: Formative pruning, as necessary (indicated by arrows on the upper branches)
- 3: Size (indicated by an arrow on the main stem)
- 4: Lateral branch subordination, as necessary (indicated by an arrow on a side branch)
- 5: Branch union with no included bark (indicated by an arrow on a branch junction)
- 6: Height/stem diameter ratio (indicated by an arrow on the main stem)
- 7: Support (a horizontal bar across the stem)
- 8: Clear stem (the area below the support bar)
- 9: Bud/graft union (indicated by an arrow on the stem just above the root flare)
- 10: Mulch (a layer of material around the base of the tree)
- 11: Root flare (the base of the stem where it meets the roots)
- 12: Irrigation (indicated by an arrow pointing to the root system)
- 13: Soil volume (the area around the roots)
- 14: Type and condition of root system (indicated by an arrow pointing to the roots)

- 1 Straight leader
- 2 Formative pruning, as necessary
- 3 Size
- 4 Lateral branch subordination, as necessary
- 5 Branch union with no included bark
- 6 Height/stem diameter ratio
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- 8 Clear stem
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- 10 Mulch
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- 12 Irrigation
- 13 Soil volume
- 14 Type and condition of root system