

**Report on trees in woodland belt
around development off Aldham House Lane
Wombwell, Barnsley
S73 8FD**

(Great and Little Stubbing)

October 2012

1 Instructions

- 1.1 I was asked by Kate Wragg of The McDonald Partnership, Chartered Surveyors, to report on an area of about 0.4ha which surrounds a group of new apartments at the above location.
- 1.2 I was asked to pay particular attention to any mature trees that may need specific attention.
- 1.3 I was supplied with a plan at a scale of approximately 1:500.
- 1.4 I visited the site on 4th October 2012.

2 Description of site and trees

- 2.1 The woodland area is shaded light grey on the plan which was supplied, and a copy of which is appended.
- 2.2 This area is enclosed by fences 1.5m or more high, except where it adjoins gardens on the southern side, where fences are smaller or non-existent. There is a gate at the south-western corner, near to T2, which was locked. [I gained access through an adjoining garden, with the consent of the owner.]
- 2.3 I understand that there is a Tree Preservation Order in place, although I have not seen a copy of this.

2.4 Apart from the cherry tree labelled T2 on the plan, all the trees appear to be about 15 to 18 years old, or thereabouts. There are three distinctive areas, which are labelled G1, G3, and G4 on the plan, as supplied. All of these areas have a mixture of species, but G1 is dominated by cherry, G2 by silver birch, and G4 by a mixture of species including cherry, field maple, ash, whitebeam, and willows.

2.5 Some oak and beech have been planted throughout, but most of them appear to have been suppressed by other species and there are very few survivors. (The planting mixture and design were not very robust, and the lack of management within the last 10 years has resulted in the more vigorous species smothering most of those which have grown more slowly.)

2.6 Tree and shrub species present include wild cherry, oak, beech, silver birch, common alder, ash, holly, hazel, elder, goat willow, whitebeam, Swedish whitebeam, field maple, rowan, hawthorn, hazel, plus several Norway maple seedlings (which have arisen from neighbouring trees).

2.7 The site is more or less level, with a dense group of dwellings in the centre, surrounded by a belt of trees. This is very narrow along most of the north-eastern boundary, although there are some other (older) trees beyond, which reinforce these trees.

3 Assessment and recommendations

3.1 There is a need for some thinning (i.e. removal of some of the trees), particularly in area G1. G3 is looking very open at present due to the fact that the birch trees have, in common with many more throughout the country this year, suffered fairly extensive defoliation. This appears to be related to the prolonged period of cool wet weather from April to June, which resulted in some rather indeterminate leaf discase. I would expect most of these trees to survive if they do not suffer in the same way again next year.]

3.2 Cherry tree T2. This appears to be the only tree which is more than 15 years old. It is stouter than the other trees, with a stem diameter of 45cm, but not a lot taller. Photos 1 - 3 appended show the main fork in this tree at a height of about 1.7m and the overall appearance of the tree. There is a wound a few years old on the north-western side of the tree at about the same height as the fork, and this is starting to develop some localised decay, as would be expected. The fork appears to be fairly sound at the present time, but I have some concern that it might become weaker due to the development of decay over the next few years.

3.3 I would recommend that the side of the tree closest to the adjacent house should be reduced (as per BS 3998:2010) approximately in line with the red line on Photo 3. This would help to reduce the weight and leverage on the fork, while keeping branches clear of the house. The tree should be reassessed within four years.



Cherry tree T2, Great Stubbing, Wombwell, Barnsley S73 8RD



Photo 1
Fork, viewed from the south

Photo 2
Fork, viewed from the north-west

- 3.4 **G1.** *I have marked for removal (with yellow paint spots) 18 cherry trees between 8 and 16cm diameter, along with three goat willow stems and one rowan of similar or smaller size.*
- 3.5 **G3.** *I have marked for removal two silver birch, in approximately the location marked "Bi" on the plan. [Please note that the yellow paint marks do not show up very well on birch.]*
- 3.6 *I have also marked 14 cherry trees between 4 and 11cm diameter, all of which are in a group in the location indicated on the plan, together with one goat willow, one beech, and two sycamore stems, all less than 10cm diameter, in the same area.*
- 3.7 **G4.** *I have marked 11 cherry trees between 5 and 13cm diameter, five field maple, two ash, four goat willow stems, two alder, and one Norway maple, all less than 12cm diameter. In addition, any trees close to garages (at the two locations marked xx on the plan) should be trimmed to give 2m clearance from the garages.*
- 3.8 *The contractor who does the work will need to carry out a thorough check, on completion, that they have not missed any of the marked trees.*
- 3.9 *There are some elder bushes (or small trees) which are growing against the fence on the north-eastern boundary. I have not made any recommendations about these. They help to form a screen and they will not become very much larger (and are unlikely to be affected by the Tree Preservation Order, if there is one), so I would leave any management of these to whoever carries out routine management.*
- 3.10 *It would be nice to have a path of some sort through the whole area, for access purposes, and possibly to have a bit more use of the area by residents.*
- 3.11 *I would recommend that these areas be inspected again within four years, when some more trees will need to be removed.*

