

Tree Survey

in accordance with

BS5837:2005

at

**Pinfold Lane
Royston**

Table of Contents

1 Summary.....	3
2 Introduction.....	4
2.1 Client details.....	4
2.2 Purpose and scope of report.....	4
2.3 Survey conditions.....	4
3 Data collection methods.....	5
3.1 Measurements and Observations.....	5
3.2 Category Rating.....	6
3.2.1 Main Categories.....	6
3.2.2 Sub-categories.....	6
4 Discussion.....	7
5 Legal status of surveyed trees.....	8
Appendix 1: Data Tables.....	9
Appendix 2: Plans.....	10
6 Contact Details.....	11

1 Summary

This site is a domestic garden with a number of trees and shrubs.

There were no individual trees of significant value, but when considered as a whole, the trees included in this survey have value as part of the local landscape.

Include in the survey were several large Lombardy poplar. Several of these showed symptoms that they contained basal decay. Unless these trees are considered of special value, then their removal is recommended. If these trees are retained it is recommended that a detailed investigation of any possible decay is undertaken.

The site also contains a number of birch trees which are estimated to be approximately 40 to 50 years old. As the normal life expectancy of birch is 70 years, these trees should not be considered as a significant constraint upon development under the criteria of BS5837:2005.

2 Introduction

2.1 Client details

This report is undertaken on instruction from Chris Carr Associates, Barnsley.

2.2 Purpose and scope of report

To undertake a tree survey in accordance with BS5837:2005 at: Pinfold Lane, Royston.

The recommendations in this report are of a preliminary nature and do not take into account any specific development proposals. This allows the trees to be assessed independently and without bias. It also allows the same tree report to be used should the layout or design of the site be altered.

This report is based upon a visual survey undertaken on foot from ground level. No digging, drilling, climbing, or other diagnostic technique was undertaken on this occasion.

The consultant shall not be responsible for events which happen after the date of survey due to factors which were not apparent at the time of the survey.

It is advisable to have trees regularly surveyed by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant. In this instance it is recommended that the next survey is undertaken within 12 months of this report. If the site or adjacent areas change use, or if there are significant changes to the condition of the site or adjacent areas, or if there are significant changes to the trees surveyed, it is recommended that another survey is undertaken.

No liability can be accepted by the consultant unless the recommendations of this report are undertaken within the time period recommended. Where no time period is indicated then recommendations should be carried out as soon as reasonably practicable.

The plans included as part of this report are based on those provided by the client or their representatives. Whilst reasonable steps are taken to ensure plans are accurate and correct, the consultant will not be responsible for errors or omissions arising due to information provided by the client or the client's representatives.

All tree works should be carried out to BS 3998:1989 - Recommendations for tree work by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured contractor.

2.3 Survey conditions

The survey was carried out on 3rd June 2008 by James Royston.

The weather conditions were fine and visibility was good.



3 Data collection methods

3.1 *Measurements and Observations*

Height is measured in metres from ground level to the highest point of the tree using tape measures and clinometers.

Diameter is measured and rounded down to the nearest ten millimetres at 1.5m above ground level using specialist tapes. Where a tree divides into multiple stems below 1.5m it will be measured at the lowest point above the root flare.

Canopy spread is measured in metres at magnetic north, south, east and west.

Height of crown clearance is measured in metres and is an indication of the lowest significant live branches of the crown.

Age Class is divided into young, semi-mature, mature, over mature, and veteran. This is an indication of which stage a tree is at in its natural life cycle, allowing for an assessment of how energy and growth will be prioritised within a tree. In general, younger trees are more able to cope with disturbance or stress.

Physiological condition is an assessment of the health and vigour of the tree and will include an assessment of the size, colour and density of the foliage. Trees in good physiological condition are better able to cope with disturbance or stress.

Structural condition is an indication of the structural integrity of the tree. This is given as good, average or poor. More details will be given in the observations column of the data tables if appropriate.

The observations column will include a brief description of each tree and provide further information as relevant.

Amenity value is assessed using a combination of factors such as species, size and location.

The remaining contribution is a rough estimate of the number of years a tree is expected to survive in a structurally sound condition assuming normal arboricultural management.

