



NIGHTINGALE HOUSE HOSPICE CARPARK; ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

**Report Ref: RTA.51.001
August 2021**

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**Nightingale House Hospice Carpark, Wrexham
Arboricultural Method Statement
Report Reference: RTA.51.001
Version 1.0
August 2021**

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NIGHTINGALE HOUSE HOSPICE CARPARK, WREXHAM ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Enfys Ecology has been commissioned by TACP Architects produce Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) for the construction of a new car parking area in proximity to existing trees at Nightingale House Hospice in Wrexham. This AMS report is provided in order to satisfy condition 4 of the planning permission granted on 26/01/2021 (Ref: WRR P/2020/073).
- 1.2 An arboricultural survey was carried out on the 25th of September 2020 by means of inspection from ground level by Rob Taylor FdSc MSc, a qualified Arboricultural Consultant. Trees were assessed in accordance with *BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.
- 1.3 This report should be considered in conjunction with Nightingale House Hospice Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Ref: RTA.12.001) produced in October 2020 to accompany the original planning application.
- 1.4 The instructions provided in this AMS are given to ensure the protection and healthy retention of retained trees. To ensure measures set in this document are made clear to all operatives involved, it must be made available to contractors prior to and during any demolition/construction activity.
- 1.5 This report includes the following:
- specifications and installation of temporary ground protection
 - removal of existing hard standing
 - excavations and the requirement for specialized trenchless techniques
 - installation of new hard surfacing – materials, design constraints and implications for levels
 - auditable/audited system of arboricultural site monitoring, including a schedule of specific site events requiring input or supervision

2.0 THE SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

- 2.1 The site lies off Grove Road, to the immediate north of Wrexham, approximately 0.5km north of Wrexham town centre, North Wales. The immediately surrounding area is characterised by buildings and car parks associated with health centres and care facilities.
- 2.2 A mowed lawn area occupies the majority of the site which is flanked to the south and east by mature trees. The southern facades of Nightingale House Hospice lie on the southern boundary and Coed Celyn care centres stands on the western side,
- 2.3 The survey area is mainly flat with minor undulations along the eastern and southern boundaries.
- 2.4 Weather conditions during the survey were dry and sunny.

Development Proposals

- 2.5 The proposed development includes the construction of a new 1000m² car park area. A gated vehicular entrance is proposed in the southeast corner of the new car park.
- 2.6 New pedestrian access from the car park to Nightingale House Hospice with steps, a ramp and associated retaining walls is proposed in the north of the site.
- 2.7 Detail of the proposals is shown on Drawing 2 and is based on the proposed site plan (Ref: 19071-Car Park Plan) supplied by TACP Architects.

3.0 STATUTORY PROTECTION

Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Area Designations

- 3.1 Where it is considered expedient to do so, local authorities reserve the right to create Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) to protect the amenity value conferred to a location by a tree or group of trees. Where a TPO is in force, lopping, topping, felling, uprooting or wilful damage caused to a tree is prohibited and such actions may be prosecuted and incur an unlimited fine. Works to TPO protected trees must only be undertaken with the written consent of the local authority.
- 3.2 Trees also have a significant role in complimenting and enhancing the character, history and architectural form of those areas which have been designated with Conservation Area status. Prior to undertaking any tree work within a Conservation Area, there is a legal obligation to submit a six week 'Notice of Intent' to the LPA in accordance with section 211 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

- 3.3 Consultation with Wrexham County Borough Council confirmed that at the time of writing, the site lies within Grosvenor Road Conservation Area. No trees on or immediately adjacent to the site were subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

4.0 IMPACT ON TREES

- 4.1 As per the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (RTA.12.001), four individual trees and two small groups of trees must be removed to facilitate the development. A Root Protection Area (RPA) has been calculated for each tree to be retained and represents the minimum area around each tree that should be left as undisturbed as possible.
- 4.2 A number of construction activities are proposed within the RPAs of retained trees including the removal of existing surface, installation of new surfacing and regrading of land. Conventional surfacing installation based on excavating and compacting a supporting sub-base is unacceptable in RPAs because it can damage roots and the rooting environment. This harm is caused by killing roots, compacting soil structure, and impeding water/gaseous exchange through the soil.
- 4.3 Important elements of an effective design include protecting roots and the rooting environment during installation, a load spreading capability to prevent localised compaction, and providing adequate permeability for water and gasses to support living roots.
- 4.4 Tree crowns may pose a constraint to the access of machinery and vehicles during the development process. The pruning or striking of tree branches may result in unnecessary wounding which can lead to a loss of physiological function, exposure of the tree to pathogens and can lead to decline or premature death.