4 **Additional notes**

- 4.1 *I realised when I was back in my office that I had not inspected the grey shaded area on the plan, about 5m in width, adjacent to Aldham House Lane to the north-west of the entrance to the site. I apologise for this. If there are any trees on this area which need to be inspected I will re-visit the property without any additional charge for the travelling time or mileage involved. Otherwise, perhaps they could wait until the next general tree inspection.*


R Helliwell
5th October 2012



Photo 3
Tree viewed from the north-west

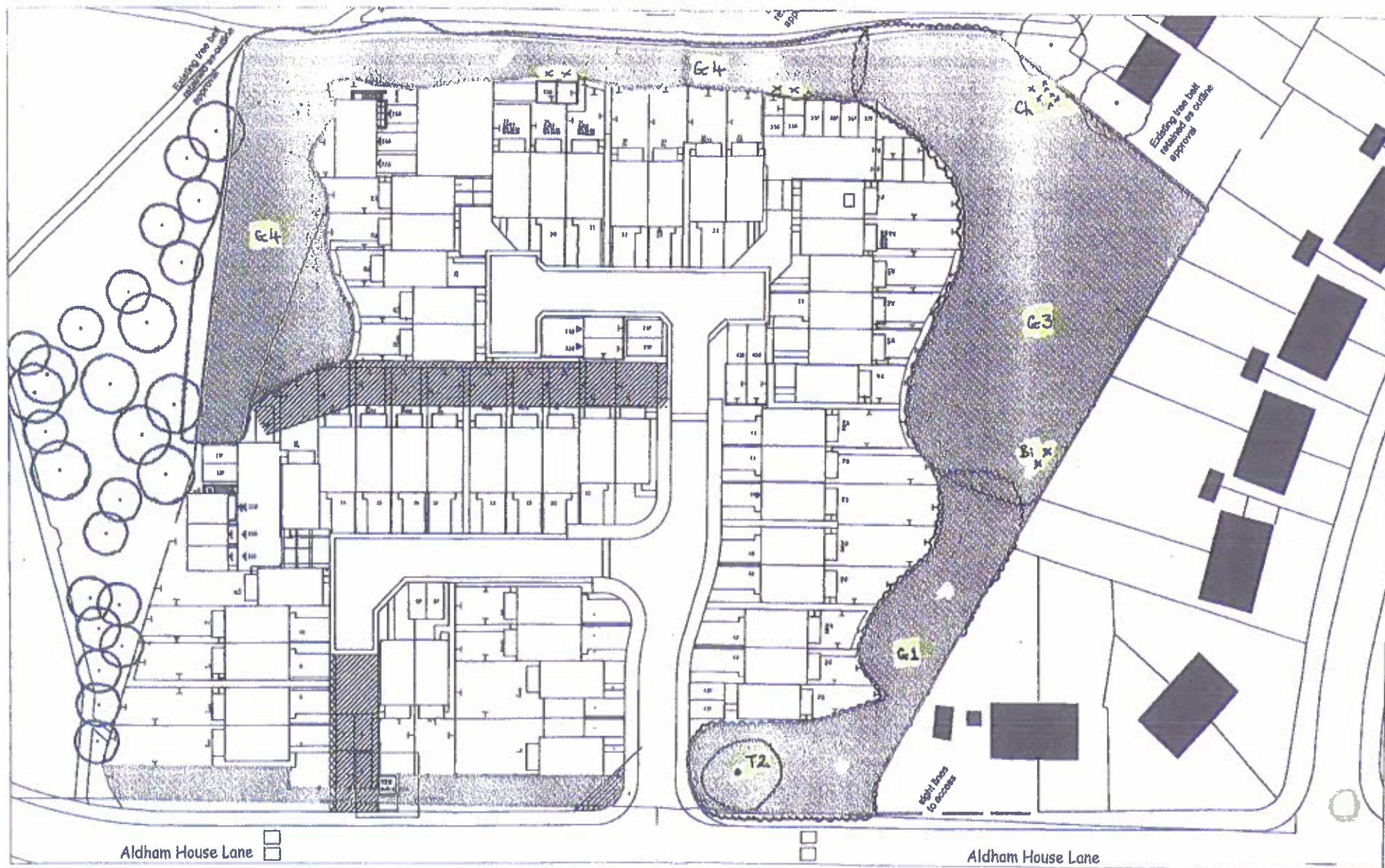
Plan Referred To Managment Company Area Off Aldham House Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley

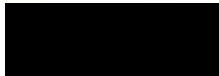
 = Sewer Easement

 = Cable Easement

 Denotes area area to be maintained by managment company

Feb 2007
Scale 1:500





5th Oct 2012

1:500