# Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4 Plas Acton Close
Wrexham

**Ref:**
AIA/PAW/03/25

**Date:**
13th March 2025

**Commissioned by:**
Mr D. Edwards
on behalf of
Blueprint Architectural LTD

**Prepared by**
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**Ref: AIA/PAW/03/25**
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# Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4 Plas Acton Close

Wrexham

*This Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the protocols, standards and procedures set out in BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'.*

Planning permission is being sought to undertake alterations and provide and extension to an existing garage.

All trees on and immediately adjacent to the site have been surveyed and assessed in accordance with the recommendations of BS5837: 2012. The survey assessed six individual trees, one group of trees and a hedgerow woodland ranging in quality and amenity value from medium (3) to low (4).

The proposed development would require the removal of two trees with a low amenity value and would have a minimal impact on public amenity.

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| Date | Revision | |
|---|---|---|
| 13th March 2025 | | Issued for planning |
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## Instruction

1.1 Shields Arboricultural Consultancy received instructions from Mr D. Edwards on behalf of Blueprint Architectural LTD to undertake an arboricultural impact assessment at the above property. The client or their agents may copy and distribute this report as required for the purpose of applying for planning permission for or preparing any documents or plans for this or future applications at this site.

1.2 Planning permission is being sought to undertake alterations and provide and extension to an existing garage. A site layout ref: F056/004 has been provided and is considered in this report.

## Scope & Limitations

2.1 The purpose of the report is to assess the environmental and amenity values of all trees on or adjacent to the area affected by the proposed development and is based on a site assessment undertaken 24th February 2025 by S. Shields, principal consultant Shields Arboricultural Consultancy. The report will assess the long-term contribution that the trees can make to the area and the arboricultural implications of retaining them and seek to find a satisfactory juxtaposition between the trees and the new development. The report will assess the potential impact that may arise as a result of the proposed construction works and make recommendations for protecting trees, hedges and shrubs where appropriate.

2.2 The report is prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the British Standard Document BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to Construction'.

2.3 This report is not an ecological assessment and does not identify habitats or constitute a protected species survey.

## Statutory Controls & Obligations

3.1 Forestry Act; the felling of trees is controlled by the Forestry Act, which requires that a felling licence is obtained prior to cutting down any trees. The Forestry Act does not apply to the felling of trees growing within an orchard, private garden, churchyard or public open space. The Forestry Commission has the responsibility for enforcing the Forestry Act.

3.2 Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Areas; Local Authorities have specific powers under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, to protect trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders. Where trees are protected under such orders it is a criminal offence (subject to any exemptions for which provision may be made by the act or order) to undertake, cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees except with the consent of the local planning authority. Similar controls apply to all trees growing within a designated Conservation Area.

3.3 Bats, wild birds and other protected species; The Wildlife & Countryside Act & the Conservation (Natural Habitats & C.)

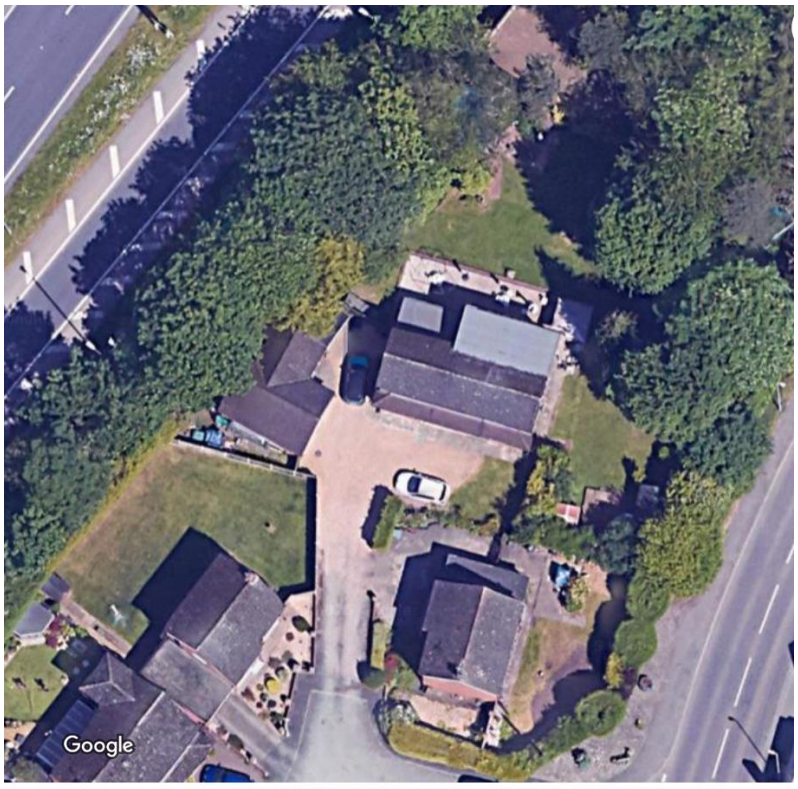
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Regulations make it an offence to disturb or destroy bats and bat roosts and wild birds and their nests. Other species of plant and animal are also protected. These creatures often inhabit trees and sufficient care must be taken to ensure they are not affected during forestry and arboricultural works.