Occasionally it is impractical to obtain accurate measurements due to restricted access or other site conditions. In these circumstances the data may be estimated.



3.2 Category Rating

3.2.1 Main Categories

Category ratings are allocated based on the current condition of a tree in its current surroundings assuming the recommendations of this report are carried out. No consideration is given to any specific development proposal when allocating category ratings.

Category A trees are those which have high visual amenity value, are in good structural and physiological condition and are expected to contribute for at least another 40 years.

Category B trees are those which would be considered as category A trees but which are of lower value, poorer structural condition, or which are expected to contribute for less than 40 years.

Category C trees are those which have low amenity value, are in poor condition, or are expected to contribute for less than 20 years.

Category R trees are those which are expected to contribute for less than 10 years due to serious defects. As is common in risk management, where there is doubt, the precautionary principal may be applied.

In certain circumstances trees may be considered of higher value due to cultural or ecological reasons. If this is the case it will be made clear in the tree data tables.

3.2.2 Sub-categories

Sub-categories of 1, 2 or 3 are included in the tree data tables and are defined as follows:

Sub-category 1 trees are those with 'other arboricultural value'

Sub-category 2 trees are those with 'landscape value'

Sub-category 3 trees are those with 'cultural or conservation value'

These subcategories do not infer any hierarchy of value. For example a category B1 tree should not necessarily be considered any more valuable than a category B3 tree. Most trees will simultaneously fall into all three sub-categories.

4 Discussion

Please also see the tree data tables, and plans in the appendix for more information on trees surveyed.

This site is a domestic garden with a number of trees and shrubs predominantly located around the perimeters of the site.

There were no individual trees of significant value, but when considered as a whole, the trees included in this survey have value as part of the local landscape.

Include in the survey were several large Lombardy poplar. Several of these showed symptoms that they contained basal decay. Unless these trees are considered of special value, then their removal is recommended. If these trees are retained it is recommended that a detailed investigation of any possible decay is undertaken.

The site also contains a number of birch trees which are estimated to be approximately 40 to 50 years old. As the normal life expectancy of birch is 70 years, these trees should not be considered as a significant constraint upon development under the criteria of BS5837:2005.

To the north of the site is a row of poplars in a neighbouring property. These could not be fully inspected due to restricted access, but appeared to be in good general condition. These trees overhang an existing access road and it is recommended that they are crown lifted to facilitate vehicle access. If possible this should be done to a height of 5m and in accordance with BS3998.

This site contained no category A or category B trees.

Individual category C trees could be removed with little impact on the local tree-scape.

Category R trees should be removed whether development occurs or not.



5 Legal status of surveyed trees

No check has been made with the local planning authority or the Forestry Commission.

It is advised that the local planning authority is contacted to check whether the trees on this site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area.

It is also advised that the local Forestry Commission Conservancy is contacted to check whether the trees surveyed are protected under the Forestry Act.

No work should be done to any trees until either suitable permission has been granted or it has been verified that the intended work does not require permission.

