

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Land off
Mold Road
Gwersyllt
Wrexham

Ref:
AIA/MRG/10/17

Date:
1st November 2017

Commissioned by:
Miss L. Parry
On behalf of
Blueprint Architectural Services LTD

Prepared by
S. Shields

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Land off
Mold Road
Gwersyllt
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'.

Summary

Planning permission is being sought to develop the site to provide residential housing along with site access roads and related infrastructure.

An arboricultural assessment of the site has been undertaken in accordance with the procedures and protocols set out in BS 5837: 2012. This assessment has identified and recorded 6 individual trees and 5 groups of trees which are categorised as 1 cat. A (high value) 2 cat. B (moderate value) and 8 cat. C (low value).

The proposed development would require the removal of five individual trees and two groups of trees, all category C, either to facilitate the construction, to prevent future impact to residential amenity or to improve the quality of the tree cover. The development provides an opportunity to provide significant new landscape planting in a way which will be sustainable in the long-term and will provide future benefits to the quality and extent of the tree cover in the local area. The short term arboricultural impact of the development is low – moderate with an improvement in the long-term.

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Date	Revision	
1 st November 2017		Issued for Planning

Contents

1.0	Instruction
2.0	Scope & Limitations
3.0	Statutory Controls & Obligations
4.0	Site Description
5.0	Development Proposal
6.0	Tree Assessment & Survey Methodology
7.0	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
8.0	Arboricultural Operations
9.0	Arboricultural Method Statement

Instruction

- 1.1 Shields Arboricultural Consultancy received instructions from Ms L Parry on behalf of Blueprint Architectural LTD to provide an Arboricultural Impact Assessment for the above site. 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 develop site to provide residential dwellings.

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 on 5th June 2017 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.) 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 site is situated off Mold Road, Gwersyllt and is currently used for industrial and commercial purpose. The land around the site has recently been developed to provide residential housing and the site has boundaries with residential areas to the north, east and south and with the highway to the west. The site extends to around 1 hectare and is mainly develop or set to hard standing. .
- 4.2 The most significant tree cover is in the soft landscape belt along the west boundary adjacent to the highway.



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Soils

- 4.3 The site is set to hard standing and there is no evidence of any water logging.

*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.*

Development Proposal

5.1 To provide residential dwellings.



Building Particulars	Reference	Revision
1.0	1.0	1.0
2.0	2.0	2.0
3.0	3.0	3.0
4.0	4.0	4.0
5.0	5.0	5.0
6.0	6.0	6.0
7.0	7.0	7.0
8.0	8.0	8.0
9.0	9.0	9.0
10.0	10.0	10.0
11.0	11.0	11.0
12.0	12.0	12.0
13.0	13.0	13.0
14.0	14.0	14.0
15.0	15.0	15.0
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93.0	93.0	93.0
94.0	94.0	94.0
95.0	95.0	95.0
96.0	96.0	96.0
97.0	97.0	97.0
98.0	98.0	98.0
99.0	99.0	99.0
100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Category A: Trees of high quality and value in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 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 and value in such a condition to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 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 and value currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established. Trees in this category would not usually be retained if they would pose a significant constraint to development.

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.

- 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 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 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 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.
- 6.6 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 will be subject to the Forestry Act (see section 3.1) and all hedges subject to the Hedgerow regulations (see section 3.3). No trees or hedges should be felled, lopped, topped or in otherwise removed or damaged without prior permission from the relevant authority.
- 7.3 The survey recorded six individual trees and two groups of trees which are categorised as follows:

Category	Quantity
Category A: Trees of high quality and value in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years)	1
Category B: Trees of moderate quality and value in such a condition to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years)	2
Category C: Trees of low quality and value currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established. Trees in this category would not usually be retained if they would pose a significant constraint to development.	8
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.	0

Arboricultural merits and the significance of the trees in the landscape

- 7.4 The site supports a number of trees, the majority are self-set trees growing around the boundaries of the site or in soft landscape areas within the site. The most significant trees are those within groups G1 & G2 and T3. These are on the west boundary of the site and are visible from the adjacent highway. T3 is a veteran tree and has an enhanced value. At this time it is growing amongst a number of other trees with G2 and would benefit from the management of its surroundings.
- 7.5 Tree cover across the remainder of the site is poor quality having arisen from regeneration and not been subject to any management. There is potential to significantly improve the level and quality of the tree stock in this area through new planting.