## Site description

4.1 The proposed development is at 4 Plas Acton Close, a detached dwelling in a residential cul-du-sac adjacent to the A483 in Wrexham. The site is accessed via a private drive from the highway to the south. The site has boundaries with a wooded area to the north, the highway to the east and west and residential gardens to the south.

4.2 The site extends to 830m$^2$ is level and at an elevation of around 83m AOD and is reasonably sheltered. The main tree cover is the wooded area to the north and the wooded belt to the west adjacent to the A483. There is also significant tree planting on the east boundary.




*Soils*

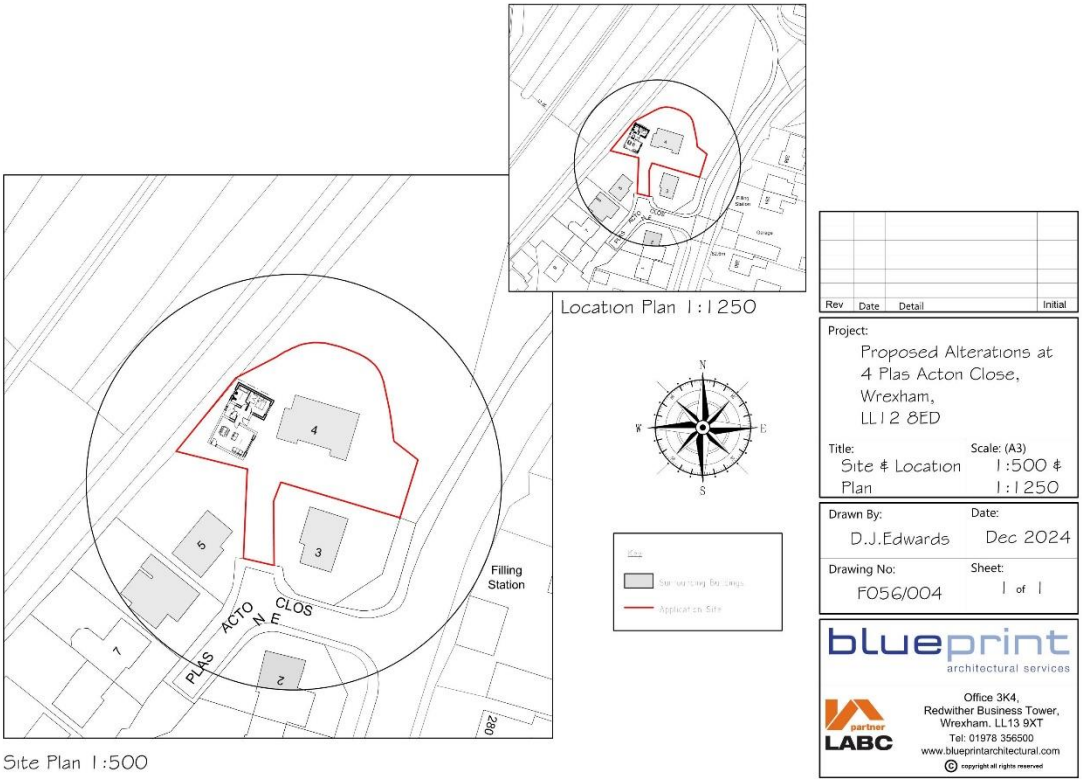
4.3 The site is relatively free draining cultivated brown earth. Geological maps indicate deposits of sand and gravel over mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate. The existing buildings and areas of hard standing act as impediments to root development.

*NB. This soil assessment is undertaken in situ using visual and manual techniques and is **only** for the purpose of establishing the influence of site soils on tree growth. The assessment **must not** be relied upon to inform any engineering decisions.*

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## Development Proposal

5.1 Planning permission is being sought to undertake alterations and provide and extension to an existing garage. A site layout ref: F056/004 has been provided.