5.0 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Phase 1: Pre-start meeting

- 5.1 A pre-commencement site meeting must be held at which the contractor, the project arboriculturist and, if required, a representative from the local planning authority are present to discuss the tree sensitive operations. This meeting will provide opportunity to discuss:
- Current tree condition and constraints
 - Tree work operations to be undertaken
 - Alignment of tree protective fencing
 - Storage of materials in relation to retained trees
 - Ground protection alignment
 - Excavation and removal of surfaces with the RPAs
 - Installation of new surfaces

Phase 2: Tree work

- 5.2 Tree pruning will be necessary to facilitate the proposals. These should be carried out prior to the commencement of the car park construction works.
- 5.3 The main contractor is responsible to ensure that all tree works have received consent from the local authority.
- 5.4 All tree works will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations given in the current BS 3998:1989 Recommendations for Tree Work or in accordance with current best practice.
- 5.5 The table below details the recommended tree work operations.

Feature Reference	Tree Work Description
T1	Reduce overextended branches in upper crown by 3m.
T2	Reduce branches growing towards building by 3m.
T8, T12	Remove dead wood
T11	Reduce large lower limb overhanging proposed car park entrance
T19	Crown reduce by 3m on northern side to reduce stress on stem and root plate
T21	Prune away from the building by 2.5m
T15, T16, G4	Crown raise above parking areas by 4m.

Phase 3: Installation of tree protective fencing

- 5.6 Temporary protective barrier fencing will be required to demarcate a **Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)** around retained trees. This must be put in place prior to the commencement of any development works, including bringing machinery or materials onto site and the erection of site huts.
- 5.7 Protective fencing alignment is shown on Drawing 2.
- 5.8 No materials, vehicles, plant or personnel will be permitted into the CEZ at any time without the prior consent of the arboricultural consultant.
- 5.9 Any liquid materials spilled on site will be immediately cleared up and removed from the site. If liquid fuel or cement products are spilled within 2m of the CEZ, the contractor will report the incident to the arboricultural consultant immediately.

- 5.10 The fencing must be fixed into the ground to withstand accidental impact from machinery and to ensure that a sufficient protective area is maintained. A weatherproof notice stating 'Construction Exclusion Zone – Keep Out' must be fixed to each fencing panel. Details of recommended protective fencing are shown in Appendix 3.
- 5.11 Any alteration to the fencing alignment to allow for approved activities will be made in agreement with the council's Arboricultural Officer.
- 5.12 The protective fencing must not be removed until the physical construction phase has been completed and all vehicles have been removed from site, to the satisfaction of the council's Arboricultural Officer.

Phase 4: Installation of temporary ground protection

- 5.13 Construction access will be required within the RPAs of trees in the southeast corner of the site. This may be facilitated by a set-back in the alignment of the tree protection barrier. New temporary ground protection should be installed as part of the implementation of physical tree protection measures prior to work starting on site.
- 5.14 Ground protection must be fit for the purpose of supporting any traffic entering or using the site without being distorted or causing compaction of underlying soil.
- 5.15 Ground protection should remain in place until proposed hard surface construction commences in these areas.