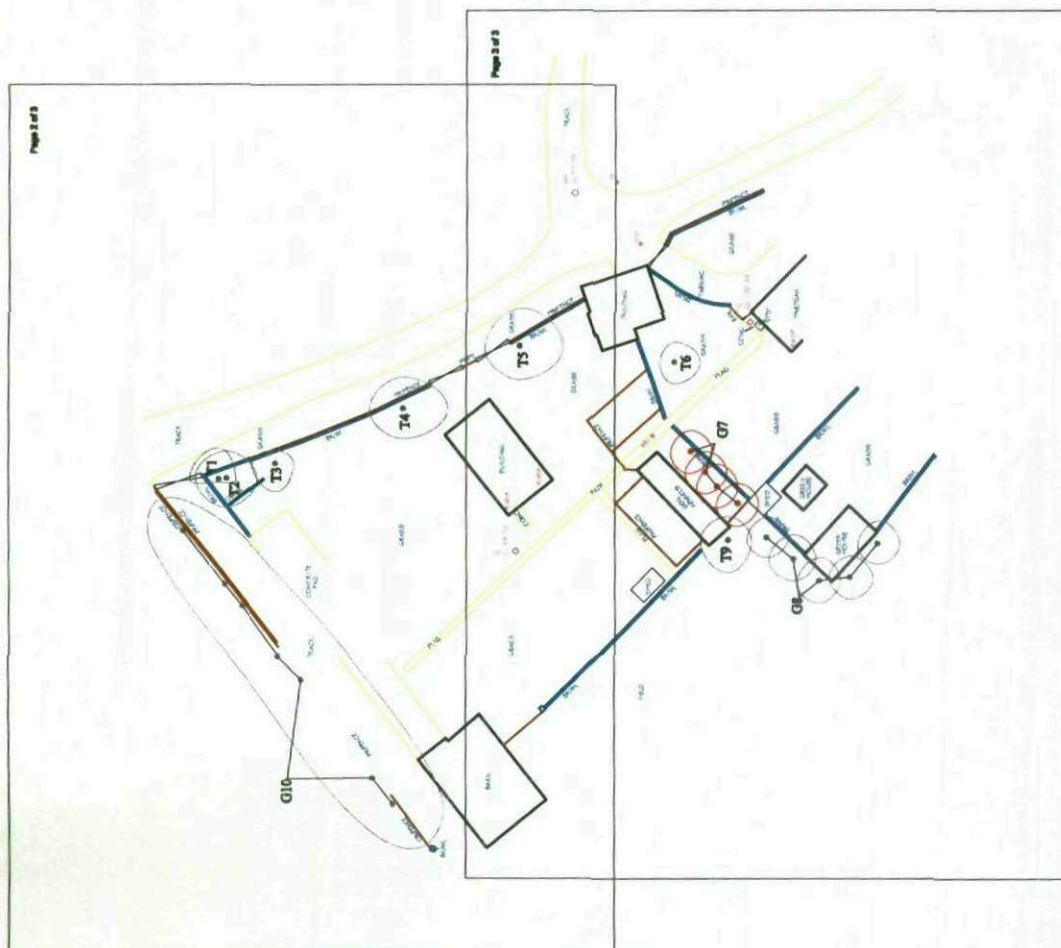
Appendix 1: Data Tables

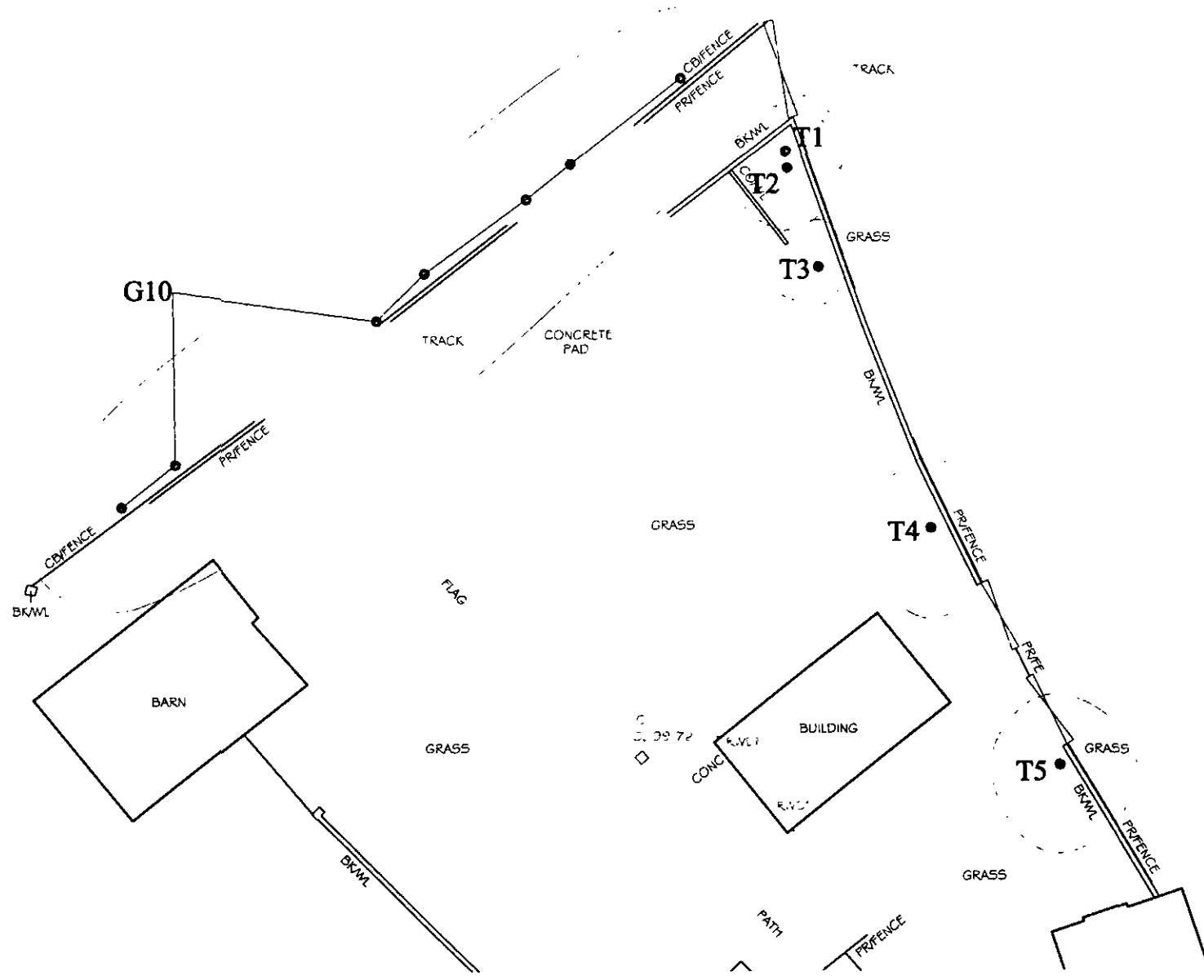


Tree Number	Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (m)	Diameter (mm)	Branch spread North	Branch spread East	Branch spread South	Branch spread West	Height of Crown Clearance	Age class	Physiological condition	Structural condition	Observations	Recommendations	Visual Aesthetics Value	Remaining contribution (years)	Category grading
1	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8	180	2.7	2.9	1.6	0.0	2	Semi mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem leaning tree with a one sided crown. Limited long term value	No action at present	Low	<40	C2
2	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	10	280	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.8	2	Early mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem slightly leaning tree with no major visible defects	No action at present	Low	<40	C2
3	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8	140	2.3	1.1	1.8	2.7	2	Semi mature	Poor	Fair	Single stem with minor decay in the stem, but no major visible defects	No action at present	Low	<40	C2
4	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	10	310	3.3	3.1	4.2	2.6	2	Mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem slightly leaning tree with no major visible defects	No action at present	Low	<40	C2