## Tree Survey Methodology

6.1 All trees within and adjacent to the site have been assessed where they are within 15 m of any area that may be disturbed as a result of the proposed development and have a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5 metres. Measurements have been taken in accordance with the procedures and protocols set out in BS 5837: 2012 and the Forest Mensuration Handbook. Height measurements are approximate unless otherwise stated. Trees have been assessed as individuals, groups or woodlands as appropriate. Where access to trees has been restricted, either as a result of their situation on private land or where vegetation or ground conditions are unfavourable, an estimation of trunk diameter has been made. This entails using a set of callipers to approximate the measurement. Estimates are rounded up to provide a margin. This technique has only been used where there is a sufficient buffer between the RPAs and any area disturbed by development. Where trees are in woodlands or groups only the outside edge trees are assessed unless there are larger trees with RPAs or crowns that would overlap the edge trees.

6.2 BS 5837: 2012 provides the framework through which tree can be categorised in terms of their health, amenity value and long-term

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viability for retention on a development site. There are four categories, A,B,C & U.

Category A: Trees of high quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years.

1 Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, or essential components of groups or formal arboricultural features.

2 Trees, groups or woodlands that provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance.

3 Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value.

Category B: Trees of moderate quality with an estimated lifespan of at least 20 years.

1 Trees that might be included in a higher category but are downgraded because of impaired condition.

2 Trees present in numbers, usually as groups of woodlands that form distinctive landscape features.

3 Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits.

Category C: Trees of low quality with an estimated lifespan of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

1 Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.

2 Trees present in groups of woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or tree offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.

3 Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.

Category U: Trees in such a condition that their existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context be removed for arboricultural reasons.

The most significant or valuable trees are placed in the categories, A & B. Site design should make provision to retain trees in these categories and most Local Planning Authorities will insist upon this (or in exceptional circumstances will require that significant compensation planting is incorporated into the design), whilst trees that should not be a constraint to development are recorded with a C category. Trees categorised as U are in a poor condition and should be removed prior to the commencement of work.

*NB. Category U trees can have an existing of potential conservation value which it might be desirable to* preserve.

6.3 Where trees are to be retained, it is necessary to ensure that they are suitably protected to avoid damage during the construction phase of

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the development. It is also important to consider any long term implications, such as issues with shading or leaf litter that may arise as a result of tree retention.

6.4 To ensure that trees are not adversely affected by the construction works it is necessary to:

a. The avoidance of physical damage to the aerial parts of the trees (i.e. Impact and other damage to trunk and branches)

b. The avoidance of damage to retained trees as a result of the severance or other physical damage to their roots

c. Preserve of the character of the soil, through the avoidance of any activity that would cause it to become compacted or otherwise disturbed or disrupted, and to avoid contamination by potentially harmful substances

d. To ensure free gaseous exchange is permitted between the upper layers of soil and the atmosphere

e. To ensure adequate (but not excessive) water supply to the soil and hence to tree roots

This would normally be achieved by establishing an area, known as a construction exclusion zone (CEZ) around each tree. The CEZ is derived from the root protection area (RPA) and the crown spread of the tree. The RPA represents the area occupied by the tree's root system and is calculated for each tree based on its stem diameter and the ground conditions present taking account of and any impediment to rooting. The RPA should represent the most probable position of the tree's root system.

The CEZ must be considered sacrosanct and be maintained completely undisturbed. No construction should take place within this area and it should not be used for storage of materials or fuels. Access for vehicles machinery or personnel is prohibited and to ensure that it is not damaged by construction activity it must be suitably protected during the construction phase, using robust fencing or alternative ground protection methods, to prevent disturbance and damage occurring.

6.5 A rise or reduction in soil level can have major implications on the longevity and health of the trees. Minor changes (up to 100mm) can be tolerated in some cases, but is heavily dependent on tree species, condition and growing environment. Existing ground levels within RPAs should be respected as far as is reasonably practicable. The advice of the project arboriculturalist should be sought if level changes are required.

6.6 In addition to the implications that a new development may have for existing trees it is also important to assess any long-term issues or concerns that may arise as a result of retaining trees close to a new dwelling or structure. This can include problems associated with leaf litter and other debris that may fall from trees, the potential that a tree

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has to cause damage to a structure in the future, any on-going maintenance requirements that may arise and the level of shade that the tree may cast, it is particularly important to consider the effects of shading where trees are to the south of houses and gardens. Trees can also cause feelings of apprehension to the occupiers of nearby buildings and can have an over-bearing impact on a property if adequate space is not provided.

