

<b>Project</b>	<b>Lundhill Road, Wombwell, South Yorkshire</b>		
<b>Document Number</b>	SKL-BWB-XX-XX-TN-YA-01	<b>BWB Ref</b>	221236
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<b>Checked</b>	J. MacQueen (Director Environmental Planning)	<b>Revision</b>	P01
<b>Approved</b>	J. MacQueen (Director Environmental Planning)	<b>Date</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2023

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A supplementary tree survey was carried out on 24th April 2023 at the above site. This statement presents the findings and recommendations of the survey.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission was granted by Barnsley Metropolitan District Council on land near Lundhill Road on 30th April 2020 for a development comprising 235 new dwellings with the formation of a new access, car parking, landscaping and public open space (planning application reference: 2019/0089).
- 2.2 As part of that application, an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement (Rev. E) dated February 2019 and carried out by Weddle Landscape Design was submitted. Three Tree Protection Plans (Rev. E) were also submitted and listed as approved documents on the planning permission. Construction has now commenced on site and we understand that the specified tree protection measures have been installed across the site in line with the above documentation.
- 2.3 BWB were commissioned to survey a woodland block in the north-east corner of the site, referenced as W60 in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) report with respect to proposed landscaping works. This woodland shown on Tree Protection Plan 1 of 3 is shown as retained and fully fenced off behind the tree protection barrier (TBP), however as part of the proposed hard and soft landscaping plan for the site, a pedestrian footpath is intended to be installed within the woodland block for the use of future residents; specification of which is yet to be determined and agreed with the LPA. The approved Landscape Master Plan by FDA Landscape (drawing number R/2195/1A) clearly indicates the location and extents of the proposed path. These works, the associated arboricultural impacts and necessary mitigation measures were not addressed at the time of the original AIA being written.
- 2.4 The placement of the approved footpath will require the limited removal of some inner woodland trees along its route, but only those that directly conflict with the proposed footprint. Any specimens rooted beyond the footprint are intended to be retained and

suitably protected via the employment of specialist construction measures; as laid out in an arboricultural method statement specific to the task in hand.

- 2.5 This tree survey sought to quantify the number of trees that would require removal for the placement of the path and assess their quality and condition. Photographs at **Appendix 1** illustrate a selection of the assessed trees.

### 3. METHODS

- 3.1 The trees were surveyed in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. A Distometer D110 was used to measure the proposed extent of the batter from the installed tree protection fencing around the woodland. Trees were then marked informally with the use of spray paint and counted. Species composition was noted as well as the general health of the trees, their size and quality.

### 4. RESULTS

- 4.1 W60 was found to be a semi-mature native broadleaved plantation comprising the species sycamore, common ash, hazel, silver birch, alder, holly. Trees along the southern perimeter were planted closely in rows and the central and north sections were slightly more loosely populated. Three no. slightly larger trees were noted on the southern and western perimeters which were plotted individually as T40-42 on the original tree survey by Weddle Landscape Design. Tree protection fencing had been installed around the woodland as construction was ongoing.
- 4.2 The woodland block shows no clear evidence of historical management, with most specimens being of the same age class, drawn up form and middling condition at best. No trees were noted to be of any particular significance, from an arboricultural or ecological perspective. The woodland collective would as a whole be categorised as 'moderate quality' or category B2 but generally the individuals within would be considered 'low quality' C1-C2.
- 4.3 The trees proposed for removal for the placement of the footpath are located within its footprint only; this route was marked out on site by the contractor with the use of ground pegs and red marker paint. A total of 55 no. trees were counted and marked up within the boundaries of the proposed footpath. NB, this is an approximation based on the information available at the time of the survey and the marked-out route on site. Of those trees, the species were primarily sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Wild cherry *Prunus avium* and field maple *Acer campestre* were occasional and there were a few scattered hazel *Corylus avellana* and silver birch *Betula pendula*.
- 4.4 Individual trees were mostly semi-mature with some young individuals. The maximum stem diameter measured at 1.5m height of any specimen was recorded at 390mm. With the majority of individuals being of the stem diameter ranges 150-250mm. Generally

most assessed trees were in fair condition physiologically and structurally, with a few dead or dying largely as a result of close planting and lack of woodland management such as thinning. These trees are recommended to be removed in line with the change of use regardless of the proposed footpath. The proposed removals would not have a detrimental effect on the woodland block as a whole, all specimens being internal and not visible from beyond its extents and being of low quality. This proposal would in fact, and as part of a suitable woodland management plan, look to benefit the woodland asset for the future while integrated into the future site layout.

- 4.5 Barnsley Metropolitan District Council's website<sup>1</sup> was also reviewed on 8th March 2023 and no Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Area designations were found to apply to the trees.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/parks-and-green-spaces/tree-management-and-maintenance/tree-preservation-orders/#:~:text=A%20Tree%20Preservation%20Order%20\(TPO,visual%20impact%20on%20the%20environment.](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/parks-and-green-spaces/tree-management-and-maintenance/tree-preservation-orders/#:~:text=A%20Tree%20Preservation%20Order%20(TPO,visual%20impact%20on%20the%20environment.)

## 5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The proposed footpath would require the selective removal of individuals within woodland W60. This is a change to the approved documents associated with planning permission 2019/0089. An amendment to the planning permission therefore needs to be sought with the local planning authority before the trees can be felled.
- 5.2 Compensatory planting of at least 1:1 but ideally two new trees for every tree felled should also be secured to ensure that this additional arboricultural impact is appropriately compensated for.



**Photo 1.** Trees 41 and 43, both sycamore and indicating the general quality and condition of the surveyed trees.



**Photo 2.** Stem of T33 – the largest DBH specimen identified within W60.



**Photo 3.** Trees T32 and T35, both ash with limited areas of cambium necrosis and ash dieback



**Photo 4.** *Trees T5 and T6, note tall drawn up, etiolated form of all specimens.*