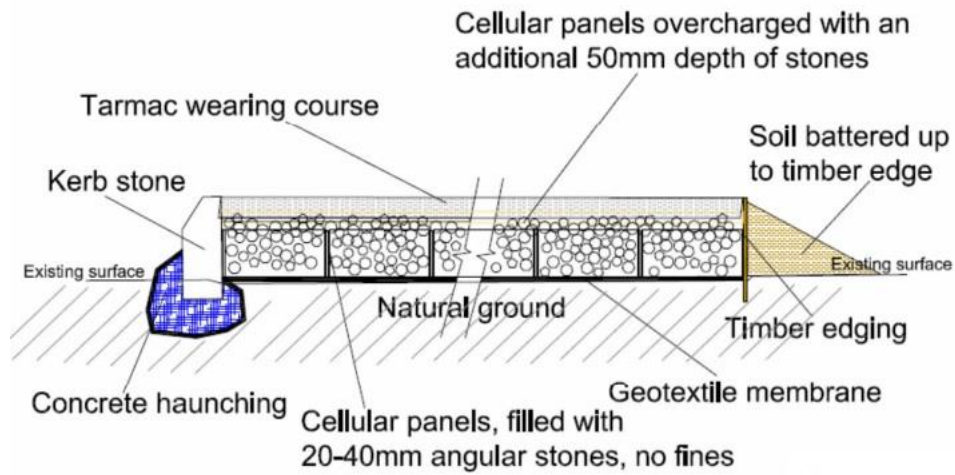
Phase 5: Removal of existing surfaces and regrading

- 5.16 When working within the RPAs of retained trees, any removal of the existing layer of turf must be carried out using hand tools only. Excavation into the underlying soil should not take place. Tree roots and grass roots rarely occupy the same soil volume at the top of the soil profile, so the removal of an established turf layer up to 5cm from the surface is unlikely to be damaging to trees.
- 5.17 Any existing areas of hard surfacing will be broken up using handheld or light weight tracked machinery working backwards on the existing surface.
- 5.18 Excavations will not exceed the sub-base of the existing hard standing.

- 5.19 Where an evenly graded sub-base layer is required, this can be made up to any high points with granular, permeable fills such as crushed stone or sharp sand. This sub-base will not be compacted as would happen in conventional surface installation. Some limited excavation can be necessary to achieve this and need not be damaging if carried out carefully and large roots are not cut. Tree roots of less than 25mm diameter that are exposed will be pruned and removed but tree roots of diameter greater than 25mm must be retained undamaged wherever possible. Roots must be cut cleanly, to minimise the exposed root surface.

Phase 6: Installation of new surfacing

- 5.20 Sub-base to be used for parking spaces and the entrance driveway will use a three-dimensional cellular confinement system that will avoid soil compaction. The area subject to this treatment is shown on Drawing 1.
- 5.21 Geotextile matting will be laid across the full width of the driveway and parking spaces or other hard surfaces. This will prevent the intrusion of roots into the sub-base whilst still allowing nutrients and gaseous exchange.
- 5.22 The cellular confinement system will be laid over the geotextile matting and fixed into place with metal pins. Washed angular crushed stone (no fines) will be carefully pushed into the cellular confinement system to form an aggregate sub-base. No compaction is required of the infill. Do not use a whacker plate or other means of compaction. Encourage settlement of the stone with the use of a light roller. Further geotextile matting will then be laid across the full width of the sub-base.
- 5.23 Surface treatment may then be installed and will take the form of permeable tarmac.
- 5.24 Edge retention in RPAs will be designed to avoid any significant excavation into existing soil levels, with several approaches that are fit for this purpose. For block pavements, the use of pre-formed edging secured by metal pins is effective and can be reinforced by concrete supports if there is no excavation into the soil. Railway sleepers pinned in place or wooden boards offer alternative options, depending on the expected loading of the surfacing. If the edge retention needs to be battered down to lower surrounding ground levels, a permeable soil fill will be used, as agreed with the supervising arboriculturist.
- 5.25 A cross section diagram of a cellular confinement sub-base design is provided in Figure 1, overleaf.



APPENDIX 1

ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY DATA SHEETS

No.	Species	Age class	Height (m)	DBH	FSB	N	S	E	W	Comments	SULE	Category	Recommendations
T1	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	MA	13	470	2	4	3.5	7.5	2	Vigorous epicormic growth on main stem. Asymmetric crown due to previously removed tree to the south.	Long	B,1,2	Reduce overextended branches in upper crown by 3m.
T2	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	M	12	720	1	6	2	3	7	Asymmetric crown due to proximity to neighbouring trees. Reasonable vitality. Stems bifurcate at 1m.	Long	B,1,2	Reduce branches growing towards building by 3m.
T3	Lawson cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	MA	6	420	1	1.5	2	2.5	1	Heavily suppressed and asymmetric crown due to position beneath T2. Reasonable vitality.	Medium	C,2	Monitor stem unions (every two years)
T4	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	M	13	990	3	3.5	3	6.5	4	Existing tag number 03969. Stems trifurcate at 1.2m. Included bark at stem unions. Good vitality. Crown asymmetric due to previously removed tree to the north.	Long	B1,2	
T5	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	M	13	730	3	0	6	6.5	5.5	Stems bifurcate at 1.2m. Included bark at unions. Exposed surface roots with minor mower damage. Crown weighted to the south due to proximity to T4.	Long	B1,2	Monitor stem unions (every two years)
T6	Portugal laurel (<i>Prunus lucitanica</i>)	MA	1.5	210	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	Multi-stemmed, vigorous shrub.	Long	C,2	