6.7 Buffer zones and structural stand-offs are advised for continuous canopy tree groups and woodlands along with trees and woodlands of high value. These zones are influenced by numerous factors beyond the provision of sufficient space for future growth. Depending on the development objectives these can include the provision of a safe falling distance for edge trees, prevention of overshadowing, provision of an ecological buffer zone, prevention of fragmentation of group/woodland compartments, and prevention of direct tree root or habitat damage. The following text is taken from the Standing Advice produced by the Forestry Commission and Natural England as included in the National Planning Policy Guidance:

'*A buffer zone's purpose is to protect ancient woodland and individual ancient or veteran trees. The size and type of buffer zone should vary depending on the scale, type and impact of the development'.*

*Ancient woodland buffer*

*'For ancient woodlands, you should have a buffer zone of at least 15 metres to avoid root damage. Where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, you're likely to need a larger buffer zone. For example, the effect of air pollution from development that results in a significant increase in traffic'.*

*Ancient and veteran tree buffer*

*'A buffer zone around an ancient or veteran tree should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5m from the edge of the tree's canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree's diameter'.*

6.8 The report assesses all trees with regard to their size, position and natural characteristics, and taking into account of their future growth makes provides recommendations as to their long-term suitability for retention.

## Arboricultural Assessment

7.1 Full details of the tree surveyed are provided in appendix A. and their relative positions, crown spreads, root protection areas are indicated on the attached plans.

7.2 No checks have been undertaken to establish the status of the trees with regards to Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Areas, however all the trees may be subject to the Forestry Act (see section 3.1) and some hedges subject to the Hedgerow regulations (see section 3.3). No trees or hedges should be felled, lopped, topped or in

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otherwise removed or damaged without prior permission from the relevant authority.

7.3 The survey recorded six individual trees, one group of trees and a hedgerow, which are categorised as follows:

| Category | Quantity |
|---|---|
| **Category A**: Trees of high quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years. | **0** |
| **Category B**: Trees of moderate quality with an estimated lifespan of at least 20 years. | **3** |
| **Category C**: Trees of low quality with an estimated lifespan of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. | **5** |
| **Category U**: Trees in such a condition that their existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context be removed for arboricultural reasons. NB. Category U trees can have an existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve. | **0** |

*Arboricultural merits and the significance of the trees in the landscape*

7.4 The site is situated in a residential, suburban area close to the town of Wrexham. A major road runs to the west of the site and there is significant tree cover along the edge of this highway and also to the north and east of the site. The wider area is characterised by areas of municipal amenity tree planting and trees within private gardens.

7.5 The most significant feature is the wooded areas to the north and west of the site and the trees within the garden on the east boundary.

*Veteran Trees, Ancient Woodlands, Protected Trees*

7.6 Trees that are particularly notable as high-value trees such as ancient trees/woodland or veteran trees. Such trees may be regarded as the principal arboricultural features of a site and pose a significant constraint to potential development.

An ancient tree is one that has passed beyond maturity and is very old compared with other trees of the same species. Very few trees reach the ancient life-stage.

Veteran trees are often very old but not necessarily so; they may be regarded as 'survivors' that have developed some of the characteristic features of an ancient tree but have not necessarily lived as long. All ancient trees are veterans but not all veteran trees are ancient.

An ancient woodland is an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and ancient replanted woodland (ARW).

7.7 A search of the ancient tree inventory https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ and the Lle database Lle - Ancient Woodland Inventory 2021

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(gov.wales) indicate that there are no veteran trees or areas of ancient woodland recorded on or adjacent to the site.

*Canopy Cover and Arboricultural resource Characteristics*

7.8 The trees adjacent to the site make a contribution to the canopy cover of the area, which is around 15% - 20%.

*Pests and Diseases*

7.9 Tree pests and diseases are part of a balanced ecosystem and dead, dying and diseased wood is a natural process providing an important contribution to habitat biodiversity. However, in recent years there have been an increasing number of new and serious pests and diseases affecting tree populations across the UK and regular monitoring is essential to check for their presence. Chalara dieback of Ash, Acute/Chronic Oak Decline, Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker and Phytophthora, are now widely established. These diseases can kill or weaken trees quite rapidly and it will be important to carefully monitor them in order to inform management decisions over the coming years. It will also be important in relation to public safety where dead or dying trees are in proximity to road, footpaths and property.