5	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	9	220	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.1	2	Mature	Fair	Fair	Single stem slightly leaning tree with a twin stem crown with a tight union	No action at present	Low	<40	C2
6	Apple	<i>Malus sp.</i>	5	70	1.6	1.7	2.3	2.1	2	Young	Fair	Fair	Single stem tree with a multi-stem crown with no major visible defects	No action at present	Low	20+	C2
7	Lombardy poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	20	550	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2	Mature	Fair	Poor	Row of single stem trees, many with decay in the base. Not suitable in their current location adjacent to dwelling. May be hazardous trees.	Fell and replace	Low	<20	R
8	Lombardy poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	18	400	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2	Early mature	Fair	Fair	Group of 5 trees with no major visible defects, but not fully inspected due to restricted access	Monitor	Low	10+	C2
9	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	11	350	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.5	Semi mature	Fair	Fair	Straight single stem with major pruning wounds at 1.5m. Stunted form and reduced vigour may be an indication of root defects	Monitor	Low	20+	C2
10	Hybrid poplar	<i>Populus sp.</i>	15	300	See plan	See Plan	See Plan	See Plan	2.5	Semi mature	Good	Fair	Row of vigorous trees. No major visible defects but not fully inspected due to restricted access. Many have low crowns over adjacent access road	Crown lift for vehicle access if required	Low	20+	C2