No.	Species	Age class	Height (m)	DBH	FSB	N	S	E	W	Comments	SULE	Category	Recommendations
T7	Lawson cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	MA	9	570	0.5	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	Dense, vigorous crown. Slightly asymmetric due to proximity to T5. No significant visible defects.	Long	C,2	
T8	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	M	13	810	3	5	5	6.5	3	Existing tag number 03964. Stems trifurcate at 2m. Included bark at unions. Crown density sparse. Moderate dead wood throughout crown.	Medium	C,1,2	Remove dead wood. Monitor stem unions (every two years).
T9	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	MA	10	340	3	1.5	4.5	4.5	3	Tree suppressed beneath T8. Dense and vigorous crown. No significant visible defects.	Medium	B,1,2	
T10	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	M	16	580	5	6	2	8.5	3	Existing tag number 03961. Asymmetric crown weighted to the north due to proximity to T11. Notably curved stem growth. Good vitality. No significant visible defects.	Long	B,2	
T11	Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	M	16	1080	4	6.5	6	8.5	6.5	Existing tag number 03956. Broad, spreading and dominant tree. Good balanced form and vitality. Stem in good condition. Minor cavity development at pruning wounds.	Long	A,1,2	
T12	Common lime (<i>Tilia x europeae</i>)	M	15	680	2	2	4.5	3.5	3	Existing tag number 03960. Slightly asymmetric crown due to T11.	Long	B,1,2	Remove dead wood.

No.	Species	Age class	Height (m)	DBH	FSB	N	S	E	W	Comments	SULE	Category	Recommendations
T13	London plane (<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>)	M	15	1150	4	9	7.5	4	7	Vigorous epicormic growth on main stem-typical of species. Moderate dead wood above parking areas.			
T14	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	MA	13	490	3	4.5	2.5	2.5	3	Densely ivy clad restricting full survey. Asymmetric crown weighted to the west due to T11. Good vitality. Moderate basal decay. Long, over-extended limbs.	Long	B,2	
										Existing tag number 03966. Crown slightly weighted due to neighbouring trees. Good vitality. No significant visible defects.	Long	B1,2	
T15	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	M	16	950	2	5	7.5	3	3	Dense ivy and vegetation restricting thorough survey. Stem in good condition. Dense, vigorous crown.	Long	B,1,2	
T16	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	M	16	770	2	5	5	5	5	Existing stem number 03953. Iron fence in stem. Vigorous crown. Dense ivy restricting thorough survey.	Long	B,1,2	
T17	Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	MA	13	480	3	3	3	3	4.5	Good, open grown form. Good vitality. No significant visible defects.	Long	B,1,2	

No.	Species	Age class	Height (m)	DBH	FSB	N	S	E	W	Comments	SULE	Category	Recommendations
T18	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	MA	4	240	1.5	2	3	3	2.5	Ornamental garden tree. Good form and vitality. No significant visible defects.	Long	B,1,2	
T19	Sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)	M	13	640	6	10	0	8	4	Tree heavily weighted to the north. No sign of root plate lifting. Dense ivy restricting thorough survey. Reasonable vitality.	Medium	B,2	Monitor signs of root plate movement (every two years).
T20	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	M	16	1070	4	6.5	6	4	4	Dense ivy restricting thorough survey. Good balanced form and vigorous, dense crown.	Long	B,2	
T21	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	MA	8	390	4	0	6.5	5	6	Growing on raised area and dislodging retaining dry stone wall. Crown weighted to the south due to proximity to T22. Stems bifurcate at base. Good vitality.	Medium	B,1	Prune away from the building by 2.5m
T22	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	M	12	910	4	6	5	5	7	Good balanced open grown form. Spreading, multi-stemmed crown at 3m. Good vitality. Paladin fence across stem base. No significant visible defects.	Long	A,1,2	
G1	Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>)	MA	To 5	150 and 310						Suppressed due to proximity to neighbouring sycamores. Moderate crown die back. Exposed	Medium	C,2	