*Wider benefits of Trees*

7.10 There is a growing body of evidence that trees bring a wide range of benefits to the places people live.

*Some Economic benefits of trees include:*

- Trees can increase property values
- As trees grow larger, the lift they give to property values grows proportionately
- They can improve the environmental performance of buildings by reducing heating and cooling costs, thereby cutting bills
- Mature landscapes with trees can be worth more as development sites
- Trees create a positive perception of a place for potential property buyers
- Urban trees improve the health of local populations, reducing healthcare costs

*Some Social benefits of trees include:*

- Trees help create a sense of place and local identity
- They benefit communities by increasing pride in the local area
- They can create focal points and landmarks
- They have a positive impact on people's physical and mental health
- They can have a positive impact on crime reduction

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*Some Environmental benefits of trees include:*

- Urban trees reduce the 'urban heat island effect' of localised temperature extremes
- They provide shade, making streets and buildings cooler in summer
- They help remove dust and particulates from the air
- They help to reduce traffic noise by absorbing and deflecting sound
- They help to reduce wind speeds
- By providing food and shelter for wildlife, they help increase biodiversity
- They can reduce the effects of flash flooding by slowing the rate at which rainfall reaches the ground
- They can help remediate contaminated soil

*On new development sites:*

Trees bring many benefits to new development. Where retained successfully they can form important and sustainable elements of green infrastructure, contribute to urban cooling and reduce energy demands in buildings. Their importance is acknowledged in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change. Other benefits brought by trees include:

- Increasing property values
- Visual amenity
- Softening, complementing and adding maturity to built form
- Displaying seasonal change
- Increasing wildlife opportunities in built-up areas
- Contributing to screening and shade
- Reducing wind speed and turbulence

*Policy Considerations*

7.11 Section 6.4.24 – 6.4.26 of Planning Policy Wales states that:

*'Trees, woodlands, copses and hedgerows are of great importance for biodiversity. They are important connecting habitats for resilient ecological networks and make a valuable wider contribution to landscape character, sense of place, air quality, recreation and local climate moderation. They also play a vital role in tackling the climate emergency by locking up carbon, and can provide shade and shelter, a sustainable energy source and building materials. The particular role, siting and design requirements of urban trees in providing health and well-being benefits to communities, now and in the future should be promoted as part of plan making and decision taking.'*

*'Planning authorities should protect trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have ecological value, contribute to*

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*the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial and identified green infrastructure function. Planning authorities should consider the importance of native woodland and valued trees, and should have regard, where appropriate, to local authority tree strategies or SPG. Permanent removal of woodland should only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where woodland or trees are removed as part of a proposed scheme, developers will be expected to provide compensatory planting.'*

*'Ancient woodland and semi-natural woodlands and individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees and woodlands should be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection should prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss. In the case of a site recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, authorities should consider the advice of NRW. Planning authorities should also have regard to the Ancient Tree Inventory.'*

*'The protection and planting of trees and hedgerows should be delivered, where appropriate, through locally specific strategies and policies, through imposing conditions when granting planning permission, and/or by making Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). They should also be incorporated into Green Infrastructure Assessments and plans.'*

7.12 The Wrexham Unitary Development Plan Policy EC4 – Hedgerows, Trees and Woodland advises that

*'Development proposals should provide for the conservation and management of hedgerows, trees, orchards, woodland, wildlife and other natural landscape and water features, and include new planting in order to enhance the character of the landscape and townscape. Development which results in the loss or significant damage to valuable trees, important hedgerows or ancient woodland sites will not be permitted.'*

This policy should be considered with reference to Local Planning Guidance Note 17 'Trees & Development' Local Planning Guidance Note No 17 - Trees and Development (wrexham.gov.uk).

*Design Considerations*

7.13 The site design should, where possible, seek to incorporate all significant trees and features, into the layout and provide space for the planting of new trees where required to mitigate the effects of the development. In this case the notable feature is the wooded area to the east.

7.14 The starting point of Site Layout Design should be to avoid the RPA of retained trees and provide suitable clearance from above ground constraints [tree canopies]. Where possible building lines should be at

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least 2m outside the RPA to provide working space for construction. However, protection measures can be taken if such clearance is not achievable.

7.15 Where intrusion within the RPA is unavoidable then its impact on the tree can be mitigated by specialist measures such as foundations that avoid trenching e.g. screw piles, suspended floor slabs or casting at ground level for lightweight structures such as bin and cycle stores.

7.16 Limited use may be made for parking, drives or hard surfaces within the root protection areas, subject to advice from a qualified arboriculturist. Cellular confinement systems and bridging systems that enable hard surfaces to be built above existing soil levels are acceptable methods subject to site-specific soil conditions.

7.17 Service runs should be routed outside RPAs of trees, where this cannot be achieved, a specialist method of installation can be used, for example, thrust boring, directional drilling, air excavation or hand digging. These operations often require supervision by the project arboriculturist.

7.18 Where tree loss is unavoidable, replacement planting can ensure the continuity of tree cover where tree removal is unavoidable or desirable. Off-site provision may be considered in some circumstances but this will require negotiation with the local planning authority.