Arboricultural Impact of the Development

- 7.6 The proposed development would require the removal of five individual trees and two groups of trees, all category C, either to facilitate the construction, to prevent future impact to residential amenity or to improve the quality of the tree cover.

Impact	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category U
Tree Removal			7	
Facilitative Pruning Required				
RPA Encroachment				
Potential Shading				
Proximity Issues				

- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 To assess impact of shading, an evaluation was undertaken using the ArborShadow R4 software. The shadow path for 21st March (equinox) and 21st June (sun at highest point in northern hemisphere) is shown in the Tree Constraints Shading Plan and this indicates the total areas on the site potentially affected by shade at some point during the day on these dates. It can be seen that there is some afternoon shading of plots 1 – 3, however this is not excessive and exceeds the requirements for a well-lit garden and dwelling specified in the Building Research Establishment guide to good practice guide (BR209) Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight which 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, no more than two-fifths and preferably no more than a quarter should be prevented from receiving any sunlight on 21st March.
- 7.9 To ensure that trees do not become overbearing or exert a dominating effect on a property it is recommended that no occupied property is 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.
- 7.10 All services both under and over ground must be located outside the CEZ around retained trees. All services must be installed in compliance with NJUG chapter 4 recommendations.

Landscaping

- 7.11 The development provides the opportunity to undertake additional planting both within and around the margins of the site where soft landscape is present. This would significantly improve the tree cover in the area and could be achieved through the use of a planning condition.

Conclusion

- 7.12 Although a number of trees will be lost to the proposed development, the quality and amenity value of these trees is low. The development provides an opportunity to provide significant new landscape planting in a way which will be sustainable in the long-term and will provide future benefits to the quality and extent of the tree cover in the local area. The short term arboricultural impact of the development is low – moderate with an improvement in the long-term.

Arboricultural Operations

Permission to remove any tree must be obtained from the Local Planning Authority and must not be undertaken until all pre-commencement conditions have been discharged.

- 8.1 Tree removal and pruning will be required, subject to a grant of planning permission, to implement this development. 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 (TPP) ref MRG/TPP/10/17.
- 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.

9.6 All measurements are given in metric using standard abbreviations.

Fencing and Ground Protection

9.7 The TPP indicates the position all protective fences.

9.8 Protective fencing will comprise 'herres' fencing panels which are to be fixed and braced securely or as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

9.9 No ground protection is specified for this site.

9.10 The protective fencing and 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. An emergency spill kit of appropriate capacity and suitable for use with all fuels, oils and chemicals brought on to site must available at all times.

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 must be outside the CEZ and must be identified prior to the commencement of the construction work. Contractor parking should be in areas indicated on the TPP.

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 it is recommended that the site 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.

Schedule of Inspection

1. On erection of Tree Protection Fences
2. Monthly through-out the construction phase of the development

- 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 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.

S.J.A. Shields

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Chartered Forester

1st November 2017

Arboricultural Assessment

Ref. No.	Species	Top Height	Stem Dia mm	N	E	S	W	CC (FSB)	Age	Rem Cont.	Cat.	RPA m ²	Notes	AIA
G1	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	15	200	3	3	3	3	1	M	20+	B2	18	Condition: Good Notes: Mixed group of trees forming landscape belt alongside adjacent highway. Root spread into the site is constrained by the existing access road.	Reasonably significant group provides screening of the site from adjacent highway. Will not be impacted by the development and can be protected to the required standard.
G2	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	15	250	3	3	3	3	1	M	20+	B2	28	Condition: Good Notes: Mixed group of trees forming landscape belt alongside adjacent highway. Root spread into the site is constrained by the existing access road.	Reasonably significant group provides screening of the site from adjacent highway. Will not be impacted by the development and can be protected to the required standard.