No.	Species	Age class	Height (m)	DBH	FSB	N	S	E	W	Comments	SULE	Category	Recommendations
										surface roots on embankment.			
G2	Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>); Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>)	Y-MA	To 5	To 140						Dense, vigorous ornamental shrubs.	Medium	C,2	Crown raise above parking areas by 4m.
G3	Common lime (<i>Tilia x europeae</i>)	MA	To 7	300; 150; 180						3 trees beside car parking area. Minor basal epicormic growth at old pruning wound. Overhanging parking bays. Good vitality. No significant visible defects.	Long	B,1,2	
G4	Sycamore; beech	M	To 17	510; 540; 590						Dense ivy restricting thorough survey. Tall and slender trees due to close spacing. Iron fence occluded within main stems. Overhanging parking bays. No significant visible defects. Reasonable vitality	Long	B,1,2	
G5	Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>); laurel	MA	To 3	To 260						Dense vigorous ornamental shrubs. Laurel regrowth from dead stump.	Medium	C,1,2	

APPENDIX 2

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey of trees is conducted from ground level only. The nature of the soils on site is not assessed. Trees are dynamic living organisms with a constantly changing structure; even trees in good condition can suffer from damage or stress. The information recorded is presented as being correct at the time of survey. The following features of each tree, group of trees or wood may have been recorded in the Arboricultural Survey Data Sheets at Appendix 1.

Species	Common name and scientific name is given.
Height	Top height of tree recorded in metres.
Stem Diameter	For single-stemmed trees the measurement is taken at 1.5 metres above ground level and recorded in millimetres. For multi-stemmed trees an average all stems measured at 1.5m above ground level is used. For tree groups a range from minimum to maximum diameters is provided based on measurements taken using one of the aforementioned methods.
Crown Spread	The N, S, E and W branch spreads are recorded in metres to provide a representative crown shape.
First Significant Branch (FSB)	Crown clearance above ground level recorded in metres.
Age	Young Middle Age Mature Trees that can reasonably be relocated or replaced like for like, without undue cost; Trees in the established growth stage of their life with the potential to continue increasing in size; Trees that have reached their ultimate size, given their location and surroundings;
Comments	A brief evaluation and description of the tree with comments on form, vitality, health and any significant defects or symptoms of ill-health.

BS 5837 Tree Quality Assessment

The tree quality assessment is based on the Cascade Chart from of BS 5837:2012 (See below). Four categories (A, B, C and U) are used to denote tree quality (A= High, B = Moderate, C = Low, U= Unsuitable for retention).

Subcategories (1-3) denote the specific function value of the trees and the reasoning behind the allocation of a specific category (the subcategories may be used in combination but do not accumulate collective weight).

Root Protection Area (RPA)

RPA is allocated to ensure that a sufficient area is left undisturbed during development. It is provided as an area (m²) and as the radius of a circle (m) typically plotted from the centre of the stem. The RPA is calculated using a mathematical equation included in BS 5837:2012 (Section 4.6 and Table D.1) and is based on a trees stem diameter. In some cases the RPA may need to be adapted to best reflect the likely area and position of roots required to ensure survival; this may be based on criteria such as the tree's condition, species, crown spread and any barriers to growth. Any alteration must be justifiable but is made at the Arboricultural Consultants discretion.

Recommendations

Recommendations for arboricultural works, etc. are based on the **current** land use, and take into account the tree or group attributes without bias to the proposed development.

Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)

An estimation of the life expectancy as healthy functioning tree. This will be influenced by species and the condition of the tree at the time of survey.