7.19 In addition to the ensuring that the trees are not damaged by the construction process, consideration should also be given to the future implications associated with the retention of the trees in the terms of their influence on the new properties. To ensure a harmonious relationship between the trees and the proposed dwellings it is necessary to allow adequate separation so that the trees do not exert an overbearing influence, are so close as to promote worries about tree safety and avoid problems associated with leaf litter and shading.

7.20 It is particularly important to consider the effects of shading where trees are to the south of houses and gardens. Ideally the layout should take account of existing retained trees and any new planting, with consideration to their ultimate size and density of the foliage and that garden areas should be designed to meet the normal requirement for direct sunlight for at least part of the day. Building Research Establishment guide to good practice (BR209) Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight advises that, in order to appear reasonably sunlit a dwelling should have at least one main window wall that faces within 90° of due south and that on this wall, all points on a line 2m above ground level are within 4m of a point which receives at least a quarter of the annual probable sunlight hours. The guide also advises that for gardens to appear adequately sunlit, at least half the area should receive no less than 2 hrs sunlight on 21st March, although this recommendation is for shade cast by buildings and not that cast by trees, which can be less oppressive.

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7.21 To ensure that trees do not become overbearing or exert a dominating effect on a property it is recommended that a structural stand-off is provided between retained trees, particularly where trees are large or in groups or woodlands and any dwelling. No occupied property should be sited within a distance equivalent to 50% of the mature height of a tree (see appendix A), which should be increased to 60% if the tree is directly to the south of a property. There should also be a distance of at least 1.5 metres from the edge of the crown to the building at the closest point, this must take account of the ultimate spread of the tree. No more than 40% of a garden area should be beneath the crown of a tree, and the remaining area should not be shaded by the tree.

*Arboricultural Impact*

| Impact | Category A | Category B | Category C | Category U |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tree Removal** | | | T1, T2 | |
| **Facilitative Pruning Required** | | | | |
| **RPA Encroachment** | T6 | | | |
| **Potential Shading** | | | | |
| **Proximity Issues** | | | | |

7.22 Under the current proposal there would be a loss of two trees T1 & T2. These are very minor specimens in terms of their contribution to the site and wider landscape and their loss would have very limited impact on public amenity. All other trees and will be and incorporate them into the site layout in a way that is harmonious with the new land use whilst meeting and exceeding the minimum sunlight and daylight requirements recommended in BRE guidance. There would also be some level of encroachment into the notional RPA of T6 to provide the extension. However, this encroachment, which would impact around 10% ($5m^3$), of the RPA is in an area of existing hard standing, which is unlikely to have much root activity and therefore the impact on the actual root system would be minimal. Given the age, condition and species of the tree as well as the fact that there is ample rootable land adjacent to the RPA which will not be impact, it is very unlikely to have a significant impact on the health or condition of the tree. There is some potential for the canopy of the tree to extend towards the new extension once T1 & T2 are removed, however this encroachment is unlikely to be excessive and can be managed through periodic minor pruning, as is would be the case for the existing garage and trees. The extent of pruning required would have negligible impact on the health, condition or appearance of T6.

*Sustainability*

7.23 The loss of the two trees from the site will provide space for adjacent trees to develop and will not impact the sustainable nature of the wooded areas.

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## Arboricultural Operations

**Permission to remove any tree must be obtained from the Local Planning Authority and must not be undertaken until a Full Planning Permission has been granted and all pre-commencement conditions have been discharged. In cases where trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Areas additional consent may be required.**

8.1 The proposal will require the removal/pruning of trees/hedgerows and subject to obtaining any required permissions it is recommended that the work should be undertaken by a suitably qualified person, holding public liability insurance for the sum of £5,000 000. All operators must hold relevant NPTC certificates. A site-specific risk assessment must be prepared and operators must work to a health and safety method statement. The use of Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors www.trees.org.uk/find-a-professional/Directory-of-Tree-Surgeons is recommended.

8.2 The contractor undertaking the work is responsible for any loss or damage arising as a result of the operations and agrees to indemnify the owner against such occurrences.

## Arboricultural Method Statement

9.1 This arboricultural method statement (AMS) sets out the details of tree protection measures afforded to the retained trees on and adjacent to the site.

9.2 This document should be read in conjunction with the Tree Protection Plan ref: PAW/TPP/OL/03/25. The TPP indicates the construction exclusion zone (CEZ) that must be maintained around each retained tree. These areas must remain undisturbed during the construction process and must be protected using suitable fencing or ground protection as specified. A Precautionary Area (PA) is also indicated. Works within this area must be supervised.

9.3 Copies of the TPP & the AMS must be available on-site and all tree protection requirements explained to all persons undertaking activities on the site during the site induction process.