Appendix 2: Plans







**James Royston**
Arboricultural Consultant

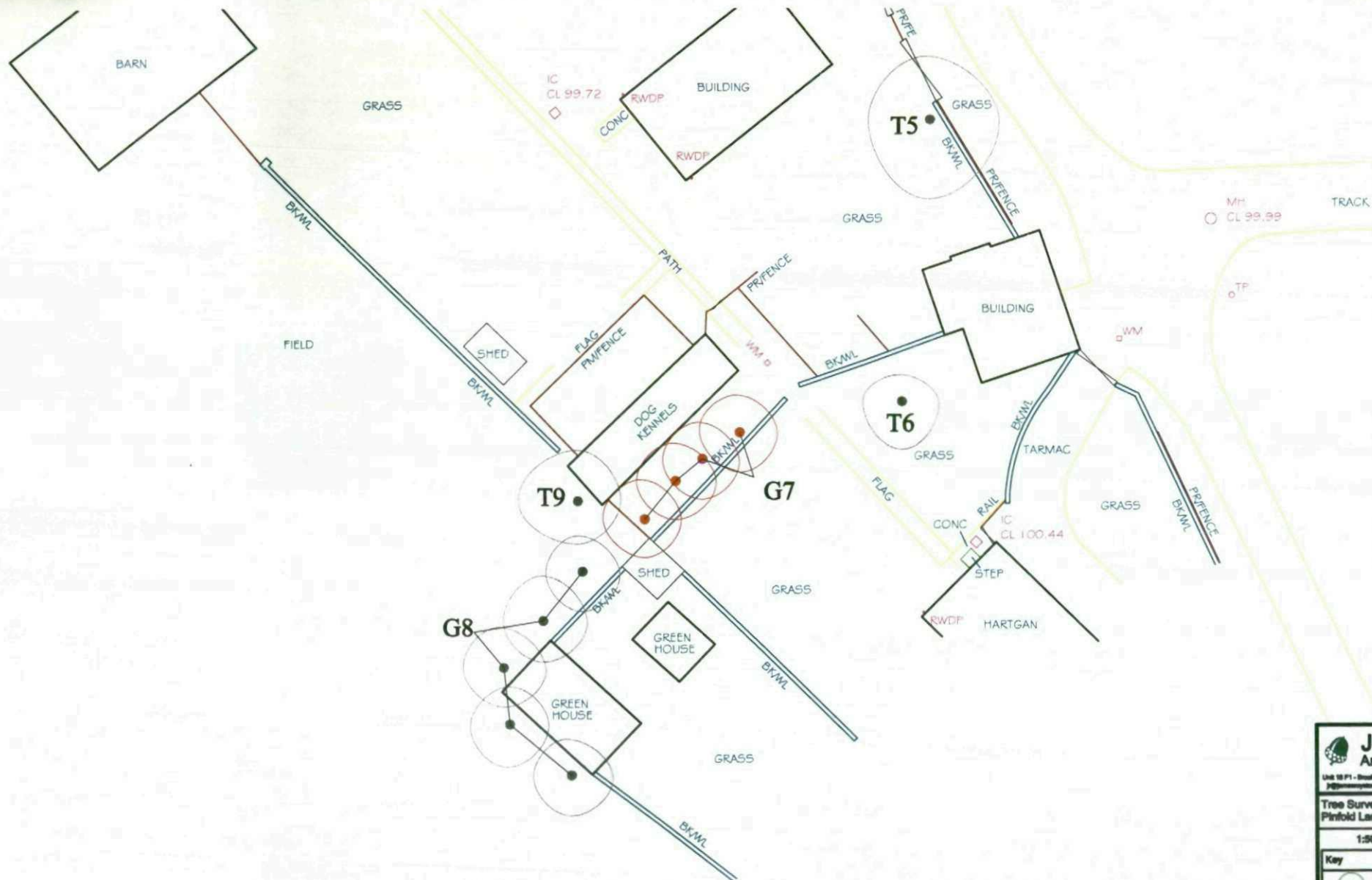
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Tree Survey to BS5837:2005 at:
Pintold Lane, Royston

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Key	
	Category A Tree
	Category B Tree
	Category C Tree
	Category R Tree



6 Contact Details

I hope this report provides all the required information. However, if further advice is needed then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

James Royston – Independent Arboricultural Consultant

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Report completed 4th June 2008