Long > 40 years

Medium 20 – 40 years

Short less than 20 years

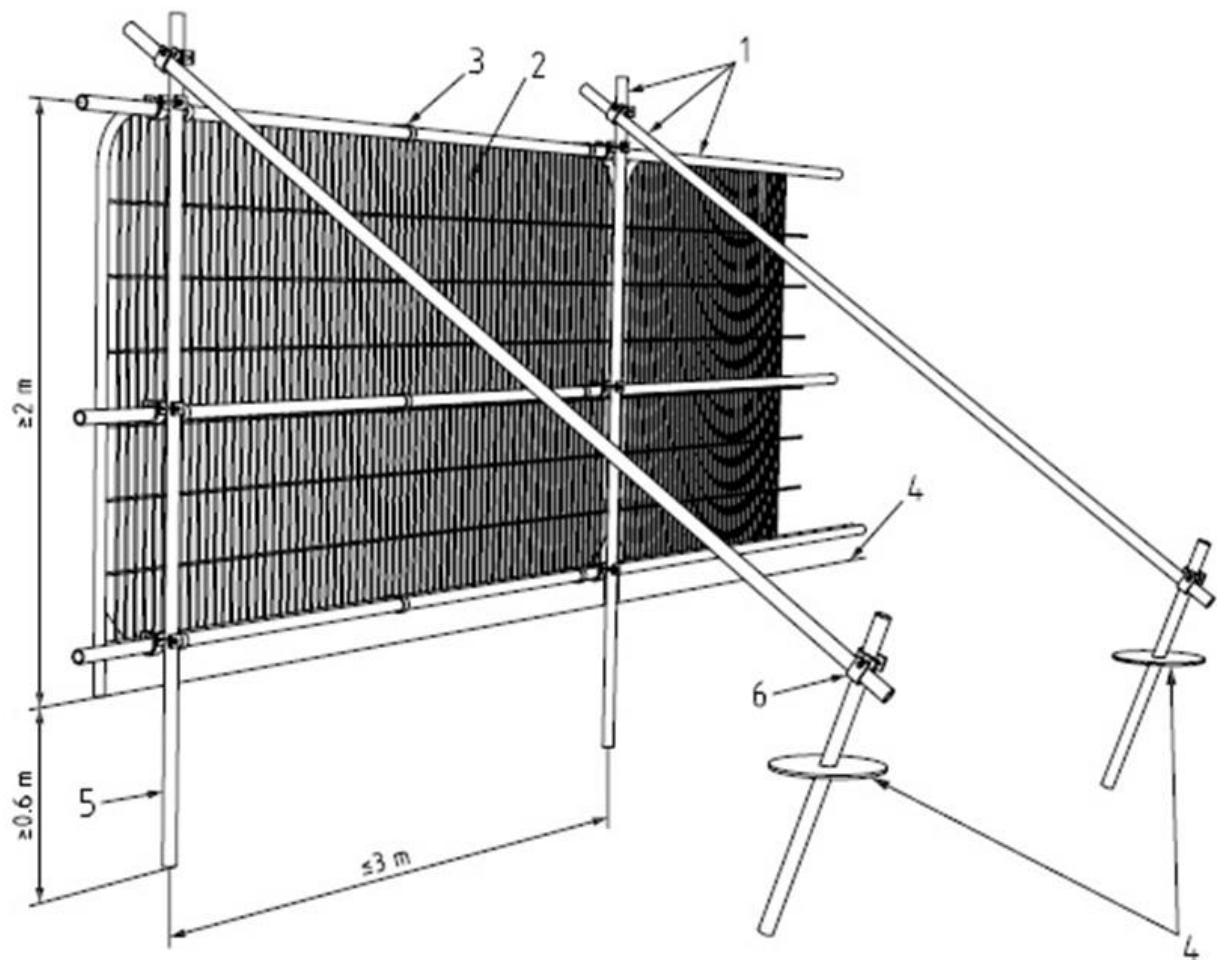
Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
Trees unsuitable for retention (see Note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	- Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) - Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline - Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality <i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i>			See Table 2
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Trees to be considered for retention				
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

British Standards Institute (2012) BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

APPENDIX 3

EXAMPLE OF TREE PROTECTIVE FENCING



Key

- 1 Standard scaffold poles
- 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
- 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
- 4 Ground level
- 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
- 6 Standard scaffold clamps

DRAWING 1

TREE PROTECTION PLAN