9.4 All tree protection measures must be installed and inspected prior to bringing onto the site any plant, materials or equipment or undertaking any construction works or demolition or any arboricultural works. The LPA must be informed in writing once the tree protection measures are installed.

9.5 The site is to be inspected by the consulting arboriculturalist in accordance with the schedule of inspections (see 9.17).

9.6 All measurements are given in metric using standard abbreviations.

*Fencing and Ground Protection*

9.7 The TPP indicates the position of all protective fences.

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9.8 Protective fencing is not required for this development as existing fencing should prove adequate.

9.9 Ground protection should be provided over the Precautionary Area shown of the TPP. This should comprise 25mm plywood sheeting on a compressible base of bark or mulch that are securely fixed in place. Alternatively a proprietary system such as Ground Guard, minimum 4 tonne load, may be used. Ground protection can be removed in areas where construction is to be undertaken immediately before the commencement of that work but must be maintained across the remainder of the PA for the duration of the development.

9.10 The ground protection must be inspected on installation and will remain in place until completion of the construction phase and then only removed with the consent of the LPA.

9.11 Other than works approved in writing by the LPA, no works including storage or dumping of materials shall take place within the exclusion zones defined by the protective fencing.

*General Precautions*

9.12 No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health such as oil, bitumen or cement will be stored or discharged within 10m of the trunk of a tree that is to be retained or within any part of the CEZ. Spills kits, suitable for the type fluids, fuels and chemicals stored on site must be available on site and site operatives must have training in their use.

9.13 No fires will be lit within 20m of the trunk of any tree that is to be retained.

9.14 Storage and mixing areas, contactor parking and all site huts must be outside the CEZ.

9.15 Access to the work area is via the main site entrance and must not traverse the CEZ.

9.16 All service and drainage routes, below or above ground must avoid the CEZ. All services are to be installed in accordance with NJUG volume 4 Guidelines.

9.17 To ensure that all tree protection measures are properly installed and maintained the site shall be monitored by Shields Arboricultural Consultancy to the following schedule. Details of the findings and photographic evidence of the site inspection visits will be reported to the LPA by email within 24 hrs of the visit. All tree protection measures must remain in place until development work is completed and only removed after receiving written confirmation from the LPA.

*Schedule of Inspection*

**1.** TBA

9.18 Prior to the commencement on site of any work, a competent person is to be appointed to monitor the day to day activities on site. In the case

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of a tree being damaged or where an unexpected event arises it will be for this person to contact Shields Arboricultural Consultancy to seek advice on contingency measures.

## Conclusion

10.1 The proposed development will not have a significantly detrimental impact on the arboricultural resource or amenity of the area and is not contrary to national or local planning policy in respect of trees.

**S.J.A. Shields**

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**Chartered Forester**

**13th March 2025**

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# Arboricultural Assessment

| Ref. No. | Species | Top Height | Stem Dia mm | N | E | S | W | CC | Age | Rem Cont. | Cat. | RPA $m^2$ | Notes | AIA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) | 9 | 330 | 2.5 | 4.9 | 2.4 | 2 | 4 | EM | 20+ | C2 | 49 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** RPA restricted by hard standing. | Minor component of the landscape, provides some screening of the site from adjacent highway. Will be removed as part of the proposed development. |
| T2 | Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) | 12 | 330 | 2 | 2.9 | 2 | 2 | 4 | EM | 20+ | C2 | 49 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** RPA restricted by hard standing. | Minor component of the landscape, provides some screening of the site from adjacent highway. Will be removed as part of the proposed development. |
| T3 | Prunus cerasifera (Cherry Plum) | 10 | 380 | 3 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 2 | 5 | M | 10+ | C2 | 65 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** | Minor component of the landscape, provides some screening of the site from adjacent highway. Will be retained and protected under the current site layout. |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G4 | Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry Laurel) Chamaecyparis lawsoniana (Lawson Cypress) | 4 | 100 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | EM | 10+ | C2 | 5 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** | Group provides screening of the site from the adjacent highway. Will be retained and protected under the current site layout. |
| H5 | Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry Laurel) | 2 | 50 | | | | | 0 | EM | 10+ | C2 | 1 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** | Hedgerow the rear of existing garage and carport. Not publicly visible. Not impacted by the proposed development. |
| T6 | Acer platanoides (Norway Maple) | 16 | 350 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | EM | 40+ | B2 | 55 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** Tree is a component of woodland belt on highway land adjacent to A483. RPA restricted by hard standing on site. | Component of group of trees providing screening of adjacent highway. Minor encroachment into notional RPA, will not impact the health or condition of this tree, which will be retained and protected to the required standard. |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T7 | Acer platanoides (Norway Maple) | 16 | 300 250 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | EM | 40+ | B2 | 69 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** Tree is a component of woodland belt on highway land adjacent to A483. RPA restricted by hard standing on site. | Component of group of trees providing screening of adjacent highway. Will be retained and protected to the required standard. |
| T8 | Acer platanoides (Norway Maple) | 16 | 350 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | EM | 40+ | B2 | 55 | **Condition:** Good<br>**Notes:** Tree is a component of woodland belt on highway land adjacent to A483. RPA restricted by hard standing on site. | Component of group of trees providing screening of adjacent highway. Will be retained and protected to the required standard. |