T3	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	17	1100	9.2	11	10	10	4	V	20+	A3	547	Condition: Fair Notes: Veteran ash tree located in the G2. Tree would benefit from management of the surrounding vegetation. Root spread into the site is constrained by the existing hard standing.	Significant tree, will not be impacted by the development and can be protected to the required standard.
T4	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	17	370, 380, 400	3	5.5	6.2	5.2	4 (S)	M	10+	C2	200	Condition: Fair Notes: Multi-stem specimen growing in restricted rooting environment close to existing property.	The tree would be removed under the proposed site layout. The loss of amenity would be mitigated through new tree planting.
G5	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	10	180	2	2	2	2	1	SM	10+	C2	15	Condition: Fair Notes: Mixed group of young trees.	Trees have a relatively limited amenity value at this time but this could be improved through enrichment planting. Trees can be retained and protected under the

														proposed site layout.
G6	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Salix caprea (Goat Willow)	10	150	3	3	3	3	1	EM	10+	C2	10	Condition: Good Notes: Mixed group of self-set trees along boundary of site. Root spread constrained by adjacent car park.	Trees have limited amenity value and though could be retained in part, it may be preferential to remove and replace this group with new landscape planting.
T7	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	19	420	8	6	1	1	3	M	10+	C2	80	Condition: Fair Notes: Tree has been pruned to provide clearance around adjacent HV line.	Tree has asymmetric crown as result of pruning. Can be retained and protected, however, given appearance and condition of the tree, it is recommended that it be removed and replaced.
T8	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	18	290, 290, 260	1	4.5	6.8	3	3	M	10+	C2	107	Condition: Fair Notes: Tree has been pruned to provide clearance	Tree has asymmetric crown as result of pruning. Can be retained and protected,

													around adjacent HV line.	however, given appearance and condition of the tree, it is recommended that it be removed and replaced.
T9	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	12	180, 170	1	3.8	4	4	2	EM	10+	C2	28	Condition: Good Notes:	Tree could be protected during construction but is likely to cause potential conflicts with residential amenity of the new dwelling as it grows.
G10	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	12	250 - 100	2	3	3	3	2	EM	10+	C2	57	Condition: Fair Notes: Minor specimens on boundary of site.	Trees have limited amenity value and though could be retained in part, it may be preferential to remove and replace this group with new landscape planting.
T11	Salix caprea (Goat Willow)	12	520, 450, 120	7	2	6.8	6	2	M	10+	C2	221	Condition: Good Notes:	The tree would be removed under the proposed site

														layout. The loss of amenity would be mitigated through new tree planting.
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Ultimate Heights of Main Species

Ash 20

Sycamore 20

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 and value in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 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 and value in such a condition to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 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 and value currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established. Trees in this category would not usually be retained if they would pose a significant constraint to development.

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.

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

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		



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Tree & Woodland Management Solutions

Tree Constraints Plan

Overlay

Land off

Mold Road

Gwersyllt

KEY

- Tree Cat A
- Tree Cat B
- Tree Cat C
- Canopy Spread
- RPA
- RPA Cat C

Drawing No: MRG/TCP/OL/10/17/01

Drawn By: S. Shields

Scale: 1:500 @ A2

Date: 1st November 2017

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Tree & Woodland Management Solutions

Tree Removal Plan
Overlay
Land off
Mold Road
Gwersyllt

- KEY
- T3 Tree Cat A
 - G2 Tree Cat B
 - G2 Tree Cat C
 - T4 Trees for Removal
 - Canopy Spread
 - RPA
 - RPA Cat C

Drawing No: MRG/TRP/OL/10/17/01

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Tree & Woodland Management Solutions

Tree Shading Plan
Overlay
Land off
Mold Road
Gwersyllt

- KEY
- T3 Tree Cat A
 - G2 Tree Cat B
 - T4 Tree Cat C
 - Shadow 12 noon March 21st
 - Shadow 5pm March 21st

Drawing No: MRG/TSP/OL/10/17/01

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