**Ultimate Heights of Main Species**

Norway Maple 20

Cherry Plum 10

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## Notes

**BS 5837: 2012** provides the framework through which tree can be categorised in terms of their health, amenity value and long-term viability for retention on a development site. There are four categories, A,B,C & U.

**Category A**: Trees of high quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years.

1 Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, or essential components of groups or formal arboricultural features.
2 Trees, groups or woodlands that provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance.
3 Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value.

**Category B**: Trees of moderate quality with an estimated lifespan of at least 20 years

1 Trees that might be included in a higher category but are downgraded because of impaired condition.
2 Trees present in numbers, usually as groups of woodlands that form distinctive landscape features.
3 Trees with clearly identifiable conservation or other cultural benefits.

**Category C**: Trees of low quality with an estimated lifespan of at least 10 years or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

**Category U**: Trees in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. *NB. Category U trees can have an existing of potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.*

Bat potential has been assessed in accordance with the guidance provided in BS 8596:2015 and is at the level of a non-specialist scoping survey. This assessment is for preliminary advice and does not negate the requirement for a specialist ecological survey

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# Key

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Tag No** | Identification number for tree | **Species** | Species of tree |
| **Top Height** | Estimated height of tree | **Stem Dia.** | Diameter of stem at 1.5 metres |
| **Stems** | Number of stems | **N, E, S, W** | Crown spread at compass points |
| **CC** | Crown Clearance | **FSB** | Direction of first significant branch |
| **Rem. Cont** | Remaining safe life expectancy in years | **RPA** | Root protection area in $m^2$ |
| **Cat.** | BS Category (see above) | **AIA** | Arboricultural Implication Assessment |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Age** | **Y -** | Young Trees |
| | **SM** | Semi Mature |
| | **EM** | Early Mature |
| | **M** | Mature |
| | **LM** | Late Mature exceeds normal life expectancy for species |
| | **VET** | Veteran Tree |
| **Condition** | **Good** | Relatively free from defects and / or major pests and diseases |
| | **Fair** | Some defects, which could be addressed through tree surgery or minor pests or early symptoms of diseases |
| | **Poor** | Substantial defects or terminal decline |
| | **Dead** | Dead |
| | ***** | Average |

*Italicised values: Feature value estimated*

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North

G4-C2

T3-C2

T6-B2

T2-C2

T1-C2

T7-B2

H5-C2

Hard Surface

4

T8-B2

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# Tree Constraints Plan

4 Plas Acton Close

Wrexham

Key

- Cat B Tree
- Cat C Tree
- Hedgerow
- Car Port
- Canopy Trees & Groups
- RPA
- RPA Cat C

Drawing No: PAW/TCP/03/25

Drawn By: S. Shields

Scale: 1:100 @ A2

Date: 12th March 2025

Revision:

Do not scale from this drawing all dimensions to be checked on site

Drawing is colour coded and a monochrome copy should not be relied upon

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North

G4-C2

T3-C2

T6-B2

T2-C2

T1-C2

T7-B2

H5-C2

T8-B2

4

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# Tree Constraints Plan Overlay

4 Plas Acton Close

Wrexham

Key

- Cat B Tree
- Cat C Tree
- Hedgerow
- Canopy Trees & Groups
- RPA
- RPA Cat C
- Trees for Removal
- Site Boundary

Drawing No: PAW/TCP/OL/03/25

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North

G4-C2

T3-C2

T6-B2

T2-C2

T1-C2

T7-B2

H5-C2

4

T8-B2

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Tree Constraints Plan
Overlay
Shading

4 Plas Acton Close

Wrexham

Key

- Cat B Tree
- Cat C Tree
- Hedgerow
- Canopy Trees & Groups
- RPA
- RPA Cat C
- Trees for Removal
- Tree Shadow 12pm June
- Tree Shadow 12pm March

Drawing No: PAW/TCP/OL/SP/03/25

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North

4

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Tree Protection Plan
Overlay

4 Plas Acton Close

Wrexham

Cat B Tree

Cat C Tree

Canopy

Hedgerow

Precautionary Area

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